

1922 ~ 2022

Celebrating 100 Years

Since the Foundation of the State

Dear Resident



The Decade of Centenaries Programme (2012-2023) was initiated under Fine Gael in Government to complement the on-going programme of annual State commemorations – and to ensure that this seminal and complex period in our history, including the Struggle for Independence, the Civil War, and the Foundation of the State, is remembered appropriately and respectfully.

Many of Fine Gael and Cumann na nGaedheal's founders played pivotal roles throughout this period, which was not without tragedy and sacrifice. As Tánaiste and as your local TD, I am pleased to share this very special commemorative leaflet with you. I hope you find it to be of interest.

Leo

Towards the End of 1921: Putting it in Context

As the War of Independence raged between the Irish Republican Army and British forces, both sides recorded heavy losses in response to the events of Bloody Sunday (**November 1920**) and due to the escalating violence around Munster – including the burning of Cork City in **December 1920**.

Martial law was imposed in some counties across Ireland as British forces struggled to counteract Ireland's military strategy, spearheaded by Michael Collins.

Following the occupation and subsequent burning of the Custom House in **May 1921**, which saw heavy losses for Irish forces, it became clear to Collins and other Irish leaders that weapons and



ammunition were in very short supply. Nevertheless, the fighting continued.

On **11th July 1921**, the War of Independence came to an end with both Irish and British forces agreeing to a truce.

In **October 1921**, a group of Irish delegates, led by Arthur Griffith, travelled to London to negotiate the terms of the Anglo-Irish Treaty. The President of the Irish Republic, Éamon de Valera did not attend.

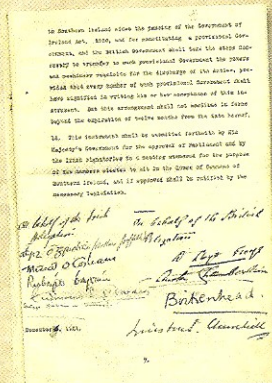
At 2AM on **6th December 1921**, the Anglo-Irish Treaty was signed in 10 Downing Street.

The Anglo-Irish Treaty 1921

Some of the main provisions of the Anglo-Irish Treaty included:

- The establishment of a 32 county Irish Free State;
- That Ireland would be a self-governing dominion within the British Empire like Canada and Australia;
- A clause which would permit Northern Ireland to opt-out of the new Free State if it so wished;
- The establishment of a Boundary Commission to examine the adjustment of the Northern Ireland border;
- An Oath of Allegiance to be pledged to the Constitution of the Irish Free State by Members of the Oireachtas.
- A Council of Ireland made up of representatives from North and South to enable all-island co-operation.

The Cabinet of the Irish Republic was split on the Treaty's contents – however, by a vote of 4 to 3, the Treaty was presented to Dáil Éireann on **14th December 1921** for debate. This would lay the foundations of one of the most tragic periods in our history: The Irish Civil War.



Tánaiste Leo

VARADKAR TD

Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment

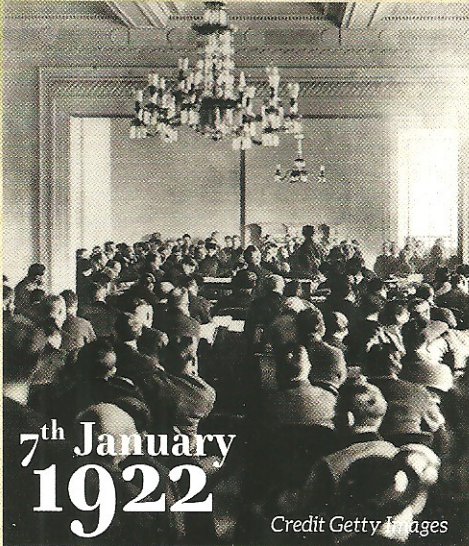
Dublin West Constituency

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FINE GAEL

14th December 1921 - 7th January 1922:

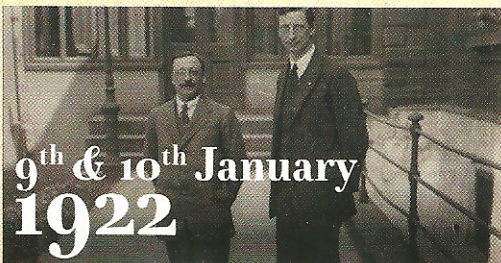
Dáil Éireann debates the Anglo-Irish Treaty at Earlsfort Terrace. These are more commonly known as 'The Treaty Debates.'



7th January
1922

Credit Getty Images

Dáil Éireann votes in favour of the Anglo-Irish Treaty by 64-57. This causes a major split in the Sinn Féin party.



9th & 10th January
1922

Eamon de Valera resigns as President of the Irish Republic and is replaced by Arthur Griffith.

16th January 1922:

Dublin Castle is officially handed over to the Provisional Irish Government, led by Michael Collins.

16th June 1922:

A General Election is held in the midst of the fallout of the Treaty. Pro-Treaty parties receive over 75% of the votes.

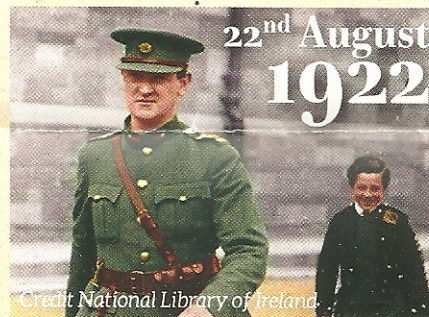
28th June 1922

The Irish Civil War officially begins following the Irish National Army's bombardment of the Four Courts, which was occupied by Anti-Treaty forces.



12th August 1922:

Arthur Griffith, President of Dáil Éireann, dies suddenly.



22nd August
1922

Credit National Library of Ireland

Michael Collins, Chairman of the Provisional Government and Commander-in-Chief of the Irish National Army is killed in an ambush at Beal na Blath.

9th September 1922:

W.T Cosgrave is elected the new President of Dáil Éireann and Chairman of the Provisional Government.

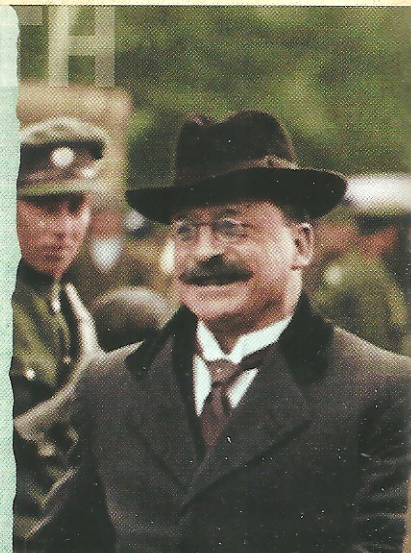
25th October 1922:

The Constitution of the Irish Free State is adopted by Dáil Éireann

The current Sinn Féin party in the Dáil was founded in 1970 when it split from another version of Sinn Féin now called the Workers Party. Despite using the name, its roots are distant from the original Sinn Féin founded by Griffith and led by Collins. The majority of TDs elected for the original Sinn Féin voted for the Treaty and many found their way into Cumann na nGaedheal and later Fine Gael. For more information, read *'A guide to the many groups who've used the Sinn Féin name'* (Séan Ó Duibhir), RTE, 2020.

Arthur Griffith (1871-1922):

Arthur Griffith was one of the earliest Irish political heavyweights of the 20th century – even though he passed away shortly before the Irish Free State came into existence. A founder of the Sinn Féin Party, he became a high-profile figure throughout the First and Second Dáil. Griffith led the Irish Delegation during the Treaty Negotiations and was elected as President of Dáil Éireann following De Valera's resignation after the Dáil's ratification of the Treaty. He died suddenly on 12th August 1922 – ten days before the assassination of Michael Collins.

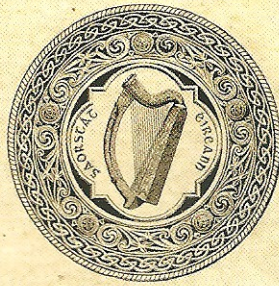


5th December 1922:

The British Parliament formally adopts the Irish Free State Constitution Act 1922.

6th December 1922:

The Irish Free State officially comes into existence.



8th December 1922:

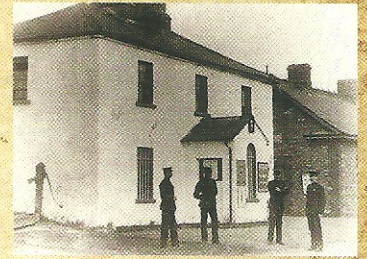
Northern Ireland opts out of the Irish Free State.

1922 – 1924:

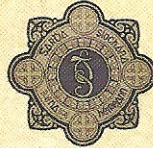
Establishment of Institutions of the Irish Free State

An Garda Síochána:

The Anglo-Irish Treaty led to the disbanding of the Royal Irish Constabulary. In 1922, Michael Collins ordered the recruitment of a new police force called the Civic Guard. On August 8th 1923, the Civic Guard was renamed An



Blanchardstown RIC station pictured in 1910, located just off the Main Street, was handed over to An Garda Síochána in 1922



Garda Síochána – the very same force that continues to keep the peace on our streets today.

Óglaigh na hÉireann:

The Defence Forces (Temporary Provisions) Act 1923 was enacted 'to raise and maintain an armed force to be called Óglaigh na hÉireann.' This new force was established in 1924 and is still the only legitimate armed force in Ireland, despite what certain other parties may argue.



The Courts:

A new legal system was introduced through the Courts of Justice Act 1924 by Kevin O'Higgins that was based largely on the British system. This comprised of a District Court, Circuit Court, High Court, Court of Criminal Appeal and the Supreme Court. Any Supreme Court decision could be appealed to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council – a right that was ultimately abolished in 1933.

While the Irish Civil Service was not established by law, it was regulated by the Civil Service Regulation Act 1924.

“On behalf of Ireland, one of the oldest and yet one of the youngest nations, and speaking for the Irish Government and the Irish Delegation, I thank this Assembly of the League of Nations for the unanimous courtesy and readiness with which our application to be admitted to membership of the League has been received and approved.”

W.T. Cosgrave, 10th September 1923 at the Assembly of the League of Nations.

The Irish Free State constitution was among the first in the world to give women the right to vote and stand for election on the same basis as men.

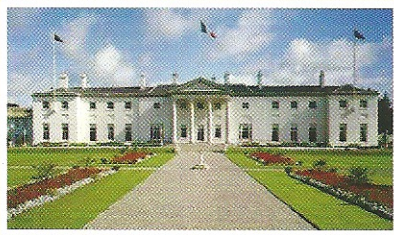
Michael Collins (1890-1922):

There is no denying the fact that Michael Collins was one of the greatest leading lights throughout Ireland's struggle for Independence. A cunning strategist, he masterminded an intelligence network and republican military campaign that sought to undermine British rule in Ireland. He soon became the most-wanted man in the British Empire. Notwithstanding this status, Collins travelled to 10 Downing Street as one of five plenipotentiaries to negotiate the Anglo-Irish Treaty. Following the passage of the Treaty, he became Chairman of the Provisional Government of the Irish Free State. He served as Commander in Chief of the (Irish Free State) National Army at the outbreak of Civil War in 1922. The National Army proved to be successful against the Anti-Treaty Forces, however, Collins would ultimately never see the conclusion of the war. He was assassinated, aged 31, at Beal na Blath on 22nd August 1922 – a week after the sudden death of Arthur Griffith and a few short months before the Irish Free State came into existence.

The Phoenix Park

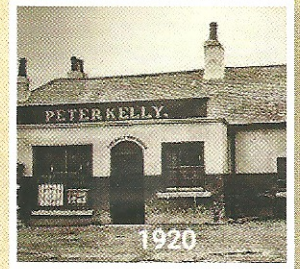
- some of the many links to the Decade of Centenaries

Áras an Uachtaráin in the Phoenix Park, built in 1757, was originally the Viceregal Lodge where the representative of the King in Ireland lived. It became the residence of the Governor-General under the Irish Free State until 1932 when it was left vacant. It was planned to demolish it and build a new residence for the President on the grounds but this plan was scrapped in the war and it was renovated and enlarged instead.



The **Magazine Fort** was used by the British army for 250 years. It was raided during the 1916 Rising. An unarmed member of the garrison and an armed sentry were shot in what was among the first actions in the Rising. The rebels planned to blow it up but were unsuccessful. Raided by the IRA in 1939, it became known as the 'Christmas Raid'. They stole weapons and ammunition from the Irish Army but most of it was recovered. The Fort is currently undergoing restoration by the OPW with the aim of turning this historic site into a new visitor attraction and museum.

The **Ashtown Ambush** occurred near Kelly's Pub (now the Halfway House) in December 1919 when eleven volunteers unsuccessfully attempted to assassinate the Viceroy, Lord French, on his return home to the Phoenix Park via Ashtown Train Station. One of them, Martin Savage was killed and gave his name to **Martin Savage Park**.



Another, Sean Treacy from Tipperary would lose his life the following year in a shootout with crown forces in Dublin. Six of the volunteers went on to serve in the new National Army in 1922. Another, Dan Breen, went on to become a Fianna Fáil TD. Most supported the Treaty and all went on to accept the legitimacy of the new State.

American Ambassador's Residence (Deerfield) was the Chief Secretary's residence. He was the British cabinet member responsible for Ireland. The building became the residence of the US ambassador to Ireland in 1927 symbolising the new State's re-orientation away from Britain and towards America.

The **Phoenix Park Visitor Centre** was the residence of the Under-Secretary of State for Ireland until independence. It was used by the Papal Nuncio up until 1978 reflecting the close and changing relationship between the new Irish state and the Vatican. The nuncio now has a modern residence located on the Navan Road.



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