

**Life and Times
of
Christopher O’Gorman**



**Second Edition
May 2025**

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This report has been prepared for Pat McCarthy, who has been an exceptional aunt to the O'Connell family. Following the passing of our dad Paddy in 1976, she provided significant support to Una and all family members. Her continued interest in Una's children and grandchildren has been demonstrated through her travels to weddings in the United States and Canada.

We would also like to remember and give thanks to Aunty Kit - Catherine Lucey - for the enormous contribution she made to the O'Gorman family. If circumstances had been different, she would have travelled to the US in the 1940s and may have had her own family life there. Instead, she devoted her life to helping her sister May and became a friend and confidant of the seven surviving O'Gorman children. She was much loved by all, including her many grand nieces and nephews.

This account has been compiled by Rhona, Brian and Brendan O'Connell who have tried to put an accurate account together based on information available to us. Apologies for any unintended bias, errors or omissions. Oral history initially collected by Rhona and Brian O'Connell in the 1990's from Mary Kate Lucey in Clondrohid, Ballyvourney; from Aunty Kit, Ena, Una and Pat and later from all the grandchildren, in particular Sinead who had also collected family information.

The first edition of this story was printed in October 2024, since the family has continued to compile further family information, including Chris' involvement in 1916 and the War of Independence and centenary commemorations 2016 in Cork, we have not yet managed to retrieve his employment record in the early years of the Free State but hope to get access to that in the future.

May 2025
2nd Edition

Summary

This document focuses on the lives of Christopher J. O'Gorman and Mary Lucey O'Gorman and their families. It offers detailed insights into Christopher O'Gorman's significant involvement in the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Republican Army (IRA) during the lead-up to and the War of Independence, including his participation in key events like the Easter Rising and his experiences with imprisonment and hunger strikes.

Despite Chris's reticence to discuss his involvement, he preserved all his War of Independence-related documents. These documents were in Lios na gCrann and were given to Paddy O'Connell, who had an interest in history. Following Una's passing, in 2001, Brendan discovered the box containing the documents while engaged in the arduous task of decluttering the attic of "Appledore." Brendan and Rhona organized the documents, prioritizing the most historically significant ones for further examination.



'Daddy's Papers 1916-22'
Box found in the attic at Appledore

It also details Mary Lucey O'Gorman's background, her family's history in West Cork, her career as a teacher, and her support for the nationalist cause. The post-war period is explored through the establishment of their family home, Lios na gCrann, and the challenges faced by Christopher O'Gorman in having his military service recognized due to his non-participation in the Civil War.

The document highlights the resilience of the families, their deep roots in Munster, and the lasting impact of the historical events on their lives and subsequent generations.

Background – Christopher J. O’Gorman

Christopher O’Gorman hailed from a family with deep roots in rural Munster. Both his parents were raised on farms: his father, **James O’Gorman**, in County Tipperary, and his mother, **Margret (Maggie) Lyons** in Lombardstown, a small village 9 kilometers west of Mallow in County Cork.

Currently, not much is known about **James O’Gorman’s** roots in Tipperary except his father was Jeremiah and that his mother’s name, before her marriage was Eileen Duane.

However, **Maggie’s** parents, **Patrick Lyons** and **Mary McCarthy** were married in Mourneabbey in 12th February 1839.

Maggie’s mother, **Mary Carthy** was born in 1821 and her parents were **Denis Carthy** and **Mary Sulivan** who were married in Mallow in 1815.

Patrick and **Mary Lyons** raised their family on a farm in Gortavoher, Co. Cork. **Patrick Lyons** leased the farm for 8 pounds 10 shillings per annum according to Griffiths Valuation 1847-1864. They had sons Charles b. 1840, Patrick b. 1841 and **Margaret (Maggie)** who was baptised in Glantane parish on March 6th, 1854,



Patrick Lyons and Mary McCarthy’s Home (COGs grandparents)
which was inhabited until about 1980.

Maggie travelled to Philadelphia in the 1870’s where she probably worked as a housemaid. Her sister Norah went to Philadelphia and stayed in America. Later Ellen (Nellie), Christopher’s sister, moved to Philadelphia and worked in the same house

as Norah. In 1880, **Maggie** and her cousin Hannah McCarthy returned to Ireland. **Maggie** went to work in a large house in Lombardstown before her marriage in 1882.

PRIMARY VALUATION OF TENEMENTS.

25

PARISH OF KILSHANNIG.

No. and Letters of Reference to Map.	Names.		Description of Tenement.	Area.	Net Annual Value.			
	Townlands and Occupiers.	Immediate Lessors.			Land.	Buildings.	Total.	
GORTAVOHER—cont.								
— A	a	Edmond Duggan,	Denis Shea,	House and office,	A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
3	a	Samuel Townsend,	In fee,	Land,	66 1 15	27 0 0	0 15 0	0 15 0
4	a	David Ring,	Samuel Townsend,	House, office, and land,	10 0 1	3 15 0	0 10 0	4 5 0
—	b	Catherine Ring,	David Ring,	House and garden,	0 0 33	0 3 0	0 5 0	0 8 0
5	a	William Ring,	Samuel Townsend,	House and land,	9 0 39	3 15 0	0 5 0	4 0 0
6	a	Patrick Lyons,	Same,	House, offices, and land,	15 0 21	7 0 0	1 10 0	8 10 0
7	a	Patrick Lyons,	Same,	Waste of River Blackwater,	5 3 21	—	—	—
				Total,	181 1 28	83 8 0	5 10 0	88 18 0
GORTMOLIRE (Ord. S. 33.)								
1		Thomas Bolster,	Lady Cotter, the Misses Henrietta & Elizabeth Lombard, and James Delacour,	Land,	1 3 10	1 0 0	—	1 0 0
2	a	Thomas Harrigan,	Lady Cotter and others,	Offices and land,	51 3 7	32 10 0	0 10 0	33 0 0
—	b	John Shea,	Thomas Harrigan,	House and garden,	0 0 16	0 3 0	0 15 0	0 18 0
—	c	John Connell,	Same,	House and garden,	0 0 19	0 3 0	0 5 0	0 8 0
3	a	Joseph Waters,	Lady Cotter and others,	House and land,	19 2 28	11 15 0	1 0 0	12 15 0
—	b	Daniel Corcoran,	Joseph Waters,	House and garden,	0 0 20	0 2 0	0 6 0	0 8 0
—	c	Maurice Leane,	Same,	House,	—	—	0 6 0	0 6 0
4	a	John Keihan,	Lady Cotter and others,	House, offices, and land,	47 1 29	31 5 0	1 15 0	33 0 0
—	b	Unoccupied,	John Keihan,	House,	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
5	a	Daniel Mullane,	Lady Cotter and others,	House, offices, and land,	90 0 15	51 10 0	2 15 0	54 5 0
—	b	Denis Sullivan,	Daniel Mullane,	House,	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
				Total,	211 0 24	128 8 0	8 2 0	136 10 0

Patrick Lyons property in Griffiths Valuation 1847-1864

James Gorman left the farm in Tipperary to seek employment in Mallow. He initially obtained a job as a railway goods porter at Mallow train station. According to the railway historian at Heuston Station Museum, single men were moved around from station to station. He met his future bride **Margret (Maggie)** while he was working there. He moved to Cork and was promoted to head porter and then to acting railway guard for which he had to pass an exam.

On February 16th, 1882, **James O’Gorman** and **Maggie Lyons** exchanged vows at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Glantane, a parish within the Kilshannig district where she grew up. The bride was 21 years old at the time of her marriage. Her cousin, Hannah, was her witness. **James** was a railway head porter by this time.

Research Facility - Marriage Record

Clárúimhir }
Registration Number } 2,132,143

18 82. Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic Chapel of Gloontane in the Registrar's District of Kilshannon
in the Union of Mallow in the County of Cork

No. (1)	When Married. (2)	Name and Surname. (3)	Age. (4)	Condition. (5)	Rank or Profession. (6)	Residence at the Time of Marriage. (7)	Father's Name and Residence. (8)	Rank or Profession of Father. (9)
65	July 11 th 1882	James Gorman	32	Single	Railway Head Porter	Liffery	John Gorman	Farmer
		Margt. Lyons	22	Single		Imberstown	Patrick Lyons	Farmer

Married in the Roman Catholic Chapel of Gloontane according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church by me,
John Lynch P.P.

This Marriage was solemnized between us, { James Gorman } in the Presence of us, { Michael Shee
Margaret Lyons } { Hannah McCarthy }

Marrings
No. 65
Registered
by me, this
21st
day of
March
18 82

J.H.S.
Registrar.

James and Margret wedding record (COG's parents)

https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/images/marriage_returns/marriages_1882/10963/8007306.pdf



Margret "Maggie" O'Gorman 1861 –1917

After their marriage, James and Maggie lived at 30 Great Britain Street (since renamed as Great William O'Brien Street) in Cork City.

Over the years, the couple welcomed six children into their lives: Ellen (Nellie) born in 1884, Patrick Joseph in 1886, Michael in 1888, **Christopher** in 1891, and finally, twins Nora and May in 1894. Maggie was 33 years old when she gave birth to twins.

18 91	Christopher	James	Margaret	Margaret	February	Peter
304	Christopher	James	Margaret	Margaret	18 91	Register
	to Great	to Great	Railway	to Great		
	Street	Street	Porter	Street		

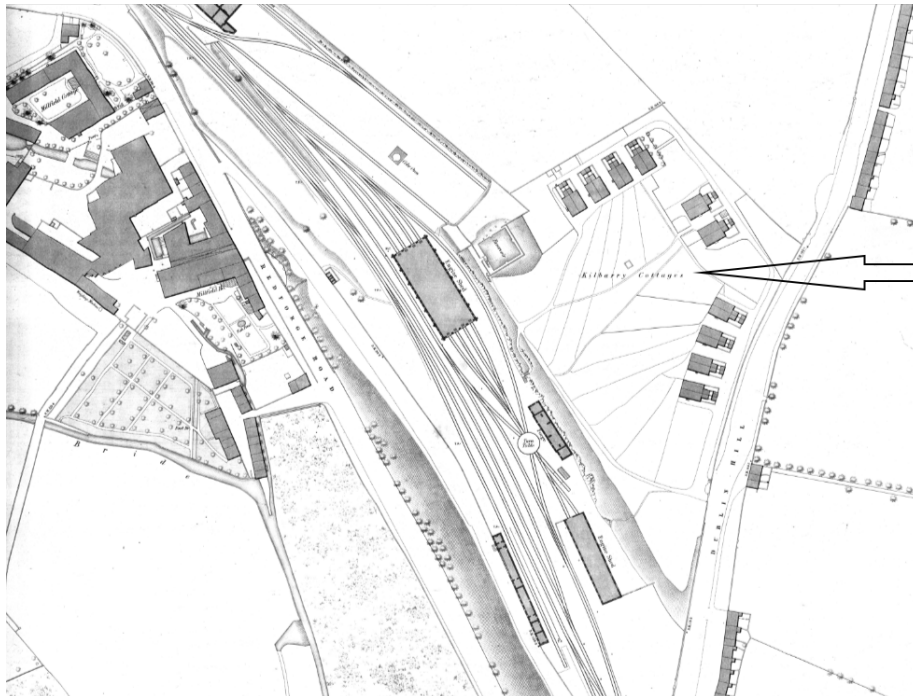
Christopher's Birth Record 1891

https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/images/birth_returns/births_1891/02394/1892833.pdf

By 1901, the family's circumstances appear to have improved. Census records from that year reveal that James had transitioned from a railway head porter to a railway guard, suggesting a promotion that may have prompted their move to 14 Kilbarry Cottage on Dublin Hill in Blackpool. This may have entitled him to a home with a garden as the Kilbarry cottages were mainly Railway Cottages.

This area, known as The Glen, would become the backdrop for their growing family.

The Great Southern and Western Railway (G.S. & W.R.) began in the 1840s and initially aimed to link Dublin to the southern provinces. Various options were considered to link the track from Blackpool Valley to Cork city and the ports. A tunnel was decided which required extensive boring through a sandstone ridge. The railway tunnel started in 1847 and took seven years to complete, Kilbarry was, until recently, a railway yard and siding at the start of the tunnel.



1896 map Kilbarry Cottages by train tracks in Blackpool, Cork

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1901.
(Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.)

FORM A. No. on Form B. 14

RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 31st of MARCH, 1901.

No.	NAME and SURNAME.		RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE.	SEX.	RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	MARRIAGE.	WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	If Deaf and Dumb; Blind only; or Lame.
	Christian Name.	Surname.	State whether Head of Family, "Wife," "Single," or other relative: "Father," "Mother," "Brother," "Sister," "Servant," &c.	State here the particular Religion, or Religious denomination, to which each person belongs. State also whether he or she is a member of any particular denomination of the same religion, and if so, state the name of the Particular Church, denomination, or body, to which they belong.	State here whether he or she can "read and write," "read only," "write only," or "cannot read."	Years to last Birth-day.	Months to last Birth-day.	Write in full the Particular Rank, Profession, Trade, or other Employment of each person, children or young persons attending a school, or entering regular institutions as pupils, should be returned as scholars. Before filling this column you are requested to read the instructions on the other side.	Whether "Married," "Single," "Widow," or "Not Married."	If in Ireland, state in what County or City, or town, village, or hamlet, they were born; if elsewhere, state the name of the country.	Write the word "Irish" in this column opposite the name of each person who speaks Irish, and the words "Irish & English" opposite the names of those who speak both languages. In other cases no entry should be made in this column.	Write the appropriate instructions opposite the name of the affected person.
1	James	O'Gorman	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	45	M	Railway Clerk	Married	Co. Cork		
2	Margaret	O'Gorman	Wife	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	44	F		Married	Co. Cork		
3	Kellie	O'Gorman	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	17	F	Scholar	Not Married	City of Cork		
4	Michael	O'Gorman	Son	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	13	M	Scholar	Not Married	City of Cork		
5	Veronica	O'Gorman	Son	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	10	M	Scholar	Not Married	City of Cork		
6	Mad	O'Gorman	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Read	7	F	Scholar	Not Married	City of Cork		
7	John	O'Gorman	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Read	7	F	Scholar	Not Married	City of Cork		

I hereby certify, as required by the Act 63 Vic., cap. 6, s. 6 (1), that the foregoing Return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.
Anthony Lee (Signature of Enumerator.)

I believe the foregoing to be a true Return.
James O'Gorman (Signature of Head of Family.)

James and Maggie O'Gorman 1901 census

<https://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/reels/nai000561521/>

In the 1901 census Maggie's mother Mary Lyons, nee McCarthy, was 80 and living with her son Charles, it is noted that she could not read.

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1901.
(Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.)

FORM A. No. on Form B.

RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 31st of MARCH, 1901.

No.	NAME and SURNAME.		RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE.	SEX.	RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	MARRIAGE.	WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	If Deaf and Dumb; Blind only; or Lame.
	Christian Name.	Surname.	State whether Head of Family, "Wife," "Single," or other relative: "Father," "Mother," "Brother," "Sister," "Servant," &c.	State here the particular Religion, or Religious denomination, to which each person belongs. State also whether he or she is a member of any particular denomination of the same religion, and if so, state the name of the Particular Church, denomination, or body, to which they belong.	State here whether he or she can "read and write," "read only," "write only," or "cannot read."	Years to last Birth-day.	Months to last Birth-day.	Write in full the Particular Rank, Profession, Trade, or other Employment of each person, children or young persons attending a school, or entering regular institutions as pupils, should be returned as scholars. Before filling this column you are requested to read the instructions on the other side.	Whether "Married," "Single," "Widow," or "Not Married."	If in Ireland, state in what County or City, or town, village, or hamlet, they were born; if elsewhere, state the name of the country.	Write the word "Irish" in this column opposite the name of each person who speaks Irish, and the words "Irish & English" opposite the names of those who speak both languages. In other cases no entry should be made in this column.	Write the appropriate instructions opposite the name of the affected person.
1	Charles	Lyons	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Cannot Read	50	M	Farmer	Married	Co. Cork	English	
2	Ellen	Lyons	Wife	Roman Catholic	Reads & Writes	30	F	Farmer's Wife	Married	Co. Cork	English	
3	Mary	Lyons	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Cannot Read	80	F	Farmer's Wife	Widow	Co. Cork	English	
4	Lizzie	Lyons	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	10	F	Scholar	Not Married	Co. Cork	English	
5	Mary	Lyons	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Reads & Writes	7	F	Scholar	Not Married	Co. Cork	English	
6	Hannah	Lyons	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Cannot Read	4	F	Farmer's Daughter	Not Married	Co. Cork	English	

I hereby certify, as required by the Act 63 Vic., cap. 6, s. 6 (1), that the foregoing Return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.
Charles Lyons (Signature of Enumerator.)

I believe the foregoing to be a true Return.
Charles Lyons (Signature of Head of Family.)

Lyons' Family 1901 census

<https://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/reels/nai000551165/>

A significant event in Cork city was the International exhibition, while we don't know if the O'Gorman or Lucey families attended, James Lucey as a member of the RIC, may have been involved in police work and James O'Gorman must have witnessed more railway travel as people flocked to the city for this major event in 1902.



The Cork International Exhibition on the Mardyke, 1902



City Scene during the Cork International Exhibition, 1902

In 1903, at the age of 19, James and Maggie's eldest daughter, Nellie, set sail for America. She departed from Queenstown (now Cobh) on the "Lucania" and arrived at Ellis Island, New York on 19th October, eventually making her home in Philadelphia.

Six years later, following in his sister's footsteps, Christopher also embarked on a new life in America when he was 19. A young man with fair hair, blue eyes, and standing tall at 5 '10", he listed his occupation as a labourer. With \$25 in his pocket, he left Cobh on July 5th, 1909, aboard the "SS Merion", bound for Philadelphia. He arrived on 24th July, joining his sister Nellie at her residence at 5830 Overbrook Avenue.



SS Merion Ship

Family name O'GORMAN		Given name Christopher		Destination to Philadelphia	
Place of birth (town, country, etc.) Cork Ireland		Age 19	Sex M	U. S. S	Occupation Labourer
Name Irish		Nationality British		Last permanent residence (town, country, etc.) Cork Ireland	
Name and address of nearest relative or friend in country whence alien came Father James 12 Kilbarry Cottage Cork					
Ever in U. S.	From	To	State	Passage paid by sister	
no					
Destination, and name and address of relative or friend to join there Phila., Pa. Sister Nellie 5830 Overbrook Ave., expected ticket yes					
Money shown \$25.00	Error arrested and deported or excluded from admission				
Height 5 10 in.	Pl. fair	Complexion fair	Hair fair	Eyes blue	Distinctions none
Sponsor and date of landing and name of steamship July 5, 1909 "Merion" - Queenstown					
Philadelphia, Pa.					
Vol. No. 114	Page No. 38		Line No. 15 Mast A		

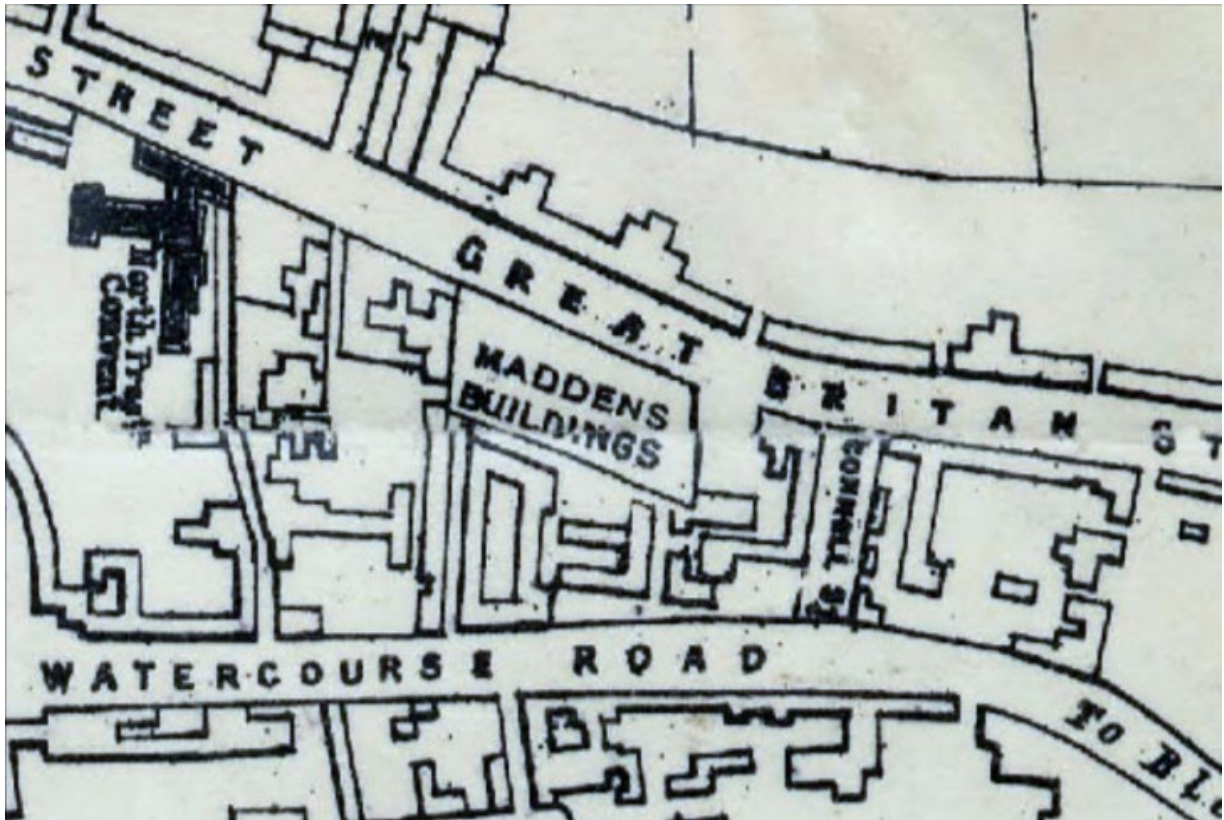
Christopher O'Gorman's ticket to Philadelphia in 1909



7 O'Connell St Blackpool 2025

O'Connell Street itself is a short street linking Great Britain Street (formerly Mallow Street, now Great William O'Brien Street) to Watercourse Road. Tomás MacCurtain resided nearby at 68 Great Britain Street.

O'Gorman's new neighborhood was undergoing a period of improvement. Madden's Buildings, constructed in 1886 on the site of a former cattle market, were part of an initiative to replace slum housing in the city's north side following the Artisans and Laborers Dwellings Improvements Act of 1875. Built for the Cork Corporation by builder E. Fitzgerald for £5,846, these new dwellings signified a step towards better living conditions. The family's move to O'Connell Street not only brought them closer to the city centre but also placed them in a neighborhood on the rise.



O'Connell St. Blackpool

Chris' American adventure proved to be short-lived. By the time of the 1911 census, he was back in Blackpool, residing with his family and working as a clerk. His father, James, had also secured a clerical position, raising the possibility that he or Chris' brother, Michael, may have helped him find the job. Michael was employed at the Post Office as a sorting clerk and telegraphist, while their sister, Nora, was working as a dressmaker.

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1911.
Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.

No. on Form B. 7

FORM A.
RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 2nd of APRIL, 1911.

Number.	NAME AND SURNAME.		RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX.	RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	PARTICULARS AS TO MARRIAGE.		WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	If Deaf and Dumb; Blind; Imbecile or Idiot; or Lunatic.																	
	Christian Name.	Surname.	State whether "Head of Family," or "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," or other Relative; "Visitor," "Boarder," "Servant," &c.	State here the particular Religion, or Religious Denomination, to which each person belongs. [Members of Protestant Denominations are requested not to describe themselves by the vague term "Protestant," but to enter, the name of the Particular Church, Denomination, or Body to which they belong.]	State here whether he or she can "Read and Write," "Can Read," "Can Write," "Can Read and Write," "Cannot Read," "Cannot Write," "Cannot Read and Write," &c.	Insert Age opposite each name—in the Age of Males in column 6, and the Age of Females in column 7. For Infants under one year state the age in months, as "under 1 month," "1 month," "4 months," &c.	State the particular Rank, Profession, Trade, or other Employment of each person. Children or young persons attending a School, or receiving regular instruction at home, should be returned as Scholars. [No entry should be made in the case of wives, daughters, or other female relatives solely engaged in domestic duties at home.]	Whether "Married," "Widow," "Widower," or "Single."	State for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule the number of— Completed years the present Marriage has lasted. If less than one year write "under one." Children born alive. Children still living.	If in Ireland, state in what County or City; if elsewhere, state the name of the Country.	Write the word "Irish" in this column opposite the name of each person who speaks Irish only, and the words "Latin & English" opposite the names of those who can speak both languages. In other cases no entry should be made in this column.	Write the respective infirmities opposite the names of the affected person.																	
1.		2.		3.		4.		5.		6.		7.		8.		9.		10.		11.		12.		13.		14.		15.	
1	James	O'Gorman	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Read and write	35	Clerk	Married	26	County Cork	English																		
2	Margaret	O'Gorman	Wife	Roman Catholic	Read and write	—	—	Married	26	County Cork	English																		
3	Michael John	O'Gorman	Son	Roman Catholic	Read and write	23	Sorting Clerk and telegraphist	Single	—	Cork City	English & Irish																		
4	Christopher	O'Gorman	Son	Roman Catholic	Read and write	20	Clerk	Single	—	Cork City	English & Irish																		
5	Nora	O'Gorman	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Read and write	—	Dressmaker	Single	—	Cork City	English & Irish																		
6	May	O'Gorman	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Read and write	—	Seamstress	Single	—	Cork City	English & Irish																		

O'Gorman 1911 Census

<https://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/reels/nai001860987/>

Clerical work was a booming field offering opportunities to those with literacy and administrative skills. Clerks were responsible for tasks such as reading and writing, preparing letters, memos, reports, and forms, and often handled financial records like accounts and invoices. Although the specific places of employment for James and Chris remain unknown, their roles as clerks paint a picture of having good jobs and their lives improving in a rapidly changing society. Michael was not involved in the War of Independence. The younger sisters, Nora and May also travelled to Philadelphia and returned to Ireland. They eventually had a small tobacco shop on Oliver Plunkett St. James is listed as a railway guard on Chris and Mary's wedding certificate in 1923 suggesting he may have regained his railway position post the conflict.

Years later, when James and Maggie had passed away, Chris and his siblings waived their claim to the house on O'Connell St so that Nora and May could remain there. When Nora died in 1968, the house was sold and money divided appropriately between her nieces and nephews.

The piano from this house is still cherished and played by family members today, bringing back thoughts of musical evenings in the O'Gorman family home.

At some stage Chris' grandmother Ellen, moved into the house with the family. She died in 1894 and is the first of the O'Gorman's to be buried in St Joseph's Cemetery in Cork. She was 78. Also buried there are Chris' parents, Maggie in 1917 age 56, and James in 1930, age 72. All names on the tombstone are in Irish and at this stage the family name on all documents is O'Gorman rather than Gorman. Chris' brother Micheal, who died shortly after Chris in 1945 is also buried there. This led to some family problems later as there was just one space left for Mary (MO) and meant that Micheal's wife Molly could not be buried with her husband.

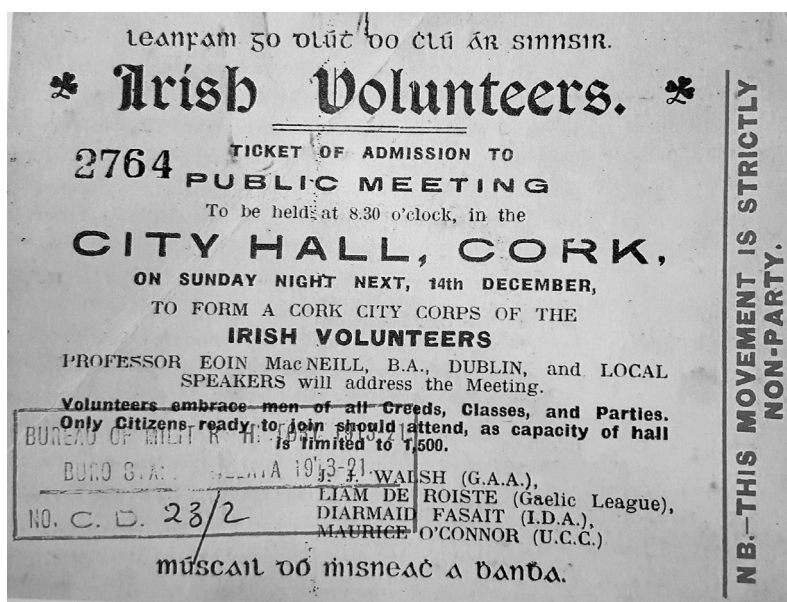
It is probable that the Lucey's from Ballyvourney area may have been Irish speakers but there is no evidence that Chris' parents James and Maggie were. There was a Gaelic League Revival around the turn of the century, and this may have prompted Chris to have the Irish version of all family names on the gravestone in St Joseph's Cemetery.

The War of Independence

Though not involved in the Easter rising in 1916, Cork and Munster were very involved in the War of Independence. Here is an analysis of Chris' handwritten statement on his involvement 1913-1921.

1913 -1915

"...I joined the volunteers at the end of 1913. I was at the first meeting in the City Hall back 1913 at which Eoin Mac Neill, Roger Casement & Bulmer Hobson attended to start the vols (Irish Volunteers) in Cork. I did my best to save the speakers when the remark "Up Carson" was said from an attack by organized AOH (Ancient Order of Hibernians) men.



Irish Volunteer Meeting Cork City Hall

During 1914 I helped in every way I could to build up the organization in Cork. I was one of the few who saved the Howth guns in 1915 when AOH (Ancient Order of Hibernian) men raided Hall in Fishers Lane, Cork.



Irish Volunteers marching towards the National Monument on Grand Parade Cork, probably for the annual Manchester Martyrs' commemoration in November 1914 or 1915. [Picture: Irish Examiner]

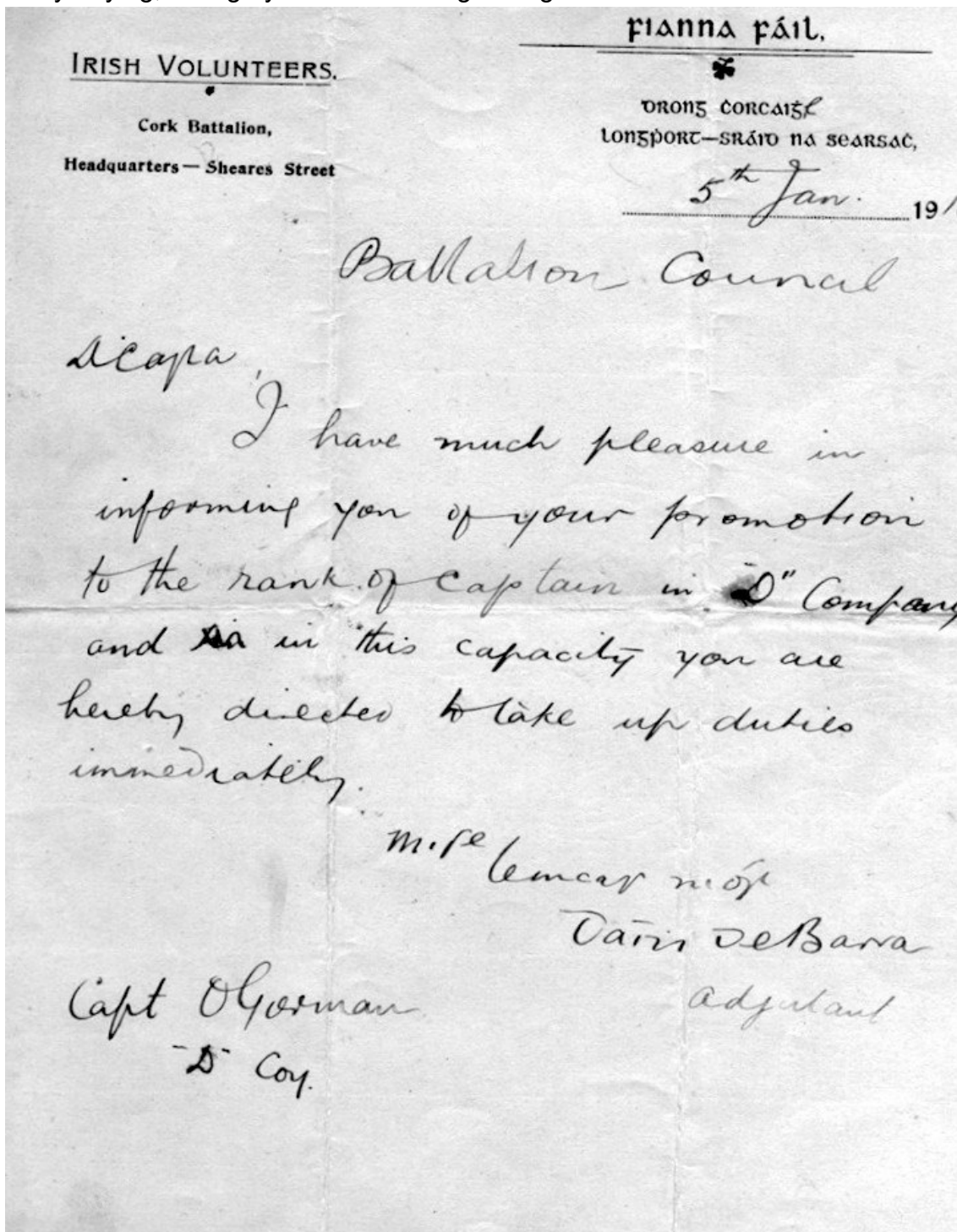
During 1915 with Thomas McCurtain, I helped to organize the county and was appointed 1st Lieut. during 1915. Lost my job (clerk) over the movement Christmas 1915.



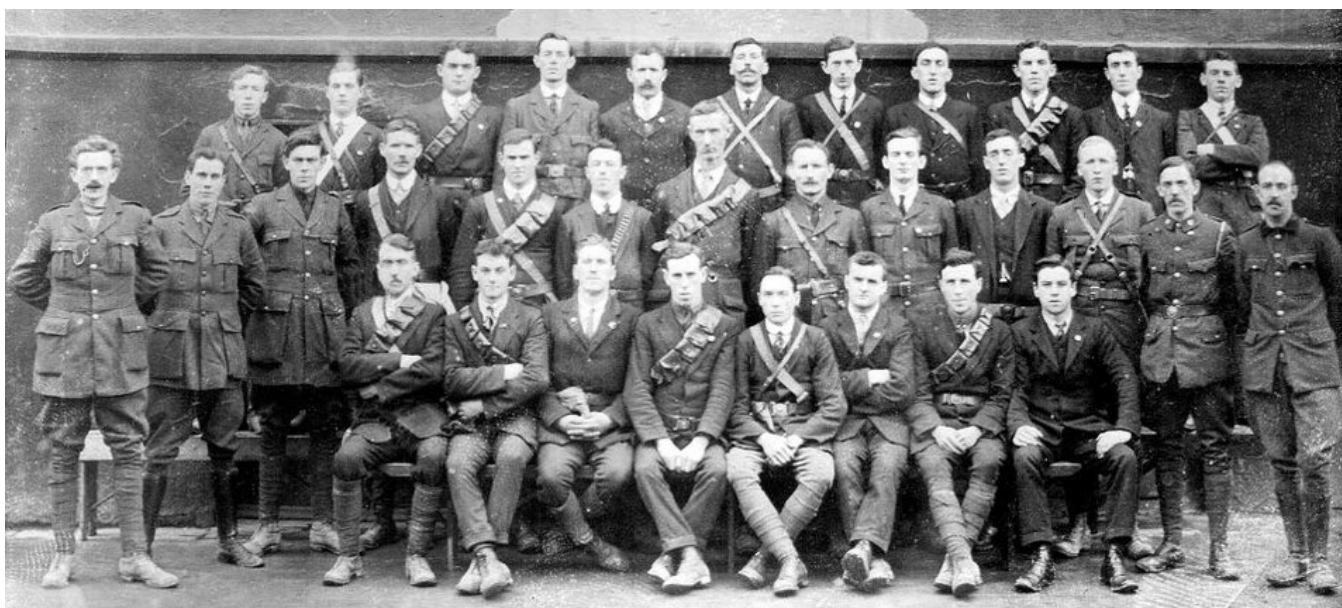
A British First World War recruiting meeting at Shandon St, Cork, in October 1915. [Picture: Irish Examiner photographic archive]

1916

Was appointed capt. (captain) early 1916 [5 January 1916] of D. Coy (Company) Cork City Batt (Battalion). I helped Capt. O'Connell, now Gen. (General O'Connell) to train County Officers during early 1916, helped to increase my company's stock of rifles by buying, taking by force & stealing during 1916...."



Christopher O'Gorman's promotion to Captain of D Company



Irish Volunteers Training - January 1916, Cork City.

Front Row seated: Cornelius J. Meany (Millstreet), Cornelius Mahoney (Ahiohill), Patrick J. Twomey (Kilmoney, Blarney), Martin O'Keefe (Ballynoe), Michael Leahy (Cobh), William Kelliher (Keale, Drishane), James Murphy (Clondrohid, Macroom), Chris McSweeney (Blarney St, Cork).

Second Row: Sean O'Sullivan, **Christopher O'Gorman (Cork City)**, Michael F. Lynch (Tracton), Seán Lynch (Renanirree, Macroom), John Manning (Donoughmore), Charles Wall (Dromcollogher), James Walsh (Lyre, Clonakilty), Seán Carroll (Hospital, Co. Limerick), Riobárd Langford (Cork City), Maurice Ahern (Dungourney), Tom Hales (Ballinadee, Bandon), Tadgh Barry (Cork City), Captain J.J. 'Ginger' O'Connell.

Back Row: Paud O'Donoghue (Coachford), Cornelius Ahern (Dunmanway), Seán O'Driscoll (Eyeries), Eugene Walsh (Clogagh, Bandon), Denis O'Brien (Ballydaly, Millstreet), Seán Collins (Ballinspittle, Kinsale), Séamus Courtney (Cork City), Jeremiah Mullane (Mourneabbey), Michael Hyde (Ballinhassig), Liam (William Patrick aka Wille Pa) O'Brien (Lyre, Banteer), Michael McCarthy (Dunmanway)

Christopher O'Gorman was an early member of the Irish Volunteers, appointed 1st Lieutenant and later Captain of D Company, Cork Battalion Irish Volunteers during 1916. He participated in the St Patrick's Day Parade in Cork in 1916.

FIANNA Fáil.

Irish Volunteers—Cork Brigade.

St. Patrick's Day Demonstration in Cork City, 1916.

A Chara,

Your Company is to parade at full strength, and with full equipment, and one day's rations, at above parade in Cork City.

The Brigade will be inspected by an officer of the Headquarters Staff, and special attention will be paid to the condition of arms.

For train arrangements, enquire of the local stationmaster.

Companies will be met on arrival by officers of the Brigade Staff.

Officers will please note the following Orders, which must be strictly adhered to:—

- (1) Any breach of discipline must be severely dealt with and not let pass unnoticed.
- (2) **On no account** will any man leave ranks without permission from his officer.
- (3) Any man using ammunition **without an order**, either before, during, or subsequent to this parade, is to be immediately deprived of his arms, suspended from the organisation, and case reported to Brigade Council for investigation.

NOTE.—The special attention of all ranks is called to above order.

- (4) On arrival at Cork all officers will take orders from officers of the Brigade Staff, who will wear a Blue Band round cap.
- (5) Any man under the influence of drink will be considered incapable, deprived of his arms and equipment, and forthwith suspended from the organisation, pending trial by courtmartial.
- (6) Every Volunteer is responsible for the honour of the Brigade, and should bear himself accordingly.

By Order of Brigade Council,

T. MAC CURTAIN,
Commandant.

St. Patrick's Day Flyer 1916



Cork Volunteers on the Western Rd St. Patrick's Day 1916

Saint Patrick's Day became an official public holiday in Ireland 1903; this was promoted by the Gaelic League.

Cork Easter Rising 1916

On the morning of Easter Saturday, 1916, the Cork Brigade of Irish Volunteers faced confusion in its leadership. Tomás MacCurtain, the commanding officer, understood that his unit was to participate in a significant military operation planned for the following day. However, throughout the week, he received varying instructions from Volunteer Headquarters in Dublin, which his second-in-command, Terence MacSwiney, described as “order, counter-order, disorder”.

The Cork Brigade was assigned to occupy a line from the Pass of Keimineagh in the north to Newmarket and establish contact with the Kerry Brigade in the west. Once positioned, they would receive their allocation of German arms delivered at Fenit, Co Kerry. MacCurtain learned of his assignment at the end of 1915, and MacSwiney carried out a detailed reconnaissance of the designated area in December that year.

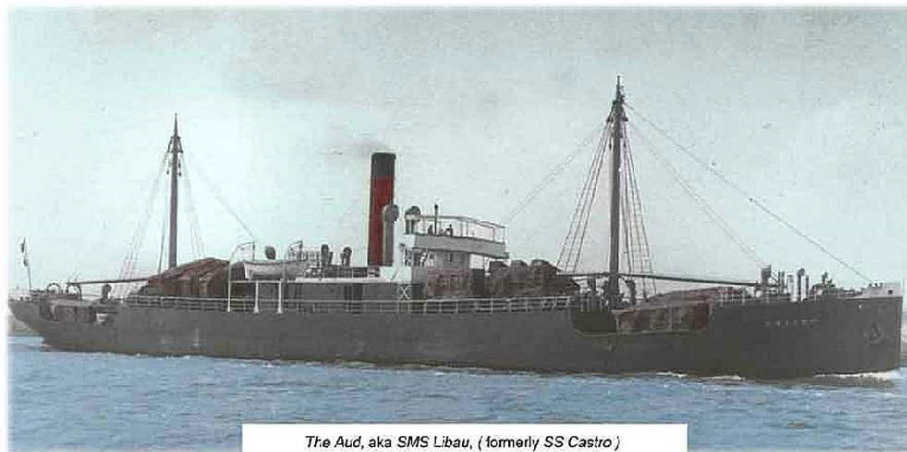
On April 9, Tomás MacCurtain held a conference at Volunteer Hall, Cork, and issued orders for Easter maneuvers. The same day, arms left Germany aboard the SS *Aud*, disguised as a Norwegian steamer, crewed by German Navy under Captain Karl Spindler.

JJ O'Connell arrived in Cork on Friday night. He met MacCurtain and MacSwiney at the latter's home on Victoria Rd and gave them MacNeill's order in relation to

defensive measures. However, unknown to any of them, the situation had already taken a turn for the worse. That morning the *Aud* had been intercepted by the Royal Navy and Roger Casement had been arrested by the RIC after he came ashore at Banna Strand in Kerry.

The German ship 'The Aud' was waiting near Fenit Pier in Tralee, signaling as planned and hiding behind an island overnight to avoid detection by the British. However, due to a series of events, no one arrived.

In the morning, 'The Aud' was approached by a small tug bearing the British flag of war and was apprehended. As it was escorted to Cork, the crew sank the ship, identified themselves as members of the German Navy, and surrendered to their British captors.



The Aud, aka SMS Libau, (formerly SS Castro)

The Aud

On Saturday morning, MacCurtain was at the Volunteer Hall when James Ryan arrived from Dublin with MacDiarmada's dispatch. Despite this new information, he told Ryan that he would follow through with the mobilization of his men as initially planned. However, further developments in Dublin were expected.

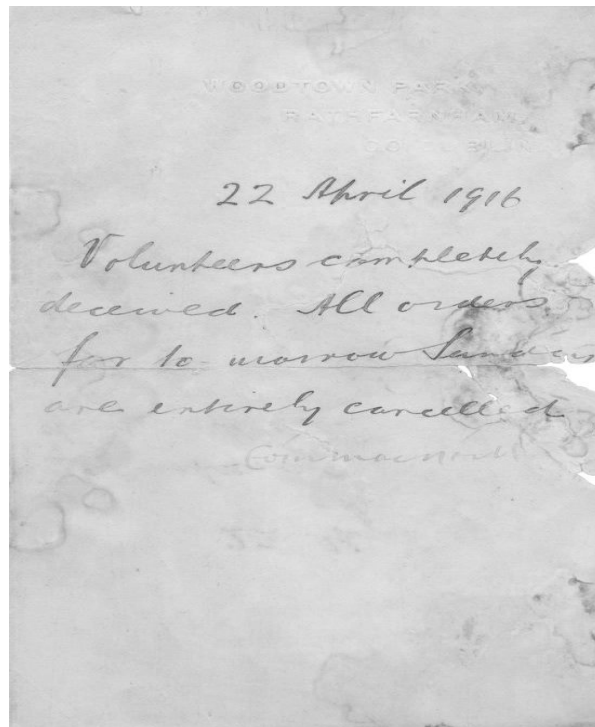
That morning, MacNeill learned about the interception of the Aud and Casement's arrest. Believing the rebellion would fail, he promptly issued another order canceling the maneuvers and placed a notice in the Sunday newspapers.

He instructed Dr. James Ryan, who recently arrived from Cork, to drive back early the next morning and deliver his order to MacCurtain.

Chris states what happened next:

" I was the officer who met Dr. Ryan bringing a message from Eoin MacNeill for O/C (Commanding Officer) MacCurtain calling off maneuvers. I knew what we were going to do before we went out and was prepared for anything which may happen. I had my men in the same form and by now they were the best & were prepared to

sacrifice themselves to save Ireland. We were disappointed when we were ordered back but I said as soldiers we should obey our superior officers.”



Eoin McNeill's message 'Volunteers completely deceived' order dated 22 April 1916

On Easter Sunday morning, Volunteers in Cork gathered at eight designated assembly points. At noon, over 160 members of the Cork City Battalion, along with participants from Cobh and Dungourney, assembled outside the Volunteer Hall. After a speech by MacCurtain, most proceeded to Capwell Railway Station to board a train for Crookstown, while others cycled the route.

MacCurtain planned to drive to West Cork, but before he left, James Ryan arrived with **Chris** and gave him MacNeill's latest order.

Chris led the Company to Macroon, where the decision was made to cancel events and return to the Volunteers Hall in Cork.

They boarded up in Volunteers Hall in Cork with snipers ready to defend them.

Chris tells us "The Lord Mayor, Rutterford made a plea that Vols (volunteers) would give up their guns. I was at the meeting held at Shears St. where it was decided to give up the guns into the keeping of the Lord Mayor. I did not agree and kept my own gun. I was right as the British who never kept any word raided Lord Mayor's house & got the guns, but they didn't get mine and a few others like me..."

The National Volunteers continued to use the Cornmarket, and early in 1915 the Irish Volunteers moved from Fisher Street to the Hall in Sheares Street. The Companies were growing stronger again and we had good financial support from a few well-off sympathisers.

At Easter, 1916, there were about 120 men on the roll of 'D' Company. We tried to mobilise everyone for Easter Sunday. The following paraded:-

Christopher O'Gorman,	Captain.
Con Collins,	1st Lieutenant.
Fred Murray,	2nd Lieutenant.
Liam Rabbett,	Adjutant.
Daithi Cotter.	
Harry Lorton.	
Michael Cronin.	
Jerome Mullane.	
Dan Foley.	
Con O'Connell.	
Tom Murphy.	
Cornelius O'Brien.	
Pat Mahony.	
Richard Carroll.	
Jeremiah Hartnett.	
Eugene O'Callaghan.	
Christopher McSweeney.	
Joe O'Shea.	
Jack O'Shea.	
Peter Hogan.	
John Keyes.	
Walter Furlong.	
Paddy O'Sullivan.	
Daithi O'Sullivan.	

Con Collins Witness Statement BMH.WS0090

Following the Rising, **Chris O'Gorman** as with so many other Irish Volunteers throughout Ireland did not remain at liberty for long.

Volunteer Con Collins recalled in his BMH (Bureau of Military History) statement that on Tuesday, 26 April 1916, he and ten others were arrested in military operations in Cork City to neutralize any potential uprising in the city: "Tomás MacCurtain, Seán Nolan, Donal Óg O'Callaghan, Fred Murray, **Chris O'Gorman**, Cornelius Murphy, Seán MacCurtain, James Murphy, Patrick Trahey, Daithi Cotter and myself. Terence MacSwiney was not amongst the eleven.

203	John Nolan	26	5 6	Bk to Fresh	116	Newcastle Dyke Lane	David	Shop. Aust	5 Rb. Road	3/5
204	Cornel Murphy	22	5 6	7-11 Fresh	127	Murcom Irish Work	Liam		5 Rb. Road	3/5
205	John Keenan	35	5 3	Bk to Fresh	147	Kilspicken Shamrock St	Elizabeth	Shop. Aust	11 Rb. Road	3/5
206	James J. Murphy	26	5 5 1/2	Bk to Fresh	156	Kilmeel Irish Work	Margaret	Lab. Clerk	5 Rb. Road	3/5
207	Thomas Curtin	35	5 6	Bk to Fresh	159	Newcastle Dyke Lane	Elizabeth	Mother	11 Rb. Road	3/5
208	Patrick Trahey	35	5 5 1/2	Bk to Fresh	111	Ennis Irish Work		Shop. Aust	5 Rb. Road	3/5
209	Frank Murray	31	5 4	Reddy's Fresh	134	Manfield Dundas Street	Ellen	Mother	5 Rb. Road	3/5
210	John J. Gorman	25	5 10 1/2	Bk to Fresh	146	Blackpool Obanice St	James	Lab. Clerk	5 Rb. Road	3/5
211	David Cotter	24	5 6 1/2	Bk to Fresh	134	Kenan St Fair Hill	Kate	Aunt	5 Rb. Road	3/5
212	Thomas Deane	35	5 7 1/2	Bk to Fresh	157	Goodson Goodson	Mary	Mother	5 Rb. Road	3/5

Cork 1916 Prison Record: 210 Christopher J. O'Gorman, Age 25, 5'10½"
Dark hair, Blue eyes, Irish, Blackpool, 7 O'Connell St, James Father Clerk

We were only a short time in the Jail when the Bishop intervened, he told Captain Dickie, the British Army Intelligence Officer, that he had broken his agreement that there would be no arrests in Cork and we were released. I was not arrested in the general roundup that followed. . ."

O'Gorman continues in his statement:

"....I was locked up again by RIC (Royal Irish Constabulary) in May 1916 and had to go on the run for 4 or 5 months. Back in Cork again we put the organisation going again and had everything in good order when the prisoners were released."

On the Tuesday or the Wednesday of the week after Easter Week I was arrested at my place of employment, Maddens in Bridge Street, by a Sergeant Kennedy and a constable with a drawn revolver. Kennedy, whom I knew well through business, told me ten others were being arrested, that the Kents had put up a fight that morning and shot a Head Constable. I was brought to Cork Jail and handed over to Governor O'Connor. There were eleven arrests: Tomas

- 6 -

MacCurtain, Seán Nolan, Donal Óg O'Callaghan, Fred Murray, Chris. O'Gorman, Cornelius Murphy, Seán MacCurtain, James Murphy, Patrick Trahey, Daithi Cotter and myself. Terence MacSwiney was not amongst the eleven. We were only a short time in the Jail when the Bishop intervened. He told Captain Dickie, the British Army Intelligence Officer, that he had broken his agreement that there would be no arrests in Cork and we were released. I was not arrested in the general roundup that followed.

Con Collins Witness Statement BMH.WS0090

Transcript of Chris J's record				Copy to clipboard
First name(s)	Chris J	Country	Ireland	
Last name	O'Gorman	Other's first name	JAMES	
Birth year	1891	Other's last name	O'GORMAN	
Age	25	Other's address	7 O'CONNELL ST	
Year	1916	Register title	CORK COUNTY GAOL GENERAL REGISTER 1915-1924	
Date	02 May 1916	Book number	1/8/38	
Where born	BLACKPOOL	Item number	3	
Residence	7 O'CONNELL ST	Record set	Irish Prison Registers 1790-1924	
Role	Prisoner	Category	Institutions & organisations	
Prison	Cork County	Subcategory	Courts & Legal	
County	Cork	Collections from	Ireland	

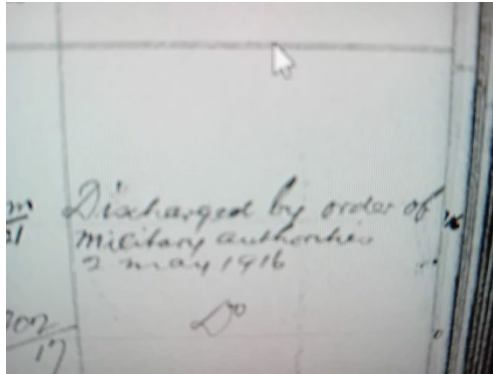
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About Irish Prison registers 1790-1924

Chris O'Gorman 7 O'Connell St Prison record May 1916

25	John O'Brien	35	5	3	Br Bl	Fresh	147	Dallypark	Shandon St	Elizabeth	Stephane
										wife	2A
26	James J. Murphy	26	5	5 1/2	Br Bl	Fresh	126	Kilmichael	Trin Walk	Margaret	Black
										mother	2A
27	Thomas Curtin	35	5	6	Br Bl	Fresh	159	Mounccally	Thomas Davis St	Elizabeth	Murphy
										wife	2A
28	Patrick Trahy	35	5	5 1/2	Br Bl	Fresh	111	Evergreen	Trin Walk	-	Shop
											car
29	Frank Murray	31	5	4	Red Hg	Fresh	134	Manfield	Shandypierced	Ellen	Mason
										mother	2A
30	Chris J. O'Gorman	25	5	10 1/2	Br Bl	Fresh	146	Blackpool	O'Connell St	James	Black
										father	2A
31	Davia Cottar	24	5	6 1/2	Br Bl	Fresh	134	Ronan St	Fair Hill	Kate	.
										uncle	2A
32	Connor Leere	35	5	7 1/2	Br Bl	Fresh	157	Goldson	Loveland	Mary	Greer
										mother	2A
33	Michl Sheehan	31	5	10 1/2	Br Bl	Fresh	133	Blonera	Dundrum	John	Labbe
										father	2A
34	Lewis J. Dalton	43	5	10 3/4	Br Bl	Fresh	158	Tippary	Tippary	Nora	.
										mother	2A
35	Patrick Moloney	47	5	8 1/2	Gr Bl	Fresh	198	Tippary	Tippary	Ellen	Chernit
										wife	2A
36	John Morrison	40	5	6 1/2	Br Bl	Fresh	140	K...			

All released



Discharged by order of military authorities

1917

Was still Capt. D Coy. City Batt. In 1917 we went out in full uniform again in spite of restrictions. I with others was arrested & got 12 months in Cork Gaol did some months demanded political treatment refused and went on Hunger Strike and was released on Cat and Mouse Act after 4 or 5 days...."

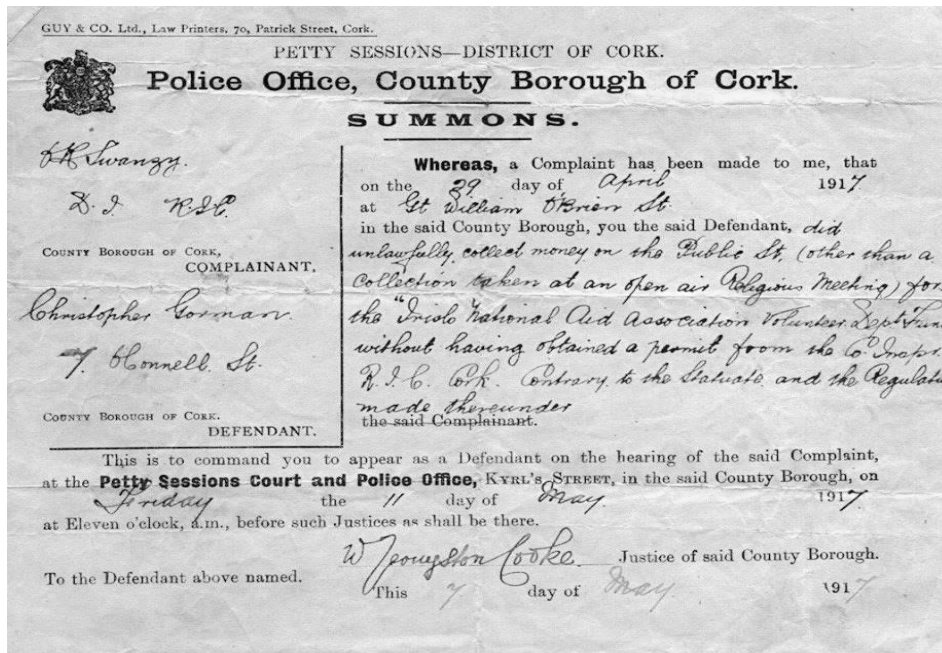
Jailed in 1917, he took part in a hunger strike in Cork Prison to secure Prisoner of War status before being released under the 'Cat and Mouse Act'. He later commanded the 'E' Company and was a member of the Cork No.2 Brigade IRA from 1919 to late 1920 and Officer in Charge of the 5th Battalion from 1920 until after the Truce.

"Then resident at 7 O'Connell Street, Cork, O'Gorman was summoned by Justice Cooke of the County Borough of Cork on May 7th, 1917, to appear before a sitting Justice of the County Borough on Friday, 11th May 1917 at 11am on foot of a complaint that on 29th April 1917, he...'did unlawfully collect money on the public street (other than a collection taken at an open air religious meeting) for the 'Irish National Aid Association Volunteers Dependents Fund' without having obtained a permit from the Co[unty] Inspector R.I.C. Cork contrary to the statute and the regulations made thereunder'.

The Complainant on the Summons is noted as District Inspector R.I.C. Oswald Swanzy - later implicated in the assassination of Cork Lord Mayor Tomás McCurtain in March 1920 and who was in turn traced to Lisburn, Co. Antrim and assassinated by the Cork No.1 Brigade IRA in August 1920.

Details here:

The summons on the grounds of a lack of a charitable collection permit would appear to be a technicality to arrest a prominent Irish Volunteer who appeared in public in uniform and was certainly confirmed with the resulting twelve months imprisonment sentence, far in excess of the norm.



Christopher O’Gorman Summons 1917

O’Gorman’s statement continues:

"...got 12 months in Cork Gaol did some months [and in November 1917] demanded political treatment, [was] refused and went on Hunger Strike ..."

During O’Gorman’s imprisonment in Cork Gaol, Thomas Ashe and other Volunteers went on hunger strike in Mountjoy prison on 20th September 1917 to demand free association and treatment as a Prisoner of War with appropriate rights. Ashe died on 25th September following a bungled force feeding. His funeral brought Dublin to a standstill, and attracted a crowd estimated between thirty and forty thousand. “The circumstances of his death have made 100,000 Sinn Feiners out of 100,000 Constitutional Nationalists,” opined the London Daily Express. The death of a hunger striker was invariably feared by the government and its allies and so four days after Ashe’s death, the government opted to concede POW rights and the Mountjoy strike was called off.

The hunger strike tactic was now taken up by hundreds of other Nationalist prisoners throughout Ireland with almost all gaining concessions and frequently released...for the time being. Amongst Nationalist prisoners in Cork Jail, Terence McSweeney, Christopher O’Gorman and others now went on hunger strike.

Below: O’Gorman’s handwritten statement dated 14th November 1917 in Cork Prison refuting the authority of the court and claiming status as ‘Prisoner of War’. It is believed that the hunger strike began shortly after this statement was written.

I refuse to recognise the authority of this or any other foreign court in Ireland. I consider you but officers of the army of occupation in Ireland and you have no more power to rule here than the Germans have in Belgium. The power you represent tells the world she is fighting as a Defender of Small Nations but this island has thrown the lie in her face and England dare not face the world until she recognises us as a Sovereign State. In my charge sheet I am described as a civilian to this I object. I am a soldier of the Irish Republican Army and will drill and train myself to be called such. The Irish Republic established at Easter 1916 has the moral sanction of the Irish Nation and I have pledged my allegiance to it. I shall never recognise a foreign court within its shores and will not rest happy until all the foreign institutions which have demoralised us are removed. If detained I claim the treatment of a prisoner of war

CHRISTOPHER O'GORMAN
I. R. A.
Cork Prison
14 Nov 1917

Christopher O'Gorman's Statement 1917

"I refuse to recognise the authority of this or any other foreign court in Ireland. I consider you but officers of the army of occupation in Ireland and you have no more power to rule here than the Germans have in Belgium. The power you represent tells the world she is fighting as a Defender of Small Nations but this island has thrown the lie in her face and England dare not face the world until she recognises us as a

Sovereign State. In my charge sheet I am listed as a civilian, to this I object. I am a soldier of the Irish Republican Army and will drill and train myself to be called such. The Irish Republic established at Easter 1916 has the moral sanction of the Irish Nation and I have pledged my allegiance to it. I shall never recognise a foreign court within its shores and will not rest happy until all the foreign institutions which have demoralised us are removed. If detained, I claim the treatment of a Prisoner of War.

Signed: Crístóir O'Garmáin.

I.R.A.

Cork Prison.

14 Nov 1917.

O'Gorman was released from Cork Prison on 21 November 1917 under the Prisoners (Temporary Discharge for Ill Health) Act, 1913 or the 'Cat and Mouse Act'

".....and was released on Cat and Mouse Act after 4 or 5 days...."

PRISONERS (TEMPORARY DISCHARGE FOR ILL-HEALTH)
ACT, 1913.

NOTICE TO BE GIVEN TO PRISONER.

Christopher O'Gorman is this day discharged
from *Cork Male* Prison in pursuance of *the Lord*
Lieutenant's Order of *21 November 1917*, subject to
the following conditions:—

1. The prisoner shall, if this period of temporary discharge be not extended, return to above-mentioned prison on the *twelfth* day of *December* 1917.
2. The period of temporary discharge granted by this Order may, if the Lord Lieutenant thinks fit, be extended.
3. The prisoner shall abstain from any violation of the law.

If *he* fails to comply with any of the foregoing conditions, the prisoner is liable to be arrested and taken back to prison. While *he* is at large under this Order the currency of *his* sentence is suspended.

L. J. Blake
Governor.

21st November 1917

W. 2074—215.120.11.17 A.P.W. Co., Ltd. 400.

Christopher O'Gorman's Prison Discharge 1917

The Prisoners (Temporary Discharge for Ill Health) Act, commonly referred to as the Cat and Mouse Act, was an Act of Parliament passed in Britain under Herbert Henry Asquith's Liberal government in 1913. This followed the jailing and hunger strike undertaken by some members of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU), commonly referred to as Suffragettes. The hunger striking Suffragettes had been

force-fed by the prison staff which led to a major public outcry. The act was a response to the outcry that allowed these prisoners to be released on license as soon as the hunger strike affected their health. They then had a predetermined period of time in which to recover after which they were rearrested and taken back to prison to serve out the rest of their sentence. Conditions could be placed on the prisoner during the time of their release such as good behaviour bonds, not to associate with known groups etc. One effect of the act was to make hunger strikes technically legal. The nickname of the Act came about because of the domestic cat's habit of playing with its prey, allowing it to temporarily escape a number of times, before finally capturing and killing it.

Hunger striking as a political weapon, effectively destroyed the British policy of mass internment of Irish Volunteers and those suspected of harbouring Nationalist sympathies during 1917-Spring 1920. However, the resulting release of Nationalist prisoners demoralised some sections of the British armed forces in Ireland. It indirectly contributed to an outbreak of extra-judicial killings and destruction which in turn further escalated the War of Independence.

1918

O'Gorman comments on the period from 1918 in his written statement:

"...[When] Cork City was reorganised 1918. I took charge of E Coy 1st Batt. I trained this Coy in all branches of military duties. Made it a self contained unit, increased its stock of rifles by every available means had engineers making cement and tin bombs. Had large no. of pikes made enough to equip every man in Coy. with some kind of weapon. Still helped in organising country Macroom, Ballingearry, Whitechurch, Glanmire etc. was taken by Thomas [McCurtain] everywhere he went. I especially organised the 5th Batt. made Batt. staff and put them going by keeping an eye on things in my own area. I got everything in order ready for any attack which may take place. The Batt. orders were all carried out.

1919

During 1919 I still continued to perfect the organisation of the coy. & helped to make the 5th Batt more active, was arrested under D.O.R.A. (Defence of the Realm Act) sent to Belfast Jail (Ballykinter Camp), 2nd in command (General Duffy O/C) & and we won political treatment. Had a Hunger Strike and was the last to be released after 12 days in very bad health. Back in Cork. My house raided the night of our release and I had to find digs elsewhere. Thomas McCurtain lived in my Coy district we guarded his house & himself every chance we could 'til curfew prevented us..."

1920

O'Gorman was a member of the Cork No.2 Brigade IRA from 1919 to late 1920 when Carrignavar, Riverstown, Whitechurch and Tubbermire Companies were formed into a separate battalion and became known as the 5th Whites Cross Battalion.

1920 was a difficult year in Cork city, two Lord Mayors died, one, Tomas McCurtain was assassinated in his home by Crown Forces and later Terrence MacSwiney died on Hunger Strike in Brixton Prison. In addition, on the night of 11-12 December, the city centre of Cork was burnt by British Soldiers and the Auxiliaries from Victoria Barracks. The Auxiliaries were former British army officers who had been recruited into the new Auxiliary Division for counter-insurgency in the RIC.

British policy towards hunger striking had changed radically by 1920. When 12 prisoners from Cork went on hunger strike in August 1920 at Cork Jail, the British government refused to concede. One of the twelve, Terence MacSwiney, Lord Mayor of Cork, was moved from Cork Prison to Brixton Prison, London where he died, along with fellow strikers Michael Fitzgerald and Joseph Murphy in Cork. With these deaths, the remaining prisoners were ordered to end their hunger strike.

When Terrence MacSwiney was on Hunger Strike in Brixton Prison, his sister Annie visited him and sent a letter to Mary (May) Lucey in October 1920 (see below).

Chris's stories from that year are that 'House raided and smashed up several times, burned Blackpool Barracks. Was looked for by the same coward who murdered Thomas [McCurtain] but I happened to be missing. Attack on King St. Barracks... (renamed McCurtain St)

While we are not sure of the time of this event, but it may have been at this time, when Chris was returning to Cork by train, he received word that he would be arrested when he arrived in Cork station. Before reaching Cork, he jumped out of the train window and escaped arrest by climbing over a wall which he discovered was in a Convent. The nuns protected him and kept him safe.

1921

O'Gorman was transferred to the 5th Battalion and was appointed Battalion O/C when the previous officer, James Harte, married and left. O'Gorman held the position until after the truce in 1921.

"...took over charge of 5th Batt, had to reorganise each Coy. as they had no idea of section Company or Battalion organisation. A big raid for me in 5th Batt. area and

the British Officer told those he brought to Glenville not to have anything to do with the murderer who had come from Cork to take charge of them that sooner or later they would get him and deal with him. The brigade intelligence officer got another letter in post but owing to intelligence in Battalion being lacking we were unable to trace the writer. All the barracks in area were burned only the law of the republic was obeyed. Was responsible for military and civil control in the area and made the organisation perfect.

We trenched main roads etc. blew up bridges dealt with spies held prisoners for other parts of brigade shifted stuff through our area safely through other parts of the brigade. Formed an active service unit in Batt but the truce came shortly afterwards.

A ceasefire began on 11th July 1921 and subsequent negotiations led to the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty on 6th December 1921.

1922

From July 1921 to July 1922, I had training camps going in the district and was responsible for maintenance & putting up the 40 men and officers. Kept my own Battalion in good fighting condition but resigned when civil war broke out as I did not agree.”

Note:

Chris was once on the run with Tom Cotter, who married Mummy O's sister, Nora Lucey, and moved to the US. Nora later visited Lios na gCrann. Rachel McCarthy mentioned that Chris was shot while jumping off a train, injuring one of his fingers.

Chris O'Gorman and Jack O'Connell were both in the Volunteers' Hall on Sheere's St, Easter 1916, all the men that were there believed that they were going into action. Chris and Jack met subsequently in prison but there is no report again. Jack attended Una and Paddy O'Connell's wedding at the Lios (1955).

Background - Mary Lucey (May, Mummy O)

Mary Lucey grew up in Blackpool, Cork City. Her parents were **James Lucey** (1861-1937) and **Mary Kelleher** (1863-1934). James and Mary were both from large west Cork families, James grew up in Muine Fluich, Carriganima (Irish: Carraig an Ime), Co. Cork approximately 9 km northwest of Macroom. Mary grew up nearby in Dangansallagh. The families were quite close, and it was said in the family that 'two brothers married two sisters. Many of James and Mary's siblings emigrated to the US and some to Australia.

Mary Lucey's paternal grandparents were **Jeremiah Lucey** b. 18XX and **Ellen Murphy** b.1821, (from Kilnamartyra), they were married in 1845 and had 10 children (8 living 1911). Her maternal grandparents were **Michael Kelleher** and **Mary Lehane** (1830-1908). The grandparents of Mary and Chris lived through the Great Famine 1845-1851 and Pat McCarthy was told that they were able to 'help others' during the famine.

It is thought that **Ellen Murphy's** parents were **Daniel Murphy** and **Hanora Buckley** definitely born in the 1700s

The Lucey name is thought to be of Norman origin deLucey with various gaelic versions such a Ó Luasaigh, these names are mostly found in Co Cork.

Jeremiah Lucey, Ellen Murphy, Micheal Kelleher and Mary Lehane were all born in the 1830's. They grew up on farms around Ballyvourney, Co. Cork ten miles from Macroom. The land was poor with mostly mixed farming - potatoes, vegetables, hens and maybe pigs or cattle. This would depend on what the family could afford. We do not know how these families survived the Famine in 1845-1852 but we know that many of their neighbors moved to the Union Workhouse in Macroom ([source](#)) and many emigrated to America. It was said that the Luceys had helped the people affected by the famine but no more is known at this time.

Many of their grandchildren moved from the area, **James** moved to Cork city. He enlisted in the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC), a good job at that time, in 1881 aged 20. Ten years later 1891, **James** married **Mary** in St Peter and Paul's church heart of Cork city.

See also
entry No 216
P.S. Registrar
14.2.91

05885483

1871 Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic Chapel of Church of St Peter & Paul in the Registrar's District of Corke in the County of Wick

No. (1)	When Married (2)	Name and Surname (3)	Age (4)	Condition (5)	Rank or Profession (6)	Residence at the Time of Marriage (7)	Father's Name and Surname (8)	Rank or Profession of Father (9)
203	Feb 5 th 1891	James Lucey	31	Bachel	Consable	Bishop's Court	Seremiah Lucey	Farmer
		Mary Kelleher	31	Full Spinster		Ballymore	Michael Kelleher	Farmer

Married in the Roman Catholic Chapel of Church of St Peter & Paul according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church by me,
John Kelleher
 Registrar.

This Marriage was solemnized between us,
James Lucey
Mary Kelleher
 in the Presence of us,
John Kelleher
Samuel Keane

1891

Marriage record James Lucey and Mary Kelleher.

https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/images/marriage_returns/marriages_1891/10664/5885483.pdf

f

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1911.

Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.

FORM A. No. on Form B.

RETURN OF THE MEMBERS OF THIS FAMILY AND THEIR VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 2nd of APRIL, 1911.

NAME AND SURNAME.	RELATION TO HEAD OF FAMILY.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX.		RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	PARTICULARS AS TO MARRIAGE.			WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	If Deaf and Dumb; Blind; Imbecile or Idiot; or Lunatic.
				Age of Males.	Age of Females.		Whether Married, Widowed, or Single.	Completed years the present Marriage has lasted.	Children born alive to the present Marriage. If less than one year, write "under one."			
1. James	Head of Family	Catholic	Read & Write	31		Farmer and vintner	Widowed			Corke Wick	Irish and English	
2. Julia	Daughter	Catholic	Read & Write	30		Farmer's daughter	Single			Corke Wick	Irish & English	
3. Samuel	Son	Catholic	Read & Write	33		Farmer's Son	Single			Corke Wick	Irish & English	
4. Michael	Son	Catholic	Read & Write	31		Farmer's Son	Single			Corke Wick	Irish & English	

Ireland Census 1911 for Michael Kelleher's family

<https://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/reels/nai001972240/>



Mary Kelleher wearing a Macroom Cloak (1863-1934)

In 1901, the family were living at 26 Commons Rd. James, now 40, was still a Constable in the RIC.



James and Mary Lucey



26 Commons Row 2025

No. of Form R. 26

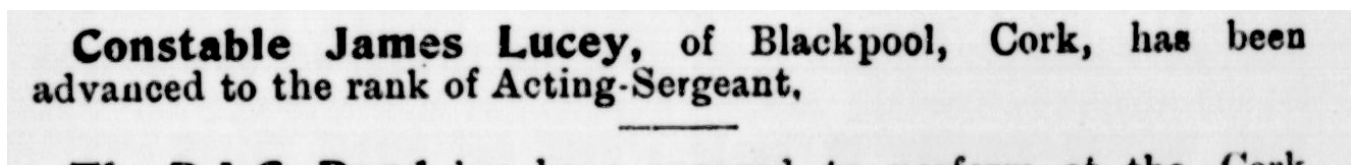
THE MEMBERS OF THIS FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 31st of MARCH, 1901.

Number	NAME and SURNAME.		RELATION TO Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE.		SEX.	RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	MARRIAGE.	WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	If Deaf and Dumb (Blind or Lame).
	Christian Name.	Surname.				Years on last Birth-day.	Months for Males and Yrs for Females.						
1	James	Lucy	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Read + write	40		M	Constable R.I.C.	Married	C. Cork	Irish & English	
2	Mary	Lucy	Wife	Do	Read + write	35		F			C. Cork	Irish & English	
3	Ellen	Lucy	Daughter	Do	Read + write	9		F	Scholar	Married	C. Cork	Irish & English	
4	Mary	Lucy	Daughter	Do	Read + write	8		F	Scholar	Married	C. Cork	Irish & English	
5	Mark	Lucy	Daughter	Do	Cannot read	3		F		Married	C. Cork		
6	Catherine	Lucy	Daughter	Do	Cannot read	1		F		Married	C. Cork		

1901 Census

<https://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/reels/nai000514594/>

James and Mary had 8 children, Ellen (Nellie), Mary (May, Mummy O) (1893), Nora (1898), Catherine (Kit, Aunty Kit) (1901), Con (1904), Jim (1908). Two, Jeremiah and Micheal, died as children. Pat McCarthy said Mary (Mummy O) and Catherine (Aunty Kit) visited their relatives in Macroom on their Summer holidays.



Constabulary Gazette (Dublin) 12 April 1902

The 1911 census showed that the Lucey family had moved to 4 St Mary's Terrace in Fair Hill, Blackpool. This may have been on a quieter street. James, aged 50, was now a Sergeant in the RIC. Daniel Kelleher, Mary's maternal uncle, was staying with them at the time. Unfortunately the house on St Mary's Terrace no longer exists.

Number	Christian Name.		RELATION TO Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE.		SEX.	RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	MARRIAGE.	WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	If Deaf and Dumb (Blind or Lame).
	1.	2.				3.	4.						
1	James	Lucy	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Read + write	50		M	Sergeant R.I.C.	Married	C. Cork	Irish & English	
2	Mary	Lucy	Wife	Roman Catholic	Read + write	44	48	F		Married	C. Cork	Irish & English	
3	Mary	Lucy	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Read + write	18		F	Domestic	Single	C. Cork	Irish & English	
4	Mark	Lucy	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Read + write	13		F	Scholar	Single	C. Cork	Irish & English	
5	John	Lucy	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Read + write	10		F		Single	C. Cork	Irish & English	
6	Constance	Lucy	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Read + write	7		F		Single	C. Cork	Irish & English	
7	James	Lucy	Son	Roman Catholic	Cannot read	3		M		Single	C. Cork	Irish & English	
8	Daniel	Kelleher	Visitor	Roman Catholic	Read + write	35		M	Shop fater	Single	C. Cork	Irish & English	

I hereby certify, as required by the Act 10 Edw. VII, and 1 Geo. V., cap. 11, that the foregoing Return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

John P. D. [Signature] Signature of Enumerator.

I believe the foregoing to be a true Return.

James Lucey [Signature] Signature of Head of Family.

James and Mary Lucey 1911 Census

<https://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/reels/nai001861980/>

Mary was a strong minded young woman who ventured off to Mary Immaculate College in Limerick to learn to become a national schoolteacher. This college was established as a dedicated primary teacher training college for female teachers in 1898. In the 1911 Census, Mary, aged 18, is listed as a monitress (a female trainee teacher).

Mary's first teaching job was at a National School near Crosshaven, Co. Cork. Kit remembered cycling the arduous 24 km cycle with several long hills, to keep her company.

Following the 1916 Rising, Mary MacSwiney was sacked from St. Angela's due to her political activities and proceeded to establish St. Ita's (Scoil Íte) with her sister Eithne "Annie". Scoil Íte was located at 4 Belgrave Place, off Wellington Road in Cork city. Mary Lucey went to work at Scoil Íte when it opened in 1916.



Muriel, Mary and Eithne "Annie" MacSwiney

Annie MacSwiney went to visit her brother Terence "Terry" MacSwiney, the Lord Mayor of Cork, who had been arrested and imprisoned in Brixton Prison. Terry went on the hunger strike on August 16th 1920 and gained world attention. On September 5th Annie wrote this letter to Mummy O whom she called 'May' to share with the staff at Scoil Íte.

Letter from Eithne 'Annie' MacSwiney

Letter from Annie MacSwiney 5th September 1920 to Mary "May" Lucey re (Terence "Terry" MacSwiney Mayor of Cork who died on hunger strike in Brixton Prison on 25th October 1920)

"Brixton Gaol 5.9.20

I am writing to you all together addressing it to May. Before this letter reaches you something will have been decided, it cannot continue. Today Terry is greatly changed. Since yesterday he is extraordinarily weaker and is so very tired. I was with him this morning from 9:15 to 3 O'Clock. He asked me to read to him. I had some papers in my hand and he motioned them wearily away and asked for the "Imitation" (The Imitation of Christ, by Thomas à Kempis) at the beginning of the index page, he had chapters marked - Thoughts on death Royal Highway of the Cross. I forget the names of the other chapters but they all deal with more or less the same theme - suffering and joy in suffering resignation and abandonment to God's Will and indifference to what the world says or thinks. He asked too for the Passion and the Sermon on the Mount and the Apocalypse all of which I read at intervals. He was very very weak and tired and I could hardly catch what he said. Then he pulled me closely as he wanted to say something and it was very hard to hear. He spoke in gasps and I had to put my ear practically touching his lips. Poor, old Terry. He was speaking of forgiving all who wronged us personally or who said or did evil in any way to us and of leaving injustices and hard usage patiently and in reparation and not trying to fight for justice and fair play for themselves. He told me a few things touching himself showing me how much he suffered sometimes.

All of which he had never mentioned before. But he said he always tried to follow that rule of not fighting on personal grounds because after all if we did not make - "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us" - a reality in our lives, our prayers and masses were not much use if any and then he said " It is different for the lying here, I have no power to forgive the injuries done to others, it is a national sin for me but for personal injuries it is different. We must forgive if we are Christians and not forgive with qualifications because that is pagan. It took him ages to say this. I was bent over him and he was speaking in gasps but evidently he wanted to say it and I did not interfere. Then he turned aside his head after whispering that he did not want to think he was preaching a sermon. I suppose he knew how angry I get with people sometimes and he wanted that little word with me and I tell you because it was so beautiful, even though so hard. It took a bit out of me, I felt so bad after it. I feared I was going to give away but I did not. Somehow I got a glimpse into his mind more deep than ever before, though I have often got a glimpse of a Terry that few people know. I think very few people will live in such real communion with our Lord, I am sure the Sacred Heart will have a great welcome for

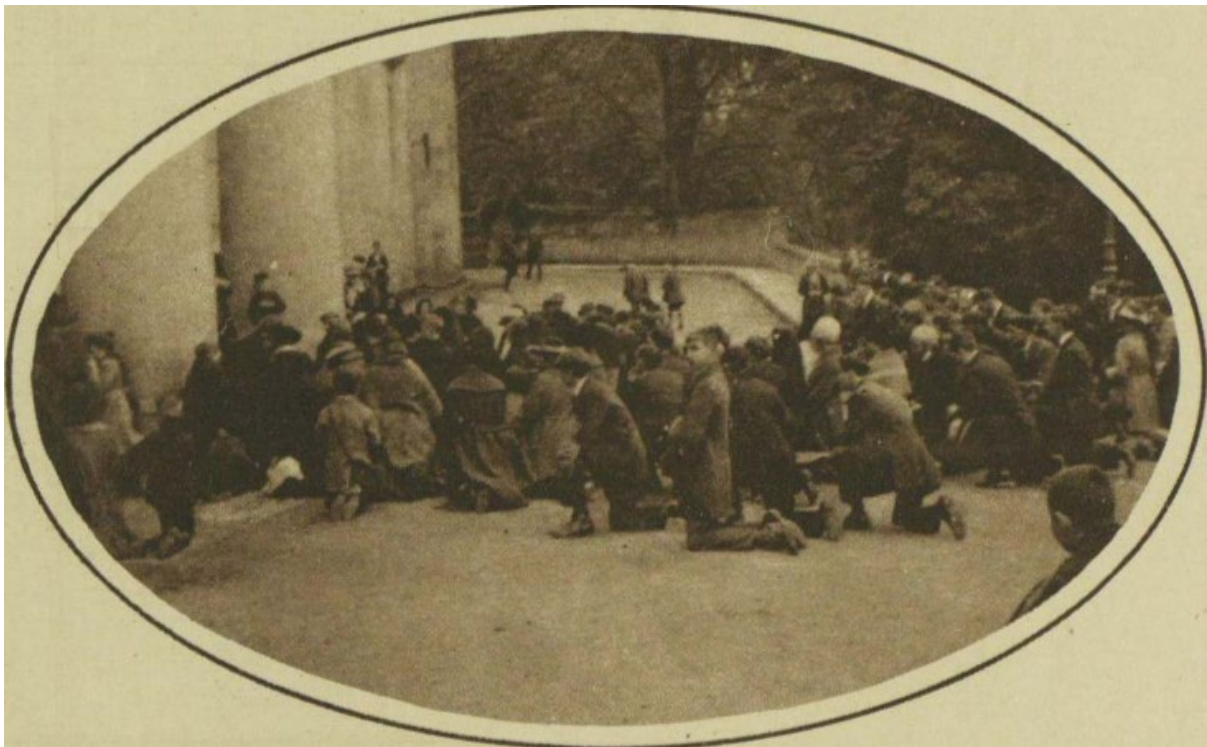
him in the peace he is going if he is goes. I still believe they will be released I felt today perhaps he would not but I feel now he will (I put he instead of they but the others are always on our lips and in our minds) It is post time, God bless and thank you all. We shall pray especially for Scoil Ita on Monday. Greet all the children for us and tell them we think of them and know we have their prayers. We thank for all the kindness and Terry always said it. But yesterday he could only say "Constancy and Victory" I do not like people to say how heroic we are, we only do our simple duty, there is only one road to freedom. To go back or turn aside would be more difficult than to go on."

5. 9. 20
 I am writing to you all together addressing it to May. Before this letter reaches you surely something will have been decided, it cannot continue. To-day Jerry is greatly charged, since yesterday he is extraordinarily weaker & so very tired. I was with him this morning from 9.15 to 3.0 Clock. He asked me to read to him. I had some papers in my hand & he motioned them abruptly away and asked for the "imitation," at the beginning on the Index page, he had chapter marked - "Thoughts on death, Royal Highway of the Cross." I forget the names of the other chapters, but they all deal with more or less the same theme - suffering and joy in suffering, resignation and abandonment to God's will & indifference to what the world says or thinks. He asked too for the Passion & the "Sermon on the Mount and the Apocalypse all of which I read at intervals. He was very very weak & tired and I could hardly catch what he said. Then he pulled me closely as he wanted to say something & it was very hard to hear. He spoke in gasps & I had to put my ear practically touching his lips. Poor, old Jerry. He was speaking of forgiving all who wronged us personally or who said or did evil in any way to us of bearing injustice & hard usage patiently & in reparation and not trying to fight for justice & fair play for ourselves. He told me a few things touching himself & howing how much he had suffered sometimes

before. But he said he always tried to follow that rule of not fighting on personal grounds because after all, if we did not make - "forgiveness our business as we forgive those who trespass against us - a reality in our lives, our prayers & masses were not much use if any & then he said - "It is different for me lying here, I have no power to forgive the injuries done to others, it is a rational duty for me to do this, it would be a rational sin for me to do anything else but for personal injuries it is different we must forgive if we are Christians & not forgive with qualifications for that is pagan. It took his eyes to say this. I was bent over him & he was speaking in gasps, but he evidently wanted to say it & I did not interfere, then he turned & aside his head after whispering he did not want me to think he was preaching a sermon. I suppose he knew how hard I get with people sometimes & he wanted to get little words with me & I tell you because it was so beautiful over though so hard. It took a bit out of me, I felt so bad after it, I feared I was going to give up but I did not. Somehow I got a glimpse into his mind more deep than ever before, though I have often got a glimpse that showed me a sorry, that few people know. I think very few people live in such real communion with God especially our suffering God. I am sure the Sacred Heart will have a great welcome for him in the place to which he is going if he goes. I still believe they will be released. (I felt to-day perhaps he would not) but I feel now that he will. (I felt he instead of they & the others, are always on our lips & in our minds) It is post time God bless & thank you all. We shall pray especially for Scoil Ita on Monday. Greet all the children for us & tell them we think of them & how we use their prayers. We thank all for kindness & Jerry always said it. But yesterday he could only say "Constancy & Victory." I do not like people to say how heroic we are, we only do our simple duty, there is only one road to freedom. To go back or turn aside would be more difficult than to go on.

James Lucey had retired from the RIC around 1912 before the War of Independence. It was said that James hated working with RIC and was known as the 'Boss' in the family. The family moved to a small farm in "The Glen" area of Ballyvolane, Cork City. Kit told stories of seeing Independence fighters going through their fields to shoot at Victoria Barracks (now Collins Barracks). The Volunteers on the 'run', used to come up the 'Long Lane' and hide in the haggard (an enclosure behind a farmhouse in which crops are stored).

Mummy O told stories of saying rosaries outside Cork Gaol to support the Irish Prisoners, it was said that Mary never helped on the farm. James is listed as a farmer on Chris and Mary's wedding Certificate in 1923.



Saying prayers outside Cork Gaol

The farm in the Glen stayed in the family and was given to the eldest son Con who lived there, near to Mary's future home Lios na gCrann. Milk from the farm was delivered to the family when they moved to the Lios.

The Post War Years



Christopher O’Gorman and Mary Lucey Wedding July 28th1923

Marriage No. <i>224</i> Registered by me, this <i>14</i> day of <i>August</i>	19 <i>23</i> . Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic <i>Cathedral</i> of <i>Cork</i> in the Registrar's District of <i>4 Urban</i> in the Union of <i>Cork</i> in the County of <i>Cork</i>								
	No. (1)	When Married. (2)	Name and Surname. (3)	Age. (4)	Condition. (5)	Rank or Profession. (6)	Residence at the Time of Marriage (7)	Father's Name and Surname. (8)	Rank or Profession of Father. (9)
	<i>224</i>	<i>July 28</i> <i>1923</i>	<i>Christopher O'Gorman</i>	<i>Full</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Rate Collector</i>	<i>4. O'Connell St.</i>	<i>James O'Gorman</i>	<i>Railway Guard</i>
			<i>Mary Lucey</i>	<i>Full</i>	<i>Spinster</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>Ballypobane</i>	<i>James Lucey</i>	<i>Farmer</i>

Wedding Certificate July 28th, 1923

https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/images/marriage_returns/marriages_1923/09188/5323489.pdf

Chris married Mary Lucey in May 1923. Chris said he was a rent collector on his wedding certificate. They had eight children. The first six children were girls, Margaret (Margie), Dymphna, Philomena (Ena), Eithne, Una, Patricia (Pat), Brendan and Colm. Chris had pet names for all his daughters, Margie 'Darling', Eithne 'Love', Ena 'Sweetheart', Una 'Next best thing', Pat 'Too' and when his first son Brendan arrived (after six girls), he became "Oh you Brendan' and Colm 'Too'



Chris and Mary

Tragically their daughter Dymphna, age 6, died of diphtheria in 1931 and was buried in her communion dress with her grandparents in St Joseph's cemetery.

When Mary got married in 1923, her father told her to 'mind her job' and she continued to teach, in Blackpool, throughout her married life. This was important as a teaching qualification, indeed any further education for women, was rare at the time. Years later, after a lengthy career, she retired with a schoolteacher's pension.

The family initially lived on Richmond Hill in Cork but were looking for a larger property for the growing family.



Margie, Brendan, Ena, Pat, Eithne, Una

Christopher considered buying Trabolgan, a large house and grounds near Whitegate in East Cork. Instead, they moved into Springfield House, Gardiners Hill in 1932. They renamed the house Lios na gCrann (Grove of Trees), this name links with Mary Lucey's family from West Cork.

per Liam O'Riordan (see O'Leary 9, 10)

Cork No. 1 Brigade. 5th Batt. Cork No. 1 Brigade. 5th Batt.

3 1st Critical Date. 2nd Critical Date.

RANK	NAME AND ADDRESS	REMARKS	RANK	NAME AND ADDRESS	REMARKS
D/C.	<i>Christopher O'Gorman</i>	<i>Took no part</i>	O/C.	<i>Michael Maguire</i>	
	<i>Springfield, Gardiner's Hill, Cork.</i>	<i>in Civil War</i>		<i>Glenmist, Cork.</i>	

Cork number one brigade 5th Battalion past O/C address (Took no part in the Civil War)
Christopher O'Gorman, Springfield, Gardiners Hill.

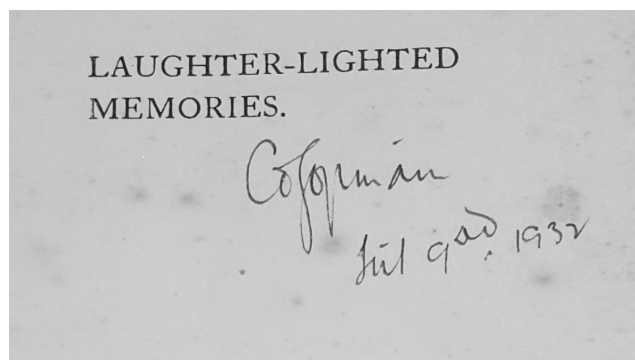
Lios na gCrann was a large house with three acres of land. It had stables, a two-car garage, an orchard, tennis court and a gatehouse for the groundskeeper. They had a housekeeper who washed and cleaned. Fresh milk was delivered daily from Con's farm nearby in Ballyvolane. Chris had a successful career; he had a car throughout the war years and thus was able to drive to work and to their summer home, Summer Lodge, in Youghal. He was remembered as always coming home with a

brown paper package.



The Easter 1916 Scroll was hanging in the Lios. It was sent to all participants in 1948.

Chris read all Charles Dickens' books every year. He wrote the date completed on the back inside cover of each book he read. He set up a Cine Camera in the loft of the stables projecting onto a sheet to watch Charlie Chaplin movies and cartoons. They went to the city to see the pantomime every year. When his sons arrived, he installed a large train set in the stables in the backyard.

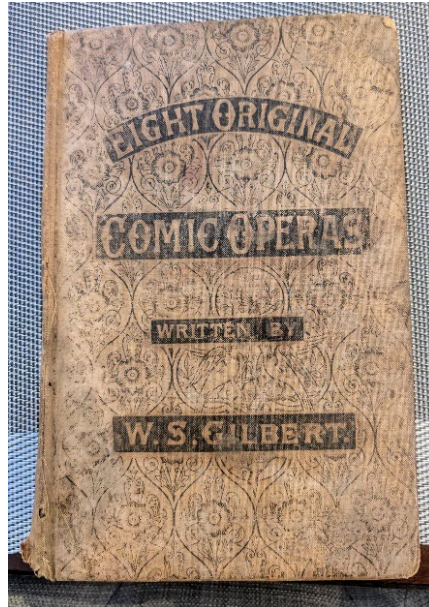


Signed book

On Christmas Day the children had to line up outside the sitting room where the adults were seated. The children came in, one at a time, in chronological order and had to perform a song, poem or play piano. They were then allowed to choose their

present from under the Christmas Tree. They were always afraid an older child would choose 'their' gift.

Aunty Kit, and all at Lios, liked Opera and shows and going to the "Old" Cork Opera House.



1893 Gilbert and Sullivan Comic Operas Book from Lios



The "old" Cork Opera House (burned down 1955)

One year, Una chose roller skates and subsequently broke her arm roller skating in the kitchen. Her broken arm was 'set' by a bone setter in Youghal, and when asked, she could show her 'crooked elbow' to her children. There was a large collection of children's books. They were scared by story of Bluebeard's Castle about a rich man who kills his wives.



Children's Bumper Book from Lios

One of the exciting things in the Lios was the train set that went all around the attic space in the 'stables', there for young Brendan and Colm, Chris must have got immense pleasure putting in that train set for his boys.

Downstairs in Lios na gCrann there was a conservatory/foyer, a hall, a large sitting room, a dining room, a kitchen with a walk-in scullery closet, a back hall that had a toilet, and washroom. Coal was stored in the washroom. There was a back door to the Old Christians Rugby Field that was seldom used and another back door to the backyard that was frequently used.

Upstairs the bedrooms were numbered. Chris and Mummy O slept in room Number 1, Una and Pat in Number 2, Brendan and Colm in Number 3 and Margie, Ena and Eithne had rooms 4 and 5. There was one bathroom and a maid's bedroom at the end of the hallway. Two stairways, a 'good' staircase and a 'back' staircase with a door that led to the kitchen.

Una recalled a rug on the floor with the words 'Felix kept on Walking', in later years she used the term frequently long walks which she enjoyed, she also probably used it as a metaphor for the ups and downs of life.



Felix Kept on Walking



Chris and Mary “doing Pana”.

The phrase ‘doing Pana’” meant walking on Patrick St., looking your best, to see and be seen.

The family had a summer home in Youghal which did not initially have electricity, Una said that ghosts were banished by electric light.



Summer Lodge Youghal 2025

Summer holidays were spent here with a great beach just across the road.

Just by the beach, on a grassy mound known as Claycastle, there was a shop run during the summer months by Tom Attridge, buckets, spades, candy floss, ice cream and all beach paraphernalia could be purchased.

The O’Gorman family would avoid the beach at weekends due to the crowds of day trippers from Cork arriving by train.



James (the Boss) and Mary Lucey visiting Lios na gCrann



Mary Lucey and her daughter Mary O'Gorman and one of the girls, possibly Pat

When Eithne finished school, she decided to join a convent in Scotland.



'The day before Eithne went away'

Pat, Eithne, Una, Brendan and Colm in their school uniforms (circa 1944/1945)

Chris had a successful career as a revenue commissioner but unfortunately, he became seriously unwell in the early 1940s with Muscular Atrophy – possibly a motor neuron disease. He applied for the state pension due to his involvement in the war of revolution until the truce. He was unsuccessful in his many attempts. This was disappointing for Chris as it would not provide for his family, and he may have remembered that his father also lost his pension in the railway strike. He died on 20th May 1945.

Around this time, Mary's sister Kate Lucey (Aunty Kit) moved into Lios na gCrann. Kate was not married as she had been caring for her parents and helping on the farm. After her parents passed away, her brother Con took over the farm. When he married Kate was expected to move out. She had planned to emigrate to the USA but travel was limited due to the outbreak of WW2. She moved into Lios na gCrann to help with her sister's family, which turned out to be a positive event for all the O'Gorman children.



Catherine Lucey (Kate, Kit, Aunty Kit)

Uimhir Number L 88

ÉIRE IRELAND
DEIMHNÍU BREITHE
BIRTH CERTIFICATE
Na hAchtanna um Chláru Breitheanna agus Básanna 1863 go 1952
BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION ACTS, 1863 to 1952.

Social welfare

Ainm agus Sloinne Name and Surname Catherine Pucey

Gnéas Sex F

Dáta Breithe Date of Birth }
Lá Day Fifth
Mí Month February
Bliain Year 1900
Míle One Thousand nine gCéad Hundred and

Ceantar Cláraitheachta District of Registration No 2 Urban
i gContae in the County of Coah Éire Ireland

Uimhir an Taifid Number of Entry 367

Deimhním leis seo gur tiomsaíodh na sonraí sin thuas as Clár Breitheanna atá á mo choimeád agam.
I hereby certify that the foregoing particulars have been compiled from a Register of Births in my custody.

Oifig Office SOUTHERN DISTRICT
7 JUL 1972

Dáta Date 7 JUL 1972

P. Rigney
Cláraitheoir Maoirseachta
Superintendent Registrar

Catherine Lucey "Aunty Kit" Birth certificate

Christopher's military documents were reviewed by Alan Burke, History Department UCC with an explanation why he did not receive the military pension.

UCC Review of Christopher O'Gorman's Papers

Ref: Christopher O'Gorman Papers
ROINN NA STAIRE
Department of History

Given the range of correspondence relating to the affairs of the 5th Battalion in these files I have no doubt that C. O'Gorman was, at least until sometime in 1922, a senior member of that IRA unit. When you initially informed me that he had not received an IRA pension I feared that perhaps he belonged to that group of 'veterans' who, after the Truce claimed to have been active throughout the 1916-1921 period. Michael Collins was contemptuous of those he deemed 'Tucileers' rather than Volunteers. To gauge the disparity between the two groups one should note that in August 1921 there some 72,000 men on the various company rolls of the IRA In 1941, however, the government issued a total of 2,147 medals to those who were on active service from 1916-1921.

The problem for C. O'Gorman appears to stem from his non-participation in the Civil War 1922-23. Irrespective of his personal views on the Treaty it is unlikely that his resignation from the Battalion would have been looked on benignly. The 5th Battalion, as part of the 1st Brigade, was under the command of Scan O'Hegarty who was vehemently opposed to the Treaty. Anyone who was previously active in the IRA and then resigned, was viewed as a potential Free State fifth-columnist. Unless he subsequently co-operated with the Free State Army, they too would have regarded O'Gorman as suspect. It was impossible to be accepted as a neutral observer of events during that conflict, even more so if you had previous experience in the IRA

This, I believe, may have frustrated his attempts to have his military record recognized in subsequent years. Military Service Certificates issued from 1932 onwards needed to be endorsed by recognized participants and typically were sponsored by either Cumann na nGaedheal or Fianna Fail activists. Neither group may have been inclined to endorse his application.

Finally, I was pleased to note that while many of his former comrades were engaged in the Civil War, Christopher O'Gorman had the good sense to get married.

Alan

The 1945 and After

Though 1945 was a difficult time for the family, this was the year Pat started ballet classes with Joan Denise Moriarty in Cork, she was 13. She loved to dance and was exceedingly talented. She left school after her Inter Cert because of her love of ballet, when her mother found out she objected. Joan Denise spoke with Mrs O’Gorman (MO) and convinced her otherwise. Pat was the star of Ms Moriarty’s dancers.



Patricia O’Gorman (later McCarthy)

Initially ballet classes were held in a room over the Gas Company building on Patrick St, by Mangan’s clock. The Cork Ballet School was formed and moved in 1953 to a more spacious studio at 1B Emmet Place, opposite the Opera House.

Around this time, Pat met Jim McCarthy in Ballybunion, Jim was on the Munster and Irish Rugby Team, a member of the Grand Slam winning Irish Squad in 1948, he was also on the 1950 Lions Team to New Zealand and Australia.

At a ballet in the Opera House, Jim 'dragged' his friend and fellow rugby player, Bertie O'Hanlon, to see Pat. They both wore their Irish Rugby blazers as they were the only formal clothes they had. They must have been somewhat disappointed as no one recognised them or asked for autographs, Pat was the star of the show that night.

In the early years, short ballets were choreographed and performed with solos performed by **Patricia O'Gorman** and Hilda Buckley. The shortage of male dancers was a problem and rugby players were asked to contribute, while they may have limited dancing skills, they had the capacity to lift the dancers. Possibly Jim helped in the recruitment of his rugby colleagues in Cork.

"Miss Moriarty choreographed over 100 works, many of which were based on Irish myths and legends, folk tales and customs, using traditional Irish dance steps and rhythms and incorporating classical movements to give them a dramatic quality. Suitable music was found in works by Irish composers.

Pat had her final performance in May 1952, her sister Una arranged for Paddy to send her stockings from London to wear for this performance, they arrived in time. It was a small part but, as always she was the star of the show and received great reviews. Marriage to Jim was planned for that year and a new home at Wikate in Tivoli was being built. It is not clear why Pat had to stop dancing but 1952 was the year Pat and Jim married, was this the reason she had to stop her beloved career?

The three act ballet Coppélia, re-produced by Miss Moriarty, was performed in Ballet Week 1955, and was attended by President Seán T. O' Kelly and his wife, who met the cast backstage and congratulated everyone on the production "



It is unfortunate that Chris did not see his youngest daughter dance.

The daughters' wedding receptions were all held at Lios na gCrann. Margie was prompted to marry Derry Gleeson first due to pressure from her younger sister Pat, who wanted to be married to Jim McCarthy, she was just 18. Ena married Kevin Crowley, and Una who married Paddy O'Connell also had their wedding receptions, a wedding breakfast, at the Lios. Aunty Kit and the girls did all the cooking and preparations.

Una's new father-in-law, Jack O'Connell attended her wedding. Jack a high-ranking officer in the Irish army had been very active in the War of Independence and fought on the Pro-Treaty side of the Civil War. There was some tension among a few guests, as some had been on the anti-treaty side, including Florrie O'Donoghue, a longtime friend of Chris, who was present.

Brendan qualified as a dentist and married Margaret from Dublin. Eithne, after a sojourn at a convent in Scotland, left the nuns, trained as a radiographer, and worked for many years in Limerick before getting a job back in Cork. In later years she met Jack Giltinan, he had fancied her when she was young, she disappeared from his life (she joined a convent). When he retired, they met again and married in Kenya where he went to work post-retirement. They eventually settled in Youghal.

Following the post-Civil War era, families frequently opted to refrain from explicit discourse regarding their engagement in the conflict. Nevertheless, the political ramifications engendered by the Civil War persisted as a significant and contentious issue for a considerable duration within the Free State and, subsequently, the Irish Republic.



Kevin Crowley, Derry Gleeson, Paddy O'Connell
and Jim McCarthy at Colm's ordination



Fr Colm, Una, Pat (with a baby due), Brendan
Ena, Margie, Eithne



Brendan, a Priest, Derry, Colm, Kevin, Jim and Paddy at Colm's ordination

Colm became a Marist priest and spent many years in Fiji to teach and preach. He sent weekly letters home which were full of information about his work there. Eithne visited Colm in Fiji in the late '70's. His visits home were every seven years. He occasionally stopped in New York to see Pat and Brendan O'Connell. Brendan recalls bringing Colm to The Met Opera on his last trip to New York.

From the 1950's through the 1980's, Mummy O and Aunty Kit enjoyed regular visits, support from family members and the arrival of grandchildren. There were many celebrations there and always a great welcome. They would, also, wave goodbye from their front door until the departing car turned the corner on the drive and could no longer be seen.



Pat's 1st birthday with cousins Richele, Orlaith, Neil and Brendan with Ena, Margie, Mummy O', Una, Paddy and Aunty Kit.

As families moved back to Cork, the Lios was useful temporary accommodation. Having moved from Dublin when Whitegate Oil Refinery opened, Paddy and Una were staying in the Lios for Pat's 1st birthday April 1958. The O'Connells had to move out and stay instead with Pat and Jim in Tivoli, when Margie and Derry moved back to Cork. They also required temporary accommodation in the Lios with their three children at the time, Dermot, John and baby Fiona.

All had their own homes soon after, however, due to the O'Connell family move to Waikite, Rhona was born from there with James McCarthy just a few months later.

As families of the sisters grew, cousins spent many good times together.



Pat, Ena, Margie, Mummy O, Una
Brendan Crowley, Richelle, Dermot, John, Niel, baby Pat

Summer holidays in the house in Youghal were enjoyed until the house was sold in the early 1960s.

Pat remembers spending holidays in Summer Lodge over, at least, two summers. The rooms appeared to be very large, high ceilings, relative to more modern homes. He recalls the kitchen being downstairs. There were echos in all the rooms and hallways due to the bareness of the walls, little furniture and the tall ceilings. Pat and Rhona liked to swing on the front gate, as well as running down the side of the house to the back. Pat recalls sand, blown from the beach in the winter, covering some of the ground at the side and back of the house. Una used to bring Pat and Rhona across the road to the beach as they were too young to cross on their own. Another favourite activity was Perks Fairground just beyond the railway turnaround mechanism The bumpers and ice-cream were the main attraction at Perks.

As a schoolteacher Mummy O was very disciplined, she dealt with her mail correspondence every Monday after lunch. Colm's weekly letter to his residence in Fiji was the most important item, without realising it, it later became Pat's McCarthy's correspondence practice too.

In later years, everyone had their roles: Mummy O and Aunty Kit dined with Margie every Sunday, Eithne brought them to mass, Ena managed bills and insurance, and Una's family maintained the garden. Summers were spent with the McCarthy family in Ballybunion, often renting homes from Mrs Stack. The Crowleys and O'Connells also vacationed there. Pat always made room for Mummy O and Aunty Kit despite other guests, and Jim visited on weekends. When Caislean Mara became the McCarthy summer home in Lahinch, there was more space for all. Pat welcomed all.

Lios na gCrann hosted a final celebration for Mummy O's 90th birthday. Pat McCarthy baked a pavlova with a '90' in icing. Many grandchildren heard their grandmother say "I love you" for the first time.

Mummy O lived at the Lios until March 1987. At this stage, Mummy O was almost deaf, and Aunty Kit had lost her sight. They enjoyed the company and conversations. Her daughters took turns staying at night to assist her. However, it eventually was time for them to leave Lios na gCrann. Ena graciously handled the move of Mummy O to the Mount Desert Nursing home. She knew Mummy O would be angry with whomever moved her from her home. Rhona was the first person to visit her there. She passed away in 1988. Aunty Kit moved in with the Gleesons and stayed with O'Connell's also for a while, later she moved to a Nursing Home in Cuskinny where she was well cared for until her death in 1992.

What happened to the Lios?

One night, circa 1990, there was a fire that burned the house down. Rhona came home to "Appledore" around 10pm and her mum told her that the Lios was on fire. Rhona and Ivor went up to the Lios and spoke with the firefighters. They told her that flames could be seen across the city, Ivor very disappointed at the destruction and that the house had been left to rack and ruin. Fortunately, the house was empty as Mummy O and Aunty Kit no longer lived there and much of the furniture and photos had already been removed.

Despite Mummy O ensuring that the house was properly insured, including for fire, (Ena was responsible for paying bills), the insurance company would not pay out as the house was not inhabited at the time. Orlaith managed the sale of the property to a property developer. Many thought that the property developer, who had earnestly wanted land and road access to Gardiners Hill for his ongoing Ard na Laoi property development, may have been responsible for the fire. The original entrance and avenue are still there and can be seen when walking on Gardiner's Hill.



Lios na gCrann Gardiner's Hill - current entrance to two contemporary homes (2025)



The Lios na gCrann property lines (approx.) 2025

Grandchildren Recollections

Pat O'Connell - *my earliest memory of Lios na gCrann was sitting on Dad's lap at a Christmas party in the dining room. I couldn't have been more than 2 or 3 years old. I remember the party pieces everyone had to do - a song, a poem, or a short story, and I remember the men hamming it up doing silly Music Hall songs, probably Gilbert and Sullivan. I remember a later Christmas when the older cousins, I remember Orlaith was there, were allowed into the dining room while the younger cousins had to stay in the kitchen.*



Christmas at Lios Niel and Brendan Crowley, Dermot and John Gleeson with baby Pat O'Connell

I also remember sneaking down the front hall to peek into the formal sitting room - which was never used - to see some Christmas presents, wondering if any were for me! In later years I did the gardening chores, after which Aunty Kit would feed me in the kitchen while she and Mummy-O watched the 6:01 pm News, after the Angelus. I used to avoid going into the room while the Angelus was on in case, I would have to kneel down and pray! I remember giving Mummy-O and Aunty Kit grief for watching all the news - they would comment incessantly - "Oh Dear", "How terrible", "God have mercy on them". I felt all the bad news was not good for them, but alas I was unsuccessful. I think it was a generational thing - the duty to listen to bad news.

Rhona O'Connell - Remember small children doing 'rolly polly' on grassy back on the front lawn. MO was always a bit intimidating but one long time memory was finishing school (about 3.30 and heading to ballet class for 6), no time to go home and get back, used to walk to the Lios for my tea before walking back to Emmet Place for ballet classes. Aunty Kit always made everyone welcome. I also remember visiting Nora O'Gorman at her home on O'Connell St, Blackpool on the day of my 1st Communion.

Brian O'Connell - Raking leaves in the driveway, scary wheeling the barrow down by the apple orchard. Then one time when there was a mountain of leaves, there was a

door on the bend in the driveway. I climbed the wall, and it looked like a tool shed, but the room was gone, so I fired the leaves over the wall to save 10x trips with the wheelbarrow” Climbing in the stables, where the train tracks were. There were lots of bits there. But we were scared the floor would collapse, so we scampered. Jacob's biscuits and milk from Aunty Kit in the kitchen. Picking biscuits out of a Nice tin on the kitchen table, running up and down the back stairs, which was "dangerous", the pantry off the Kitchen was dark, the washing machine in the unfinished room by the back door where there was coal in a heap and a wooden washing lines suspended from the ceiling. Upstairs was scary - I only recall going up once or twice, once with mum, the second with Rhona, I think.

Brendan O'Connell - the earthy smell of begonias in the front glass conservatory. The long dark corridors with echoes from our footsteps. The sound of cars on the gravel - you could hear them coming. "Remember to lock the gate" "don't play soccer by the glasshouse". "Cut the grass". Picking grapes in the glasshouse which had a strange warmth. Exploring the property - into the very damp air raid shelter. overgrown Tennis court. Loads of Apples and Chestnuts. The stables had dangerous-looking garden equipment, scythes and the like and scary weed killers. The backyard had a door into the back hall. Washroom on the right with all the coal. Bells in the kitchen could alert staff of residents' needs. My Mum said they would leave their shoes out overnight and maids would shine the shoes and iron the laces. She used to run past the bookcase upstairs because the story of Bluebeards Castle scared her so. Jim McCarthy told me he took Mummy O' on sales trips as he considered her good company. Kit and O spent each summer (July and August) with Pat McCarthy each year, Ballybunion and then Lahinch, they went to the Gleasons for Christmas. I suppose they were in the room in Pat and Jim's house in Ballybunion on July 16, 1969, when we watched the first man land on the moon on TV. I was five at the time and remember watching while sitting on my dad's lap – one of my earliest memories. I don't recall them ever visiting Tivoli.

David O'Connell - I remember Aunty Kit as always being generous and kind. She always gave an extra few bob after Mummy O paid us for cutting the grass. My memories of Mummy O are mainly of her sitting next to the radio in the dining room or reading the paper in Lahinch. Also remember Aunty Kit making tea and toast for us in the kitchen after a few hours' work in the garden. The piano originally located at the O'Connell Street residence was subsequently relocated to Lios na gCrann, then to "Appledore", and is now situated in my house in Glanmire. This instrument has been played by five generations of Chris's family. Una frequently played it, and her music and singing were often heard upon our return from school.

Ivor O'Connell - Eithne paid us for cutting the grass at Lios na gCrann. Aunty Kit was keen on correcting table manners in Lahinch.

Sinead O’Gorman - *We used to visit for weekends when I was young and some of the sibs hadn’t been born. Us kids slept on a mattress in Room 3, the room dad and Colm slept in apparently. It had a wardrobe it went under the eaves that you could climb into. We enjoyed the gardens, especially the gap in the hedge between the grass and the yard. We were not allowed into the garage or the orchard without adults. A Kit cooked and we always had the same, I remember tomato soup, and tinned fruit cocktail with ice cream*

Denise Crowley - *I can close my eyes and go through the whole house from the little holy water bowl with the sponge to the scary room at the end of the long corridor!*

Orlaith McCarthy - *Richelle and I spent a number of the months of June living in the Lios when the rest of the family were in Bally B. We slept in Number 1, which was the large room with windows at both sides of the house, and we snuggled up in a double bed. Mum and your mum shared Number 2.*

Conor McCarthy- *has a memory of mum telling him that her dad dressed up as Santa and walked up the Avenue and knocked on the window and they all fervently believed it was the real thing. Conor recreated that for his own kids.*

Fiona Gleeson - *I have very fond memories of playing roly-poly down the ‘huge’ hill on the front lawn. I really enjoyed the couple of seisiúns we had in the good room (the only time we were allowed in there) - great hooleys - where we recorded music and messages for Uncle Colm on an old and clunky tape recorder. I loved the hats on the coat stand in the hallway - Kit & O used to walk out with us in case we might steal their treasures (all in jest, of course). I remember fondly Rhona and Denise and I walking up from Scoil Mhuire to do a bit of pruning or other odd jobs before tea.*

Postscript

Regarding Christopher, it seems like he did not really want to be known for his involvement in the War of Independence. We know he was very active and involved. He is mentioned in several witness statements but very rarely in books. Florrie O'Donoghue, his good friend, wrote a lot of books about the time and did not mention him. Perhaps had he lived longer he may have opened up more about it or perhaps he was just written out of history because he was not involved in the Civil War. He did document everything he did and kept many of his WOI papers.

Brendan O'Connell

Cork commemorates 1916 in 2016



Cork city monument remembering Easter 1916
Captain Christopher O'Gorman listed

I remember cycling into the city in the rain to meet Rhona for the unveiling of this monument. The unveiling of the sculpture was attended by Councillors from Cork City in their formal robes of office, and Lord Mayor Chris O'Leary (Sinn Fein), who spoke of the sacrifices these soldiers made for Ireland. When the ceremony finished, Rhona and I spoke with members of the family who commissioned the work and expressed our gratitude to them. **Chris** is listed as Captain of Company D on the sculpture.

Also, in 2016, during the year of centenary commemorations of 1916, Cork City Councillors paraded to Volunteer Hall on Shear Street to honor the volunteers and soldiers who prepared to support the rising in Dublin. A large crowd was in attendance to hear an oration from an Irish Army officer and an army bugler played 'The Last Post'. After speeches at Volunteer Hall, the parade continued its way toward the War Memorial on Grand Parade, followed by the crowd who had attended at Volunteer Hall. At the War Memorial, additional speeches and music were heard from a large stage setup for this occasion by Cork City Council. Seating had been put in place for invited guests, including descendants of volunteer and soldiers on the War of Independence. I recall being a little disappointed that descendants of Christopher O'Gorman did not receive a formal invitation given the role he played on Easter Sunday 2016 in Volunteer Hall. This is described above on pages 22 & 23.

David O'Connell



Happy Days

O'Connell's the next generation at Lahinch
Brendan Jr, Catherine, Eithne, Brian, Pat, Leah, Annelise, Bianca, Ivor and Rhona at
back

Appendix

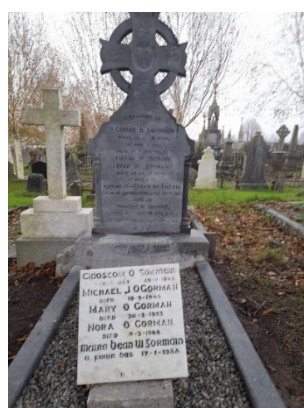
Family Burials

O’Gorman Headstone, St Joseph’s Cemetery Cork

Eibhlín Dhubhain (Duane) (Bean UíGormáin)	age 78	d 25/6/1894
Mairead NíLiathain (Lyons) (Bean UíGormáin)	age 56	d 27/9/1916
Seamus O’Gormain	age 72	d 15/6/1930
Domnait O’Gormáin	age 6	d 18/6/1931
Eibhlin OGormáin		d 24/2/1934
Christoir O’Gormáin		d 20/5/1945
Michael O’Gormáin		d 19/9/1945
Mary O’Gormáin		d 30/3/1953
Nora O’Gormáin		d 7/3/1968
Maire (MO)O’Gormáin	age 95	d 17/1/1988

Registry of Internments				for June 1894							
Date	No.	NAME	AGE			Last Residence	Amount of Ground	Remarks	c	s.	d.
			Years	Months	Days						
June 25	715	Catherine Sullivan	80			2. S. side of Poor		poor ground			6
.. 25	714	Jemima Kelleher	74			Truro Street, Middleton	1	No. 8 Kaling - John Kelleher			6
.. 26	718	Jemis Conry	27			Thilpatrick	4	No. 41 side - John Conry			6
.. 26	716	Ellen Gorman	1			St. Finian's Place		St. Finian's Plot 28			0
.. 25	717	William Hunt	1			St. Finian's Place		St. Martin			0
.. 25	718	Mary F. Mathew	8	7		36 Fair Hill	2	St. of St. N. of Middle Church, No.			0
.. 26	719	Thomas Coleman	47			1 Thomas street	8	Iron Cross - James Coleman			0
.. 25	720	Catherine Mahony	4	5		42 Anson's Hill	4	1 ft. from South of St. Finian's Hill			0
.. 25	721	Ellen Gorman	78			Kilbarry Cottages		St. Mark's Plot 28			0
.. 25	722	Julia Cooney	9			14 Sun. street	4	1 ft. N. of John Conry, No.			0
.. 27	723	Hannah Bryant	52			Magazine Road	2	1 ft. S. of Lane, Thilpatrick No.			6
.. 27	724	J. J. Murphy	65			11 North Mall	2	St. Lawrence No. 3 Plot 2			6
.. 27	725	J. J. Murphy				Ballybooby Road	7	No. 2 - Mrs. Harrington			0
.. 28	726	Elizabeth Gorman	15			Sullivan's Quay	4	No. - Paul Gorman			0
.. 29	727	James Gorman	18			Becker Road		poor ground			0
.. 28	728	Margaret Brice	10			Bayberry street	5	No. - James Conry			6
.. 29	729	William Longfield	2			Fair Hill	2	Foot to Blouin's No.			0

Ellen Gorman aged 78, Kilbarry Cottages, died 25 June 1895 St. Joseph’s Registry of Internments



Burial plot St Joseph’s cemetery Cork
(from front of church take left path (tree lined) 44th plot)

Records found on Genealogy.ie, unfortunately more death records than births and marriages, hopefully this will improve over time as church records are digitalised.

BINDING EDGE - (VI)

18 94	372	Summit fifth line Kilbarry	Eileen O'Gorman	7	widow	65	widow of Farmer	Parsons Cordis 3 months Certified	11 Bullin's Alley Moylart O'Gorman Receipt in- law present at death Kilbarry	18 94	Registrar.
18										18 94	Registrar.

Eileen O'Gorman (nee Duane) (COG's grandmother) d 1894 Kilbarry. Living with her son James in Cork at the time of her death.

https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/images/deaths_returns/deaths_1894/05962/4694473.pdf

19 14	288	South Infirmary	Margaret O'Gorman Great Cork	48	Housekeeper	55	Widow Admission Certificate Certified	J. C. Saunders Occupier South Infirmary	October 9 1914	Registrar.
19 14										Registrar.

Margaret (Maggie) O'Gorman nee Lyons (COGs mother) d. 1914 South Infirmary

https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/images/deaths_returns/deaths_1917/05199/4436349.pdf

19 30	205	South Infirmary	James O'Gorman Great Cork	48	Farmer	55	Parsons Certified	M. Kelleher Occupier South Infirmary	19 30	Registrar.
19 30										Registrar.

James O'Gorman Death record (COG's father) d 1930 South Infirmary

https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/images/deaths_returns/deaths_1930/04920/4335325.pdf

Possible birth records (not confirmed)



		Church Baptism Record	
Name:	Jeremiah Gorman	Date of Birth:	
		Date of Baptism:	14-Sep-1817
Address:	Templemore	Parish/District:	TEMPLEMORE
Gender:	Male	County:	Co. Tipperary
		Denomination:	Roman Catholic
Father:	Daniel Gorman	Mother:	Mary Byrne
Occupation:	Not Recorded		
Sponsor 1 / Informant 1:	Thos Burke	Sponsor 2 / Informant 2:	Mrs Danl Stapleton
Notes:			
* Jerh ** Den1			

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www.rootsireland.ie

Jeremiah Gorman b 14th Sept 1817, Templemore Co Tipperary, parents Daniel Gorman and Mary Byrne



		Church Baptism Record	
Name:	Ellen Duane	Date of Birth:	
		Date of Baptism:	16-Jul-1815
Address:		Parish/District:	BALLYHEA
Gender:	Female	County:	Co. Cork
		Denomination:	Roman Catholic
Father:	James Duane	Mother:	Catherine Walsh
Occupation:			
Sponsor 1 / Informant 1:	G Murphy	Sponsor 2 / Informant 2:	Ellen Sullivan
Notes:			
E L			

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Ellen Duane b 16th July 1815, Ballyhea Co Cork, parents James Duane and Catherine Walsh

St Gobnait's (Old) Cemetery, Coolea.

Catherine Lucey (Aunty Kit) is buried with her parents James and Mary Lucey and other Lucey relatives.



Lucey Headstone St Gobnait's (old) Cemetery, Ballyvourney

Cornelius and Julia Lucey Cahireen, Clondrohid
 James Lucey age 74 Curraleigh d 17th March 1885
 Daniel (brother) age 92 d. 2nd March 1913
 Erected by James Lucey
 In memory of his brother Jeremiah age 60 d. 19th March 1913
 His sister Mary age 62 d. 26th May 1912
 and his daughter Mary age 9 d. 9th September 1912

In Loving Memory Of
 My Dear Parents
 JAMES & MARY LUCEY
 Ballyvolane Lahrdane Cork
 Mother Died 17th July 1934
 Father Died 15th Oct. 1937

 May Their Souls Rest in Peace
 Erected by Their Loving Son CON

Erected By
 CATHERINE LUCEY
 Lios-Na-Gcrann
 Cork
 Died 9. Jan. 1992.
 Rest in Peace

(AK asked Ena to add this information with the date of death left blank)

Aunty Kit wished to be buried with her parents in St Gobnait's (old) Cemetery. It was closed but Ena ensured that Catherine Lucey's name was on the gravestone several years before she died so she is buried there with the date added later. It was at that funeral Brian and Rhona met Mary Kate Lucey, a cousin, who provided them with much of the Lucey family oral history.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/162003292/catherine-lucey>

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/162141884/james-lucey>

127	19.37. Sept Ballyvolane Cork R.D.	James Lucey	M	Widow	69 years	Exp. R. I. G.	Anginal Pectoris 35 Days Certified	James Lucey Son Present at Death Riv. St. Cork	Octobal Twentieth 19.37.	J. Kelly C. Anabáin (Registrar)
-----	--	----------------	---	-------	-------------	---------------	---	---	--------------------------------	---------------------------------------

James Lucey d. 1937 Ballyvolane (MO and AK's father)

https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/images/deaths_returns/deaths_1937/04772/4280052.pdf

517	19.34. Seveneenth July Ballyvolane Cork R.D.	Mary Lucey	F.	Married	65 years	Housekeeper	Cardiac Failure 7 Days Pneumonia 3 Months Certified	Catherine Lucey Present at Death Ballyvolane. Co Cork	Twenty fourth July 1934	J. Kelly (Registrar)
-----	--	---------------	----	---------	-------------	-------------	---	--	-------------------------------	-------------------------

Mary Lucey d. 1934 Ballyvolane witness AK 1934 (MO and AK's mother)

https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/images/deaths_returns/deaths_1934/04836/4304115.pdf

Other family records

Lucey records

19 11	Family Second bitcher	Mary Kelleher	3	Widow	77 years	Widow	Heart disease 16 weeks No illness	Dennis Kelleher son Present at death Danganasillagh	19 11	Registrar
19 11	Danganasillagh								19 11	Daniel Lyne Registrar

Mary Kelleher's death record 1911

https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/images/deaths_returns/deaths_1911/05378/4500459.pdf

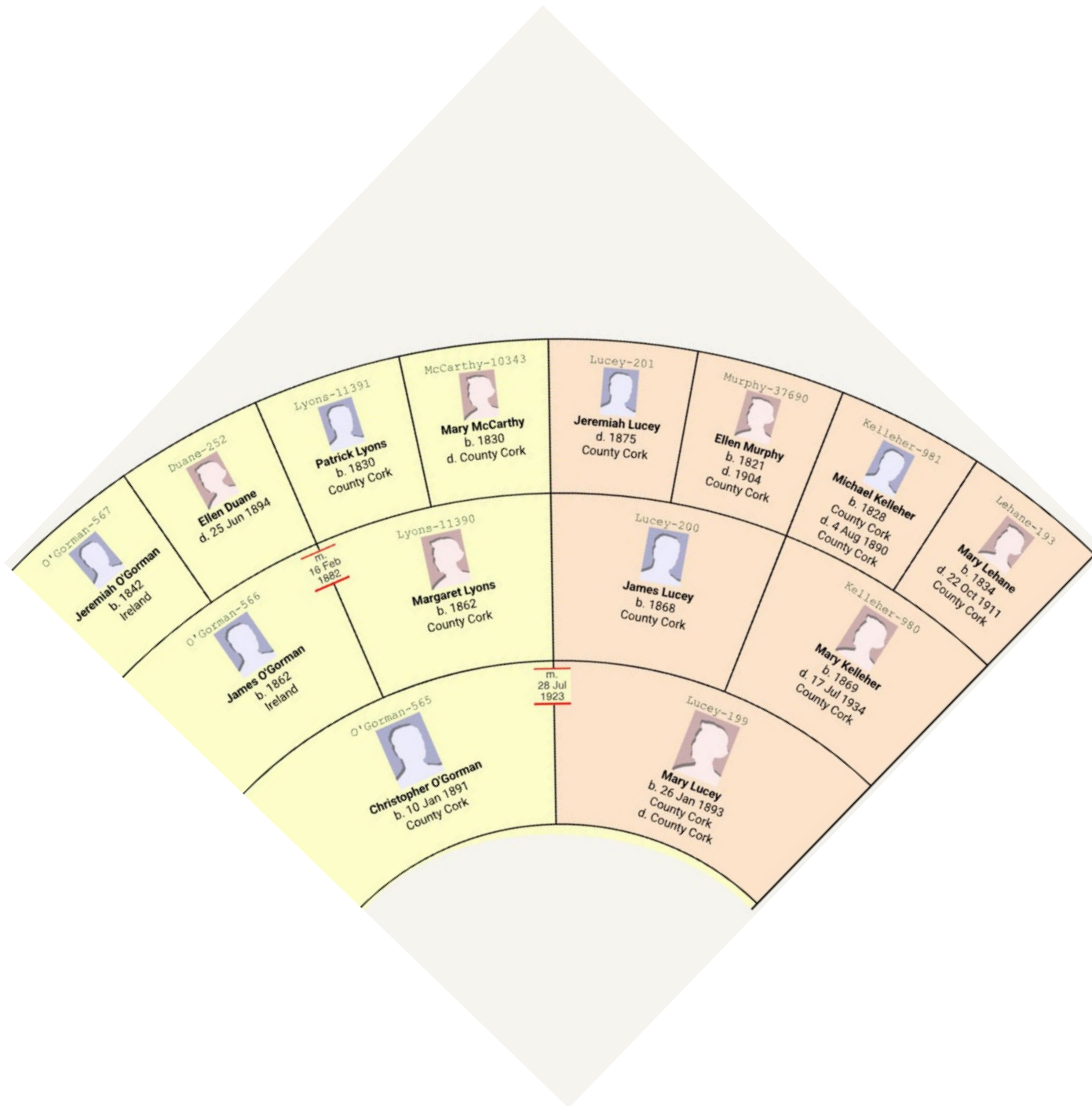


Church Marriage Record

Date of Marriage:	22-Jan-1845		County:	Co. Cork
Parish / District:	CLONDROHID			
	Husband		Wife	
Name:	Jeremiah	Lucey	Ellen	Murphy
Address:				
Denomination:	Roman Catholic		Roman Catholic	
Occupation:				
Age:				
Status:				
	Husband's Father		Wife's Father	
Name:		Lucey		Murphy
Address:				
Denomination:				

Jeremiah Lucey and Ellen Murphy's marriage 22nd January 1845 Clondrohid

O’Gorman Lucey Family Tree



Alan Burke, History Department UCC, review of Christopher O’Gorman’s papers



UCC

Tel: 353-21-276871
Fax: 353-21-273389 / 270191/ 903254

Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh, Éire
University College Cork, Ireland

ROINN NA STAIRE
Department of History

Ref: Christopher O’Gorman Papers

Given the range of correspondence relating to the affairs of the 5th Battalion in these files I have no doubt that C. O’Gorman was, at least until sometime in 1922, a senior member of that IRA unit. When you initially informed me that he had not received an IRA pension I feared that perhaps he belonged to that group of ‘veterans’ who, after the Truce claimed to have been active throughout the 1916-1921 period. Michael Collins was contemptuous of those he deemed ‘Tucileers’ rather than Volunteers. To gauge the disparity between the two groups one should note that in August 1921 there were some 72,000 men on the various company rolls of the IRA. In 1941, however, the government issued a total of 2,147 medals to those who were on active service from 1916-1921.

The problem for C. O’Gorman appears to stem from his non-participation in the Civil War 1922-23. Irrespective of his personal views on the Treaty it is unlikely that his resignation from the Battalion would have been looked on benignly. The 5th Battalion, as part of the 1st Brigade was under the command of Sean O’Hegarty who was vehemently opposed to the Treaty. Anyone who was previously active in the IRA and then resigned was viewed as a potential Free State fifth-columnist. Unless he subsequently co-operated with the Free State Army they too would have regarded O’Gorman as suspect. It was impossible to be accepted as a neutral observer of events during that conflict, even more so if you had previous experience in the IRA.

This, I believe, may have frustrated his attempts to have his military record recognised in subsequent years. Military Service Certificates issued from 1932 onwards needed to be endorsed by recognised participants and typically were sponsored by either Cumman Na Gaedhael or Fianna Fáil activists. Neither group may have been inclined to endorse his application.

Cumman Na Gaedhail or Fianna Fáil activists. Neither group may have been inclined to endorse his application.

In 1941 as part of war time policy to heal the divisions of the Civil War the government established the Bureau of Military History to collect and collate the recollections of IRA veterans. The records numbering several thousand individual contributions are held in Military Archives. Access to these records is currently restricted to descendants of veterans. You should contact Comdt. Victor Laing, Military Archives, Cathal Brugha Bks., Rathmines, Dublin 6, (tel. 01-8046457) to see if they have a file relating to C. O'Gorman, 5th Batt., 1st Brigade. Such a document would be an invaluable source of further information.

Regarding the documents to hand I have examined them thoroughly and attach a short report with some guidance on how to locate further information. One of the problems with researching this period of Irish History is the fact that various fragments of correspondence are scattered throughout the country in private collections. Such papers have no inherent monetary value though families are understandably reluctant to part with them. May I suggest, however, that they be offered to the Archivist in UCC so that they can be added to existing collections and safeguarded for generations to come.

Finally, I was pleased to note that while his many of his former comrades were engaged in the Civil War, Christopher O'Gorman had the good sense to get married.



Alan Burke,
Dept. of History,
UCC.
a.burke@ucc.ie

Christopher O'Gorman Papers

In the case of each document under review I have created a simple reference system while leaving them in their original folders. Presuming you wish to undertake some further research, I list additional sources where applicable.

Document marked A.0 Black Folder is a chronological synopsis of Christopher O'Gorman's record of service with the Irish Volunteers and IRA 1913-1922. I regard this as the most important document in the collection as it is his own account of his role. I have provided some background to various incidents noted in this short account. The forms filled out in document listed D.1 (Red Folder) as part of his application for an IRA pension are also useful in this regard.

A.0 Page 1:

The inaugural meeting of the Irish Volunteers in Cork was held in the City Hall on Dec. 13 1913.

See: 'The Irish Volunteers in Cork 1913-1916', Florence O'Donoghue, *Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society*, (Jan.- Dec. 1966).
Cork Examiner 14.12.13

A.0 Page 2/3:

In theory, the organisation of the Cork Corps of the Irish Volunteers was based on regular military lines. From August 1915 onwards, companies were allotted to Battalion areas. Depending on the enthusiasm of individual officers (who were elected) the size and competence of each company varied greatly. Tomas MacCurtain served as commandant of the Cork Brigade and undertook recruitment drives. Tomas McSwiney directly oversaw the creation of companies throughout the county and both were answerable to General Headquarters (GHQ) in Dublin.

It should be noted that at this stage the Irish Volunteers resembled a political organisation rather than a military force. Turn-out for parades and drills was haphazard and each member had only a rudimentary knowledge of fire-arms.

At Easter 1916 Cork companies made their way westwards towards Kerry in order to receive arms being smuggled from Germany aboard the 'Aud', O'Gorman's company made it as far as Macroom before returning to Cork. The scuttling of this ship and Eoin

McNeill's cancellation orders on Easter Monday prevented any serious actions being undertaken outside Dublin.

A.0 Page 3/4:

Irish Volunteers were suppressed in the aftermath of Easter Rising, open drilling and parades were forbidden and leading activists sent to various internment camps e.g. Frongoch and Ballykinlar. Volunteers re-emerged publicly in 1917 as they gave support to anti-conscription campaign. This campaign, which saw deValera elected as Sinn Fein MP for Clare, resuscitated both political and military wings of the Republican movement.

O'Gorman refers to his imprisonment in Cork Gaol in 1917. Those in prison or internment camps used this opportunity to re-organise and establish personal contacts with other activists. The case of Michael Collins is informative. He used his time in Frongach Camp in Wales, to liaise with activists from throughout Ireland and emerged afterwards as Director of Finance of the Irish Volunteers. O'Gorman refers to the co-called 'Cat and Mouse' Act, whereby suspected rebels were released under licence once they gave an undertaking to halt 'insurrectionist activity.' Frank O'Connor in one of his unpublished short-stories recalled that a number of impoverished activists would sign the forms in order to gain release and once they ran short of money as winter approached would have themselves re-arrested in order to have regular food and shelter.

See: Note on document listed A..2 Black Folder

Frank O'Connor's personal papers have been deposited in the Boole Library and should be consulted for background details and anecdotal evidence.

NB Detailed account of the establishment and activities of the Blackpool Volunteer Company and Sinn Fein Club contained in the Tom Daly Statement held in the Cork County Museum, Clonakilty. File Ref. G1091. That file should be used in conjunction with the black notebook (last dated entry 9-2-1916)

A.0 Page 5/6:

Tomas Mac Curtain re-organised the Cork Brigade in 1917, by mid 1918

186 companies were established throughout the county. Many acted merely as an adjunct of the local Sinn Fein cumann. Those which were most active in the subsequent hostilities were often distrustful of politicians and politics and O'Gorman makes no mention in this document of any Sinn Fein activity. By 1919, the organisation of what was now termed the IRA (the Republic having been established in 1916) was further refined. Cork county was sub-divided into three Brigades; 1st Mid-Cork (including the city), North Cork and West Cork.

See an account of Mac Curtain's work in: Florence O'Donoghue, 'Tomas MacCurtain: Soldier and Patriot' (Tralee, 1971).

The shooting of RIC Inspector McDonagh on 10 March 1920 while guarding ballot boxes after the corporation election came at time when the RIC were confined to barracks, venturing out only with military escorts from Victoria (now Collins) Barracks. In retaliation the RIC raided and thrashed all homes belonging to known activists. IRA responded by shooting Constable Murtagh on 19 March. This led directly to the targeting of Tomas MacCurtain, then Lord Mayor of Cork and Commanding Officer, 1st Cork Brigade. The authorities blamed renegade IRA gunmen for his death at his Blackpool home, but the coroner concluded that the RIC were responsible and 'the coward' O'Gorman refers to was identified by the IRA as District Inspector Swanzy, subsequently found and shot.

A.0 Page 7/8/9:

Short description of activities Document listed A.1 BF lists actions undertaken up to 3.9.20, presumably incomplete. Description of post-Truce training activities B.1 Red Folder.

Reference made to prisoners, '..dealt with spies, held prisoners for other parts of the Brigade'.

A.3 Black Folder

Appears to be a rare copy of a statement made by a self-confessed informer.

Should be read in terms of C.2 BF 1 document stipulating terms for use of death penalty under official sanction

Peter Hart in 'The IRA and its Enemies' pp.293-315 discusses the targetting and treatment of spies and informers.

Note on how to cross-reference certain files:

Example:

B.2 Red Folder,

Undated correspondence relating to boycott of farmers whose sons 'have not joined the IRA and have not paid the fines levied on them as a consequence.' Issued in response to

C.3 Brown Folder 1.

April
1921

Alan Burke

Witness Statements that reference Chris O’Gorman

On O’Sullivan’s activities in 1916, Tom Hales recalled in his submission to the BMH:

"...We marched to Kilmurray, where we had 11 o'clock Mass. The Cork City contingent then arrived and Seán O'Sullivan took charge of the whole force. I was informed we were going to Macroom, probably by Seán O'Sullivan, but I was not told then that the parade was cancelled. It was at the bridge two miles East of Macroom I saw MacCurtain; I think MacSwiney was with him. He did not get out of the car but gave some instructions to Sean O'Sullivan. we went on into Macroom. Discussing the possibility of a fight with Sean O'Sullivan on the road to Macroom, he said, "the most we could do was to create a moral effect.... in Macroom, before the men were dismissed, Sean O'Sullivan held a consultation with the principal officers in regard to the advisability of proceeding to our original destination - Carriganimma - under such awful weather conditions (it was raining fair hell at the time.) He Said that we Would not go to Carriganimma, where other men were to meet us, because of the bad weather, and said that the enemy had refused action that day in not interfering with our march. Chris. O'Gorman and myself opposed the decision not to go on and urged him to proceed as arranged. The other officers took the line of least resistance when the matter was put to them in this fashion. Neither MacCurtain nor MacSwthey were present. Sean O'Sullivan said nothing about a countermanding order having been received, nor did he mention the loss of the arms ship. He announced the decision to return to our own areas and said the Cork City men were returning to Cork by train. We came back on the train as tar as Crookstown with the Cork Companies and stayed in the village until. the early hours of Monday morning. It rained continuously until about 4 or 5 a.m. The Companies then marched back to their own areas. We were very disappointed. ..."

We marched to Bealnablaith, met the Ballinhassig men there and the Ballinadee men at Kilmurray and all marched to Macroom. A meeting of Senior Officers Was held at Macroom hut I was not present. My impression is that MacCurtain and MacSwiney did not know on Sunday the arms ship was lost. There was much dissatisfaction when it became known that we were to return to Cork. Sean O'Sullivan, C. O'Gorman, P. Cotter and myself, amongst the officers, were in favour of staying in Macroom. We returned to Cork by train on Sunday evening and the men took their arms to their homes. There were no arms in the Hall except the arms of the Guard. A Miss Perolz [came from] Dublin on a motor bike on Monday with Pearse's message "We start here at noon to-day". She went to the Hall but there was no Senior Officer there. It was late on Monday evening when MacCurtain and MacSwiney arrived in Cork and saw this message for the first time. I did not see Miss Perolz but I heard she was in the Hall on Monday. Paddy Trahey was Guard Commander and was on duty at the Hall on Easter Monday. There was considerable confusion and everyone was worried by the absence of MacCurtain and MacSwiney. They stayed in the Hall on Monday night and the guard was maintained.*

STATEMENT BY JEREMIAH DALY,
Ballydaheen, Mallow, County Cork.

I was born in Ballydaheen, Mallow, on 30th April, 1902.

In the summer of 1918 I was sent to do a course of study at Skerry's College, Cork. Shortly after going to Cork I joined the Blackpool Company of the Irish Volunteers. The O.C. was Chris. O'Gorman and I think the Company was attached to the 2nd Battalion, Cork Brigade. I continued as a member of this Company, taking part in the various drills, parades and other activities until I returned to Mallow early in 1920. I then joined the Mallow Company whose O.C., at the time, was Jack Cunningham. The strength of the Unit was about 80.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 1466.

Witness

Joseph Cashman,
Killydonoghue,
Glanmire,
Co. Cork.

Identity.

Battalion Quartermaster.

A short time after the attack on the lorry, the company captain left the area. Richard O'Mahony was appointed company captain in his place. Patrick Cashman then became 1st Lieut. and Joseph O'Callaghan became 2nd Lieutenant. The number of active men in the company numbered about 40. Our principal duties to the end of the year consisted of blocking and trenching roads. A short time before the end of the year a reorganisation of the battalion staff took place. Christopher O'Gorman, a Cork City man, became Battalion O/C. John Barry became Vice O/C. William Hickey became a djutant and I became Battalion Q.M. This battalion staff remained in charge until the Truce in July 1921.

5.

It was a round this time also that Sean Heagerty replaced Terence McSwiney as Brigade O/C. The companies which made up our battalion, which was known as the 5th Battalion, Cork No. 1 Brigade, were:- Whitechurch, Carrignavar, Tubberenmire and Riverstown. The strength of the battalion was approximately 160 men. Christopher O'Gorman and John Barry are now dead.

Soon after the burning of the barracks in Carrignavar and another evacuated barracks in Glanmire together with a Courthouse in the Riverstown Company area, this area was organised into a battalion. The battalion comprised four companies. They were: Carrignavar, Whitechurch, Tubber^Nmire and Riverstown. James Harte was appointed Battalion O/C., John Barry, vice O/C., William Hickey, adjutant, and Joseph Cashman, Q.M.

A short time later, James Harte got married and ceased to act as Battalion O/C. Christopher O'Gorman was appointed O/C. in his place. With the exception of Joseph Cashman, all of these men are now dead.

That day there was a rumour that an attempt would be made by the British Military to disarm the Volunteers. Precautionary measures were, however, taken so that if the attempt had been made it would be rather costly. On the same day a photo was taken of the Officers of the City Corps; in the centre of the group was Seán MacDermott. At this time I had a rifle, presented to me by my brother Liam, but I had no ammunition. A few weeks before the Easter Rising I told Tomás MacCurtain how I was situated. He told me to see C. O'Gorman and to get what I required. Some days later I met him outside St. Augustine's Church in Washington Street (at that time George's Street). On telling him what Tomás said about the ammunition: "Yes", he replied, "and by all accounts we will want it soon".

At lunch time the same day, Tuesday, I decided to see Jack Scanlon, an Officer in the City Volunteers. Again, I met Bob Langford and we walked up Princes Street and I told him that I was going to see Jack Scanlon. We parted, he entering O'Donovan & McCarthy's shop. I went through Patrick Street and near Blair's (Chemists) I met Christy O'Gorman (Officer in the City Corps). On telling him my object, he replied "Good" and continued: "tell him that I will see him at the Hall to-night". When I met Scanlon I

Swanzy name is on Chris's arrest warrant

The notorious District Inspector, Swanzy, was in charge of the police in A/Company area, and his cruel deeds will never be forgotten by the Cork people. Himself and his men were constantly on the prowl to try and locate our weapons, but with all their resources they failed to capture any of our guns. The murder of our Brigade Commandant, Tomas McCurtain, was carried out by the men under his command.

Chris states he was involved in the attack on Kings St (McCurtain St) He was likely at the meeting of brigade officers that ordered it.

On the night after the funeral of the murdered Lord Mayor of Cork, Tomás McCurtain (23rd March, 1920), about twelve men from 'G' Company were told to report to the City Hall, Cork, where a meeting of brigade officers was being held under Terence MacSwiney, Vice Brigadier, Cork No. 1 Brigade. We were armed with revolvers, with twenty rounds of ammunition per man, and we were placed in positions on the roads around the Hall, with instructions to engage any enemy force which might attempt a raid, particularly from Union Quay barracks which was in close proximity. No raid took place.

Following an attack by men from the 1st Battalion on King St. (now McCurtain St.) R.I.C. barracks, it was expected that the police murder gang (of the existence of which we were aware) would make an attempt on the life of Terry MacSwiney, then Lord Mayor of Cork in succession to Tomás McCurtain. At this particular time, early July, 1920,

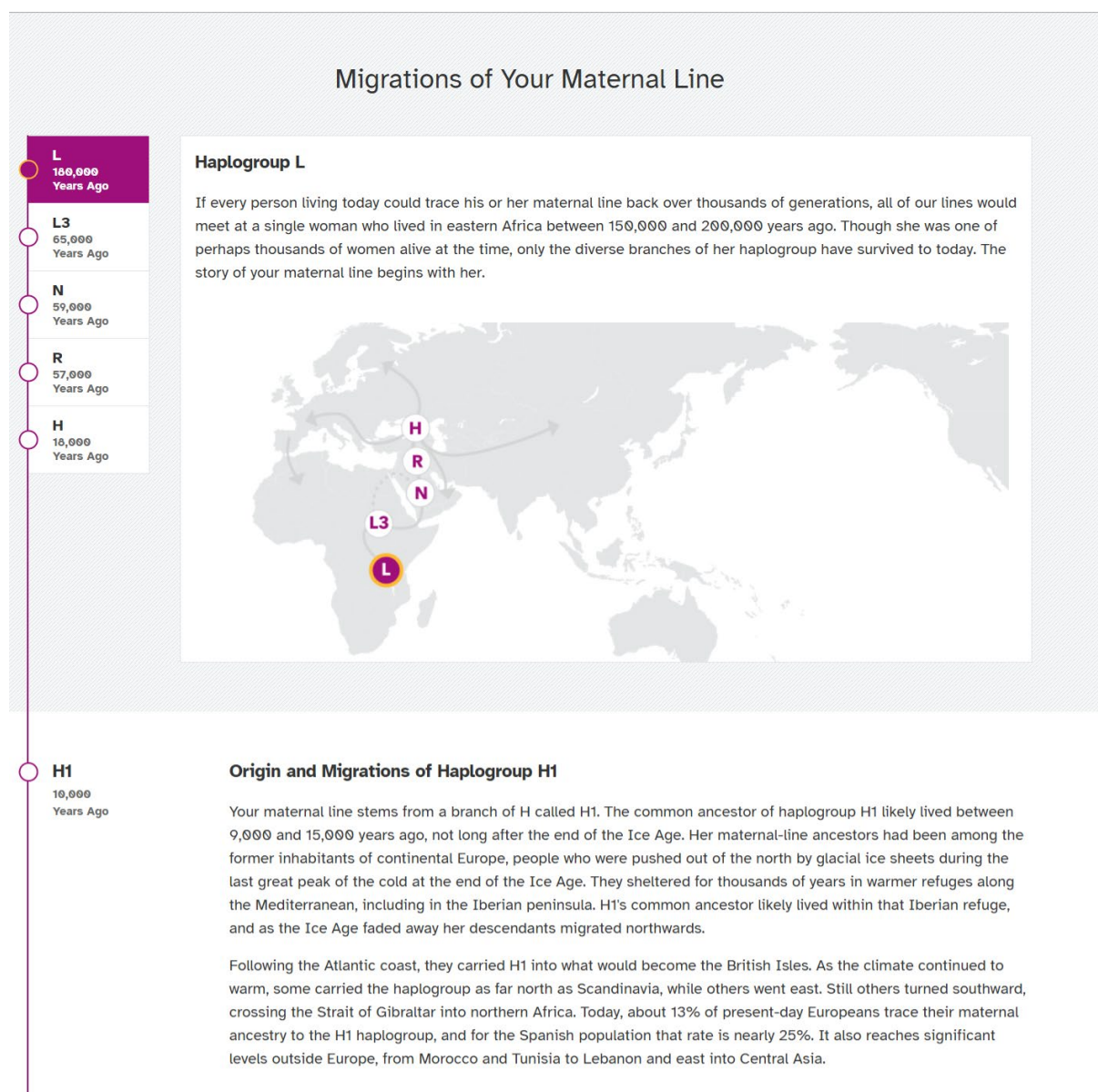
The order was then sent to find and kill Swanzy

baton charge. This man, Swanzy, was in charge of a party of police, in civilian attire, which entered the home of Tomás McCurtain (then Lord Mayor of Cork) on the night of 20th March, 1920, and shot him dead. Shortly after this occurrence, Swanzy was transferred to Lisburn, County Armagh, where he was shot and killed by Cork Volunteers on 23rd August, 1920.

DNA – Maternal Haplogroup H1

From Eastern Africa they travelled to Western Europe and settled on the British and Irish Isles. They moved to the Iberian Peninsula during the ice age and headed back to the British and Irish Isles afterwards.

The DNA from the family shows that the maternal line, H1, moved to Ireland after the ice age. It therefore suggests that the genesis of the **Maternal Lucey** family line is from West Cork, Bronze Age, pre-Viking Irish. This comes through the women of the family to all their children - **O’Gorman girls from Mary O’Gorman (MO), from her mother Mary Lucey, and her mother Mary Lehane and other unknown maternal ancestors before this.**



There were settlements in the Cork region about 4000 BC. From 4000 BC-2000 BC, people buried their dead great stone tombs for which there is evidence in Cork, [including Ballyvourney](#). There is also evidence of Neolithic farming in West Cork. Bronze age artifacts have been found in the area.

UCC has 28 Ogam stones that are a collection of stones from South and Southwest Ireland which would have stood in open country across the land. Ogam is the earliest source of the Irish language, the oldest recording of Irish personal names, and the earliest real evidence of Irish scholarship and learning. Ogam inscriptions are statements of identity and genealogy cut into stone and date from the 5th to the 7th century AD. Ogam stones are found in Ireland and Britain but are concentrated mainly in Munster. UCC also has several carved stones on display, dating from the Bronze Age to the Middle Ages, which illustrate some of the ritual, religious and practical uses of stone through the ages.” [source](#)

There were monastic settlements in the 7th century and what became the Cork city area had a Viking settlement. The Normans settled in Cork in the late 12th Century and Cork was well established by 1185 as in that year it was granted municipal authority by Prince John.

In 1985, Cork 800 was commemorated by the city which commemorated the year the city was granted a charter by Prince John in 1185.