



# Irish Women Rise

## LAOH Irish History Newsletter

### Nurses and Doctors of the Easter Rising





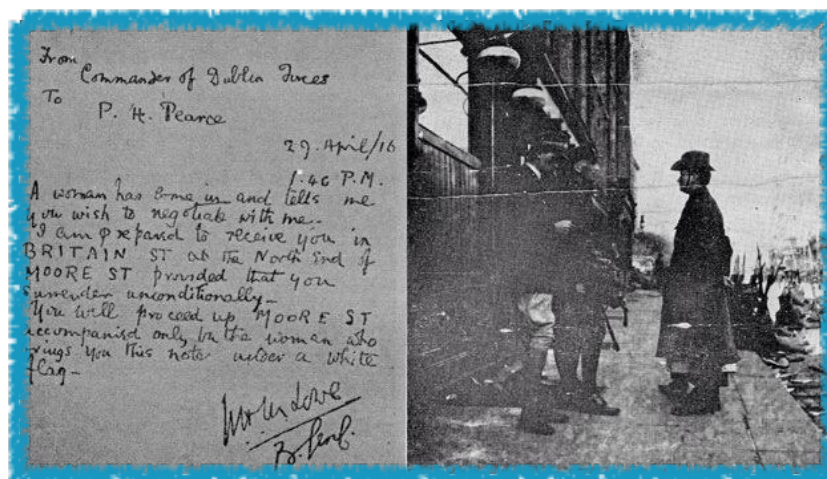
## **Margaret Keogh**

Paul Horan, Assistant Professor of Nursing at Trinity College was studying his own family's participation in the Easter Rising when he stumbled on Margaret Keogh's story. He shares his research in an article in the Irish Mirror April 13, 2015. She was referred as the first martyr by Volunteer Commander Eamon Ceannt. She never made it to the history books. The British were in charge of the propaganda and wanted to hide the story of a uniformed nurse being shot by a British soldier. It is sad that the Irish did not tell the story but at the time they had their executed leaders stories to be told. Margaret Keogh was a nurse working at the South Dublin Union who rushed to help the wounded at the time of her death on April 24, 1916. She was shot by a British soldier as she was attending to the patients. Paul Horan is quoted in the article: "She would have been wearing her uniform so I find it very distasteful. I understand that people might get shot in the crossfire but the notion that a nurse in full uniform going to attend a casualty, was shot, that's cold-blooded murder."



# Elizabeth O'Farrell

Elizabeth O'Farrell remembered in an article for An Phoblacht that "she worked for Irish freedom from her sixteenth year " In 1906, she joined Inghindhe na hEireann and in 1914 joined the Cumann na mBan. Constance Markievicz introduced her to James Connolly informing him that she was very trustworthy. Following this introduction, Elizabeth was attached to the Irish Citizen Army. Immediately prior to the Rising, she was sent to Galway advising of the change of the date. During the Rising she served in the GPO and as a courier. She was one of the last 3 women in the GPO. Padraic Pearse chose Elizabeth to take his surrender document to the British and the other Garrisons. She was with Pearse at the time of the formal surrender. After the surrender, she was a prisoner in Kilmainham Gaol.





# Dr. Kathleen Lynn

Kathleen Lynn was born in County Mayo. She was the daughter of an Anglican Rector. at an early age, she decided to be a doctor after noticing that her local doctor was "fount of help and hope". In 1899 Dr. Lynn received her medical degree from the Royal University. She taught First Aid to members of Cumann na mBan and the Irish Citizen Army. First Aid lectures were given to both the men and women of the Irish Citizen Army which helped to bring the men and women closer to each other. Dr. Lynn was member of the Irish Citizen Army serving as Chief Medical Officer and a Captain. At the City Hall Garrison, she attended to Sean Connolly the first casualty. After Sean Connolly's death, Dr. Lynn was the highest ranking Officer. When offering the surrender of the City Hall Garrison, she was asked if she was doing work for the Red Cross. Her answer "I am a Red Cross Doctor and a belligerent". In her possession was an automatic revolver and 50 rounds of ammunition. She served prison time in Richmond Barricks, Kilmainham Goal and Mountjoy. She was to be deported to enand due to shortage of physicians and family connections placed in the care of Dr Cusack. In 1919 Dr. Lynn and Madeline Ffrench Mullen founded St Ultan's Infant Hospital.





A series of lectures on First Aid and an exam needed to be passed at the end of the course given. The lectures were held at a hall with the help of Countess Plunkett. Fiona Plunkett devoted her time to organizing First Aid Squads. She formed 6 squads that were each attached to a Battalion of Volunteers. (Unmanageable Revolutionaries page 103) Cumann na mBan encouraged their members who were with the Nursing Sections to wear a uniform with a nursing cap and

apron and an armband with a green cross. The Green Cross symbolized Cuman na mBan nationalistic ideas. Cumann na mBan had applied to the Red Cross in Geneva for affiliation but were denied and told that the application should be directed to the British Red Cross.

Many other women assisted in the training and preparation of First Aid. Rosie Hackett helped to assemble First Aid Kits for the Volunteers. Teresa Reddin did not take part in the Rising but assisted prior to Easter Week as a First Aid Instructor. Due to her politics, she was placed under House Arrest. Madeleine Ffrench -Mullen served in St. Stephan's Green/College of Surgeons and was in charge of women whose duties consisted of tending the wounded. She served time at Kilmainham and Mountjoy Prisons. Leslie Price and Tilly Simpson served in the GPO and were members of the group that took the wounded to Jervis Street Hospital. Emily and Essie Elliot assisted the wounded at Fr. Mathew Hall. Prior to the Rising, Mary Kilmartin prepared First Aid kits for the Vounteers. During the week she served at the Four Courts carrying out First Aid duties. Julia Grenan and Rlizabeth O'Farrell were 2 of the 3 remaining women in the GPO. They helped the wounded and in particular took care of James Connolly. We owe all of these women our gratitude for their service during the Easter Rising.



