

An Connacht Tribune 1918

Donncha Ó hEallaithe

Ach an oiread le gach áit ar domhan eile tháinig an Fliú chomh fada le Conamara i bhfómhar na bliana 1918. Cé go dtugtar an ‘Fliú Spáinneach’ air, ceaptar gur i Meiriceá a thosaigh sé agus gur leathnaigh sé go dtí an Eoraip le saighdiúirí ag tíocht ó Mheiriceá ag troid taobh leis an mBreatain in aghaidh na Gearmáine, le linn an Chogaidh Mhóir. Leathnaigh sé sna hospidéil míleata agus thug saighdiúirí an víreas abhaile leo ag filleadh ón gcogadh. Ceaptar gur cailleadh thart ar 50 milliún duine leis an bhfliú, nó 5% de dhaonra an domhain ag an am. An rud ab aistí faoin bhfliú in 1918, gur mharaigh sé níos mó daoine a bhí i mbarr a sláinte ná mar a mharaigh sé seandaoine.

In aon tseachtain amháin, mharaigh sé beirt de mhuintir Uí Chatháin ón gCeathrú Rua, a raibh an teach tábhairne agus siopa acu ar an mbaile. An tseachtain céanna mharaigh an fliú bean chéile Pheadair Uí Choistealbha, Peadar a’ Ghabha, ag a raibh an pub agus an siopa san áit a bhfuil an Poitín Stil anois.

Le linn mhí na Nollag, thug an dochtúir áitiúil, Dr. Loftus, le fios go raibh 35 duine sa Spidéal buailte leis an bhfliú. Chuir sé an locht ar mhúinteoirí ón Spidéal a thug cuairt ar Thuaim agus a thug an víreas ar ais leo. I measc na ndaoine a bhásaigh leis an bhfliú sa Spidéal bhí Jimmy Ó Flatharta, ceannaire ar Shinn Féin sa gceantar. I mí Iúil, cuireadh téarma dhá mhí príosúin air mar gheall ar a bheith i gceannas ar cheiliúradh a rinne na hÓglaigh sa Spidéal, tar éis an bhua a bhí ag Sinn Féin sa bhfothoghchán i gCo. an Chabháin, inar toghadh an ceannaire ar Shinn Féin, Art Ó Gríofa, ina Fheisire Parlaiminte ar pholasáí gan a shuíochán i Westminster a thógáil. Ba deartháir é Jimmy le George Ó Flatharta, a bhí ina mhúinteoir scoile sa Spidéal. Fuair sé sochraid mhíleata nuair a bhásaigh sé, a bhfuil cur síos air san alt faoi Mhicheál Ó Droighneán.

Connacht Tribune 7 Nollaig 1918

***Alarming Spread Of Disease In Co. Galway Unions.
500 Cases In Oughterard.
Friends Refuse To Inter Members Of Their Families.***

Reports of an alarming character reach us in the grasp which the influenza epidemic has made on several districts west of Galway City. Several families are stricken down in the neighbourhood of Oughterard, Moycullen and Spiddal.

In Galway Union, particularly in Barna, Spiddal and Moycullen, the disease spread like wildfire. Numerous deaths occurred and in dozens of instances whole families were affected. The removal of cases to the workhouse hospital was resorted to in the majority of cases. During the week the number registered as patients in the institution was upwards of two hundred. Of that number about one hundred are ‘flu’ victims. Orders on an

average for three or four interments are issued daily. In Barna graveyard sixteen interments have taken place in ten days. This number represents the total interred previously over a considerable number of years.

At a meeting of the Board of Guardians on Wednesday, Mr. Mullery (Clerk) submitted a wire received by him on that day week from the Rev. Father Moran, C.C., Spiddal, requesting the despatch of men to inter a woman named Faherty who died at Rosaveal from the disease. She was then four days dead. When the men from the workhouse arrived at the corpse house, the relatives declined to assist them in the interment. The men returned to Galway and on the following day travelled to the village and removed the remains to the city. They were interred on Friday in Bohermore on the seventh day after the death. Other similar instances of the terrorising effect which the epidemic has had on the country people are on record.

Connacht Tribune 23 Samhain 1918

Death of Mrs. Peter Costello, Loughanbeg, Spiddal.

Wherever death with all its privations enters, it spreads its dark banner of desolation, and this is more clearly evidenced by the passing away of the above-named esteemed lady in the full flush of early womanhood at the age of 42.

In her dealings with the public she was always upright and strictly honest, and many a poor family mourns her loss today, as she always held out a helping hand to them when utter want knocked at their doors, thereby saving them from the evictor’s grasp and many a supperless night. Grief stricken, indeed, were all the people in the districts in which she was so well known and so highly respected, and many a prayer was offered up when the sad and unexpected news reached them, but nowhere shall the grief be so intense as in the home she leaves behind with a husband and six children to mourn her loss.

The chief mourners were: P. Costello D.C. (husband); Mamie, Annie, Delia, Sarah and Hanna (daughters); Josie (son); Mrs. Sarah Hoban, Inverin, (mother); Mrs. McMahan,

Boyle, and Mrs. McHugh, Spiddal, (sisters); Joseph and Martin Hoban, Inverin (brothers); Messrs P.J. McMahan, R.I.C., Boyle, J. McHugh, M. Costello, Inveran, and P. Costello (brothers in law); Coleman and Micheal Dillon (uncles); Colman and Bridget Costello, Inveran; John Costello, P.Thornton and M. Thornton, Loughanbeg; Colman Costello, Mrs. Costello and Miss Costello, Galway, and the Misses McMahon, Boyle (cousin).

Connacht Tribune 23 Samhain 1918

Two Deaths Within A Week.

Carraroe D.C. And His Sister Succumb To Influenza.

Profound regret is felt in Carraroe at the unexpected death of Mr. Patrick Keane, D.C., and his sister, Miss Nora Keane, as a result of influenza followed by pneumonia. Both were the eldest children of the late Mr. Patrick Keane, who died 28 years ago and of whom it was often truly said that he was one of the most intelligent and pleasing personalities ever reared in Connemara.

The poor have lost genuine friends in the two latest victims of the dreadful scourge. They carried on a lucrative business in the licenced and general provision line and, without money, no family need retire supperless while their shop contained a bag of flour. Mr. Keane represented the division on the Oughterard District Council, which body adjourned its last meeting as a token of respect for his memory, without transacting any business.

Poblachtachas i gCois Fharraige 1918

Cé nár thosaigh Cogadh na Saoirse go dtí 1919, bhí lucht tacaíochta Shinn Féin gníomhach i gCois Fharraige le linn 1918, mar a léiríonn na sleachta seo as an gConnacht Tribune, nuachtán nach raibh báúil le Sinn Féin ná leis an bpoblachtachas. Sa chéad phíosa tá tagairt ann do Jas. Flaherty. B'é seo Jimmy Ó Flatharta ón Spidéal, a bhí ina cheannaire ar Shinn Féin sa gceantar agus a fuair bás mí na Samhna 1918 leis an bhflú. Tugadh sochraid míleata dó ag an am.

Tá sé suntasach gur cuireadh fineáil do bheirt as Both Chuanna as tine a lasadh ar an 21 Meitheamh 1918. Seans gur Oíche Shin Sheáin a bhí ann, an 23 seachas an 21 Meitheamh. Bhí an RIC faiteach go mbeadh lucht tacaíochta Shinn Féin ag tabhairt comharthaí le tinte d'fhomhuireáin Ghearmánacha a bheadh ag iarraidh gunnaí a chur i dtír do na hÓglaigh.

Ní raibh na mná taobh thiar den chlaí ag an am, mar a léiríonn an ionsaí a rinne siad ar an RIC i mBearna, nuair a ghabhadh Henry Shiels, a bhí i gceannas ar an buíon de Chumann na mBan a mháirseáil ó Ghailimh go Bearna.

Connacht Tribune 20 Iúil 1918

Spiddal Volunteers Who Celebrated East Cavan Election Sentenced For Illegal Drilling.

At a Crimes Court in Galway, on Monday, before Messrs J.P. Byrne, R.M., two country boys, Jas. Flaherty, Spiddal, and Martin Folan, Bohona, appeared in custody, with a week's

growth of beard on their faces, charged with unlawful assembly at Spiddal.

Sergeant Reidy stated he was on duty at Spiddal on June 22 when there was a celebration following the result of the Cavan election. A crowd gathered around a bonfire, and at 12.15 a.m. a number of them fell into military formation, in sections of four. Flaherty moved up and down arranging them. Folan was the leading right-hand man of the sections of four, and carried a Sinn Fein flag. Flaherty also took up a position on the right of the party, and signalled to Folan, who gave the command "Quick March," which was obeyed. The party marched through the village in the direction of Galway, and returned. When passing the barrack one of the party gave the command "left wheel," and they marched past the barracks towards the seashore. They marched along the road to Moycullen and returned, and on their arrival in the village the command "right wheel" was obeyed, the party eventually arriving at the bonfire. The march lasted three-quarters of an hour.

Chairman (to defendant): Have you any questions to ask the witness?

Flaherty: I have a statement to make, as a soldier of the Irish Republic.

Chairman: You can make your statement later if you have no questions to ask.

The Chairman said the defendants were guilty of unlawful assembly, and this drilling would have to be stopped. Flaherty, who appeared to be the leader, would be sentenced to two months imprisonment, and Folan to one month's imprisonment, and ordered to enter into bonds, themselves in £20 each, and sureties of £10 to be of good behaviour, or, in default, three months imprisonment.

Connacht Tribune 3 Lúnasa 1918

Galway Cumann na mBan and Their Commander. Conflict with Police.

Police Barracks Attacked With Stones And Bottles. Exciting Scenes At Barna.

Members of Galway branch Cumann na mBan, numbering about thirty, who left the city on Sunday for the purpose of carrying out evolutions, had an exciting encounter with police near Barna. They were met on the outward journey by Sergeant Linnane, who returned to his barracks, and proceeded with constables after them. The police met the party of ladies marching back. They appeared to be under the command of Mr. Henry Shiels, St. Francis St., Galway, whose instructions were obeyed. On nearing Barna police barracks, Sergeant Linnane asked Mr. Shiels for his name. The latter refusing, Sergeant Linnane placed him under arrest.

It is stated that Mr. Shiels struck the sergeant in the face. The constables having come to the assistance of the sergeant, the ladies attempted to rescue Mr. Shiels. In the scuffle police received rough handling, and had their caps knocked off, but eventually succeeded in placing their capture in the barracks cell. A fusilade of stone and bottle firing on the barracks was indulged in by the ladies, whose demeanour became so violent that they only ceased when a revolver shot was discharged in the air by one of the policemen.

Connacht Tribune, 24 Lúnasa 1918

Fines For Lighting Fires Visible At Sea.

At Spiddal Petty Sessions, before Mr. Hill, R.M. Constable Murhill summoned Patrick Costello, Spiddal, for riding a bicycle without a light. Fined 1s. and costs. Constable Doherty summoned Jn Feeney for having an unlicensed dog. Fined 2s. and costs, and ordered to take out a licence. Joseph Thornton and Michael Keady, Bohona, were charged with unlawfully lighting fires on the coast on 21st June, 1918, so as to be visible on the sea. Fines of 10s. and costs were imposed. Matthew Curran, Inveran, was fined 2s. 6d. and costs at the suit of Sergt. Reidy for having his horse on the public road without a guide.

Toghchán 1918

Sa toghchán a troideadh mí na Nollag 1918, bhí coimhlint ghéar idir beirt Mháilleach: Pádraig Ó Máille ó Mhuintir Eoin agus William O' Malley ó Bhaile Uí Chonghaile. Bhí Pádraig Ó Máille théis tréimhse a chaitheamh i bpríosún sa Bhreatain tar éis Éirí Amach na Cásca 1916. Toghadh William O' Malley don *Irish Parliamentary Party* i dtí thoghchán gan éinne ag seasamh ina aghaidh. Ag an am, bhí Conamara agus Cathair na Gaillimhe le chéile mar toghcheantar amháin.

Ba léir ó ainmneacha na ndaoine a d'ainmnigh William O' Malley go raibh na sagairt, lucht gnó agus siopadóirí taobh thiar dhó. I measc na ndaoine a shínigh a pháipéar ainmniúchán do William O' Malley bhí an tAthair Thomas

Heaney, an sagart paróiste ar an gCnoc ag an am, agus Bartly Faherty, an fear a thóg an teach tábhairne agus siopa taobh thiar de Shéipéal an Chnoic, atá dúnta anois, ar thugtar Tigh Jimmy Beartla.

Is ag Máilleach Shinn Féin a bhí an bua le móramh ollmhór de bhreis is 8,000. Bhí neart gearán sa gConnacht Tribune faoin mbealach ar troideadh an toghchán.

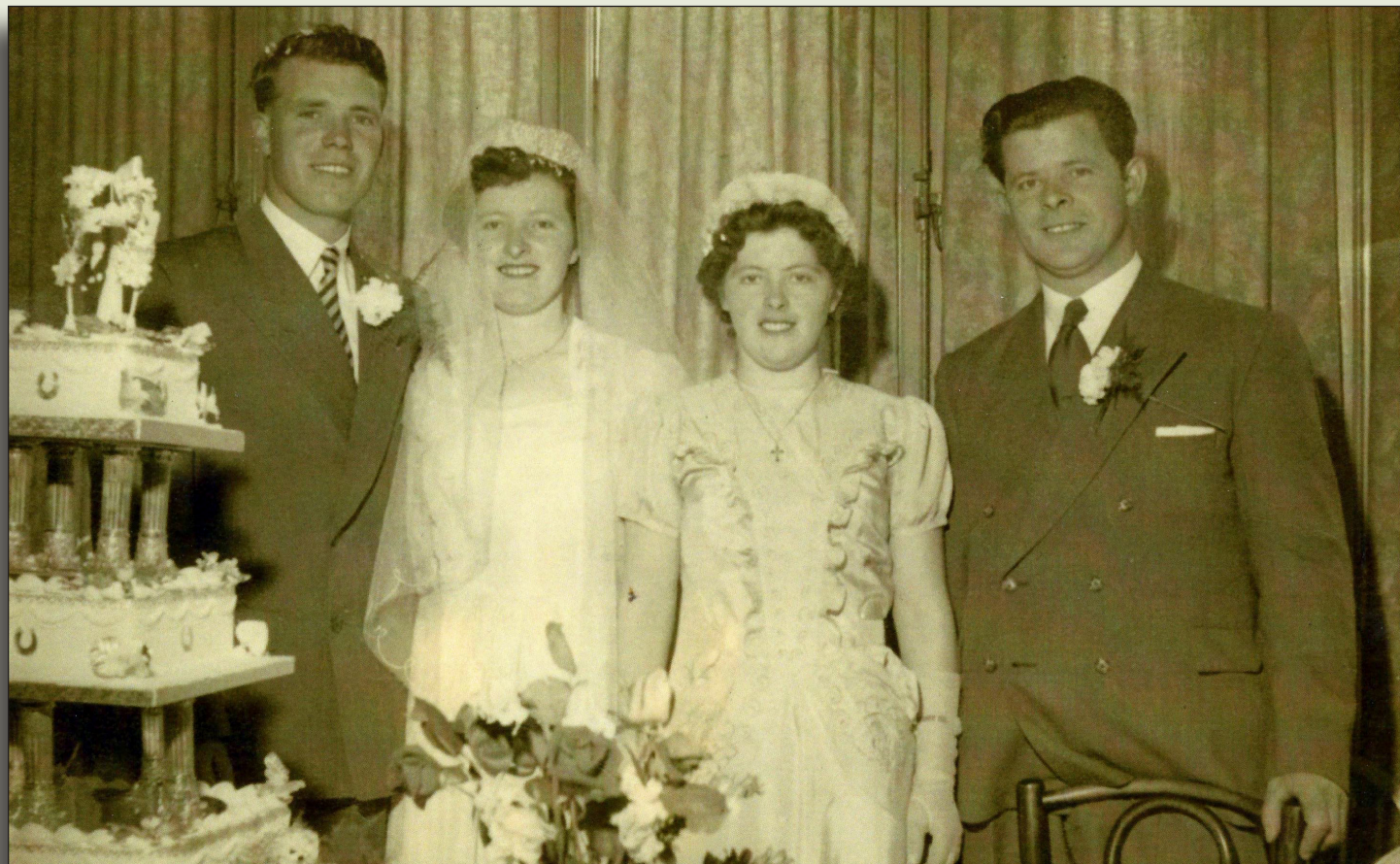
Connacht Tribune 21 Nollaig 1918

Alleged Interference With Voters

A supporter of Mr. William O'Malley complained that he was not permitted to vote at Barna. On two occasions, he says, he got up to the entrance of the polling booth, and was hustled aside by Sinn Feiners. Ultimately, he gave up the attempt to vote in disgust.

A presiding officer in a remote district of Connemara, finding that his booth had been left without police, that it was lavishly decorated with the tri-colour, and virtually controlled by Volunteers, despatched a telegram for the police. The messenger was, however, sent back, and the telegram did not go.

In Oughterard eighty illiterate voters marched up in the early morning, and every one of them cast their votes for Pádraig O'Maille. At Knock and elsewhere a large number of illiterate voters polled, and in most cases they voted for Sinn Féin, the only exception being Clifden and northern Connemara, where the interests of the Nationalists were exceptionally well looked after. ■



Tom Phádraic Pheaitsín (Mac Donnchadha), uncail an iarpheileadóirí contae, Cóilín, as Ros an Mhíl, cúpla Phádraic Thaidhg, Máire agus Sarah, agus Cóil Phádraic Thaidhg, lá a bpósta.