



## Pipe Band Heritage in the South of Ireland

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## Revival of the Piob Mór in the South of Ireland

The Gaelic Revival of the late-nineteenth-century was a national renewal of interest in the Irish language and Gaelic culture including folklore, literature, sports, music and arts.

The rekindling of interest in the Warpiper and Union Pipes was fostered by the formation of Pipers' Clubs.

### First Steps

The initial organisation promoting piping in the South of Ireland was the **Irish Pipers' Club** or the **Cork Pipers' Club** as it became known, which was formed in 1898. Many pipers in this club played both the Uilleann Pipe and the Bagpipe. (*Piob Mór or Warpiper as it was referred to until approximately 1920*) It was through this club and in particular the efforts of one man, **Seán Smithwick Wayland** (*Seán Ó'Faoláin*), that the revival of bagpipe playing became established in areas outside Dublin and in particular counties Cork, Limerick, Tipperary, Wexford, Waterford and possibly Kilkenny.

Quoting from O'Neills Irish Minstrels and Musicians (1913), "The distinction of popularising the warpipes belongs to Mr. Wayland"....."Equally proficient on the uilleann pipes and warpipes, Mr. Wayland organised and directed one of the best warpipe bands in Ireland from which he furnished pipers and drummers on demand to various meetings and entertainments."



**Cork Pipers' Club - Brian Ború Pipe Band - the first Pipe Band in the South of Ireland**

At an early stage the Club founded a pipe band and called it the Brian Boru Pipe Band, which was the first band in the South of Ireland and the first to parade in kilts.

The first sets of warpipes were bought from J. and R. Glenn of Edinburgh, at £4 per set. The drums were bought from Potter and Son of Aldershot, England.

Seán Wayland was the first warpipe teacher in the Club. He taught Dan O'Gorman and most of the early members. They were first taught the feadóg, then the chanter, then a half-set and finally the full set.

Another formative catalyst in the development of bagpipe playing in the South of Ireland was the **Dublin Pipers' Club** or **Cumann na Piobairí**, which was formed in 1900.

Edward Martyn was the club President and Eamonn Kent is recorded as an early Secretary and his future wife Áine Brennan the Treasurer.

It appears that the earliest warpipe teacher was **P J Nally**, who also made a number of sets of bagpipes for the club. As with the Cork Pipers' Club many of the pipers were players of both the union and warpipes.

### **Expanding the Revival**

Prior to the formation of the Cork and Dublin Pipers' Clubs, bagpipe playing was practically unknown in the South of Ireland apart from a few pipers in Cork, Tipperary and Clare, some of them very old men.

The spread and increase in popularity of bagpipe playing goes hand in hand with the renewed interest in all things Irish and in many senses is greatly aided by the establishment of **Feiseanna**, **Aeríochta** and **Concerts** promoted by the Gaelic League.

The Gaelic League (*Conradh na Gaeilge*) was established in 1893 by enthusiasts of Gaelic language and culture. Initially a small Dublin based group, it spread quickly both geographically and socially throughout Ireland.

In the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, individual members of both the Cork and Dublin Pipers' Clubs were majorly instrumental in the subsequent spread and popularising of warpipe playing during the next two decades. It should be noted that the terms Píob Mór, Warpipe and Bagpipe are interchangeable and only at a later date, if ever, did the two drone set of pipes become synonymous with the term 'warpipe'.

The mouth blown bagpipe was an instrument which was unheard throughout most of the country for centuries and people were amazed and fascinated by the sound and stirring effect which it produced.

To illustrate, in part, how the playing of the bagpipe became more established and spread, the following is gleaned from contemporary newspaper sources.

**Eamonn Kent** is recorded in March 1903 as giving a demonstration on the warpipes at a concert in Co Mayo, later that year, in Co Cork, Sean Wayland and Mr Prendergast gave a demonstration of the instrument at a concert in Clonakilty, while Master Bernie O'Donovan, also of the Cork Pipers' Club, played at a concert in Glandore. The following members of Dublin Pipers' Club, P J Nally, H Sloan and P Fallon are also recorded as giving selections on the warpipes at Mount Argus Concert

In Navan, in July 1904, John Drennan of the Dublin Pipers' Club played a selection on the warpipes at an open air concert.

A 'Pipers' Concert', sponsored by Cumann na Piobairí (Dublin Pipers' Club), was held in the Rotunda on the 17<sup>th</sup> December, where it is noted that bagpipes are played.



**Cork Pipers' Club members Bernie O'Donovan, Michael & Mary McCarthy**

Once more Master Bernard O'Donovan, Skibereen, is recorded as demonstrating the warpipes by playing a selection at the Dingle Feis on 25<sup>th</sup> July 1904. Bernie is equally proficient on the Warpipes and Uilleann pipes and it is noted that he later moved to Chicago USA.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> August 1905, pipers of the Dublin Club play in the Peoples' Park at the 'Blackrock Concert', in costume, while at the Cork Industrial Exhibition, in the Assembly Room, Seán O'Faoláin (*Sean Wayland*) plays selections on the bagpipes, during the opening day, 20<sup>th</sup> November. Another Pipers' Concert was staged by the Dublin Pipers' Club, on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1906, this time in the Gresham Hotel, where P Walsh, John Drennan and Liam Byrne play a number of selections on the Piob Mór, while attendees of the 'Strokestown Feis' marched to the venue behind pipers of the Dublin Pipers' Club in July '06.

By late '06, if not before, the Cork Pipers' Club Band (Brian Ború Pipe Band) is parading in full ancient costume.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1907 '**An Paorach**', who formed the London Pipers' Club, plays for a feis at Eochall Arra, Waterford. In the near future the Waterford Independent Warpipers' Band (Waterford Irish National Forester Warpipers') are also known as Piobairí Paorach.



**Seán Smithwick Wayland** (*Seán Ó' Faoláin*)



**William Nathaniel Andrews** (*Liam/Bill Andrews*)

In January 1908, **Sean Wayland** and A Dunne are accorded a great welcome, by a large crowd, when they visit Clonmel, Co Tipperary to see the progress being made by the Warpipers' band which they have been teaching for a year. On St Patrick's Day of the same year, the following members of the Brian Ború Pipers' Band are noted, Pipers: J Wayland, Michael Cremin, J Goulde, Michael McCarthy, while drummers A Dunne and M Hayes are recorded.

Cumann na Piobairí (Dublin Pipers' Club)

Annual General Meeting is held on 5<sup>th</sup> April '08 at 41 Rutland Street, Dublin.

A proposal was adopted to have regular warpipe classes and to form a band.

**William Nathaniel Andrews (Liam Andrews)** was the nominated instructor and at a later date is recorded as Pipe Major of the band, although James Ennis also fills that role at another period.

It is thought that Liam (Bil) Andrews had instruction from P/M William MacKenzie, a pipe maker based in Bolton Street, Dublin and P/M Willie Gray of Glasgow Police Pipers, with whom he kept up a regular correspondence throughout his life. He is credited with teaching many Dublin bands, advertising in December 1911 'Pipe Bands trained and supplied, 113 Capel Street, Dublin'.

In May '08 a 'band of pipers' from the Dublin Pipers' Club perform at the Castlebellingham Feis, Co Louth while at the Oireachtas of the same year, held in Dublin, the Cork Pipers' Club Pipe Band (Brian Ború Pipe Band) are engaged to play for the week.

The Brian Ború Pipe Band is described as winners of an All Ireland Test at Enniscorthy.

The same year Eamonn Ceannt, a clerk with Dublin Corporation and union activist, whom we know is proficient in both types of pipes, and who, since his formative role in establishing the Dublin Pipers' Club, has worked tirelessly in promoting the pipes, travelled to Rome with a group of athletes. Eamonn was the initial Secretary of the Dublin Pipers' Club and married the Treasurer, Áine Brennan in 1905.

It was possibly as a result of his employment in the Corporation and his role in the Gaelic League and the fact that he could play pipes that Eamonn travelled to Rome.



**Eamonn Ceannt**

*It was Ceannt's performance as a war piper, for Pope Pious X during the sacerdotal jubilee celebrations in September 1908 that generated the greatest amount of publicity for Ceannt prior to his subsequent arrest and execution in May 1916. An international sports competition, featuring over 2,000 athletes, was held in the papal gardens to coincide with the Papal Jubilee. The Catholic Men's Society organised the Irish entourage of 200 athletes and pilgrims, who travelled to Rome to partake in the competition along with a contingent from the Dublin Corporation, sanctioned with imparting a message of congratulations to the Pope on behalf of the*

*Irish people. Ceannt was invited to accompany the Irish pilgrims, and was assigned the role of piping the Irish athletes onto the athletics field. As the newspapers report, Ceannt, in fact, pipes the Irish contingent absolutely everywhere, from the moment they leave the docks on the North Wall in Dublin. Indeed two pipers travel to Rome, Pádraig Breathnach accompanies Ceannt. During the visit, the Irish pilgrims obtain an audience with the Pope.*

*Seán T. Ó Ceallaigh makes an address to the Pope in Irish, while Ceannt and the rest of the pilgrims line up outside the Pope's Chambers. Just as the Pope is about to emerge Ceannt discovers a hole in his bag and Breathnach's pipes save the day. Ceannt cranks up the pipes, marching up and down the Consistorial Hall of the papal palace, playing the 'Wearing of the Green'.*

There is a gradual spread of pipe playing and the following are given as playing selections on the warpipes throughout 1909, J Goulde at the Cork Agri Show on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July (Cork Pipers' Club) and on the previous evening Maggie McDonnell (St Patrick's Warpipers Limerick), Mr Brennan (Athleague) play at a concert.



**Ballagh Warpipers, Co Tipperary 1909**

In February '10 Liam O'Keefe, Knockavilla makes bagpipes for the Ballagh Warpipers' Band Co Tipperary. The instruments were made from boxwood and yew.

Dublin Pipers' Club Band is active and play in Galway for the Dublin Gaelic League's annual outing.

In May 1911 young pipers and a drummer of the Cork Pipers' Club (Masters Conroy, J O'Sullivan & Theo McCarthy) cause a stir and presented quite a spectacle when they played in costume for a Wedding Party in Roscarbery, Co Cork, while in Youghal at a 'Gaelic Concert' it is noted that the Pipers' Club Warpipers' Band is at full strength.

Also in 1911 St Patrick's Warpipers, Limerick are fundraising to get new costumes, while in October of that year, it is sad to note that **P J Nally** of the Dublin Pipers' Club dies.



### **St Colmcille Warpipers' Tullamore, Offally 1911**

**Limerick Leader 30<sup>th</sup> August 1911 Wednesday**

A Pipers' Band is being established in Newcastle West. A sum of £35 was collected at the church gate on Sunday last for the project. It is proposed to get eight pipes, four side drums and a bass drum and to secure the services of a first class teacher. A number of musically inclined young men in the town are taking the matter up enthusiastically and the project is almost certain to be an unqualified success, as it has behind it all that is best and most patriotic in Newcastle West.

**Mr Francis Joseph Bigger** is a man who deserves great recognition and who is a major personage in the revival of bagpipe playing in the South of Ireland, presents a new Black Raven Banner to Lusk Warpipers on 16<sup>th</sup> June 1912, also present were O'Neill Warpipers, Belfast and Skerries Brass & Reed Band.

In August '12 **Seán Wayland**, the driving force behind the Cork Pipers' Club, and the main person behind the revival of piping in Munster and South Leinster, is accorded a hero's send off when he departs for Perth, Australia. Tales of his journey will be recorded elsewhere. This was an incalculable loss to piping in the south of the country and one from which the Cork Pipers' Club never truly recovered.

### **Important Lectures & Newspaper Articles**

On 30<sup>th</sup> January 1912, Eamonn Ceannt and James Ennis, of the Dublin Pipers' Club, give a lecture, illustrated by lantern slides, on the bagpipes at the National Museum, Kildare Street.

At the lecture, Eamonn Kent (Ceannt) said that the bagpipe was an instrument of great antiquity and of wide distribution. He stated that the difficult question for Irish 'revivalists' of the warpipes was what form of the instrument to adopt. He stated that the Dublin Pipers' Club had made the bold decision to adopt the three drone pipe of their Scottish brethren, arguing that the Scots had preserved and developed the instrument to the present stage, therefore it would be unwise and unnecessary to depart from the existing model. Demonstrations on both the uilleann and warpipes followed.

P J Nally, who passed away in October 1911 had made several sets of three droned pipes for the Dublin Pipers' Club.

At the opposite end of the year another workshop, including lectures and demonstrations, was held by members of the Dublin Pipers' Club, on 20<sup>th</sup> December at 25 Rutland Square, Dublin. This time the facilitators are **William (Bill) Andrews, Eamonn Ceannt** and **James Ennis**.

Eamonn Ceannt gave a lecture on the history of the instrument and is generally regarded as playing a prominent part in the current spread of Piobaireacht. (*possibly meaning 'piping' in this context*)

An article which appeared in almost all newspapers, both local and national, in June 1912, almost certainly written by Michael O'Duibhgin (Michael Deegan) who was Secretary of the Dublin Pipers' Club and also associated with the Gaelic League. This was a 'state of the union' type essay, the most salient points being:

#### Irish Warpipes

- Pipes practically unknown a very few years ago. - a few pipers in Cork, Tipperary and Clare, some of them old men.
- 1912 pipers to be numbered by the score, if not by the hundred, Pipe Bands are springing up all over.
- The Dublin & Cork Pipers' Clubs establish at the turn of the century were the first to attempt the revival of piping south of the Boyne. They taught many pupils, many now excellent performers – made the instrument known and heard throughout the country, playing at concerts and feiseanna.
- In 1912 there are important pipe bands in Armagh, Athlone, Belfast, Cork, Dublin, Galway, Lusk, Wexford County, Waterford & Youghal.
- Impossible to estimate how very much the success is owed to **Francis J Biggar** of Belfast. He has helped bands far from his native Belfast.
- Encouragement from the Gaelic League, programmes for feiseanna include contests for solo and band playing.
- Coiste an tSugradh (Athletic Carnival) inaugurated by the Dublin Gaelic League established the Band Championship of Ireland in 1910. (Winners: 1910 Dublin Pipers Club - 1911 Armagh Band - The Edward Martyn Cup). To this point the Oireachtas catered for solo piping. In 1913 the Oireachtas will combine both competitions on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June in the grounds of UCG Galway.
- 1912 will see a **General Meeting of Warpipers** to consider the questions of music, dress and instruments and to establish if necessary a Pipers' League or Society.
- If intending to learn the pipes – a tutor and practice chanter - Logan's Tutor - Laurie, Glenn, Henderson or Butler's, Bachelor's Walk, Dublin recommended for instruments.
- Practice – if possible secure services of a Scots piper. Number of Irish players who could be considered expert is limited. Pay close attention to tutor and avoid 'tin whistle' style playing.
- Full set pipes should be procured not Reelpipes – three drone sets preferable.
- Bass drummer and one or more kettle-drummer – ordinary band drummers in quick march step does not suit pipers, more of a swing required.
- Writer would prohibit anyone who had a stoop or wore glasses or was otherwise physically defective from playing pipes.

- Regrettable that pipes are not manufactured in Ireland in commercial quantities (small quantities produced by O'Keefe, Knockavilla, Co Tipperary and the late Patrick Nally, Dublin, some now being played by members of the Dublin Pipers' Club)

In an August '14 article, printed in several newspapers, which was possibly penned by J Curry Brownstown Kildare, a member of the executive committee of **Piobairí na hÉireann**, he makes the case for the newly established Irish Volunteer Movement to establish pipe bands, rather than brass or fife and drum bands, as part of their establishment, indicating that instruments, both pipes and drums can be had from McKenzies, Bolton Street and McCulloch's Belfast. Expert advice can be had from the Irish Pipers', 5 Windsor Villas, Ballybough, Dublin.

The Secretary of the **Irish Warpipers' League, Piobairí na hÉireann** was Prionsais Mac Ionraich of the above address.

### **Expansion of the Base**

We have already witnessed the propagating role which **Eamonn Ceannt** (Kent) played in the revival of the Piob Mór and although he may now be better known as an uilleann piper, both sets of pipes offered avenues to an 'Ireland-Irish' identity, however eventually, for him, the warpipes became more strongly aligned to the movement in its political and military manifestation.

**Liam McAndrews** of the Dublin Pipers' Club is an exceedingly important figure in the transmission of the bagpipes, teaching many bands and acting as Pipe Major of others. Some of the bands who benefited from his expertise were the Dublin Pipers' Club Band, Trinity Officer Training Corps Pipe Band, Lusk Pipers' Band (Black Raven), College of Surgeons Pipe Band and he is also recorded as a founding member and instructor to St Lawrence of Howth Pipe Band.

It is interesting to note that Bill Andrews and Eamonn Ceannt were on opposing sides of the 1916 Rebellion with Bill receiving a silver cup in appreciation of his efforts at organising the OTC cadets in the defence of Trinity College from a group of Irish Citizen Army snipers.

In 1910, **Thomas Ashe** was a founder of the Lusk Pipers' Club (Black Raven Pipe Band) and in the same year, the St Lawrence O'Toole Pipe Band was established with **Tom Clarke** as its President.



### **Lusk Pipers' Club 1911**

The Fintan Lalor Pipe Band was founded in 1912 by Bob De Coeur. De Coeur, a chairman of a branch of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union (ITGWU), who arranged with Jim Larkin for a loan

of £25 from central funds to buy instruments and equip the band. Fintan Lalors went on to be closely associated with the Irish Citizens' Army and the ITGWU.



**Early photograph of Fintan Lalor Pipe Band**



**St Laurence O'Toole Pipe Band - Bodenstown 1913**

In the years immediately preceding 1916, the warpipes and warpipers' bands, in particular, took on an increasingly social, political and military significance, as their performances, quite literally, mobilised national identity.

Black Raven, Fintan Lalor and St Laurence O'Toole bands played an integral role in the national and union movements performing at political gatherings and processions.

Many of the people associated with these bands were participants in the 1916 Easter Rebellion.



**1<sup>st</sup> August 1915 Cork volunteers play at the funeral of Jermiah O'Donovan Rossa**

From 1914 onwards there was a major expansion in the number of pipe bands, with many forming throughout the country as part of the Volunteer Movement. The warpipes (Píob Mór) in fact became the instrument on which the ideological movement of cultural nationalism was most readily articulated.



**Dingle Irish Volunteers 1915**

### **Introduction to Competition**

Feiseanna staged in the early part of the twentieth century became a catalyst through which the bagpipe was promoted, initially, by demonstration but from about 1910 onwards competition was also on general offer.

The first contest for warpipes, to which we have knowledge, was a solo event and happened to be won by a female piper. This was held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1905 during the Clonakilty Feis and Nellie Cullinane, of the Cork Pipers' Club was the victor in the solo warpiping.

The initial pipe band contest was won by the Brian Ború Pipers' Band of the Cork Pipers' Club. The event was Feis Carman, held in Enniscorthy, Co Wexford during May 1908.

Apart from the initial annual **Sugradh Gael/Oireachtas** events held in Dublin, counties Wexford and Waterford appear to be the area in which solo and pipe band contests of the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century found most purchase and both Feis Carman and Feis Portlairge were generally well attended and contested by solo pipers and pipe bands.

It was at Feis Carman, held in New Ross, Co Wexford on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1914 that we have the first recorded placing of St Laurence O'Toole Pipe Band in a contest, when they achieved second place to Art Mc Murrough Warpipers, Enniscorthy.



**Art McMurrough Warpipers Enniscorthy**



**Gorey Trade and Labour Pipe Band**



**Waterford Irish National Foresters Warpipers**

### **The Irish Warpipers' League / Piobairí na hÉireann**

Promoted by **Francis J Biggar, Belfast MRIA** a 'Conference of Pipers' was held, during the Oireachtas, on 30th June 1912.

Mr Biggar advocated the formation of a Pipers' League and felt such a League would be of great benefit to individual pipers, bands and clubs of pipers. Thus was formed the first organisation for the specific advocacy of warpipers (Piob Mór) and pipe bands in the South of Ireland.

At the June'12 meeting it was unanimously decided that:

- A Pipers' League for the Piob Mór be formed.
- All members to be speakers or students of Irish, speaking Irish on all occasions and as far as possible wearing national costume made in Ireland of Irish materials.
- A discussion on the music to be played determined that the Gaelic music of Scotland and Ireland was appropriate.

#### Officers

President	F J Biggar MRIA
V/President	Thomas Ashe, NT Lusk
Secretary	Prionsais Mac Ionraich (Francis Henderson)
Treasurer	S Mac Niochail

#### Exec. Committee

A Monaghan & James Ennis Dublin Pipers' Club  
S Mac Niocaill Galway, J Curry Brownstown Kildare  
J S Wayland Cork Pipers' Club, F MC Sweeney Athlone Pipers' Club  
Michael Henderson O'Toole Pipers' Dublin  
Seamus Cregan Armagh Pipers' Club



**Thomas Ashe**



**Francis J Biggar**

Throughout its existence the League engaged in a number of projects including, drawing up a scheme for awarding marks at competitions. In addition to its primary aim this was also to be of service to bands preparing for contests.

Arrangements were made with cloth manufacturers for supplying affiliated bands for the making of costumes.

Among the objectives of the League was manufacture of pipes and drums in Ireland and this was realised.

Standard settings for three well known tunes was prepared and sent to bands for massed playing. The League also had in its possession three valuable trophies the property of the Union.

The League had been instructed by its members, to collect and publish Irish pipe tunes and all the affiliated bands were asked to send copies of their tunes to the Secretary for compilation.

League members could avail of:

- 1) Special terms agreed with manufactures for the supply of costume cloth.
- 2) Special terms for the supply of Irish made drums.
- 3) Expert advice could also be had on all matters relating to pipe bands

**Francis J Biggar** remained as President of the organisation, throughout its existence, however, there is no published record of Piobairína hÉireann / the Irish Warpipers' League after 1915.

### **Sugradh Gael & the Oireachtas**

The **Oireachtas** was an arts festival promoting Irish Language and Culture, which ran for a week every year, featuring performances, demonstrations and competitions (literary, music, games, dancing, instrumental etc). The festival was organised by Conradh na Gaeilge and was initiated in 1897.

From its inception until 1912 it was held in Dublin.

For 1908, Coiste an Oireachtas engaged the Cork Pipers' Club, Brian Ború Pipe Band to come to Dublin and play for the week.

In 1909 the Dublin Pipers' Club arranged for six pipers in costume to play for the Oireachtas Reception, which was held indoors due to the poor weather. They also played for the Prize Winners Concert.

An element of the week-long event was the instrumental competitions and such contests became integral to the spread of piping from 1910, the competitive element raising the standard incrementally.

An 'Coiste Sugradh Gael', the Games and Carnival Committee of Dublin Gaelic League, which appears to have been 'aligned' with the Oireachtas Committee, was the body which initially had responsibility for pipe bands, their first promotion being a 'pipe band camp' at the 1910 Oireachtas.

Coupled with this the first bagpipe competition for bands was held at the inaugural Sugradh Gael held at Jones's Road, Dublin on 24<sup>th</sup> July 1910.

Edward Martyn, the philanthropic President of the Dublin Pipers' Club presented a solid silver cup for the winners of the pipe band contest.

For 1911, the Oireachtas, seeing the spectacle and popularity of pipe bands, decided to hold a contest of their own, the Sugradh Gael competition being held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July, while the Oireachtas Pipe Band Contest was staged on the 30<sup>th</sup> July, both events using Jones's Road, Dublin as the venue.

Rationalisation came in 1912 with both contests being merged under the Oireachtas banner.

1914 saw the spread of the Volunteer movement throughout the country and the consequent founding of large numbers of pipe bands directly associated with this movement.

Apart from 1916 the Oireachtas Piping Contests progressed with varying degrees of success until 1920, which event was once more held in Dublin, after which no competitions were held in '21, while the '22 the Oireachtas Contest was scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> August.

The fact that the Oireachtas Committee was proposing two categories for pipe bands within the 1922 contest i.e. one for two droned pipes and one for three droned pipes, caused no little comment in the newspaper columns, however by the date of the proposed contest, the Irish Civil War was in progress. The Civil War put an end to all music gatherings.

In 1923, there were a very limited number of events and in 1924 the Oireachtas was held in Cork with very disappointing entries and no little controversy. According to accounts, most people felt that there was no longer a need for the Gaelic League or specialist music organisations, that the country was in safe hands and our culture would receive due recognition from a native government. The first flush of enthusiasm from the cultural revival had run its course.



**Pipers of Irish Regiments in the British Army**

Very little is known about the role of pipe bands in the Irish regiments of the British Army, which drew their recruiting base from a southern Irish hinterland, in particular regiments such as the Connaught Rangers, the Royal Munster Fusiliers, the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, the Royal Irish Fusiliers, the Royal Irish Regiment, the Prince of Wales Leinster Regiment and the Royal Irish Fusiliers. Between the start of the war and early 1916 John Redmond MP had presented band equipment to equip pipe bands for twelve Irish Regiments, incl 10<sup>th</sup> Royal Dublin Fusiliers, the Irish Guards and 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn Royal Irish Rifles do know that pipe bands existed in these regiments.

General attitudes in the South of Ireland towards returning servicemen were at best ambivalent and public acknowledgement of their sacrifice was scorned.

The influence of demobilised British Army pipers on both civilian pipe bands and bands formed in the new National Army has gone largely unrecorded and it is unlikely that we will ever know their full impact.

However one man in particular, Alex Meikle, a Scot, who had become a POW of the Germans during the Great War, settled in Dublin and his subsequent involvement in piping in the Dublin area raised the standard of playing incalculably.

He is definitely one of the most influential teachers of piping during the next quarter of a century post WW I.

He is mostly remembered as an instructor to the great Fintan Lalor band led by PMs Paddy Solan and T J Keogh, however, he had involvement with other bands including St Laurence O'Toole Pipe Band. As late as 31<sup>st</sup> January 1953 he is recorded as giving a demonstration on pipes, including playing Piobaireachd, in Clonmel Co Tipperary, on behalf of the IPBA.



**Alex Meikle**

## Piobairí na h Éireann

### Irish Warpipers' League

**25<sup>th</sup> May 1912**

*In a press column in An Caidheamh Soluis*

'In conjunction with the Warpiper Competitions on 30<sup>th</sup> June, Mr F J Biggar, a few weeks ago, advocated the holding of a general meeting of warpipers on that day for the purpose of the formation of a Pipers' League and of discussing various matters of interest to pipers and band's.

Michael O Duibhginn of the Sugradh Committee of the Dublin Gaelic League and the Oireachtas Committee stated that every facility to the holding of such meeting will be granted. He asked Secretaries of bands and individual pipers to contact him with their ideas on the questions and suggestions and matters which could usefully discussed.

**30<sup>th</sup> June 1912** *Association of the Oireachtas with the Athletic Carnival of the Dublin Gaelic League*

### Conference of Pipers

Chaired by: Francis J Biggar, Belfast MRIA

Noted that twelve(12) bands formed within the last year and another seven (7) in the process of being formed.

Mr Biggar advocated the formation of a Pipers' League and felt such a League would be of great benefit to individual pipers, bands and clubs of pipers.

Some of the advantages that would accrue would allow them to obtain instruments and equipment at lower cost and would also be a means of ensuring that pipers would not be reproached for buying instruments from England. All instruments had to be imported at present. Manufacture of instruments in Ireland could grow with the advancement of the organisation which they were forming.

It was unanimously decided that

- A Pipers' League for the Piob Mór be formed.
- All members to be speakers or students of Irish, speaking Irish on all occasions and as far as possible wearing national costume made in Ireland of Irish materials.
- A discussion on the music to be played followed and it was decided that the Gaelic music of Scotland and Ireland was appropriate.

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**3<sup>rd</sup> November 1912**

## League of Warpipe Bands of Ireland

Gaelic League  
HQ, Dublin

Chaired by: President Francis J Biggar, Belfast MRIA

Letters from a large number of bands throughout the country, desiring affiliation, enclosing subscriptions and promising support were read.

Adjudicators were secured from Champion Irish pipers.

The Committee is engaged in drawing up a scheme for awarding marks at competitions. This will be of service to bands preparing for contests.

The organisation stressed that in competition the standard of playing must take precedence with marks in competition being split 50% for piping, 25% drumming and 25% general appearance.

Arrangements are being made with cloth manufacturers for supplying affiliated bands.

Among the objectives of the league is the manufacture of pipes in Ireland, anyone with experience in pipemaking should contact the Secretary.

Drums of Irish manufacture are being made in Ulster by Clan Uladh Band of as good quality as foreign ones. These can be inspected at Aonach na Nollag in the Rotunda in December.

An Annual Pipers' Feis is being considered.(piping, dancing, language, union piping etc) If this is decided upon it will be held in a different centre every year.

Standard settings for three well known tunes is being prepared and will be sent to bands for massed playing.

Three valuable trophies are already in the property of the Union.

Correspondence to the Secretary P Mac Ionraic, 5 Windsor Villas, Fairview, Dublin

Next meeting 17<sup>th</sup> November 1912 at the Gaelic League HQ

26<sup>th</sup> January 1913

League of Warpipe Bands of Ireland

Gaelic League  
HQ, Dublin

Chaired by: Vice/President Thomas Ashe, NT Lusk

Apologies from President F J Biggar who could not attend.

Correspondence:

Affiliation fees received from several bands

Enquiries from organisers of new bands in many districts throughout the country

League is negotiating with instrument makers of high repute relative to the manufacture of warpipes in Ireland. A start will be made on this before long.

A well known Irish musician has agreed to make chanter and drone reeds.  
McCullough's, Belfast providing drums made in Ireland of Irish materials.

Arrangements are being made for the holding on an Annual Championships, to be held in Dublin for 1913.

Pipers and friends of the League that bands should play en masse a number of tunes at the annual gathering. Three tunes were selected for this purpose but there was a slight delay in the final setting of these. They will now be shortly completed and forwarded to bands.

The League has been instructed to collect and publish Irish pipe tunes. It would greatly assist the work of the compilers if all the bands were to send copies of their tunes to the Secretary, as has already been done in some cases.

Particulars of the under mentioned may be had on application to the Secretary:

- 4) Special terms agreed with manufactures for the supply of costume cloth.
- 5) Special terms for the supply of Irish made drums.
- 6) Scheme adopted for awarding marks at competitions.

Bands not already affiliated are again asked not to delay any longer.

Affiliation fees may be forwarded to the

Treasurer: S Mac Niochail, 4 St Francis Street, Galway or to the  
Secretary P Mac Ionraic, 6 Windsor Villas, Fairview, Dublin

## August 1914

In an August '14 article, printed in several newspapers, which was possibly penned by J Curry Brownstown Kildare, a member of the executive committee of Piobairí na hÉireann, he makes the case for the newly established Irish Volunteer Movement to establish pipe bands, rather than brass or fife and drum bands, as part of their establishment, indicating that instruments, both pipes and drums can be had from McKenzies, Bolton Street and McCulloch's Belfast. Expert advice can be had from the Irish Pipers' 5 Windsor Villas, Ballybough, Dublin.

**Preparations for the Oireachtas to be held in Dundalk opening on 25<sup>th</sup> July 1915.**

19<sup>th</sup> May 1915

‘The pipers section is under the special care of Mr F J Biggar, President Piobairí na hÉireann and it is his intention that the opening day should be a great Piper Holiday, in which every available band in the country will take part

Through the kindness of Mr Biggar, who has thrown himself into the work in a characteristic manner, the committee have been enabled to set aside £50 to pay the expenses of pipers travelling to the Oireachtas..

A great massed effort by about twenty pipers’ bands from Ireland and England is amongst the attractions of the Oireachtas or National Festival’.



**Francis J Biggar  
President Piobairí na hÉireann  
(Irish Warpipers’ League)**



**Thomas Ashe  
Vice President Piobairí na hÉireann  
(Irish Warpipers’ League)**



**St Brigid’s, Dunleer circa 1915, sporting a flag presented by F J Biggar**

## Early Feiseanna - Spreading the Revival

1<sup>st</sup> July 1905

Clonakilty Feis

Clonakilty, Co Cork

Solo

- 1<sup>st</sup> Nellie Cullinane, Cork Pipers' Club
- 2<sup>nd</sup> T Long, Cork Pipers' Club
- 3<sup>rd</sup> E Barry, Cork Pipers' Club

5<sup>th</sup> September 1905

Leix & Ossory Feis

Grounds of Maryborough  
Asylum

*Tuesday*

Solo

- 1<sup>st</sup> L Mc Glynn, Maryborough
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Martin Bergin, Errill

30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> May 1909

Feis Carman Enniscorthy

Bands

- 1<sup>st</sup> Brian Ború Cork

16<sup>th</sup> May 1910

Feis Carman Wexford Feis

Bands

- 1<sup>st</sup> Kilkenny Warpipers
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Brian Ború Cork
- It was intimated that Brian Ború lost due to having differing uniforms*

Solo

- 1<sup>st</sup> Laurence Gardiner, Kilkenny Social & Athletic Club
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Joe McNamara, Brian Ború Cork
- VHC Danny O'Gormon, Brian Ború Cork & Martin Hennebry

25<sup>th</sup> June 1911

Feis Uisnigh Athlone

Bands

- 1<sup>st</sup> Armagh Pipers' Club
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Uisnigh Pipers Athlone
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Geraldine Pipers Brownstown

18<sup>th</sup> June 1912

Feis na Deise

Dungarven

Bands

1<sup>st</sup> Ardmore

2<sup>nd</sup> Waterford

*5 entries adjudicated by Rev Henebr*

27<sup>th</sup> October 1912

Waterford Feis

Bands

1<sup>st</sup> Portlairge Irish National Foresters (Piobairí Paorach)

*To include Jig & Reel*

Solo

1<sup>st</sup> Michael Wall, Portlairge INF

2<sup>nd</sup> John Cody, Enniscorthy Warpipers

*To include Irish Air, Jig & Reel*

*Solo contest added for first time, Laurence Gardiner, Kilkenny is the adjudicator*

27<sup>th</sup> October 1912

Limerick Feis

Bands

1<sup>st</sup> St Patrick's Warpipe Band, Limerick

2<sup>nd</sup> De Lacey Warpipe Band, Ferns, Co Waterford

St Declan's Ardmore & Geraldine Warpipers

*St Patrick's Warpipers gave the winning cup to the De Lacey Warpipe Band*

11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> May 1913

Feis Carman Wexford Feis

New Ross

Bands

1<sup>st</sup> Kilkenny Warpipers

2<sup>nd</sup> Brian Ború Cork

3<sup>rd</sup> Enniscorthy Warpipers

*10 bands took part*

Solo

1<sup>st</sup> Sean O Leary, Enniscorthy Warpipers

2<sup>nd</sup> Laurence Gardiner, Kilkenny Warpipers

*Over 80 solo competitors*

8<sup>th</sup> June 1913 Fingal Feis Swords

Solo

1<sup>st</sup> J Clarke  
2<sup>nd</sup> J O'Farrell

20<sup>th</sup> July 1913 Waterford Feis Courthouse Courtyard

De Lacy Warpipers get great applause

25<sup>th</sup> June 1914 Feis Carman New Ross  
Wexford Feis

Bands

1<sup>st</sup> Art Mc Murrough Warpipers, Enniscorthy  
2<sup>nd</sup> St Laurence O'Toole Pipers, Dublin

Solo

1<sup>st</sup> John O'Leary, Art Mc Murrough Warpipers, Enniscorthy  
2<sup>nd</sup> Michael Wall, Portlairge INF Pipers

*competitors who have not previously won a feis*

1<sup>st</sup> James Cody, Art Mc Murrough Warpipers, Enniscorthy  
2<sup>nd</sup> Una De Lacy, De Lacy Warpipers

5<sup>th</sup> July 1914 Co Carlow Feis

Bands

1<sup>st</sup> Graigvenamanagh Temperance  
2<sup>nd</sup> Goresbridge

Solo

1<sup>st</sup> M Glinn, Dublin Pipers' Club  
2<sup>nd</sup> T Duggan, Brownstown  
3<sup>rd</sup> Michael O'Leary, Enniscorthy

Musical Syllabus: March, Jigs, Reel and Air

23<sup>rd</sup> May 1915

Feis Carman  
Wexford Feis

Enniscorthy, Co Wexford

Bands

1<sup>st</sup> Art Mc Murrogh Warpipers, Enniscorthy

Solo

1<sup>st</sup> Jack O'Leary, Art Mc Murrogh Warpipers, Enniscorthy

2<sup>nd</sup> P Lawler, Fintan Lalor

*26 entries for the solo contest*

7<sup>th</sup> July 1915

Feis Caher Mór

Tullow

Bands

1<sup>st</sup> Fintan Lalor, Liberty Hall, Dublin

2<sup>nd</sup> Tullamore

3<sup>rd</sup> St Kevin's Bray

4<sup>th</sup> Art Mc Murrogh Warpipers, Enniscorthy

It appears that there was some conflict between members of the National Volunteers, supporters of a band in the contest and Fintan Lalors, whose supporters had to arm themselves with hurley sticks and provide protection to ensure that the band could get to the contest arena and play.

10<sup>th</sup> September 1916

Wicklow Feis

Rathdrum

Bands

1<sup>st</sup> St Kevin's Bray

2<sup>nd</sup> Foxrock Irish Volunteers

24<sup>th</sup> September 1916

Kerry County Feis

Killarney

Bands

1<sup>st</sup> Killarney Volunteers

2<sup>nd</sup> Tralee Volunteers

## Sugradh Gael & the Oireachtas

The **Oireachtas** was an arts festival promoting Irish Language and Culture, which ran for a week every year, featuring performances, demonstrations and competitions (literary, music, games, dancing, instrumental etc). The festival was organised by Conradh na Gaeilge and was initiated in 1897.

From its inception until 1912 it was held in Dublin.

For 1908, Coiste an Oireachtas engaged the Cork Pipers' Club, Brian Ború Pipe Band to come to Dublin and play for the week.

In 1909 the Dublin Pipers' Club arranged for six pipers in costume to play for the Oireachtas Reception, which was held indoors due to the poor weather. They also played for the Prize Winners Concert.

An element of the week-long event was the instrumental competitions and such contests became integral to the spread of piping from 1910, the competitive element raising the standard incrementally.

An 'Coiste Sugradh Gael', the Games and Carnival Committee of Dublin Gaelic League, which appears to have been 'aligned' with the Oireachtas Committee, was the body which initially had responsibility for pipe bands, their first promotion being a 'pipe band camp' at the 1910 Oireachtas.

Coupled with this the first bagpipe competition for bands was held at the inaugural Sugradh Gael held at Jones's Road, Dublin on 24<sup>th</sup> July 1910.

Edward Martyn, the philanthropic President of the Dublin Pipers' Club presented a solid silver cup for the winners of the pipe band contest.

For 1911, the Oireachtas, seeing the spectacle and popularity of pipe bands, decided to hold a contest of their own, the Sugradh Gael competition being held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July, while the Oireachtas Pipe Band Contest was staged on the 30<sup>th</sup> July, both events using Jones's Road, Dublin as the venue.

Rationalisation came in 1912 with both contests being merged under the Oireachtas banner.

1914 saw the spread of the Volunteer movement throughout the country and the consequent founding of large numbers of pipe bands directly associated with this movement.

Apart from 1916 the Oireachtas Piping Contests progressed with varying degrees of success until 1920, which event was once more held in Dublin, after which no competitions were held in '21, while the '22 the Oireachtas Contest was scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> August.

The fact that the Oireachtas Committee was proposing two categories for pipe bands within the 1922 contest i.e. one for two droned pipes and one for three droned pipes, caused no little comment in the newspaper columns, however by the date of the proposed contest, the Irish Civil War was in progress. The Civil War put an end to all music gatherings.

In 1923, there were a very limited number of events and in 1924 the Oireachtas was held in Cork with very disappointing entries and no little controversy.

According to accounts, most people felt that there was no longer a need for the Gaelic League or specialist music organisations, that the country was in safe hands and our culture would receive due recognition from a native government. The first flush of enthusiasm from the cultural revival had run its course.

24<sup>th</sup> July 1910

1<sup>st</sup> Sugradh Gael  
Gaelic League Carnival

Jones's Road, Dublin

**Bands**

1<sup>st</sup> Dublin Pipers' Club

*Styled as the Pipers' Band Championship of Ireland*

*Recorded Bands:*

*Armagh Pipers, Cork Pipers' Club, Enniscorthy & Dublin Pipers' Club*

**Solos**

1<sup>st</sup> Louis Noble, London Pipers' Club

*A pipe band camp is held by the Athletic and Carnival Section (Coiste an tSugradh) of the Dublin Gaelic League.*

2<sup>nd</sup> July 1911

2<sup>nd</sup> Sugradh Gael  
Gaelic League Carnival

Jones's Road, Dublin

**Bands**

1<sup>st</sup> Armagh Pipers

2<sup>nd</sup> Geraldine Warpipers', Brownstown, Co Kildare

3<sup>rd</sup> Cork Pipers' Club

*Adjudicator: William Hope*

*Recorded Bands in attendance:*

*Armagh Pipers, Athlone Pipers' Club, Geraldine Pipers Brownstown, Cork Pipers' Club, De Lacy Warpipers Ferns, St Laurence O'Toole Pipers & Fianna Pipers' Club in attendance.*



*Armagh Warpipers*



*Louis Noble winner of the Warpipes at an tOireachtas 1910 (Dublin) and 1914 (Killarney)*

30<sup>th</sup> July 1911

Oireachtas

Jones's Road, Dublin

**Bands**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Dublin Pipers' Club
- 2<sup>nd</sup> London Pipers' Club
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Cork Pipers' Club
- VHC De Lacy Warpipers

*Adjudicators: Karl Hardebeck, Thomas McDonnell, F O' Coffey & W O' Kane*

**Solo War Pipes**

**Solos**

- 1<sup>st</sup> William Andrews, Dublin Pipers' Club
- 1<sup>st</sup> jt Sean Coughlan, London Pipers' Club
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sean Wayland, Cork Pipers' Club
- VHC Donal Foley, London Pipers' Club, Greenwich

*Recorded Bands in attendance:*

*Dublin Pipers Club, London Pipers Club, Cork Pipers' Club, De Lacy Warpipers, Clan O'Toole Pipers & Fianna Pipers' Club*



*De Lacy Warpipers' Ferns*



*Frank O' Coffey - one of the adjudicators at the 1911 Oireachtas*

31<sup>st</sup> June 1912

Oireachtas

Jones's Road, Dublin

**Bands**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Clann Uladh
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Brownstown, Kildare
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Dublin Pipers' Club

*11 bands competed*

*Adjudicators: Mr Rose, Pithlochry & Mr McLaren, Scotland*

**Solos**

- 1<sup>st</sup> James Ennis, Dublin Pipers' Club
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Eamonn McMara
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Seosamh MacNamara Brian Ború Cork

*Another source gives 2<sup>nd</sup> Maurice O'Connell, London Pipers' Club*

*Special award for the best all round piper presented by F J Biggar went to James Ennis, Dublin Pipers' Club*



*Clann Uladh Pipe Band*



*St Laurence O'Toole Pipers' 1912 note the presence of Tom Clarke*

27<sup>th</sup> July 1913

Oireachtas

UCG Grounds, Galway

**Bands**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Lusk Black Raven Pipers' Band
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Dublin Pipers' Club
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Fudachmud Pipers

*Recorded Bands:*

*The City of Dublin Pipe Band (DPC), St. Laurence O' Toole Pipe Band, Fintan Lalor Pipe Band and DeLacey Family band from Ferns in Co. Wexford, Lusk Pipers' Club, Fudachmud Warpipers*

**Solos**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Maurice O'Connell, London Pipers' Club



*Oireachtas 1913 Galway - Douglas Hyde, Eoin McNeill, Claud Chevasse, James Ennis Dublin Pipers' Club, Thomas Ashe Lusk Pipers' Club & V/Prestdent of Piobairí na hÉireann (Irish Warpipers' League) Eamonn Ceannt Dublin Pipers' Club*



**Lusk Pipers' Club circa 1912/1913**

A marking system for the adjudication of pipe band contests was set up by the Irish Warpipers' League (Piobairí na hÉireann)

A minimum of five pipers per band is required.

26<sup>th</sup> August 1914

Oireachtas

Killarney, Co Kerry

**Bands**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Dublin Pipers Club
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Athlone Pipers Club
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Lusk Pipers Club

*9 bands participated*

**Solo War Pipes**

*Solos*

- 1<sup>st</sup> Lughaidh Mac an Uasail, 35 Mayfield Avenue, East Ealing, London, (*Louis Noble*)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> James Wynne, Sycamore Street, Dublin
- 31 soloists competed*

*There was an objection to the winner of the solo piping as his pipes had been produced in Scotland*

**Best Arrangement of 6 tunes on the warpipes**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Laurence Gardiner, Rathdowney, Queen's Co
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Risteard Mac Ardhuill, Pipers' Club, Lusk

**Best original music for a reel**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jas Wynne, 12 Douglas Street, Glasgow
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Cathal Mac Dubhghaill, Dublin



*Lusk Pipers' Club and others Killarney 1914 including William Gibson (LordAshbourne)*

**New Rules for 1914 included**

Minimum of six pipers also a contest was instigated for the best medley of six tunes on the Warpipes and the best composition of a reel - manuscripts had to be submitted in advance.



*Members of the London Pipers' Club at the Oireachtas Contest, Killarney august 1914*



*Lusk Piper's Club (Black Raven) 26<sup>th</sup> August 1914 parade through Killarney*

The Limerick contingent in this parade was led by a lady solo piper, possibly Miss Maggie McDonnell

25<sup>th</sup> July 1915

Oireachtas

Dundalk, Co Louth

**Bands**

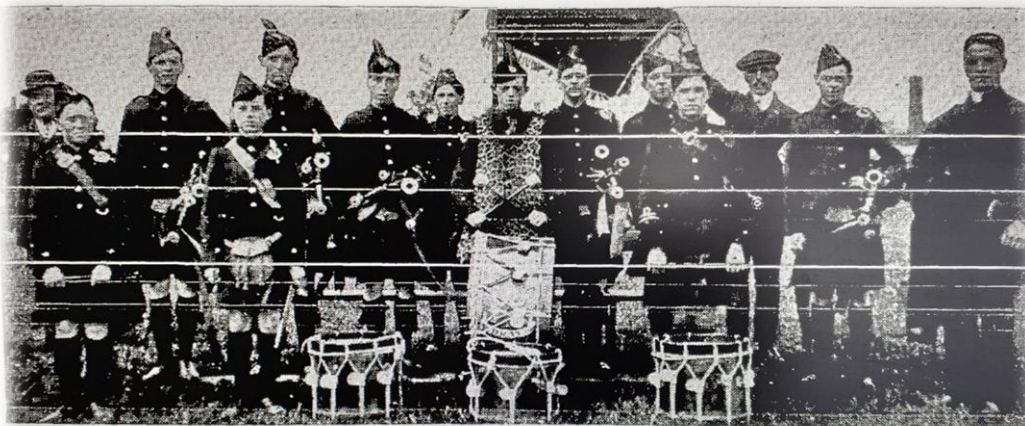
- 1<sup>st</sup> St Kevin's Bray
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Fintan Lalor
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Blackrock, Dublin
- 4<sup>th</sup> Black Raven
- VHC Manchester Boys' Pipe Band

*20 bands participated and a crowd of about 8,000 attended*

Again the best medley of six tunes on the Warpipes and the best composition of a reel were featured prizes.

F J Biggar President of Piobairí na hÉireann (Irish Warpipers' League) provides a subsidy to help finance the expenses of bands travelling to the Oireachtas.

The syllabus required bands to play Irish airs of their own choice, however some argue that 'test pieces' such as provided by the winning selections of best Irish Medley and Reel of the 1914 Oireachtas would be a better gauge of a bands' ability.



"Inneptence."  
piobairí na hÉireann, b'ri cuallann, 'o' n'us craob' an oireachtas 1915.

*St Kevin's Bray*



"Inneptence."  
piobairí ósa thianóin. —bíodar ina mbuóin éoril oirfeamail 'o'n' oireachtas an fear na seachtain.

*Manchester Boys' Pipe Band*



*Adjudicators at the 1915 Oireachta: Ignatius Judd, William Mac Kenzie & Mr Finlay*

Following on from the staging of this contest Coiste an Oireachtas appointed a sub committee to investigate the 'question of the conduct of the 1915 competition'. Representatives of Bray, Fintan Lalor, Blackrock and all the solo pipers placed were called before the sub-committee to give testimony. The core issue is not reported, however the subcommittee reported their findings in October and after serious consideration and debate, the results of the piping contests for the Oireachtas 1915 were upheld.

The Coiste further decided that the names of adjudicators including the reserve judge for the 1916 Oireachtas would be printed with the syllabus.

Preliminary rules adopted for the 1916 Oireachtas, published on 26<sup>th</sup> February, indicated that each participating band and solo player would have to submit six tunes - two marches, two jigs, a reel and a hornpipe, from which, the judges would decide what was to be played. This decision would be made just as the competitor was to perform.

The 'Claidheamh Solais' newspaper of 22<sup>nd</sup> April indicated that the Oicheachtas contest would be held on 5<sup>th</sup> August and stated that the winning six tune medleys and the reel compositions of '14 and '15 would be published in the near future.

Apart from a literary competition the Oireachtas did not hold any contests in 1916.

5<sup>th</sup> August 1917

Oireachtas

Waterford

**Bands**

- 1<sup>st</sup> St Kevin's Bray
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Kells, Co Kilkenny
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Goresbridge, Co Kilkenny

**Solo War Pipes**

- Solos*
- 1<sup>st</sup> Sean O'Laoighre, Enniscorthy
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Muiris O'Connail, Glengariff

*Adjudicators: Karl Hardebeck & A Machay, London*

*Recorded Bands:*

*St Kevin's Bray, Kells, Co Kilkenny, Goresbridge, Co Kilkenny, Art McMurrough Warpipers Enniscorthy & De Lacy Warpipers*



*St Kevin's Bray*



*Art McMurrough Warpipers Enniscorthy*

4<sup>th</sup> August 1918

## Oireachtas

Pavillion Hall, Killarney,  
Co Kerry (*poor weather*)

### Bands

- 1<sup>st</sup> Lusk Pipers Club
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Cork Volunteers
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Volunteers' Pipe Band, Foxrock
- VHC Killarney Volunteers

### Solo War Pipes

#### Solos

- 1<sup>st</sup> Richard McArdle, Lusk
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Michael O'Regan, Foxrock
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Peter Kerwin, Foxrock

*Adjudicators: Karl Hardebeck*



*Lusk Pipers' Club (Black Raven) 1918*



4<sup>th</sup> August 1919  
Monday

## Oireachtas

Fitzgerald Park, Cork

### Bands

- 1<sup>st</sup> Kells Volunteer Warpipers', Kilkenny
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Cork Volunteers
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Na Fianna Warpipers' Dublin

### Solo War Pipes

- Solos*
- 1<sup>st</sup> Muiris O'Conaill, London

### *bands that competed*

*Kells, na Fianna Dublin, Cork Volunteers, Black Raven, St Laurence O'Tooles, Foxrock Volunteers Dublin, Manchester Boys, De Lacy Warpipers*



**De Lacy Warpipers' Ferns, Co Wexford**



**Kells Volunteer Pipe Band**

In 1919 Kells Volunteer Pipe Band performed at the London Gaelic League Annual Concert in Queen's hall, held on St Patrick's day.

Their Pipe major was a Scot, P/M A Mackey who during the concert delivered the orders in Gaelic, whence the band played the Rakes of mallow, the Dublin Jig and Miss McLeod.

Among the prizes recorded by the band were.

1 <sup>st</sup>	Kilkenny	1917
1 <sup>st</sup>	Oireachtas, Waterford	1917
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Feis Carman, New Ross	1918
Special Prize	Kilkenny	1918

1<sup>st</sup>  
2<sup>nd</sup>  
1<sup>st</sup>

Thurles  
Bagenalstown  
Kilkenny

1918  
1919  
1919



**Cork Volunteers 1919**



**Muiris O'Conaill, London** winner of the solo piping at the Oireachtas 1919. Muiris was the secretary of the London Pipers' Club.

2<sup>nd</sup> August 1920  
Monday 6 pm

Oireachtas

Croke Park

**Bands**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Cork Volunteers
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Kilkenny
- 3<sup>rd</sup> St Joseph's Boys, Manchester

*bands participating*

*Cork Volunteers Kilkenny St Joseph's Boys, Manchester, Black Raven, Lusk, Foxrock Volunteers, na Fianna Dublin, St Laurence O'Tooles*



*Cork Volunteers 1920*

**CORK VOLUNTEER PIPERS' BAND.**



Winners of the Band Competition at the Oireachtas which was held in Dublin.

It is noted that the above account on the results of the Oireachtas contests is at variance in some respects with information published in the 'Piping Press' online site about the 'Formation of Competing Bands in Ireland'.

Piping Press Article

*'The winners over the first decade were Dublin Pipers Club (1910), O'Neill Pipers of Armagh (1911), Clann Uladh, Belfast (1912), Black Raven, Lusk (1913 & 1918), Dublin Pipers Club (1914), St Kevin's, Bray (1915 & 1916), De Lacey War Pipers (1917) and the Cork Irish Volunteers (1919).'*

\*All information in this article was gleaned from contemporary newspaper articles.



**Irish Piper (unknown) circa 1915**

## Seminal Characters in the Revival of Bagpipe Playing in the South of Ireland in the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century

**Seán Smithwick Wayland**  
(*Seán Ó' Faoláin*),



1898

1912

It was through the Cork Pipers' Club and in particular the efforts of one man, **Seán Smithwick Wayland** (*Seán Ó' Faoláin*), that the revival of bagpipe playing became established in areas outside Dublin and in particular counties Cork, Limerick, Tipperary, Wexford, Waterford and possibly Kilkenny.

John Smithwick Wayland, born in 1874, was a native of Clonkelly, between Dundrum and the historic Rock of Cashel of the Kings, County Tipperary, where his father, Palliser Wayland, farmed a fertile slice of the Golden Vale.

Equally proficient on the Union pipes and Warpipes, Mr. Wayland organized and directed one of the best Warpiper bands in Ireland, from which he furnished pipers and drummers on demand to various meetings organisations and entertainments throughout the southwest.

Sean Wayland departed for Perth in Australia in August 1912, after which the Cork Pipers' Club went into gradual decline.

### Voyage

*The excitement which his campaign of Irishness created during the voyage is well told in the columns of 'The Irish American' of January 11, 1913, as follows:*

*"A by-product of the movement for the restoration of the Irish language has been the revival of the bagpipes, an instrument that shared with the harp the distinction of being, if not Irish in its origin, associated with Ireland through twenty centuries of its history. Pipers' bands have been formed all over the country and the members clothed in ancient Irish costume, marching with skirling pipes and beating drums, produce a remarkably picturesque and martial effect. Recently Mr. Wayland of Cork, the first of Irish pipers, left Ireland on a visit to Australia and all piping Ireland is in glee today at the account received of the remarkable effect produced by his pipe playing, en route, in France, Italy and Egypt. The vessel in which Mr. Wayland sailed put in for a day or two at Toulon in France, Naples in Italy, and Port Said, and at each place he disembarked, and clad in Irish costume marched through the streets playing his pipes. At Toulon, the people, attracted by the novel spectacle and the martial music, thronged around him cheering and gesticulating through the streets. One man left his carriage to follow the piper, a barber deserting his customer came running to the procession, and the customer, lathered and towelled, followed after. Returning to the Quays the magic piper had an advance guard of some hundreds of children, a rear guard of men and women, sailors, soldiers and gendarmes, singing and cheering the musician. Before boarding the ship the piper struck up the "Marsellaise," and the Toulonese sang it with frantic enthusiasm. The delight of Toulon in the Irish pipes proved embarrassing for the piper at the close, for it was only with the aid of a French officer he succeeded in getting on board his ship, the people were so clamorous for him to stay.*

*"At Naples the scenes of Toulon were repeated on a greater scale. Through the streets of the city the piper marched followed by thousands of enthusiastic Italians, and when in front of the Royal Palace some Irish fellow-passengers danced jigs and reels to the piper's music. The enthusiasm rose to fever pitch. The women took possession of the piper, garlanded him with flowers, and like a Roman conqueror he returned to his ship cheered from the shore until the anchor was lifted. At Port Said the scenes of Toulon and Naples were repeated. Every Irish piper is swelling with pride today at the triumph of Mr. Wayland."*

**P J Nally**

1900

Oct 1911

On June 8th, 1900, the Dublin Pipers' Club was founded. Two pipers who helped to set up the first meeting and who both worked in Dublin Corporation were Eamonn Ceannt and Pat Nally.

Pat Nally, pipemaker and acknowledged expert piper, is said to have chaired the first meeting.

Pat was equally proficient on uilleann and warpipes.

Along with Eoin MacNeill and Edward Martyn, the philanthropic landowner and President of the Dublin Pipers' Club, he attended the "Mod" in Oban, Scotland, in 1898.

Nally, representing the Gaelic League, was given a rousing reception when he played Irish airs on his uilleann pipes.

As well as playing the uilleann pipes, Pat Nally was also considered the foremost authority on the warpipes (Píob Mhór) at that time. Eamonn Ceannt records him as making several sets of three droned pipes for the Dublin Pipers' Club.

P J Nally died in October 1911.

**Eamonn Kent (Ceannt)**

1902

1916



**Éamonn Ceannt** was born on 21 September 1881 in Glenamaddy, Co. Galway. One of seven children born to RIC Constable James Kent and his wife, Johanna. On Leaving school, Ceannt took a job as a clerk in the finance department of Dublin Corporation.

In 1900, together with Edward Martyn and Pat Nally, he helped to set up the Dublin Pipers Club, serving for a time as its secretary.

His commitment to Irish language and culture was serious and he devoted much of his energies to teaching Irish and to promoting Irish traditional music.

From 1903 to 1912 Eamonn Ceannt is recorded as giving lectures and demonstrations on the pipes. It was Ceannt's performance as a war piper, for Pope Pious X in September 1908 that generated the greatest amount of publicity for Ceannt prior to his subsequent arrest and execution for his part in the 1916 Rising.

The seminal role which Eamonn Ceannt (Kent) played in the revival of the Píob Mór, now largely unrecognised, should not be understated and although he may be better remembered as an uilleann piper, both sets of pipes offered, for him, avenues to an 'Ireland-Irish' identity. However eventually, from his perspective, the Píob Mór became more strongly aligned to the movement in its political and military manifestations.

**William Nathaniel Andrews  
(Liam or Bill Andrews)**



Pre 1907 -  
*period of activity*

**William ('Billy', 'Bill') Nathaniel Andrews, (Liam Mac Andrieu)** was born 9 January 1873 in Dublin, son of Arthur Andrews, printer, and Elizabeth Andrews (née Dunne), both protestants. He studied classical music.

He developed a taste for traditional Irish music while playing the flute for dances and he joined the Dublin Pipers Club.

He taught the uilleann and warpipes was instrumental in founding the Dublin Pipers' Club Pipe Band. He is recorded as the instructor for the Club's regular piping classes in 1908 and we also know that pipers of other bands then forming sought his expert instruction. He is said to have had instruction from PM William MacKenzie, a bagpipe maker based in Bolton Street and PM Willie Gray of Glasgow Police PB with whom he corresponded regularly for the rest of his life.

He was Pipe Major to several Dublin bands including the Trinity College Officers' Training Corps, and helped to defend the university against the rebels during the Easter Rising, for which he received a commemorative cup.

He won prizes at the Oireachtas including joint first prize on warpipes in 1911.

He adapted Irish tunes and authored *McCullough's Irish Warpipe Tutor and Tune Book* (c.1926), and wrote articles for '*Piping and Dancing*' Magazine under the pseudonym 'Slainte'. He was also involved in the production of pipes for McCullochs.

Advertisements placed in the newspapers in 1911 by Bill Andrews stated 'Pipe Bands trained and supplied, 113 Capel Street, Dublin'.

Bill Andrews is an exceedingly important figure in the transmission of the bagpipes, teaching many bands and acting as Pipe Major of others. Some of the bands who benefited from his expertise were the Dublin Pipers' Club Band, Trinity Officer Training Corps Pipe Band, Lusk Pipers' Band (Black Raven), College of Surgeons Pipe Band and he is also recorded as a founding member and instructor to St Lawrence of Howth Pipe Band.

**Francis J Bigger (Frank)**

Circa 1900 1916+



**Francis Joseph Bigger MRIA** (1863 – 9 December 1926) was an Irish antiquarian, revivalist, solicitor, architect, author, editor, Member of the Royal Irish Academy, and Fellow of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland.

His house in Belfast was a gathering place for Irish nationalist politicians, artists, scholars, and others. He was a prolific sponsor and promoter of Gaelic culture.

Bigger also joined the Gaelic League, becoming a member of its Coiste Gníotha, which brought him into contact with Douglas Hyde and Eoin McNeill, who would influence many of his ideas.

Bigger's political beliefs, cultural interests and social connections lead him naturally to approach a political career, which seems to have been curtailed by the events of 1916 and the death of friends such as Roger Casement and Patrick Pearse.

Bigger saw his role as promoter of all things Irish, and was involved in the revival of numerous processions, pageants, ceilidhs and feiseanna.

He is a major figure in the revival of the Píob Mór in Ireland.

F J Biggar was the driving force and was primarily instrumental, together with help from Thomas Ashe and Prionsaid Mac Ionraic, in the foundation of the Irish Warpipers' League, Píobairí na hÉireann and was its President.

An article penned in June 1912 and printed in all broadsheets proclaimed:

'Impossible to estimate how very much the success is owed to Francis J Biggar of Belfast in the revival of the warpipe'.

**James Ennis**

1908 -



James Ennis, a civil servant, was originally from the Naul in North County Dublin. He was a champion Irish dancer and a highly accomplished musician – playing several instruments including the warpipes, the uilleann pipes and the flute.

James was the leader of the Dublin Warpipers’ Band which took first prize in the band competition at the Oireachtas of 1910, while he won first prize in the solo playing in 1912 and also the Bigger prize for the best all-round warpiper. He was the father of famous uilleann piper Seamus Ennis

**Thomas Ashe**

1910

1917



Thomas Patrick Ashe was born in Lispole, County Kerry in January 1885. He trained as a teacher in De La Salle College, Waterford and worked as a school principal in Lusk, County Dublin.

Ashe was a member of the Gaelic League, the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) and was a founding member of the Irish Volunteers. Having been brought up in a Gaeltacht region of Ireland, Ashe was an enthusiastic supporter of the Irish language, and his work brought him to the governing body of the Gaelic League.

Thomas Ashe obtained a set of bagpipes from Paddy White the marathon runner, who won the pipes as a prize. *(possibly a set of Hendersons)*

Thomas Ashe taught himself how to play the bagpipes and sometime early in 1910 he and John Rooney decided to start a pipers club. Thus was formed the Lusk Pipers’ Club later known as Black Raven Pipe Band.

Thomas Ashe, in June 1912, was a founding member and V/President of the Irish Warpipers’ League – Píobairí na hÉireann.

## Early Compilations of Irish Music for the Bagpipe

### Irish Tunes for the Scottish and Irish War-Pipes

Compiled by William Walsh and arranged and published in Edinburgh by David Glen 1911



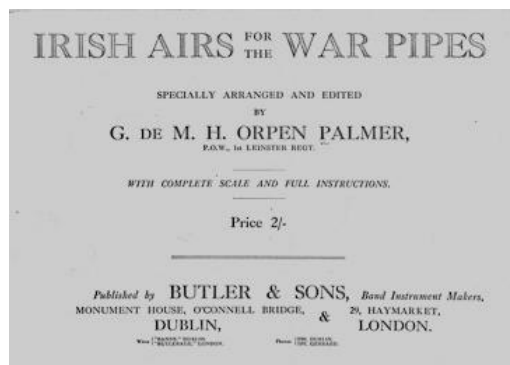
William Walsh, a flute player and dancer as well as a warpiper, and an Irish speaker, was born in 1859 in Oughterard, Co Galway, and was brought to America as a child. Settled in Chicago, he was attracted to the sound of the warpipes, and sought out the company of Scottish players there. He joined the police force in the city in 1891, and was a friend of the music collector Francis O'Neill who was prominent in the force.

Walsh was self-taught in music and learned from notation in preference to ear, and his collection of Irish and Scottish tunes for the instrument was in manuscript by 1909.

David Glen one of a prominent family of musical instrument makers and music publishers which had been in business in Edinburgh since the 1820s, added characteristic grace notes to Walsh's notations. The collection was later reprinted by Glen in a 2/6 edition, and reprinted by Mozart Allan in Glasgow in 1951.

### Irish Airs for the Warpipes

Arranged and edited by Lt Orpen Palmer 1913, published by Butler & Sons, Butler & Son, Monument House, O'Connell Bridge, Dublin .



Geoffrey de Montmorency Herbert Orpen Palmer was a son of the biblical scholar Rev Abraham, of Killowen, Kenmare, Co Kerry. Both he and his brother joined the army and were Battalion Commanders during the Great War. G. de M. H. Orpen-Palmer rose to the rank of Lt Col. He arranged and edited Irish Airs for the War Pipes, published by Butlers of Dublin in January 1913. This volume also contained a 'tutor' section. Lt Orpen Palmer, as he was in 1913 was attached to the

Prince of Wales Leinster Regiment, the geographical hinterland for which was Longford, Meath, West Meath, King and Queen's Counties (Laois and Offally) – his connection to piping unknown, although the publication shows he had an indepth knowledge of the instrument and its notation.

## Irish Tunes for Irish Regiments

In 1919 two booklets were produced containing 73 old Irish Airs altogether. The booklets were entitled, either 'Irish Airs for Irish Warpipes' or 'Irish Tunes for Irish Regiments'.

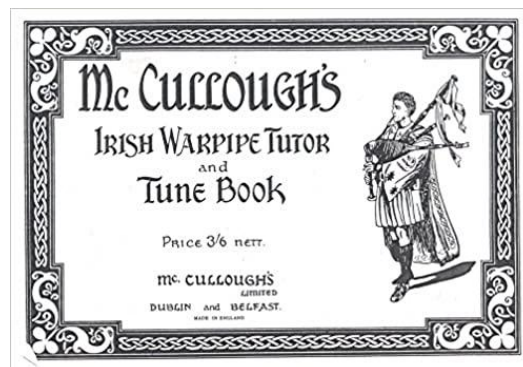
The booklets were produced by Boosey & Co., 295 Regent Street, London and cost 2s each.

Professor St John Lacy of University College Cork compiled and adapted the music for pipes and the volumes also contained drum scores.

Foreword was by Colonel F Sommerville, Commandant Royal School of Music.

## Irish Warpiper Tutor and Tune Book

Written by Bill Andrews 1924



Foreword by Francis Joseph Biggar, Preface by Liam Mac Andrieu.

1st edition published by Mc. Cullough's Dublin and Belfast, 1924

McCullough's Irish Warpiper Tutor and Tune Book was compiled by Liam Andrews.

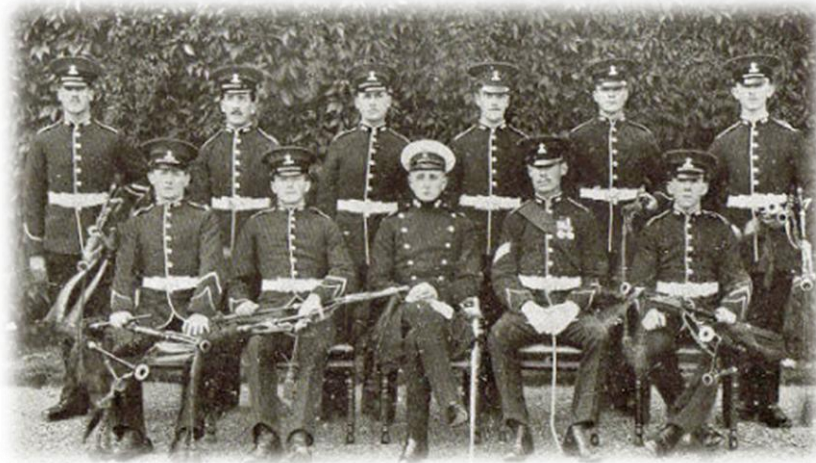
Bill Andrews taught the uilleann and warpiper and was instrumental in founding the Dublin Pipers' Club Pipe Band. He is recorded as the instructor for the Club's regular piping classes in 1908 and we also know that pipers of other bands then forming throughout Dublin sought his expert instruction. Andrews was a prolific writer on the subject of piping and received his instruction from PM William MacKenzie, a bagpipe maker based in Bolton Street and Pipe Major Willie Gray of the Glasgow Police.

He also wrote articles for 'Piping and Dancing' Magazine under the pseudonym 'Slainte'. He was also involved in the production of pipes for McCulloughs.

## Pipe Bands of the Southern Irish Regiments of the British Army

Very little is known about the role of pipe bands in the regiments of the British Army, which drew their recruiting base from a Southern Irish hinterland, in particular regiments such as the Connaught Rangers, the Royal Munster Fusiliers, the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, the Royal Irish Fusiliers, the Royal Irish Regiment, the Prince of Wales Leinster Regiment and the Royal Irish Fusiliers.

We do know that pipe bands existed. In particular we have photographic evidence of the pipe band of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, taken pre war, also it is recorded that a Mr P O'Toole was Pipe Major of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Pipers' Band in 1906 and that this was the first Irish Pipe Band to play for Royalty.



**Pipe Band of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers 1913**

One of the first books of Irish tunes, specifically for the bagpipes, ' Irish Airs for the Warpipes' was arranged and edited by Lt Orpen Palmer of the Prince of Wales Leinster Regiment, the recruiting hinterland of which was Meath, West Meath, King and Queen's Counties. This volume was published by Butler & Son, Monument House, O'Connell Bridge, Dublin in 1913.

During World War I our records of pipe bands in the Irish regiments, gleaned from newspapers, mostly relate to troop movements and recruitment drives.

In late October 1914 the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers arrive in Cork, by train, from Tralee and are led by their pipe band to barracks.

Between the start of the war and early 1916 John Redmond MP had presented band equipment to equip pipe bands for twelve Irish Regiments, incl 10<sup>th</sup> Royal Dublin Fusiliers, the Irish Guards and 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn Royal Irish Rifles.



**Early photo of a Pipe Band of an Irish Regiment in the British Army**

There was a significant effort at recruitment throughout the country from June to November 1915. June '15 - A recruitment meeting is held in Clara, where the Leinsters' pipers and drummers parade. The Pipers' Band of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leinsters are still showing the colours in Meath in November '15. In July the pipers of the 6<sup>th</sup> Bn Royal Irish Regiment are seeking recruits for the army. At a recruiting drive in all towns in Mayo, the pipe band of the Connaught Rangers play throughout September, amongst their pipers are P/M Howard and Pipers, McKeever, Quirke, Biggleton, Gaughan and Kelly. The Pipe Band of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Connaughts is further recorded in Castlebar in November. Also in November during John Redmond's visit to the 'front' in France, a band of Irish warpipers played the 'Wearing of the Green'.



**DRUMS AND PIPES OF 7th (S.) BATTALION THE LEINSTER REGIMENT**  
Srsgt-Drummer Curran, Lce-Cpl. Kenna, Piper Donoghue, Piper O'Boyle, Piper Downes, Piper McElwee, Piper Nugent, Piper Kane, Piper Mullen, Drummer Anderson, Drummer McGrath, Drummer Martin, Drummer McConville, Drummer Coughlan, Drummer Moore, Drummer Morgan, Drummer McLaughlin.

Depicted above, The Prince of Wales Leinster Regiment Pipe Band in 1915, possibly 5<sup>th</sup> Bn. Recorded Members: Sgt Drummer Curran, Lce Cpl Kenna, Pipers O'Boyle, McElwen, Nugent, Kane, Mullen, Drummers Anderson, McGrath, Martin, McConville, Coughlan. Moore, Morgan & McLaughlin.



A sketch of a piper of the Royal Munster Fusiliers playing the remnants of the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn out of the line after the capture of Ginchy, September 1916 during the Battle of the Somme.

Following the end of their involvement in the Battle of the Somme, 1<sup>st</sup> Royal Munster Fusiliers was moved northwards to Ypres in Belgium and it absorbed the remnants of the 8th Royal Munster Fusiliers.

The Munsters spent Christmas 1916 in the trenches, but as the New Year arrived, an official report relates 'as if by mutual consent both sides ceased fire a minute or two before the close of the *old year*'.

*'On the stroke of midnight the pipers of the Munsters tuned up and gave us The Old Year out and the New Year in, A Nation Once Again, God Save Ireland, and a few more songs of the old country, N.C.O.s and men joining lustily in the choruses'.*

What must it have been like for so many Irishmen to come home from the war, having undergone the trauma of modern warfare, to be told that they had wasted their time in the service of an army that was now an enemy of the Irish people?

General attitudes towards returning servicemen were at best ambivalent and public acknowledgement of their sacrifice was scorned.

It is recorded that many returning veterans took part in the War of Independence on the side of the IRA, while regiments of the British Army of Irish origin were posted abroad, as their loyalty was considered suspect, before their eventual demobilisation in 1922.

On formation of the Free State, the new Irish Government may in some ways have been thankful for the presence of the ex-servicemen, given the preponderance of Great War veterans (perhaps up to 50 per cent) who now served in the National Army during the Civil War.

The influence of demobilised British Army pipers on both civilian pipe bands and bands formed in the new National Army has gone largely unrecorded and it is unlikely that we will ever know their full impact. We do know that a Pipe Major Starr, a Scot, also fulfilled that role in the National Army in either Limerick or Cork and subsequently adjudicated at many feiseanna and contests.

Another ex-service man, **Alex Meikle**, a Scot, who had become a POW during the war, settled in Dublin and his subsequent involvement in teaching civilian bands raised the standard of playing incalculably.

He is mostly remembered as an instructor to the great Fintan Lalor band led by PMs Paddy Solan and T J Keogh, however, as late as 31<sup>st</sup> January 1953 he is giving a demonstration on pipes, including playing Piobaireachd, in Clonmel on behalf of the IPBA .

## Irish Volunteer Pipe Bands



**Volunteers Pipe Band ??**



**Cork Volunteers Pipe Band**



**Killarney Volunteers Pipe Band**



**Tralee Volunteers Pipe Band**

## Bagpipe Makers in Ireland during the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century

### Pat Nally

On June 8th, 1900, the Dublin Pipers' Club was founded. Two pipers who helped to set up the first meeting and who both worked in Dublin Corporation were Eamonn Ceannt and Pat Nally.

Pat Nally, pipemaker and acknowledged expert piper, is said to have chaired the first meeting.

Pat was equally proficient on uilleann and warpipes.

As well as playing the uilleann pipes, Pat Nally was also considered the foremost authority on the warpipes (Píob Mhór) at that time. Eamonn Ceannt records him as making several sets of three droned pipes for the Dublin Pipers' Club.

P J Nally died in October 1911.

### Patrick Fallon

29 Liffey Street Dublin

Maker of Union and Highland Bagpipes circa 1900 –

#### *Price List*

<i>Full Sized mounted with Ivory</i>	<i>£ 6 6 0</i>
<i>Full Sized second quality</i>	<i>4 4 0</i>
<i>Half Sized mounted with Ivory</i>	<i>5 5 0</i>
<i>Half Sized second quality</i>	<i>3 3 0</i>
<i>Miniature Highland Pipes from</i>	<i>2 2 0</i>
<i>Practicing Chanter for learners from</i>	<i>0 4 6</i>
<i>Chanter Reed</i>	<i>9d</i>
<i>Deone Reed</i>	<i>6d</i>
<i>Highland Bagpipe Tutor</i>	<i>0 1 0</i>

### Liam O'Keefe

In February '10 Liam O'Keefe, Knockavilla makes bagpipes for the Ballagh Warpipers' Band Co Tipperary. The instruments were made from boxwood and yew.

### James O'Mahony

Cork 1914 - from Mitchelstown in Cork - maker of Fiddles and Warpipes.

### William MacKenzie

Not much is known about MacKenzie other than he was piper to The Mackintosh at Moy Hall. He also composed the piobaireachd, "*Mackintosh's Banner*" and competed at Inverness from 1881 to 1890.

MacKenzie moved from Inverness, Scotland to Ireland to make bagpipes and reeds there.

He opened a bagpipe shop on Bolton Street in Dublin in 1911 however the business closed in 1916 at the time of the uprising. He is said to have moved to London and may have continued making bagpipes.

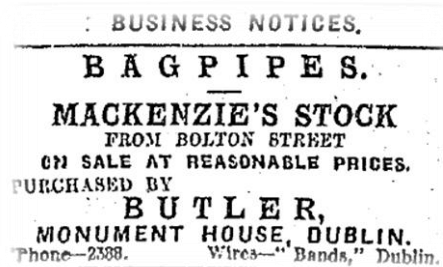
William MacKenzie also offered instruction, of which, most likely, some aspiring pipers in Dublin availed. He is known to have given tuition to Bill Andrews.

G Butler & Sons

Monument House, O'Connell Bridge, Dublin & Haymarket, London

Advert in the Pipers Festival Programme 29<sup>th</sup> January 1906 as sole makers of the Píob Mór Bagpipe (sets from 4 guinnies).

Later of Bachelor's Walk, Dublin



It appears that on Tuesday of Easter Week during the Rebellion of 1916, Butlers had to close their premises in Bachelor's Walk due to machine gun and artillery fire. They were producing pipes for an Irish Regiment of the British Army at the time. On returning to the premises they found everything in good order, the pipes being untouched.

It appears that William MacKenzie closed his shop after Easter 1916 and all his stock was purchased by Butlers.

McCullough's

The firm of McCullough started in Belfast with the encouragement of Francis Biggar, also known as the MP Joe Biggar.

In 1912 McCullough's moved to 8 Howard Street, Belfast where the company started making bagpipes. David Glen (Edinburgh) was said to have been involved, possibly teaching turning skills. McCullough's also opened a Dublin shop. The main turner for the company seemed to be William 'Bill' Andrews. He was a prolific writer on the subject of piping, and compiled and wrote the book, "McCullough's Irish Warpiper Tutor & Tune Book", published in 1926.

E & W Leatham

21 Shankill Road, Belfast - 1916 - 'Warpipes a speciality'

## Bands

Bands known to exist 'on or before'

1907

Brian Ború Band – Cork Pipers' Club  
Clonmel Pipers' Club, Co Tipperary

1908

Ballagh Warpipers , Co Tipperary  
Dublin Pipers' Club

1909

Art MacMurrough, Enniscorthy  
Cappagh Pipe Band, Co Limerick  
Piobairí na Ba Fian, Athlone Pipers' Club  
St Declan's Ardmore Gaelic League  
St Patrick's Warpipers, Limerick

1910

Ballaghadereen Warpipers  
De Lacy Warpipers' Ferns, Co Wexford  
Geraldine Warpipers', Brownstown, Co Kildare  
Na Fianna Pipers' Dublin  
Nenagh Warpipers'  
St Laurence O'Toole Pipe Band

1911

Abbeylara T A Warpipers', Co Longford  
Lusk Pipers' Club (later Black Raven)  
Newcastle West Pipers' Band  
St Colmcille Warpipers' Tullamore

1912

Brian Ború Warpipers' Limerick  
Camma Warpipers, Co Longford  
Cappagh Pipe Band, Co Tipperary  
Drumard Warpipers, Co Longford  
Fermoy Pipe Band  
Fintan Lalor, Dublin  
Fudachmud Pipers  
Kilkenny Warpipers' Band  
Newcastle West Pipers, Co Limerick

1913

Bansha Warpipers' Co Tipperary  
Bohola Pipers, Co Mayo  
Doohamlet Pipers, Co Monaghan  
Drumard, Co Leitrim  
Fermoy Pipe Band, Co Cork

1914

Abbeyleix Ancient Order of Hibernians Pipers  
Blackrock, Dublin  
Cork Volunteer PB  
Galway City Pipe Band  
Goresbridge Warpipers', Co Kilkenny  
Graigvrnamanagh Temperance  
Kells Volunteer PB, Co Kilkenny  
Na Fianna Scouts, Carlow  
St Kevin's Bray  
Volunteers' Pipe Band, Bandon  
Volunteers' Pipe Band, Foxrock  
Youghal Pipe Band

1915

Bornacolla Warpipers, Longford  
Dingle Irish Volunteers Warpipers, Co Kerry  
Goresbridge, Carlow  
Killarney Irish Volunteers PB, Co Kerry  
Letterkenny Volunteers  
Longford AOH Warpipers  
National Boy Scouts Warpipers (Na Fianna)  
St Brigid's Dunleer

1916

Ballickmoyler Volunteer Warpipers  
Tralee Irish Volunteers PB, Co Kerry

1918

Clondrohid Pipe Band, Co Cork  
Arigna Warpipers' Band, Leitrim

1919

Castlemitchel Warpipers' Band  
Lixnaw Pipe Band, Co Kerry  
Lough Egish, Co Monaghan  
O'Neill Pipers, Drogheda  
St Winnock's Middletown Pipers

1920

Ashford Pipe Band  
Carlow Fianna Pipers  
Grange Con (O'Dwyer Pipers)  
Killenard Pipe Band  
St Patrick's Rathvilly

## Easter 1916 – the Piping Connection



**Thomas Rafferty Black Raven Pipe Band  
killed in action during the 1916 Easter Rebellion**



**Eamonn Ceannt, Dublin Pipers' Club  
executed post 1916 Easter Rebellion**



**Tom Clarke, President St Laurence O'Toole Pipe  
Band - executed post 1916 Easter Rebellion**



**Thomas Ashe Black Raven Pipe Band died as a result  
of forced feeding while on hunger strike September  
1917**

### **Reminiscences of an Irish Citizen Army Soldier – 1916**

When the ICA seized the Royal College of Surgeons, Tom O'Donoghue of the band (Fintan Lalors) took delight in finding a set of bagpipes, which "I got out in the yard at the back of the College of Surgeons for a little recreation with them." Music formed an important part of the experiences of men and women in different garrisons – the Soldiers Song and God Save Ireland were often sung with gusto, but the ICA were surely the only garrison to enjoy a bagpipe session.

Tom O'Donoghue and Bob de Couer of the band were particularly hostile to the idea of surrender when it was discussed in the Royal College of Surgeons, even contemplating disobeying the orders of Michael Mallin, their military superior.

When eventually agreeing to his order, they wished to surrender with the band leading the garrison. To quote O'Donoghue:

'I asked Mallin for permission to take one of the sets of bagpipes and play it at our head as we marched through the streets of Dublin as prisoners, but Mallin would not agree to this, adding that they were not our property and to take them out of the College of Surgeons would be tantamount to looting'.

### **Black Raven Pipe Band**

On Easter Sunday the band played at a function held by the Irish National Foresters at Lusk. The history of Ashbourne becomes the history of the Black Raven Band for this period because many of the members fought in that engagement and the aftermath resulted, in many band members being interned and the band was to all intents and purposes suspended till the General Amnesty of June 1917.



*Joe Kenneally, Brian Ború Pipe Band, Cork City 1915.*