

Mayo Heritage

Newsletter

Vol. IV Issue 9
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YouTube



Book of the week

DR. KATHLEEN LYNN

Buy online

We profile

Dr. Kathleen Lynn

revolutionary daughter of Mayo

Brief history of

Mullafarry



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Cover images: Portrait of Dr. Kathleen Lynn, Dr. Kathleen Lynn pictured with some infants in her care and nurses line the street as the remains of Dr. Kathleen Lynn pass St. Ultan's Hospital on the way to Deansgrange Cemetery 1955 (images from eirigi.com)

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Dr. Kathleen Lynn, revolutionary daughter of Mayo



Kathleen Florence Lynn was born on January 28th 1874 in Mullafarry, near Killala, Co. Mayo. She was the daughter of Catherine Wynne and Rev. Robert Lynn, a Church of Ireland clergyman.

She studied medicine at Cecilia Street Medical School (known today as University College Dublin School of Medicine).

Following postgraduate studies in the United States she became a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

Kathleen joined the staff of Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital after she was refused a position at the Adelaide Hospital because of her gender. She served at the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital from 1910 to 1916.

Although she came from a reputable and affluent background, Kathleen was most concerned in her professional life with those less privileged.

Motivated by her friends and labour activists Helena Molony and Constance Markievicz, she became an advocate for the rights of women, and was a member of the Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association in 1903.

During the Dublin Lockout of 1913 Kathleen became active in the relief efforts for the workers and their families who had been locked out by their employers. She saw first-hand the suffering of Dublin's people through her work in the city's soup kitchens.

In the lead up to Easter 1916 she crossed the threshold from social activism into armed revolution.

As a friend and supporter of James Connolly, he invited her to join the Irish Citizen Army (ICA).

At the young age of 42 years, Dr. Kathleen Lynn, became a Captain and Chief Medical Officer of the ICA.

This act came at a great personal cost – alienation, at least temporarily, from her family, loss of personal friendships and social ostracism, the trauma of war, jail in Kilmainham and Mountjoy, along with the loss of her job in the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital.

Following the Easter Rising her political career continued and she became vice-president of Sinn Féin's Executive in 1917. She used her home in Rathmines for meetings of Cumann na dTeachtaire – the league of women delegates. In 1923 she was elected to Dáil Eireann.

In her professional life, she played a significant role during the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918-1919.

She helped establish the first paediatric hospital, St. Ultan's Hospital, in Charlemont Street which provided essential medical and educational facilities for infants and their mothers.

Her dedication to health reform introduced pioneering tuberculosis vaccination and developed relationships with medical practitioners in the United States.

Kathleen died on September 14th 1955, aged 81. She is buried in the family plot in Deansgrange Cemetery in Dublin. In tribute to her lifetime commitment to public service and medicine she was given a full military funeral, a guard of honour with former members from the ICA and nurses lined the route as her cortege passed to the cemetery.

In 2017 Achill based artist Maeve Clancy was commissioned by Mayo County Council to create a biography in commemoration of Kathleen Lynn's life in a graphic novel style. This biography is our Book of the Week.

References:
irishtimes.com
mayo-ireland.ie
historyireland.com
creativecentenaries.org

A brief history of the townland of **MULLAFARRY**

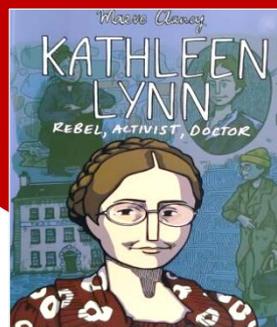
(*Mullach Farraigh*, summit of the meeting-place)

Located in the north of the parish of Bally-sakeery. Bounded on the north by Killala parish; east by Killala parish and the Glebe; south by Lisglennon townlands; south-west by Cloonawillin townland; and west by the townland of Magherabrack. It contains 322 acres, 2 roods, 37 perches*. The property of Lord Arran, and held by tenants who have leases of 3 lives at 18 shillings per acre. Soil, light gravelly clay, producing barley, oats, flax and potatoes. The inhabitants seem to live comfortably. In the south part of the townland there is a Presbyterian Meeting House.

* *There are 40 perches in a rood, and 4 roods in an acre.*

Extract from Ordnance Survey Letters of 1838

BOOK OF THE WEEK



KATHLEEN LYNN

by Maeve Clancy and
Mayo County Council

Read the fascinating story of this woman from Mullafarry, Co. Mayo who became known as the 'revolutionary daughter of Mayo'. This is a cartoon-style publication which is aimed at teenagers. It is a very accessible way to access history and is becoming a very popular format.

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Gravestone of Kathleen Lynn
(Image from findagrave.com)