

The Ua Buachalla Archive at Maynooth University Library

'May God send in every generation men who live only for the Ideal of Ireland A Nation God Save Ireland. James Mallon B. Co. III Batt. I.R.A. Hairdresser "To the boy of Frongoch" with E. D'Valera Easter Week 22/12/16 Frongoch'.

PP26/2/1/7 Autograph by James Mallon

The papers of Domhnall Ua Buachalla (1866-1963), politician and Maynooth shopkeeper, were given on short term loan to Maynooth University Library in late 2015 for use in the University's 1916 commemoration. Ua Buachalla's family, who still live locally, were keen to share this treasured collection for the commemoration, while still retaining ownership of the items.

For the Library it was an chance to showcase these documents in one of two exhibitions organised for the 1916 commemoration but also a fortuitous opportunity to add the collection to the Library's new digital library and make the documents available for research. The collection was listed and scanned and is now available at www.maynoothdigitalcollections.ie.

Ua Buachalla

Domhnall Ua Buachalla was born on the 3rd of February 1866 in Maynooth, county Kildare. His father, Cornelius Buckley, a shopkeeper, was a native Irish speaker from county Cork. His mother, Sarah Jacob, was the daughter of Joshua Jacob, the founder of the 'White Quakers'. Ua Buachalla took over the family business from his father and ran a successful shop on Main Street, Maynooth.

Ua Buachalla, himself a fluent speaker, became a well-known supporter of the Irish language and a member of the Gaelic League.

He organised the Maynooth branch of the League and ran Irish language classes in the town.

In 1905, Ua Buachalla was prosecuted for the crime of having his name on the side of his delivery cart in Irish. He lost his case, and as he refused to pay the fine, the local sheriff had goods confiscated from Ua Buachalla's shop. The goods were sold at public auction, after which the sole bidder returned the items to their owner.

Ua Buachalla was also a member of the Irish Volunteers and a friend of Patrick Pearse. On hearing that the Rising had begun in Dublin on the 24th of April 1916, he and 14 others of the Maynooth Volunteers marched to Dublin to join in the fight. They first called to Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth to receive a blessing from its President, Monsignor John R. Hogan.

After his subsequent arrest Ua Buachalla was imprisoned in Knutsford jail before being transferred to Frongoch internment camp. He remained a prisoner until December 1916.

Ua Buachalla political career began in earnest when he won a seat in the 1918 general election as a member of Sinn Féin. He refused to take his seat in Westminster and attended the opening session of the first Dáil on the 21 January 1919.

He was elected unopposed in the 1921 election, again standing for Sinn Féin. He opposed the Treaty and fought with anti-treaty forces in the ensuing Civil War, resulting in his imprisonment in Dundalk in 1922. Undeterred after losing his parliamentary seat in the

election of 1922 but successfully fought the 1927 election, standing as Fianna Fáil candidate in Kildare. He held this position until his defeat five years later.

In 1932, Ua Buachalla was appointed chairman of a commission to investigate conditions in the Gaeltacht. However, by November of the year he was asked by De Valera to take up the office of Governor General. This appointment was part of De Valera's efforts to dismantle parts of the Treaty and remove all reference to the King in the Irish Constitution. Rather than living in the vice regal lodge and hosting functions, Ua Buachalla as Governor General lived modestly and was rarely seen in public. His most notable acts while in office were the signing of the Constitutional Removal of Oath Act of 1933 and the Constitutional Amendment no. 27 bill of 1936, which abolished the office of Governor General.

He married Sinéad Walsh in 1897 and they had seven children. He died on the 30th of October 1963 and was given a State Funeral with full military honours.

The Archive

This collection consists of a series of documents relating to Ua Buachalla interests and political career from 1900 to 1968.

The earliest material includes receipts and letters relating to Ua Buachalla's involvement with the Gaelic League and Irish language classes in Maynooth, including a series of letters from Mícheal Ó hÍceadha, Professor of Irish, Saint Patrick's College Maynooth and Vice-President of the Gaelic League.

The collection also contains documents relating to Ua Buachalla's role in the Irish Volunteers in Maynooth, his internment in Frongoch in 1916, his involvement

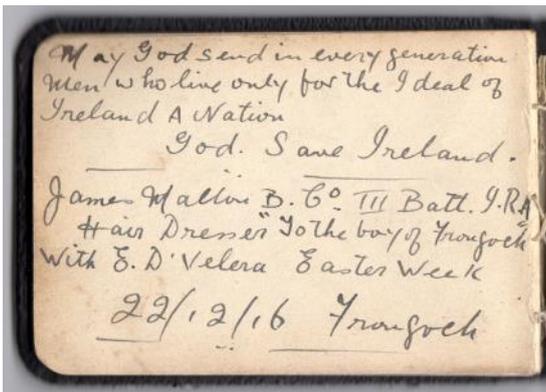
in Sinn Féin, the Dáil and general elections and his role as Governor General.

Documents of note include enrolment forms for members of the Irish Volunteers in Maynooth from November 1914 (PP26/2/1/1), notice of order of interment issued to Ua Buachalla in 1916 (PP26/2/1/3) and a letter from Countess Markievicz, T.D. regarding farmers in Maynooth allowing land to go fallow (26 February 1920) (PP26/2/3/4).

*Ua Buachalla's Irish Volunteers enrolment form 1914
PP26/2/1/1(19)*

Ua Buachalla also kept an autograph book during his time in Frongoch, which is filled with autographs, poems and sketches by his fellow detainees. It includes the signatures of Micheál Ó Murchadha, J.M Stanley, Cathal Mac Dubhghaill, Liam Ó Briain, James Mallon, Joseph Lawless, Sean Gogan, Páid Ua Braonáin, Brian Ó hUigínn, James Fitzgerald, Gearóid O'Beoláin, Séamus Ó Fearghail, Joseph Begley, P.J. McNamara, Patrick Cole and others.

The final entry in the book is by William Sears, 74 Leinster Road, Rathmines, who writes on the 22nd of December 1916 'Last night in Frongoch Camp. The Boys going home in as good a spirit as when they were out on Easter Monday' (PP26/2/1/7). The collection also contains ephemera such as invitations, tickets, posters and flyers.



*Pages from the Ua Buachalla Frongoch autograph book
PP26/2/17*



Members of the Ua Buachalla family with staff from Maynooth University and Saint Patrick's College at the exhibition launch

The exhibition ran in the John Paul II Library until the beginning of May and will be available to view in the Russell Library, over the summer from June 2016.

For more information on the exhibition please contact Special Collections and Archives on library.specialcollection@nuim.ie or on 01 7083890.

The Domhnall Ua Buachalla Exhibition and the 1916 Commemoration at Maynooth.

As part of Maynooth University's programme of events to mark the centenary of the 1916 Rising, 'Domhnall Ua Buachalla: An Exhibition' was launched in the John Paul II Library on the 10th of March. The exhibition is a collaboration between Maynooth University Library and St. Patrick's College Maynooth, and a wonderful opportunity for students, staff and members of the public to see this extraordinary collection.

The launch was also a chance for members of the Ua Buachalla family to see the work that has been carried out on the documents and the outcome of their generous donation of the collection. The Ua Buachalla's family shop is still fondly remembered by local residents and the event and exhibition was well attended.

Ciara Joyce,
Archivist,

Maynooth University Library