

The Daly Family of Limerick

by Tom Donovan

The Daly family surely contributed more to the cause of Irish freedom than any other family in Ireland. The Fenian John Daly and his brother were involved in a campaign to rid Ireland of British rule from a very young age. In 1867 John Daly fought in the Fenian Rising in Kilmallock and Edward was a committed nationalist until he died at a young age, shortly before his only son was born. That son, Edward (Ned) took up the mantle from his father and uncle and was executed for his part in the Easter Rising in 1916, shortly before his Uncle John succumbed to illness. Ned's sisters were all dedicated to the same cause and chose like-minded men for husbands. Kathleen married Tom Clarke, the first signatory of the Proclamation, Nora married Éamonn de hÓir (Dore) who fought gallantly in the GPO in 1916 and Laura married Volunteer Captain James O'Sullivan, of the Irish Volunteers and one of Ned Daly's closest friends.

First Generation

James, Michael and Laura (Lollie) emigrated to New Caledonia, John Daly (Fenian) unmarried, Edward married Catharine O'Mara.

Children of Edward Daly and Catharine O'Mara

Eileen, married Edward O'Toole, three children, John Daly, Eamon and Annette. All grand-children live in USA.

Madge, died unmarried, no children.

Kathleen, married Tom Clarke, three sons, Daly, Tom and Emmet. Two grandsons, Tom and Emmet live in the UK.

Agnes, died unmarried, no children.

Laura married James O'Sullivan, a Captain in the First Battalion, Irish Volunteers, and the closest friend of Ned Daly. They had four children: Ned, John (or Sean), Katharine (Kitty) and Laura.

Caroline (Carrie), died unmarried, no children.

Annie, died unmarried in 1908, aged 21.

Nora married Éamonn de hÓir, a Volunteer from Glin, County Limerick. They had three children; Éamonn Óg who died in the 1970s, Nora and Mairéad (both unmarried, no children).

Commandant Ned Daly: executed in 1916.

Franck and Karine Daly, Dublin are descended from the Daly family of New Caledonia.

The family tree was kindly provided by Helen Litton grand-daughter of Laura Daly O'Sullivan.



The Daly Family in Kilkee, County Clare in the 1890s. (Courtesy of Helen Litton)