

George Reynolds of Redmond's Hill, Dublin was from his earliest years a fluent Irish speaker, and he taught Irish in one of the Gaelic League branches in the City.

When the call came in 1916 he answered it at once and was placed in charge of a number of Volunteers who were assigned to Clanwilliam House, Mount St Bridge. It is unnecessary to recall the extraordinary fight, the wonderful courage, and the indomitable spirit of the men who in this house held at bay the might of the British Army until the Wednesday of Easter Week, when weight of numbers ultimately overcame these gallant few and, although some escaped, two were shot dead and George Redmond wounded in the thigh was it is surmised burned to death.

His business premises in Abbey St were destroyed by the British Military and no compensation was paid to his next of kin as while his countrymen rightly regarded him as a patriot, the British Authorities looked upon him as a rebel. He had a room in his sisters' premises in Redmond's Hill where he kept a stock of guns and ammunition and he effected repairs to many of the guns on these premises.

When the fight was at its height his sisters handed over a large quantity of ammunition to the Volunteers in Jacobs Factory and there is no doubt that this helped to prolong the struggle in this district.

During Easter Week 1916 Commandant MacDonagh who was in charge of the Volunteers in Jacobs Factory informed the sisters Mary and Anne Reynolds that their brother George was in Clanwilliam House, and sent a horse and car for boots, clothing etc, which he required for men who had arrived from the Country. He further informed the sisters that all the goods taken would be paid for but owing to the stress of the times this would appear to have been forgotten as the sisters never received one penny for them.

Unfortunately for the sisters their business which was a prosperous one declined in recent years and when the Dublin Corporation took over their premises for street widening purposes, the compensation paid to them was only sufficient to discharge all their debts and they were left penniless.

They never made application to the Government for a pension until recently when dire necessity compelled them to do so.

One of the sisters is employed in a temporary capacity in the Castle at £2.3.0 per week and this is the only money upon which they have to live.

They are dependent on the charity of their friends with one of whom they are staying and who is not charging anything for the rooms which they occupy. Their case is one of particular hardship having regard to the fight for freedom in which their brother took such a prominent part and it is felt that the Government should in the sisters distress grant each of them a pension, one of which should not however take effect until the position which she at present hold ceases to exist and she is left without means to help her in her old age.

The sisters feel that if all the facts were brought to the notice of the Taoiseach he would give the case his most sympathetic consideration and they have no doubt that he would take immediate steps to help them in their necessity.

Their brother George died for Ireland; surely the Nation will not allow his sisters to end their days in penury and want.

Mary Reynolds

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