



---

**TOMÁS BAIRÉAD PAPERS**

**GP2/8:**  
**Galway County Council Archives**



**COISTE CUIMHNEACHÁIN  
SHIBÉIL NÍ FHEARGHAIL**

**NURSE ELIZABETH O'FARRELL  
FOUNDATION COMMITTEE**

**JUNE 1966**

The recent celebrations have focussed attention on the heroic part played by a number of Irishwomen during Easter Week 1916. Outstanding amongst them was Nurse Elizabeth O'Farrell, who tended wounded Volunteers in the G.P.O., and who, at considerable risk to herself, carried Padraig Pearse's message of surrender to the Commander of the British Forces, and despatches to the Republican Garrisons throughout the city.

A number of Nurse O'Farrell's friends who were associated with her in Cumann na mBan and the Medical Profession believe that the time is opportune to establish a foundation to perpetuate the memory of this gallant woman. A Committee has been formed in collaboration with the Irish Nurses' Organisation to raise funds for this purpose. The first step in this project has already been taken with the generous co-operation of the authorities of the National Maternity Hospital, Holles Street, where she qualified. A commemorative plaque, designed by the distinguished sculptor, Mr. Garry Trimble, will be erected in the new extension to the hospital. Such a memorial in one of our chief midwifery training schools will serve as the spearhead of our campaign to establish a foundation for post-graduate nurse-education and research, the need of which has been so keenly felt in the Irish nursing world.

While this appeal for financial support is addressed in a special way to the women of Ireland, it is not

confined to them. Knowing their power to win support for great causes, we call on them to use their vision and influence in ensuring a perpetual memorial in the form of a live foundation.

Subscriptions may be sent to any member of the Committee, c/o 9 Dawson Street, Dublin 2, or to the Hon. Treasurers :—

DR. EILEEN MacCARVILL,  
8 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin 2,

or

MISS MAUREEN McCABE,  
President, Irish Nurses' Organisation,  
20 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2.



# COISTE CUIMHNEACHÁIN SHIBÉIL NÍ FHEARGHAIL

NURSE ELIZABETH O'FARRELL FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

9 DAWSON STREET, DUBLIN 2.

**CHAIRMAN**

Sightle Bean Uí Dhonnchadha

**HON. TREASURERS**

Eibhlín Ní Grainne, Bean Mhíche Chearbhaill  
Miss Maureen McCabe, R.G.N., R.M.

**HON. AUDITOR**

Padraig Ó Nualláin, A.C.A.

**JOINT HON. SECRETARIES**

Miss Bríd Connolly  
Miss Ena Meehan

**COMMITTEE**

Maire Bean Mhíche Amhalghaidh  
Tráxa Balrád  
Nolain Bean S. Uí Bhrlain  
Miss Maire Comerford  
Mrs. Frances Brady Cooney  
Eithne Bean Uí Dhonnhaill  
Maedhbh Ní Fhaoilín  
Mrs. Eileen Fleming  
Miss Julia Grennan  
Mrs. Kathleen McConnell  
Dr. Bríd Malone  
Dr. Kathleen E. Murphy  
Miss Brigid O'Reilly, R.G.N., R.M.  
Miss Fiona Plunkett  
Mrs. Elgin O'Kahilly  
Miss Lily Thewles  
Mrs. P. C. Trimble  
Mrs. Kathleen Twomey  
Mrs. S. Czira

Dear Sir/Madam,

In requesting a generous subscription on behalf of the above Foundation, the aims of which are outlined in the enclosed, we are confident you will recognise that this appeal is unique.

Co-operating in the decision to prevent further bloodshed, Nurse Elizabeth O'Farrell carried the flag of peace at the end of the 1916 insurrection. Her superb courage is the inspiration of this appeal. The symbolism of her action has a special significance for the nursing profession to which she belonged which is primarily committed to the service of life.

A living foundation to improve that service by extending post-graduate education and research would bring home the message of Elizabeth O'Farrell's own life, highlighted in its courageous beginnings by the part she played in Easter Week.

Signed: Bríd Connolly

Ena Meehan  
Joint Honorary Secretaries

July 1966