

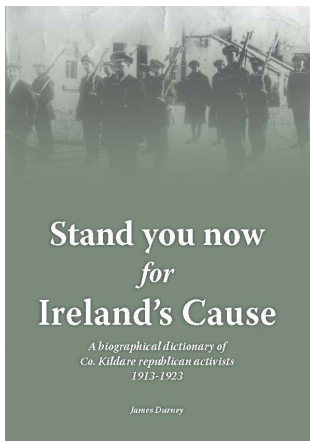


Decade of Centenaries grant report

Recipient name:	James Durney
Amount and year awarded:	€2,000 in 2022
Title of project:	Stand you now for Ireland's Cause. A biographical index of Co. Kildare republican activists 1913-23.

Summary of project:

Stand you now for Ireland's cause is a unique biographical index of Co. Kildare men, women and children who took part in the fight for Ireland's freedom in three revolutionary periods: the 1916 Easter Rising, War of Independence (1919-21) and Civil War (1922-23). Over 1,200 names are included of activists in the Irish Volunteers/Irish Republican Army, Sinn Féin, Cumann na mBan, Fianna Éireann, Irish Citizen Army and the National Army. Where known, I have recorded the date and place of birth, the person's activity as part of the republican movement, and age, place of death and burial. There is also an introductory essay describing the period in Co. Kildare from 1913 to 1923.



Objectives of the project:

The objective of the project was to record all republican activists – men, women and children – from County Kildare who were actively involved in the revolutionary period from 1913 to 1923.

Methodology used in conducting the research:

A wide variety of sources were used to identify the activists. Where known, I have recorded the date and place of birth, the person's activity as part of the republican movement, and age, place of death and burial. The information has been gleaned from birth and death records, the 1901 and 1911 census, medal and



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pensions applications, witness statements and newspaper obituaries. Irish and British arrest and internment records were also used. The newspapers of the day provided arrest, court-martial and release details. Internment registers at the Military Archives, Dublin provided places of detention and release dates. Deaths were recorded after action reports from several sources; internment (death) registers provided more detail. Family members and local historians provided personal information and photographs to help bring many of the characters to life. Where there was scant information available, I have provided all that is known at this time about the participant.

Findings of research and milestones achieved:

The personal sacrifice of the men, women and children from County Kildare in the revolutionary period has been unrecorded. Many served terms of imprisonment in three different phases of the revolution – after 1916, 1919-1921, 1922-1924 – some spent time in up to seven different prisons or internment camps. All would have experienced harsh conditions which led to ill-health, both physical and mental.

In this work I hope I have given each activist their small place in history. The republican activists of County Kildare have been recorded here for posterity, adding to previous research by this author and others carried out on the short grass county in the decade of revolution.

Dissemination of the project outcomes and media coverage:

- Book published (500 copies).
- Launch of book at the Irish Military Seminar, Riverbank Arts Theatre, Newbridge, Co. Kildare.
- Series of presentations planned in as many as possible countywide locations. First presentation: 8 June, Kildare Town Library.
- Book launch advertised on Co. Kildare Library websites, X(personal and library), Facebook.
- Interview on KFM radio.
- Publicised in the Leinster Leader, Kildare Nationalist and Leinster Times, Liffey Champion.

Published work/plans:

- 25 books published.
- 20 academic papers.
- 90 articles.

Lectures given/outreach activities:

200 lectures have been delivered.

Plans for continued communication of the project's results:

Presentations to local history groups and series of lectures planned countywide.



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Plans for furthering the project:

Series of presentations and lectures planned throughout the county.

How the bursary enhanced professional development:

I found it very rewarding to work with the RIA and honoured that my project was deemed fit to be recognised by the RIA. It was a relief while working towards the publication that there was some support behind it.