

REVOLUTION 1916 THE ORIGINAL & AUTHENTIC EXHIBITION



P.H. PEARSE (1879-1916)

Pádraig MacPiarais (Patrick Pearse) held the position of President of the Provisional Government of the Irish Republic declared on 24th April 1916 and was the author of much of the Proclamation that he read aloud that day outside the General Post Office (GPO).

An acclaimed speaker he had come to national prominence in August 1915 when he delivered the fiery graveside oration during the O'Donovan Rossa funeral that became the "call to arms" for the 1916 Rising with its famous last line "Ireland unfree shall never be at peace".

He was born on Gt Brunswick St (now Pearse St) in Dublin. His English father was James Pearse a monumental sculptor and Pádraig's mother was Meath born Margaret Brady. Patrick was named after the American founding father Patrick Henry himself a revolutionary orator remembered for his "Give me Liberty, or give me Death" speech.

Patrick through his aunt Margaret was drawn towards the myths and ancient history of Ireland and joined the Gaelic League in 1895 and was editor of their newspaper "An Claidheamh Soluis" (The Sword of Light) from 1903 for six years. His Irish language activism brought him into political life and he attended the founding meeting of Sinn Féin in the Rotunda in 1905.

In 1908 he used his savings to open an Irish School St Endas. It was a pioneering school, using progressive educational methods and bilingualism which Pádraig had studied in Belgium. Patrick attended the founding of the Irish Volunteers in Wynns Hotel in 1913 and he spoke at the mass meetings of the Volunteers organised by the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) in the Rotunda on 25th November 1913.

After the outbreak of World War One John Redmond split from the Irish Volunteers and set up the National Volunteers to fight in the British Army to secure Home Rule. The strong IRB element within the now smaller Irish Volunteers continued to plan for an Irish Republic.

Pearse joined the secret Military Council of The Irish Republican Brotherhood in May 1915 who were in planning for the subsequent Rising. His brother Willie Pearse had joined him on the teaching staff at St Endas along with Thomas McDonagh and Con Colbert and these four masters were all executed after the Rising.

After the confusion surrounding the countermanding orders issued by Irish Volunteers president Eoin MacNeill and the failed attempt to land German arms and arrest of Roger Casement the Rising originally proposed for Easter Sunday was postponed until Easter Monday 24th April 1916.

At 12 noon at the General Post Office (GPO) on O'Connell Street Dublin, one of many buildings taken over by the members of the Army of the Irish Republic, Pádraig read aloud the Proclamation of the Irish Republic which he had written. The GPO was held till fires caused from the continual bombardment forced an evacuation to Moore St.

After witnessing unarmed civilians with a white flag being shot down by the British, Pearse decided to surrender. In a note to the British Brigadier General Lowe he wrote "to prevent the further slaughter of the civilian population and in the hope of saving our followers, now hopelessly surrounded and outnumbered". Pearse surrendered on Gt Britain St (now Parnell St) to Lowe in the presence of Nurse Elizabeth O'Farrell who carried the original note.

Pearse was detained at Arbour Hill Military Prison and was visited by Peter Paul Galligan and Sean Etchingham to confirm the Enniscorthy surrender and was described as being "physically exhausted but spiritually exulted. He told us that the Dublin Brigade had done splendidly- five days and nights of continuous fighting ...".

Pearse was court martialled by a Military Court in Richmond Barracks and spoke in his defence "When I was a child of 10 I went down on my bare knees at my bedside one night and promised God that I should devote my life to an effort to free my country. I have kept that promise"

Pádraig Pearse was executed by firing squad on 3rd May 1916 in the stone breakers yard Kilmainham Gaol at 3.30 am. His brother William Pearse was en route to Kilmainham (most likely to be shot with Patrick rather than for a last visit) when he heard the volley that took him and the soldiers exclaimed they were "too late". William Pearse was placed in the cell adjoining Pádraig's and was executed the following morning.

The motto on a mural of Cuchullain in St Endas School goes;

"I care not though I were to live but one day and one night if only my fame and my deeds live after me."

P.H. MAC PIARAIS (1879-1916)

Bhí Pádraig Mac Piarais ina Uachtarán ar Rialtas Phoblacht a fógraíodh ar an 24 Aibreán 1916 agus ba é údar bhunús an Fhorógra é, an forógra a léigh sé amach os ard an lá sin lasmigh d'Ard-Oifig an Phoist. (G.P.O). Sárchainteoir a bhí ann agus tháinig sé chun tosaigh ar leibhéal náisiúnta i mí Lúnasa na bliana 1915 nuair a thug sé óráid theasaí cois uaigne ag sochraid Uí Dhonnabháin Rossa, óráid a d'éirigh ina rosc catha le haghaidh Éirí Amach 1916, leis an line chlúiteach sin ag an deireadh "Ireland unfree shall never be at peace".

Rugadh ar Shráid Mhór Brunswick i mBaile Átha Cliath é. Sasanach ba ea a athair, James Pearse, dealbhóir a tháinig go hÉirinn ar thóir oibre lena bhean agus phós sé, Margaret Brady a rugadh i gCo. na Mí. Ainmníodh Pádraig i ndiaidh duine de bhunaitheoirí Mheiriceá, Patrick Henry, fear a bhí ina óráidí réabhlóideach agus a ndéantar cuimhne air mar gheall ar an óráid a thug sé "Give me Liberty, or give me Death".

Spreag aintín Pádraig é le scéalta de mhiotaseolaíocht agus de seanstair na hÉireann agus chuaigh sé le Conradh na Gaeilge sa bhliain 1895 agus bhí sé ina eagarthóir ar nuachtán an Chonartha "An Claidheamh Soluis" ón mbliain 1903 ar feadh sé bliana. Mar gheall ar a líofacht agus ar a shuim go ginearálta sa Ghaeilge is amhlaidh gur chuir sé spéis i réimsí eile agus d'fhreastail sé ar chruinniú bunaidh "Pholasáí Shinn Féin" sa Rotunda sa bhliain 1905.

In 1908 d'úsáid sé airgead a bhí i dtaisce aige chun scoil lán-Ghaeilge, Scoil Éanna, a oscailt. I Raghallach a bhí an scoil ar dtús agus aistríodh í go Ráth Fearnáin ina dhiaidh sin. Scoil chun tosaigh i modhanna nua an noideachais agus an dá-thenagachais a bhí ann.

Bhí Pádraig i láthair ag réamh-chruinniú bunaidh na nÓglach a bhí eagraithe ag Bráithreachas na Phoblachta in Óstán Wynns i 1913 agus labhair sé ag cruinnithe bunaithe Óglaigh na hÉireann sa Rotunda coicís ina dhiaidh sin ar Samhain 25ú 1913.

Nuair a bhris an Chéad Chogadh Domhanda amach scoilt John Redmond na hÓglaigh agus bhunaigh sé Óglaigh Náisiúnta a mheall sé chun troda in Arm Shasana le Rialtas Dúchais a dhaingniú. In aineoinn bheith níos lú ansin lean an dream IRB taobh istigh Óglaigh na hÉireann ag pleanáil le Poblacht na hÉireann a bhunú.

I Bealtaine 1915 glacadh le Mac Piarais mar bhall de Chomhairle Mhíleata Rúnda Bhráithreachas Phoblacht na hÉireann a bhí i mbun comhcheilg le éirí amach. Mar aon lena dheartháir Liam Mac Piarais (Willie) bhí Pádraig ar fhoireann teagaisc Scoil Éanna in éineacht le Tomás Mac Donnchadha agus Con Colbert agus cuireadh an ceathrar múinteoirí seo chun báis i ndiaidh an Éirí Amach.

I ndiaidh an mhearbhaill a bhí mar thoradh ar na freasorduithe a d'éisigh uachtarán Óglaigh na hÉireann Eoin MacNeill agus nuair a cliseadh ar airm a thabhairt i dtír as an nGearmáin gur gabhadh Roger Casement cuireadh an tÉirí Amach a bhí in ainm is bheith ann ar Dhomhnach na Cáscá siar go dtí Luan na Cáscá 24 Aibreán 1916.

Ag meánlae gabh Arm na Poblachta seilbh ar Ard Oifig an Phoist ar Sráid Uí Chonaill mar aon le foirgnimh eile, leigh MacPiarais an Forógra agus bhí tús leis an Éirí Amach. Coiméadadh seilbh ar an Ard Oifig go dtí go raibh gáth éalú síos lánáí chuig Shráid Uí Mhórdha toisc chomh fiocmhar is a bhí an dóiteán

I ndiaidh dó saighdiúirí Sasanach a fheiceáil ag scaoileadh sibhialtaigh a bhí faoi bratach bhán chinn Mac Piarais ar géilleadh. I nóta chuig Briogáidire-Ghinearál Lowe d'iarr sé air glacadh leis an ngéilleadh "to prevent the further slaughter of the civilian population and in the hope of saving our followers, now hopelessly surrounded and outnumbered". Ghéill Mac Piarais, agus an Banaltra Elizabeth O'Farrell ina éindí, do Lowe ar Shráid na Breataine Móire. B'í O'Farrell a thug an chead nóta géillithe chuig na Sasanaigh.

Cuireadh Mac Piarais i ngéibheann i bPríosún Míleata Chnoc an Arbhair agus is ansin a thug Peter Paul Galligan agus Sean Etchingham cuairt air chun an ordú géillithe d'Óglaigh Inis Córthaidh a dheimhniú. Do thuairisc siad go raibh sé "physically exhausted but spiritually exulted. He told us that the Dublin Brigade had done splendidly -- five days and nights of continuous fighting. ..."

Cuireadh Pádraig Mac Piarais os comhair armchúirte i mBeairicí Richmond ar Bealtaine 2ú agus rinne sé é féin a chosaint: "When I was a child of ten I went down on my bare knees at my bedside one night and promised God that I should devote my life to an effort to free my country. I have kept that promise."

Chuir scud lánhaigh Pádraig Mac Piarais chun báis ag 3.30rn ar Bealtaine 3ú 1916 i gClós na mBristeoirí Cloch i bPríosún Chill Mhaighneann. Bhí a dheartháir Liam á thionlacain chuig an príosúin (agus is dóicí go raibh sé le scaoileadh in éineacht le Pádraig, seachas gur cuairt dheireanach air a bhí i gceist) nuair a chuala sé an lámhach a mharaigh Pádraig. Ansin chuala sé na saighdiúirí leis ag rá go rabhadar "ró-mhall".

Cuireadh Liam Mac Piarais sa chillín béal doras le'n céann ina raibh Pádraig ní ba luaithe. Cuireadh chun báis é an mhaidin dár gcionn.

Tá mana ar mhúrmhaisiú de Chú Chullainn i Scoil Éanna:

"I care not though I were to live but one day and one night if only my fame and my deeds live after me."

