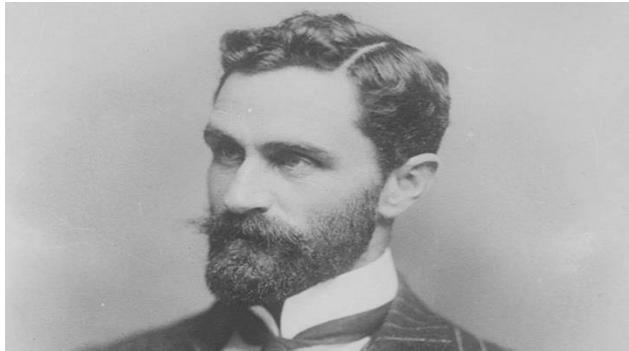


Glasnevin Cemetery History Trip

By Orla Banville and Yvette McDonnell

This week the TYs went on a historical trip to Glasnevin cemetery in Dublin. The cemetery itself is 124 acres, being the resting place for 1.5 million people. The gates were first opened to Glasnevin in 1832 to an eleven-year-old boy called Michael Carey, who passed away from tuberculosis. Glasnevin was established as a place where people of any religion could be buried, at the time due to the penal laws Catholics were not allowed to have funerals. Glasnevin was a safe space for all to rest. Apart from its significance socially, Glasnevin is also home to many strong figures in Irish history. On this trip we got to visit them and learn about their lives outside of the history books. This is what we learned:

Roger Casement (1864-1916)



Roger Casement was an Irish nationalist and human rights activist. Casement gained international recognition for his humanitarian work for the British Foreign Office, exposing human rights abuses in Africa and South America. After retiring from the British Foreign Office, Casement turned his attentions to Irish nationalism.

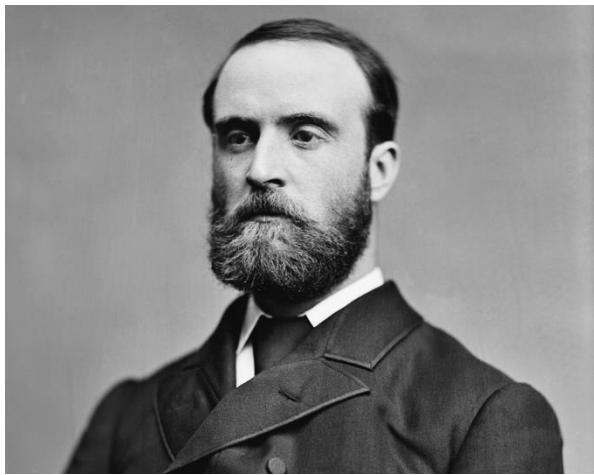
He devoted his time to nationalist causes and raised funds for the Irish Volunteers. In 1916, Casement was sent to Germany to buy guns and to ask for Germany's support in an Irish rising against the British Empire. A German ship set sail for Ireland with guns on board but was intercepted and captured by the British Navy. Casement was convicted of high treason and sentenced to death. He was executed at Pentonville Prison, London, on the 3rd of August 1916 and buried in an unmarked grave. In 1965, Casement's body was returned to Ireland and re-interred in Glasnevin Cemetery.

Kevin Barry (1902-1920)

At age sixteen Dublin native, Kevin Barry joined the IRB. Inspired by the prospect of a free Ireland, Barry became an avid member, willing to do anything for the cause. September 20th 1920, Barry and three other IRB members ambushed a group of English soldiers. Resulting in three deaths. Barry and the three other men were arrested on the scene. After being caught with a pistol Barry was later trialed and sentenced to death in Mountjoy Prison, Dublin. Kevin Barry died on the 1st of November 1920. Barry was buried in Mountjoy Prison along with the nine other 'forgotten leaders' of the war of independence. In 2001 they were all moved into Glasnevin Cemetery where they are today. At eighteen years of age Kevin Barry was the youngest to be executed in the war of independence, and is still recognized today for his bravery.



Charles Stewart Parnell (1846-1891)



Charles Stewart Parnell was an Irish nationalist politician who led the Irish Home Rule campaign. He was elected as MP for Meath in 1875 and joined the Home Rule Party. Parnell greatly improved the conditions for Irish tenants by campaigning for the passing of the Land Act. The Land Act granted the three Fs – fair rent, fixity of tenure and free sale. After solving the Land Question and gaining the support of tenants, Parnell felt he could concentrate on Home

Rule. The Home Rule Party formed an alliance with the Liberal party and the First Home Rule Bill was created. The Bill was defeated: 341 votes against and 311 for. Parnell lost much of his support when his long-term affair with a married woman, Katherine O'Shea, was revealed to the public. The Home Rule Party was split into Parnellite and Anti-Parnellite supporters. Parnell contracted pneumonia after an election meeting, at which

he had addressed the crowd in the pouring rain. He died on October 6th 1891 and was buried in Glasnevin Cemetery, in a pauper's grave. Over 200,000 people attended Parnell's funeral, one of the largest ever seen in Ireland at the time. A boulder of Wicklow granite was placed on his grave, with an inscription that reads 'Parnell'.

Michael Collins (1890-1922)

Michael Collins is one of the most well-versed names in Irish history. Collins devoted almost every minute of his life to the welfare of Ireland. Joining the IRB at a young age, Collins was no stranger to the passionate side of nationalism.

Becoming involved in politics, he took one of the first seats in the Dáil, while still serving his time in prison after the 1916 Rising. After this Collins only became stronger and more radical with his ideas. He then took over the IRB and made it into the IRA. Organizing ambushes and attacks against British soldiers, in order to get the nationalist voices of Ireland heard. In doing this Collins became very popular amongst the Irish people and infamous to the British. When the Anglo-Irish treaty was signed by Collins this caused a huge divide between the Irish people, resulting in the Civil War. In 1922 as Collins was returning to his home in Cork, he was shot dead by unaware members of the anti-treaty side. His funeral, days later was the largest funeral in Irish history. It is estimated that over 500,000 people gathered on the streets of Dublin to commemorate the hero as he was laid in Glasnevin cemetery. The death of Michael Collins is often marked as the end of the civil war. During the funeral only one flower was allowed to be laid on his coffin, a white flower placed by his fiancé Kitty Kiernan, who now lies close to him in Glasnevin.



Éamon De Valera (1882-1975)



Éamon De Valera was an Irish Nationalist and politician who served as Taoiseach and president of Ireland. De Valera was a member of the Irish volunteers and commanded Irish forces at Boland's Mills, during the Easter Rising. He narrowly escaped execution for his involvement in the Rising because of his American birth. In 1917, De Valera was elected leader of Sinn Féin and

set up the first Dáil, alongside Micheal Collins and Arthur Griffiths. He travelled to America and raised vital funds for the new government. De Valera opposed the Anglo-Irish Treaty that was signed in 1921 and founded the anti-Treaty party, Fianna Fáil. He went on to dominate Irish politics during the first half of the twentieth century. De Valera died on the 29th of August 1975 and received a state funeral. He is buried in Glasnevin cemetery with many of his family members.

Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa (1831-1915)

Rossa was a stark Irish Republican. Most well-known for organizing the first ever bombing on English soil by Irish Republicans, the Dynamite Campaign. This action led to his deportation to the USA. He is also known for founding the Phoenix National and Literary Society. In later life Rossa returned to Ireland and later passed. In 1915 his funeral was held in Glasnevin and Pádraig Pearse delivered a revolutionary nationalist speech that lit the spark of the 1916 Rising. "They think that they have foreseen everything, think that they have provided against everything; but, the fools, the fools, the fools! -They have left us our Fenian dead, and while Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree shall never be at peace."



Countess Markievicz (1868-1927)



Constance Markievicz, 1908
Photo: Lafayette

Constance Markievicz, better known as Countess Markievicz was an Irish Nationalist. She earned the title of Countess after marrying the Polish Count, Casimir Markievicz. Markievicz fought in the Easter Rising, second-in-command to Michael Mallin at St. Stephen's Green. She was sentenced to death for her involvement in the Rising, however, she was reprieved on account of her sex. Markievicz joined Sinn Féin and was put forward as a candidate in the 1918 general election. She was the first woman to the British parliament but she did not take her seat. Instead, she joined the Irish government set up Sinn Féin and was appointed Minister for Labour. She was anti-

Treaty and joined Fianna Fáil, upon its creation. Markievicz did great work for the poor throughout her life, setting up soup kitchens in Liberty Hall. Markievicz passed away on July 15th, 1927 due to health complications. She is buried in Glasnevin Cemetery alongside other anti-treaty revolutionaries.

Grace Gifford Plunkett (1888-1955)

Gifford was a popular Irish artist and cartoonist. Engaged to Rising leader Joseph Plunkett, they were due to be wed just months after the Rising was planned to take place.

However, these plans were interrupted as Joseph was arrested and sentenced to death after the rising. May 3rd 1916 Grace and Joseph were married in Kilmainham jail, seven hours before Joseph's execution. After this Grace never re-married. She lived for 39 more years until she passed in her sleep, and was laid to rest in Glasnevin.

Brothers Seán and Frank O'Meara were inspired by the love story of Grace and Joseph. They wrote the song 'Grace' in 1985. This song has now immortalized her memory and the love that she felt for Joseph Plunkett.



Maud Gonne (1866-1953)



Maud Gonne was an Irish activist. She is known as the muse of the famous Irish poet, W.B. Yeats, who proposed to her four times. However, Gonne was much more than just a muse. She was an excellent journalist and contributed nationalist writings to Arthur Griffith's newspaper 'The United Irishman'. She famously wrote a paper called 'The Famine Queen' in opposition to Queen Victoria's visit to

Dublin in 1900. Gonne was involved in famine relief and fought against the evictions of Irish tenants. She established Inghinidhe na hÉireann, an Irish Nationalist organization for women. Our trip to Glasnevin fell on the date of Gonne's anniversary, April 27th. As we stood by her graveside, we said a silent prayer in her memory.

Daniel O'Connell (1775-1847)

Daniel O'Connell is well regarded in Irish history as the father of the Irish free-state. O'Connell was poor growing up in the time of the penal laws and in his younger life was educated in a hedge school, until his uncle sent him to study with the Christian Brothers. O'Connell was a peaceful man, he believed by talking alone there was a possibility of getting a free Ireland. During his time in France, he witnessed the French Revolution. Here, learning the true power of people he came back home to Ireland in want of a free Ireland. O'Connell became a popular politician among many. He fought against the penal laws and land laws. In his time O'Connell changed the English law so now any Catholic could sit in parliament. He also sparked the first ideas of Home Rule. This idea was extremely popular with the Irish people. However, he did not achieve this in his lifetime. O'Connell died on his way to Rome. On his deathbed saying 'My body to Ireland, my heart to Rome and my soul to heaven'. This statement was taken quite literally, as his body was laid to rest in Glasnevin missing his heart which was kept in Rome.



Daniel O'Connell

After concluding our tour in Glasnevin Cemetery, we transferred to Dundrum Shopping Centre where we had two hours of free time to eat, shop and browse around. The tour of Glasnevin Cemetery was incredibly fascinating and connected us to the history that we studied throughout our Junior Cycle. It was an honor to stand by the graves of powerful figures who played vital roles in the history of our country.

