



TOMÁS BAIRÉAD PAPERS

GP2/72

Notes:

- Out of respect for a named individual and his family this item is closed until 2026. However, as the letter contains much interesting detail regarding the events of 1916, the 1919 local elections, and the Civil War a censored copy of the letter is available.

Galway County Council Archives

P.S. I can say Amen to everything you had on your Sean Canal I have to
 letter to the press. I remember that was an investigation of the black spot
 in your bringing this magazine
 the rising. the chief was asked about attorney. Although to an end as I
 I am sure you will
 have a task on
 your hands to
 guess most of
 what I am
 trying to write
 about big business
 for word to Sean Canal
 Paul Dill
 710 Bellave Ave
 Pittsburgh, Pa. 15226 U.S.A.
 Aug 10th 1966

I was as always
 delighted to again hear from you. I was
 so sorry to learn by your letter that you did
 not know that I received your packages of
 Tribunes etc. I thought I had them before I
 last wrote to you. I received them, OK for which
 say buddies a thousand times. I do not
 have to tell you that I was delighted to get
 them although I have to agree with Monaghan's
 letter that there are a great many items in
 there that are not correct. The oramone
 barracks incident is exaggerated the
 most I think was a few shots fired on
 any enemy outpost during that week.
 of course the story about Moycullen was
 overplayed. My recollection of the story
 is that the Hare Callinan came to Humeys

No 2 PS many thanks for all the newspaper clippings was delighted to see the West may be saying column I knew nearly every one of them

in Annagh from there to Mike Morris as O'puzgeary was not home. His orders from the Galway Volunteer Co was that Maguire & the Barna Co would meet at sea to receive on Friday night, & the Barna Co was to send word to Spiddal Co to be on the lookout for arms landing on the coast. (I too cannot understand this order but things seemed a good lot mixed up everywhere) Now Mike Morris came to me with that despatch, I am sure on Wednesday night I went to Barna next day & gave it to Joe Fagan & his brother Peter Joe was then Barna Capt. while I was with them Peter Conneely ^{knockharney} came along from Galway & he got the message. Ballin's message was that either him or some other officer from the Galway Co would meet at sea & give us further instructions. It was at that time as you may remember a Section Commander we had a Mark McDonagh & Matt Blancy. Peter Conneely of course Pat Conneely was Captain. I would not be sure if Padraig held an office in the Co if we did not have a Q master of course Padraig was best known through the I.R.B Gaelic League etc

I understood that John Geoghegan would get the
 message from Moycullen & he was very disappointed
 he never got the word & he was one of my men
 all the others in my section Bloomiff Poulmaclough
 etc was there & we had about 20 men from Barna
 they had a small Co. of course nobody from it
 came as most of the Galway Volunteers returned
 home next day Saturday. I heard different stories
 about what happened to the rest of our Company
 that night. I never did try to investigate one
 thing I do know if our Company showed up
 that night they would have done all that was
 asked of them. I think you are a bit hard on
 Poyzies. He went to I think Kellenan near
 Craughwell where the Galway H Q was then on
 Saturday & reported to us in the old school
 on Easter Sunday morning that the rising
 was starting at 7 PM. Easter Sunday & we were
 to cut the telegraph wires take the R.R. station
 the Post office, the R.I.C. barracks & then march
 to Galway City where we would join up with
 the Spiddal & Barna Cos. to attack Galway City
 Patrick Walsh was there & I know the situation
 was discussed. I do not know if you were there
 I am almost sure you were.

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 I started for home from the old school & when I got
 as far as Dick Conroy's gate I met a dispatch rider
 by the name of O'Dia ^{Blayneybridge} I knew him besides he wore
 an I.R.B. badge. He was on his way to O'Spurgan
 with the latest order from Sean MacBull that the
 rising was postponed for the time being to be
 on the alert for further orders. I directed him
 to O'Spurgan & this is the whole story of our
 part in the Easter week rising of 1916.

I never heard that [redacted] ^{came to Moyack}
 I never was very struck on [redacted] I am sure
 X I told you the story about him at the Kibroe ambush
 It was told to me by the best friend I had east
 of Galway city that was Tom Ruane I became Tom's
 good friend after Easter week. I knew him as a
 delegate to the West Board G.A.A. He was then Captain
 of Blaregalway H.C. When Tom Nicholls Dr Walsh
 & Mc Donagh Headford was selected to run for the
 Co Council I think in 1919 Tom wrote me a letter
 & explained to me how Sinn Fein had divided the
 District. Mc Donagh was to get 10,000 in the Headford
 Dist Dr Walsh in Galway city Nicholls in Connemara
 Tom was left a very small quota of voters he gave
 me the figures. of course when the votes were
 counted Tom had over 30,000 & I think something
 like 14,000 was the Quota

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of course he got a big vote in Moycullew & after that Tom could never do enough for me you know our Brigade borrowed 6 Rifles from their Battalion for that frasco we had in Spiddal, & Tom was there when I got them Morgan Connely & me carried them from Dangan to Poultraclagh we crossed there from Menlo. Both Tom & [redacted] are dead may God have mercy on both their souls. Tom's version of the ambush to me was when it was over [redacted] came back minus a rifle. A former found it in a field & not one bullet was fired from it. It was men with shotguns that did most of the firing. I had a very good friend in Castlebar Willie Newell I have met him in Gaelic Park New York a couple of times the last time I met him I told him that I heard [redacted] was dead he said he was a small loss & should have been dead long before it he did not like how [redacted] carried on in the civil war. You asked me what took Dyceal away from his men on Easter Sunday. The story I got then was that he was trying to find out what was happening & made up his mind

that he would go ⁶ east of Galway city & find out & I was told
 that he got through the city but was arrested on his way
 back. I do not think that Pádraig was that
 X anxious for a fight. Colm O'Garra used to tell us
 some good jokes about Pádraig in the West Connemara
 Brigade Column Pádraig used to have a little
 German mauler & it looked like a toy pistol in
 his Pádraig's hands. He told them Colm said if
 there was any more fighting after the truce
 that he would not be in it. I tell you I liked
 Pádraig more he was harmless & was anxious
 for peace & of course he was an old standard
 bearer. At times I get a great kick out of your
 Irish tid bits. I do not think I heard better
 a short one since I left Ireland my mother
 used that very often & my Aunt Sally used
 always say Cumas De agus go Maide agus
 I will have to take back what I said about
 Bloomfield Irish speakers & there were even a
 couple of others Seanuis Bloomfield Michael Joe
 Swiney & Jimmie Vat the last 2 were very active
 Gaelic Reagues in my very young days. I think
 it was this that made me think so they very
 seldom talked Irish. By the way how much Irish
 I talked now I know you talk it.

I was surprised at your story about Mike Dennis
 as I know he was an A.I. Irish Teacher. I also
 know that Mike (who always was a very good
 friend of mine) had his funny ideas. Do you
 remember when he organized the Slapper sports in
 Cloonuff & then he organized a big New Years
 party at Mat Philips Paulnaclough which was
 another flop. It is nice to hear that so many
 of the old timers are still going strong. I want
 to tell you that I will never grow tired reading
 anything you will write to me even if you do
 agree with me on some things. I have a very
 good friend here (American) & he asked me
 one time how it was that I always argued
 with him. I told him John I never argue
 with anybody only my best friends. If I do not
 think you are a friend I will either pass you
 by or at least have very little to say as you
 is size in pipe. I attended a fest in Cleveland
 some time in June my daughter her husband &
 4 children were with me. 2 of her daughters danced
 a jig & a reel & a hornpipe there they had contest
 auto from about 15 cities & some from Canada

they had 4 platforms out in the hot sun it was 86
 they danced from 12:30 to 7:30 PM
 they had the singing storytelling etc on a bldg
 but it was so hot I could not stay very long in
 there I sure enjoyed it I do not remember
~~being~~ being at a bus since I was at one in the
 old school by the Gaelic League Jim Keedy won
 1st school childrens singing he sang The Prisoner
 Nell Murphy + Johnny Reillys sister was I think
 tried for second Pat Conneely got 1st Recitation
 Ode says a Day by Dewey and Carnegie
 Go hang Ode gave moral Ode strips is
 Ode Colby Ode Stoice Ode about 10
 go Soap. I hope you will guess what this is.
 Its the night of the big storm. Mick Coyne Marquis
 Gavin Dan Risteard Knuckherassers storytelling
 I know Mike Morris Seungas Paul an Seagans
 Frank Mahoney Pat Conneely + many others
 wrote in the desks I know it was a day I
 enjoyed very much. Cleveland is about 3 hrs drive
 from Lga about 160 miles. My son Joe who is married
 to Denny Callaghans daughter ^{then} 4 children drive
 to Chicago about 500 miles 10 1/2 hrs one way trip.
 Joes wifes sister is married to a Mayo man in Chicago
 she is now in Ireland we had a card from her today
 she is only staying 3 weeks ^{August} will be back the end of

I stayed at Paddy Fergans + Marias Paddy is married to
 a woman from Castle Island Co. Kerry & of course
 Maria is married to Mick Conneelys Knockarassor
 + Nora Fergan is married to Willie Conneely Micks
 brother Julia Conneely Mick + Willie's sister is
 married to Bill McCarthy they live 2 blocks from
 micks on the same street. Bill is a brother of the
 late senator Joe McCarthy (Wisconsin) who caused
 an awful furor in the United States Senate some
 years back. He accused the senate of coddling
 the ~~United States~~ communists. This Bill is a
 lovely man he has spend a life time with all this
 crowd from Moycullen. He could tell me about
 Cycie a beagan you know. Where the Barretts lived
 Mick Conneely is a very fine man he just retired
 from the Chicago fire Dept. He still works hard
 as he is a very handy man he does painting
 plastering & many small repair jobs but he
 did nothing but haul me around in his car the
 week I was there. there are a great many from
 Moycullen John Mc Donaghs 2 sons are there
 Maggie Rabbit John's daughter Peter Conneelys son is
 there + some of Mary + Bernies Tommy Brien's family
 I did not see those as I was there only 6 days

We got there on Sunday morning, ¹⁰ left on Friday night
we traveled both ways by night. There is a highway
from outside Pittsburgh you get on it & you go ~~down~~
through to Chicago without getting into any city
you can go the same way to New York. You pay
a little over a cent a mile for riding this highway
but it is well worth it, as you can drive up
to 70 miles an hour nearly all the way.

I will of course be delighted to get this book
X Capt'n Spindlers but I hate to impose on you.
You do not have to worry about ~~me not receiving~~
them by ordinary mail the only trouble is it
is awful slow. I got the Galway Observer here for
2 yrs & it used to take from 4 to 5 weeks to come
sometimes I received a later ~~issue~~ weeks issue before
the previous weeks. The air mail cost is terrible
from there I see where your ^{last} letter cost me
stamp (Thomas McDonagh) 5 1/2 shilling stamps
a 2 piggys which if I can't still add is 3 5
We could have a good time at the Galway races once
for that. I was so sorry to see about the death
of another of my very good old friends Tom

X Nynes even though he reached a very fine old
age. He was surely a great man in his young
days & was always a good fact & Irish man

Tom & Seungois^{!!} Carter were 2 of my very dear friends
 in that Galway city crowd. I had a very nice letter
 from Seungois in Dublin before I came out here
 (all Irish). He was Co Registrar at that time I heard he
 gave up later, you know his mother was Domie
 from Knockrasser. & was connected to me by
 marriage. I heard Tom was pretty good for
 getting messages in to the Republicans in Galway
 jail. I was surprised that it did not mention
 Tom's 2 great races in Ballybut raccourse. I
 saw both of them. I think Tom laped or almost
 laped some of the runners that time. Mugs
 was in both those races. Tade Keady was none
 Mugs ran at Jones Rd Dublin too. There was
 Peter Joyce Galway city there was Michael John
 & I think James McDonough. I don't know if
 Nedeen ran there Martin & Pat Malloy Cloniff
 John Naughton Spiddal (mat Vileys) & in law.
 there was a breavan from Meils a
 Hamilton Galway city. They were all on the
 Galway City Harriers. There was a team
 from Ballinasloe 2 from Dublin Haddington & Donore

U.S.A. that ran in the U.S.A.
 brother of the
 Peter Joyce also ran. He was a brother of the

I remember Larry Jones father He rode with the Haddington harrisers back from Ballybrit on the Cranog of Johnny Curran's brake (I am sure you remember the 2 horse buses) He was singing King Bush songs for them. I expect you knew him he had a red beard & was a real outspoken old pannelite I see where the papers all said that him ^{Tom} & Joyce (the runner) both came from Moy cullen & you know neither one died but they always said they were from Moy cullen. I used to hear that some of them families never went to Killanin Church since Father Kynes time they were from ~~over~~ ^{over} or Carigan or one of those villages were they not I saw Tom run twice in the grammar school grounds once against Pat Sagan Donabate I think the other was a Mc Namara I dont remember where he was from. Tom won them both easy. I think they were 15 miles & it was 5 laps to the mile. I used to go to every sports event that was held in Galway I think I went before I wore shoes I even went to the R.F.C sports in the grammar school grounds.

Joyce
 Killanin
 Mc Namara
 Mc

I don't know if I finish this page but I will try
 I tell you I hate to start a letter but when I get
 started I can keep on going. You said some-
 thing about me being an early riser. We are
 accustomed to get up early when we work here for
 all jobs start no later than 8 AM. & some at 7 AM
 so sometimes it takes nearly 1 hour to get to the
 job. It always took me 1 hr. after I retired I
 made up my mind that I would go to mass
 every morning. We had 3 masses every morning
 6:30, 7:15 & 8 AM. but to behold our pastor God
 bless him changed the schedule to 6:30 AM
 8 & 11 AM & one at 6:30 PM. you see we have
 4 priests. We have almost 2900 families in
 our parish. I am very active in Parish
 affairs. I am 1st Vice President of our Holy Name
 Society. We have 7 men that count the money
 each Sunday during the masses we start about
 11 AM & get through about 1:30 we have 7 masses
 each Sunday & we have 3 groups of 1 Sam one
 of them we are on every 3rd Sunday. There
 was \$292,308.09 collected in 1965. but remember
 we got a new Activities Center dedicated last sept
 that cost over \$900,000. but we will be able to pay
 for it.

¹⁴
 I started to tell you how happy I was to have this mass
 at 11 AM. I get up around 9.30 eat my breakfast & have
 a good smoke on my way to mass I can still
 walk it in less than 15 minutes. I cannot get over
 the price of the black slop 2 shillings or more for a pint.
 I never liked porter & I do not like beer here. I like a
 shot of whiskey once in a while or better yet a highball.
 I never drink much you will always find a
 bottle in every home here I can have one for 6 months
 & never taste it if I do not have a visitor. My one
 weakness is smoking I now smoke small cigars
 we call them Tobies they are not much stronger
 than cigarettes I still like a cigarette after I eat.
 I hope you will see Mattie Griffin before he
 comes back I am sure he will make it his business
 to go to see you Mattie is one swell fellow & well
 liked by everybody. I am longing for him to get
 back as he always has very reliable information
 Poor Clancy did not look so good before he went back.
 I hope he will get good health there he had a good bit
 of sickness the past few years & you remember him
 when he was a tough piece of man & was here for
 many years too. By the way Mattie was a heavy
 smoker & he dropped it. I don't think you ever smoked
 much if any & I am sure you did not start.
 I did not know that I had 1/2 yr on you I
 thought it might be one.