

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRE MILÉATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 1,055

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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 1,055

Witness

Edward Maguire,
4 Parnell Square,
Dublin.

Identity.

Secretary,
Dublin Cemeteries Committee.

Subject.

The Republican Plot,
Glasnevin, Dublin.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil

File No. S.2149

Form B.S.M. 2

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRS MILITARY 1913-21
NO. W.S. 1,055

Statement of Mr. Edward Maguire,
Secretary,
Dublin Cemeteries Committee,
4, Parnell Square.

Dublin

In the year 1868 a burial plot was leased by one John Martin, Kilbroney, Rostrevor, Co. Down, for a cenotaph to be erected to the memory of the patriots, Allen, Larkin and O'Brien. What is now known as the Republican Plot grew round that cenotaph.

The first burials were James Stephens on the 31st March, 1901; John O'Leary on the 19th March, 1907, and O'Donovan Rossa on the 1st August, 1915. I cannot say who officially named this plot the Republican Plot. I think the name grew out of usage.

In 1922 the late Mr. John R. Reynolds, in conjunction with the then Provisional Government, approached our Committee here and asked that a certain amount of ground in the vicinity of a burial plot that he had already leased adjacent to the graves of Stephens, O'Leary and O'Donovan Rossa, be set aside as additional grave space. His application was approved by the Committee.

Mr. Reynolds was then given the option on the balance of grave spaces within the Plot. In the

space allotted to him no grave could be opened without his authority. In all, there were about 36 burials in Mr. Reynolds' plot. Amongst the more prominent figures buried in Mr. Reynolds' plot were:-

Thomas Ashe
Peadar Kearney
Joseph McGuinness
Seán Doyle
Peadar Breslin
Peadar Clancy
Dick McKee
Erskine Childers
Rory O'Connor

In November, 1925, Mr. de Valera purchased another plot adjacent to the plot of Mr. Reynolds and, since then, the following have been buried there:-

Cathal Brugha (remains transferred there)
Patrick Joseph Dowling
Countess Markievicz
Seán Hagarty
Patrick Doyle
Mrs. Lily Connolly
Timothy Coughlan

There are also a few private graves enclosed in the space known as the Republican Plot.

The procedure regarding burials in the Republican Plot is that permission must be authorised by Mr. de Valera or ^{Mr. Sean J. O'Kelly} ~~the President~~ (and by Mr. Reynolds when he was alive), depending on which plot was required for a particular burial. Now that Mr. Reynolds is dead we are not yet in a position to say who will give authority in future. We cannot allow a grave to be

opened in either Mr. de Valera's or Mr. Reynolds' plots without written sanction from one or the other. Mr. de Valera has authorised Mr. Seán T. O'Kelly, now President, to act on his behalf for burials in plots held in his name.

The graves are kept tidy by the Cemeteries Committee. Generally, there are no annual maintenance fees paid except in the case of a few individuals such as John Devoy and The O'Rahilly. The Devoy grave was originally purchased by Harry Cunningham, his Executor. The trusteeship was then transferred to James Reidy - both these men were from New York.

Miss Anna O'Rahilly as Trustee of the National Aid and Volunteer Dependants' Fund purchased a burial space within the Plot in January, 1918, and the following are interred there:-

James Corcoran
Michael Malone
Neill Kerr
Patrick O'Brien

With regard to the option given to Mr. Reynolds to purchase the remaining space, he had not availed of the option up to the time of his death, but it was understood by the Cemeteries' Committee that it would not

(4)

be sold to anybody else. The position now is that approximately one-half of the Republican Plot is available for leasing.

See plan of Republican Plot and surrounds attached hereto. For the purpose of clarification, the Republican Plot is the area shown bounded by boxwood border.

For DUBLIN CEMETERIES COMMITTEE

Maguire

.....Secretary.

14th May 1953

(E. Maguire)

14th May 1953.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORICAL RECORDS
BUREAU STAIRS 11/11/53
No. W.S. 1055