

Early Life

Donal O'Callaghan was born in 1891 in Factory Lane, Cork City. Donal attended Primary school at Eason's Hill before progressing to the North Monastery Secondary School.

Like his predecessors (Tomás MacCurtain and Terence MacSwiney) Donal had very strong republican beliefs and made these well known. As a result, he was often on the run from the various crown forces that existed in Ireland during the War of Independence.

Donal, like his fellow Mon Boys before him, who held the Chain of Office of the Lord Mayor of Cork, was very involved with cultural and nationalist movements after leaving school. These included the IRB, Ancient Order of Hibernians, Fianna Éireann and the Irish Volunteers.

Political Achievements

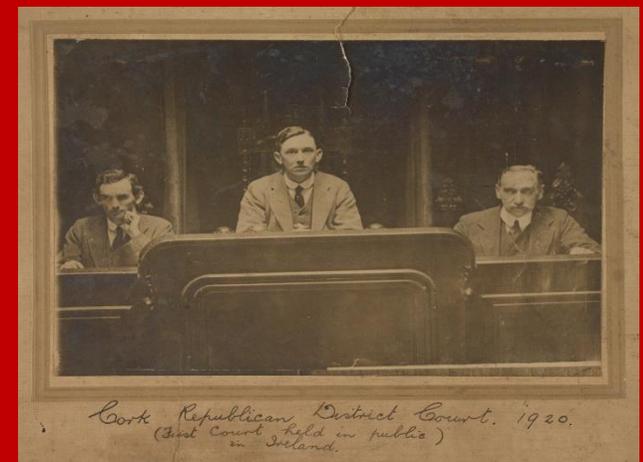
Initially it seems that Donal was hesitant to become involved in local politics and he did not stand for election in 1920. Instead he acquired a seat in the Corporation because of a by-election held after the outgoing Lord Mayor William O'Connor winning seats in more than one electoral area.

Despite the initial hesitation, Donal held the position of acting Lord Mayor while Terence MacSwiney was imprisoned and would then go on to be the 3rd Lord Mayor to be elected in 1920. Donal would also become chairman of Cork County Council and would win a seat in the 2nd Dáil in 1921 where he would act as Minister for Home Affairs.

Picture (Right): Donal O'Callaghan presiding over the First Public Court in Ireland

Burning of Cork

During the Burning of Cork Donal had to be smuggled into the city to witness the devastation that had been caused. He became the main force for lobbying organisations in the USA for support as a personal envoy of Michael Collins and even addressed a special commission in Washington which was an inquiry into conditions in Ireland. He made many of these addresses after he was smuggled out of the country after being elected Lord Mayor.



Later Life

Donal had taken an Anti-Treaty position after the War of Independence and once again found himself on the run. In 1924 he resigned his position as Lord Mayor and Chairman of the County Council and removed himself from politics. He would eventually marry his wife Eibhlín in London and move to Athlone where he acquired a job as an accountant in the ESB. He died in Dublin in 1962 at the age of 71 and is buried in Glasnevin cemetery.



*Picture
(Left):
Donal and
his wife
Eibhlín*

Proudly created by:

North Monastery History Club



With the support of:



Donal O'Callaghan

*The North Monastery's
Forgotten Hero*

1891 – 1962

