

## JEREMIAH O'DONOVAN ROSSA

Sept. 1831 - June 1915



Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa was born at Rosscarbery, County Cork, in 1831. In 1856, he established the Phoenix National and Literary Society, which later merged with the Irish Republican Brotherhood.

In December 1858 he was arrested and jailed without trial. In 1865 he was charged with high treason and sentenced to penal servitude for life for plotting a Fenian rising. Manacled for 35 days for throwing a chamber pot at the prison's warden and thrown into solitary confinement for refusing to take off his cap in front of the prison's doctor, for most of his time in prison he was denied the right of correspondence with outside associates.

In an 1869 by-election he was elected to the British House of Commons for the Tipperary constituency. The election was declared invalid because Rossa was an imprisoned felon. He was released as part of the Fenian Amnesty of 1870 but forced into exile in the US.

In New York City, he joined Clan na Gael and the Fenian Brotherhood establishing his own newspaper, *The United Irishman*, dedicated to the cause of Irish national liberation.

In the 1880's Rossa organised the first ever bombing campaign in England by Irish republicans in what became known as the "dynamite campaign".

Rossa died in St. Vincent's Hospital, Staten Island at the age of 83. His body was returned to Ireland for burial and a hero's welcome. The funeral at Glasnevin Cemetery on 1 August 1915 was a huge affair, attracting massive publicity for the Irish Volunteers and the IRB. The graveside oration, given by Pádraig Pearse, remains one of the most famous speeches of the Irish freedom struggle ending with a declaration widely interpreted as a call to arms:

*"They think that they have pacified Ireland. They think that they have purchased half of us and intimidated the other half. They think that they have foreseen everything, think that they have provided against everything; but, the fools, the fools, the fools! — They have left us our Fenian dead, and while Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree shall never be at peace."*

## Dinnéar Fleácháis Bronnta

26th Annual  
Presentation Dinner & Dance

Dé hAoine 13ú Samhain 2015



**Eagraíte ag  
Choiste Cuimhneacháin  
Óglaigh Dhoire**

Organised by the  
Derry Volunteers Commemorative Committee

# Clár - Programme

**Cathaoirleach**  
Raymond Mc Cartney MLA



## Aíonna Guests

Martin McGuinness MLA  
Mary Nelis - Honourary President Derry Sinn Fein  
Mitchel McLaughlin MLA  
Annie Cahill - Life-long Republican



8.00pm - 9.30pm

**Dinnéar**  
Dinner



9.30pm - 10.30pm

**Fáiltiú agus Bronntaí**  
Introduction and Presentations



**Amhrán na bhFiann**  
Sarah Griffin

**Roll of Honour**  
Melissa Kavanagh



11.00pm - 1.30am

**Rince**  
Dancing to Odyssey

# 40th Anniversary



Óglach James Moyne  
6th April 1947-13th January 1975

## Bronntaí

Thar ceann Ghluaiseacht na Poblachta do:  
**Presentations**  
On behalf of the Republican Movement to:

*The families of*  
Óglach John Fox  
Óglach Eamonn Mac Dermott

This year we commemorated the 100th anniversary  
of the funeral of Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa.

Two proud Derry Irish Republicans, Óglach John Fox and Óglach Eddie Mac Dermott,  
attended the funeral in Dublin on 1st August 1915.

Tonight, we not only commemorate O'Donovan Rossa,  
we also commemorate and pay tribute to John Fox and Eamon MacDermott.

**Tiarnan O'hÉighnigh**  
(Nephew of Óglach Dennis Heaney)  
will recite Padraig Pearse's oration from  
O'Donovan Rossa's funeral.