

## Dorothea Marguerite Callan Macardle 1889-1958

### Chronology

<b>Born</b>	March 10 <sup>th</sup> , 1889. 5 Seatown/Roden Place, Dundalk, Co. Louth.
<b>Father</b>	Sir Thomas Macardle (d.1925). Catholic. Brewery Director of Macardle, Moore & Co. Ltd. High Sheriff. Justice for Peace. Redmonite. Home Ruler. Philanthropist. Encouraged Irish enlistment in the British army.
<b>Mother</b>	Lady Lucy Minnie Macardle. Scottish origin. High Anglican. Unionist.
<b>Grandmother</b>	Margaret Macardle (1831-1921), Cambricville, Dundalk 'Rebel at heart'. de Valera Scrapbook.
<b>Great Grandfather</b>	(Mothers side) Sir James Clarke Ross, 19h Century Geographer. Arctic Explorer- Ross Expedition and Author.
<b>Great Uncle</b>	(Mothers side) General William Hicks 'Hicks Pasha' killed with his 10,000 army by Mahdi, Sudanese uprising 1883.
<b>Siblings</b>	Captain Richard Ross Macardle (Kenneth). Killed on the Somme 1916 (body not found). Major John Ross Macardle enlisted British Army. Survived war with military cross. Donald Macardle. Sister: Mona Macardle
<b>Education</b>	Governess – Miss Honora A. Aughney from Carlow. Alexandra School Alexandra College, 1910-1912. BA (1 <sup>st</sup> class honours) English Language and Literature. Teaching Diploma, 1914
<b>Work</b>	Pfeiffer Professor of English at Alexandra College.

1900	Queen Victoria's Visit to Ireland
1902	Maud Gonne played the lead role in Cathleen Ni Houlihan by Yeats & Gregory.
1904	Abbey Theatre founded by Yeats, Martyn and Lady Gregory. Growth in Irish Cultural Nationalism.
1913	Joined her mother in England.
1914	Asquith's Home Rule Bill.
1914-1916	Secretary to Sir Frank Benson, manager of Stratford upon Avon festival. Assisting in establishing annual conference for teachers of English.
1915	'Of the Births and Deaths of Faeries', Alexandra College Magazine.
1914-1920	Edward Martyn: Sponsored the Irish Theatre, (Co-Directors: Joseph Plunkett & Thomas MacDonagh, 1914-1916) presenting European and Irish-language work in Countess Plunkett's hall in Hardwicke Street. Macardle attended plays (Checkov, Ibsen etc) and became friends with Martyn.
~1918	Dublin Drama League forms. Initiated by W.B. Yeats and Lennox Robinson of the Abbey Theatre. Constance Markievicz involved in the Independent Theatre company and Dublin Repertory Theatre (Macardle becomes friends)
1916	Easter Rising (Macardle in England)

1917	Returned to Ireland to live. Joined Cumann na mBan.
DATE?	Sir Frank Benson and Paul Farrell meeting set up by Macardle in Hatch Street to expound Sinn Fein to Benson.
~1917	Joined Sinn Fein. Arrested briefly by RIC for distributing propaganda leaflets.
1917	Russian Revolution.
1918	Cumann na mBan oppose conscription.
1918	<i>Anthara</i> , Macardle's first play produced at the little theatre Dublin. Allegory in blank verse set in pre-Christian Ireland. Anthara, a pagan half woman half goddess, sensing the decay of the old and dishonoured religion is reincarnated as Una, her disciple and bearer of a new dispensation.
1918 Dec	<i>Atonement</i> , Macardle's first of three plays for the Abbey Theatre. Ibsenite family drama of passion. Abbey Archives. Scorched manuscript from Fire. Yeats invites her to tea at Stephens Green after attending play at The Abbey. Gives advice about playwriting.
1919	Meets George William Russell (Visit to A.E.'s house) Sees Maud Gonne for 1 <sup>st</sup> time at Lennox Robinson's 'The Dreamer', Abbey Theatre: Madame delivers speech about Emmet's vision not being a dream. 'All over Europe, the ride of republicanism is rising'. Invitation to Madame's house: crossing the threshold. DMA becomes ardent republican.
1919-1921	War of Independence. Black and Tans.
1920	Living with Madame MacBride (Mrs Charlotte Despard would stay here at times), 73 St. Stephen's Green. Working with Maud Gonne in Women's Prisoners Defence League & White Cross.
1920 Sept.	Macardle, Maud Gonne MacBride and Charlotte Despard investigate the Burning of Balbriggan by Black and Tans.
1920 Oct.	Terence MacSwiney dies on hunger strike HM prison Brixton Kevin Barry Executed Mountjoy.
1920	Macardle's mission to London to appeal for a reprieve in death sentence of two IRA men. Meeting with Lady Bonham Carter (Violet Asquith).
1920 Dec	Attended court martial of Countess Markievicz at Royal barracks.
1921	Anglo Irish Treaty Grandmother Margaret Macardle dies (aged 90)
1922	Foundation of Irish free State & Irish Civil War
1922	
April	Macardle's Second Play <i>Ann Kavanagh</i> (subtitled a play of '98- Wexford 1798) opens at the Abbey Theatre.
May	Produces W.B Yeats' play <i>The Countess Cathleen</i> at Alexandra College with her students (including Dramatist Mary Manning performing) Yeats attends 1 <sup>st</sup> night). Students have a rehearsal in Maud Gonne's house with Yeats. Journalist with Erskine Childers paper <i>The Irish Bulletin</i> and his second paper <i>An Phoblacht</i> .
Aug	Michael Collins assassinated.
Nov	Announces to Board of Governors Alexandra College that she is taking 'premeditated public political work'.

- Nov 9<sup>th</sup> Arrest by military at the raid at 23 Suffolk Street. Imprisoned in Mountjoy (later moved to Kilmainham). Gives Revolutionary History Classes in Kilmainham.
- Nov British Auxiliary Raid at Maud Gonne's home where Macardle lived. Her papers including a play (close to publication) are set on bonfire in Stephens Green. Students report seeing papers flying.
- Nov Close friend and colleague Erskine Childers (Editor of Poblacht na hÉireann/ Irish Bulletin) executed by Irish Free State. Dorothy writes poem of sympathy for Molly Childers '*your own heart chose a lover dedicate....lament not that he rode it swift and straight*'.
- 1923
- April 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Easter Rising whilst DMA in Kilmainham
- 1923 Renounced her Catholic faith in protest at churches excommunication of republicans during Civil War.  
Writes ghost stories and dedicates to fellow inmates while imprisoned (later published as *Earthbound*)  
Mary MacSwiney and Kate O' Callaghan hunger Strike in Kilmainham.  
Macardle Joins hunger strikes of republican prisoners for short time.
- May *Kilmainham Tortures: Experiences of a Prisoner* (essay). Refusing to be moved to the north Dublin Union unless the hunger strikers, MacSwiney and O Callaghan were released or brought to hospital.
- May Released from Prison
- 1924 *Earth bound* published. Nine ghost tales written by Macardle while she was held a political prisoner in Dublin's Kilmainham Gaol and Mountjoy Prison.  
*The Tragedies of Kerry-* published. Uncovers series of atrocities committed by Free State troops against republican prisoners. Includes Ballyseedy Massacre, March 1923. Frank Aiken puts her under pressure to include propaganda which she refuses.
- 1924/5 Feb Premier of *The Old Man*  
Father Sir Thomas Macardle dies (aged 67/69)
- 1926 Founding member of Fianna Fáil with de Valéra. National Executive.  
Riot: Sean O'Casey's, Plough and the Stars performed at the Abbey Theatre. Protestors included Macardle and Hanna Sheehy Skeffington. Later O'Casey refers to her plays as 'NIL'.
- 1927 Resigns from the executive when Fianna Fail enter the Dáil (opposed to taking the Oath)
- 1927 Friend Countess Markievicz dies. '*When C.M died it was as though joyous martial music had been suddenly silenced*'
- 1931 *Witches Brew* performs at the Gate Theatre (Fantasy). Hilton Edwards and Michael Mac Liammóir.  
Irish Press: Theatre and film Critic contributing weekly essays and reviews. Journalistic work covering meetings of League of Nations, Geneva. (Close friend Frank Gallagher as editor). Note: 'What is wrong with the Abbey?' review 15.09.31.
- 1932 *Dark Waters* performed at the Gate Theatre (Fantasy)

- 1935 Opposed conditions of Employment Bill which allowed the government to exclude women from certain industries.
- 1936 Murder of Lavena (née Weatherill) Ball by her son Edward Francis Allen Preston Ball (Medical Student/Actor walk on parts at the Gate Theatre) Spent 14 years at the Central Criminal Lunatic Asylum, Dundrum, Co Dublin, where he received regular visits from Dorothy Macardle who obtained privileges for him.
- 1937 *The Irish Republic*, published by Victor Gollancz Ltd. An account of the revolutionary period 1916- 1923, written at the request of De Valera.
- 1937 Establishment of the Republic of Ireland. Constitution: Article 41 Role of Women. Deplored what she saw as the reduced status of women and Censorship. Turned her attention to International affairs.
- 1938 League of Nations, Geneva. Vocal opponent of Fascism.
- 1939 *On a Californian Campus* (essay Alexandra College Magazine). Lecture tour of USA including Macardle, Celtic Studies scholar Eoin MacNeill and folklorist Séamus Delargy. Awarded Honorary Doctorate.
- 1939-1945 World War II: Macardle differed with official Irish government policy on the threat of Nazism and Irish neutrality during World War II. Disagrees with Fianna Fáil policy to keep Ireland neutral. 'Hitler's War should be everyone's war'.
- 1940-1941 Lives War Years in England. London Blitz. Struggle against Fascism through journalism and humanitarian work.  
Stocks of 'Irish Republic' blown up when Luftwaffe dropped bombs on a London warehouse.
- 1941 *Uneasy Freehold*, published (Gothic Horror) Literary Guild Choice. Paramount Films release Hollywood movie retitled as *The Uninvited* in 1944 directed by Lewis Allen and starring Ray Milland.  
Involved in plight of refugee children.
- 1941-1942 BBC Radio Broadcasts for North American Service File includes: Democracy Marches 1941 /1942. Scripts include *Story of Judith*, *League of Nations*, *Hitler's New Order & Small Nations*, *An English Village today*, *Part- Time work for women*, *Allies against Disease*, *Village of Little Gaddesdon*, *The War Shocked Child*.
- 1944 *The Seed Was Kind* published.
- 1945 Returns to Ireland at end of WW2.  
Writes pamphlet 'Without Fanfares'. Supports De Valera's policy in keeping Ireland out of the war.  
Against Partition.  
Supporter of United Nations and its humanitarian efforts in post-war.
- 1946 BBC Radio Broadcasts for North American Service File includes: *Children in Europe*. On returning from a visit to seven of the liberated countries of Europe, a visit for the purpose of studying the effects of the war upon children, Macardle delivers a series of talks namely; *A Problem Generation*, *Children in Hiding*, *Lost and Found*, *The children of Norway*, *The Children of Poland*.
- ~1940's Student of the Occult.
- 1946 *Fantastic Summer* (Supernatural) published Now re-titled as *The Unforseen*.

1945/7	<i>Without Fanfares: Some Reflections on the Republic of Ireland.</i>
Late 1940's	Reached a rapprochement with de Valera and Fianna Fáil, although continued to speak out about censorship.
1949	<i>Children of Europe: A study of the children of liberated countries; their war-time experiences, their reactions, and their needs, with a note on Germany.</i> Published by Victor Gollancz. An early contribution to the social history of WWII and the Holocaust.
1949-1951	Vice President Irish Association for Civil Liberties. (President in 1951). Women's Writers Club
1951 June	Death of friend Linda kearns McWhinney.
1952	Alexandra College Guild Reunion, London (Address)
1953	<i>Dark Enchantment</i> (Fantasy) published. Friend Maud Gonne Dies (April 1953)
1954 Oct.	Address to students at Alexandra College, Prize Day. On Imagination, Wisdom & understanding.
1956	Autobiographical Talks. RTE written archives: radio talk scripts include file; <i>The Whirligig of Time</i> . The Young Victorian, The Dublin Student, The Riddle of England, Living with Maud Gonne.
1958	Died December 23 <sup>rd</sup> . Buried St. Fintan's cemetery, Sutton on Christmas eve. (Also buried in this graveyard are Hilton Edwards & Micheál Mac Liammhóir). In attendance, the president, the Taoiseach, Cabinet, an Honour Guard of the old IRA, members of the garrison at the four courts. Coffin draped in the tricolor.
Post humous	Brother John burns her papers.
1960	<i>Shakespeare Man and Boy</i> , published posthumously by Faber and Faber.

### Macardle's Incarceration period

A detailed Timeline (work in progress) of events that happened both in Prison and outside Prison from November 1922 – May 1923.

#### 1922

Oct 10 <sup>th</sup>	Government stated that the military courts established on 28 <sup>th</sup> September had the power to inflict death in the context of anti-treaty activities. Bishops pastoral issued declaring that the provisional government represented the only legitimate authority in Ireland. Bishops denounced the guerilla warfare being conducted by the anti-treaty side. Resisting the provisional government 'would result in excommunication; many priests were to deny sacraments to prisoners.
Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mary MacSwiney arrested accused of delivering anti- treaty speeches. Released 28 <sup>th</sup> November 1922. Goes on Hunger strike.
Nov 4 <sup>th</sup>	Ernie O'Malley, Anti-Treaty IRA commander in Dublin, is captured following a shoot-out with Free State soldiers on Ailesbury road in Donnybrook. O'Malley is hit over 20 times, but survives.
Nov 6 <sup>th</sup>	Aine O'Rahilly, Nell Humphreys, Sighles Humphreys & Honor Murphy join Mary MacSwiney on hungerstrike.

Nov 9 <sup>th</sup>	Dorothy Macardle Arrested at 23 Suffolk Street (Sinn Féin Headquarters) Alongside Lily O' Brennan, Teresa O'Connell, Rita Bermingham and Kathleen Devaney were all arrested from 23 Suffolk St.
Early Nov	Deputy Governor proposes to lock women prisoners up for the night at 5pm rather than 9pm. Brigid O'Mullane calls for a protest. November Protests re: overcrowding- O 'Mullane centrally involved. Barricading cell doors with furniture.
Nov 11 <sup>th</sup>	Republican head of propaganda Erskine Childers is captured by the Free State at the house of Robert Barton in Annamoe, County Wicklow.
Nov 15 <sup>th</sup>	'The Herald' published a message from within the prison walls, signed by 16 women including Macardle. Mary MacSwiney hunger striking 11 days and denied the sacraments. Annie MacSwiney hunger-striking in sympathy outside the walls of the prison.
Nov 17 <sup>th</sup>	Executions by the Irish Free State commenced. (5 unknown men who had been caught carrying weapons)
Nov 17 <sup>th</sup>	Annie MacSwiney denied permission to visit her sister. MacSwiney refuses medical assistance and consents to being nursed by inmates.
Nov 17 <sup>th</sup>	Four Anti-Treaty IRA men from Dublin, who were captured with weapons in County Wicklow, are shot by firing squad.
Nov 24 <sup>th</sup>	Erskine Childers Execution.
Nov 27 <sup>th</sup>	Macardle intends to send a letter to newspapers challenging false reports of the provisional government on treatment of Mary MacSwiney.
Nov 28 <sup>th</sup>	Mary MacSwiney released.
Late Nov	Macardle joins a brief hunger strike to protest against the demand that they 'clear and carry food' asserting political prisoner status.
Nov	Cecilia Gallagher imprisoned. Not a member of Cumann na mBan or Sinn Féin when arrested. Imprisoned because of her husband's anti-treaty stance.
Nov 30 <sup>th</sup>	Richard Mulcahy: Minister for Defence and Chief of Staff of the army In reprisal for the executions, Liam Lynch, Anti-Treaty IRA Commander, issues a general order to his forces to kill members of the Dáil (T.D.s) and senators who had voted for the Emergency Powers legislation. He also orders the killing of hostile judges and newspaper editors.
Dec 7 <sup>th</sup>	Former IRA men in the War of Independence and pro-Treaty TD, Seán Hales is shot dead by Anti-Treaty gunmen on Ormonde Quay as he set out for Leinster House. Another TD, Pádraic Ó Máille is also shot and wounded in the incident
Dec 8 <sup>th</sup>	Anti-Treaty leaders captured in the Four Courts in July, Rory O'Connor, Liam Mellows, Dick Barrett and Joe McKelvey are executed by the Free State in revenge for the killing of Seán Hales. This is an illegal act, as the four were captured before the Dáil passed its emergency legislation.
Dec 8 <sup>th</sup>	Dismissed from her teaching post at Alexandra College.

Dec 10 <sup>th</sup>	Anti-Treaty IRA members burn down the house of TD Seán McGarry, his seven-year-old son dies in the blaze. Dorothy horrified.
Dec 24 <sup>th</sup>	Margaret Buckley arrested. Shared a cell with Macardle initially.
Dec 29 <sup>th</sup>	Letter from Commander in Chief to Cosgrave 'visits are not allowable' (Macardle Imprisonment file)

## 1923

Jan	Rosamund Jacob: Briefly incarcerated in Mountjoy in January 1923. Shared a cell with Dorothy.
Jan	Deasy captured by Free State forces near Clonmel and sentenced to death. He then signed a document ordering the men under his command to surrender themselves and their arms to the government and for this he was spared execution. Republicans denounced him as a traitor and a coward for this action but Deasy argued in his book, "Brother against Brother", that he was opposed to continuing the civil war anyway and would have called on republicans to surrender whether or not he had been captured. Dorothy aligns with De Valera on surrendering.
Early Feb	Mountjoy Prisoners were segregated. 15 prisoners were retained in Mountjoy while rest (incl Macardle) were transferred to Kilmainham. Macardle interpreted the split between the two groups of women in terms of the split between the political party and the army within republicanism, between de Valera and Rory O' Connor.
Feb 12 <sup>th</sup>	MacSwiney Arrested and briefly imprisoned Kilmainham. Arrested with Kathleen Clarke, Kathleen Barry. A few days later, Annie MacSwiney imprisoned and hunger striking with 29 other women, 11 of whom were released 14 <sup>th</sup> February. Released on 29 <sup>th</sup> Feb after 18 days hunger-strike.
March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Dorothy joins week long hunger strike. Right to send and receive letters, heating appliances in the jail.
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	éire publishes 'lady Prisoner' detailing illness and undercurrent violence in prison.
April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Maud Gonne Imprisoned in Kilmainham on the charge of painting banners for demonstrations and preparing anti- government literature.
April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Liam Lynch, Republican Commander in Chief, is killed in a skirmish with Free State troops in the Knockmealdown mountains in County Tipperary. He and a group of republicans are caught on a hillside armed only with side-arms and Lynch is shot while attempting to flee. Four more senior Republican officers are captured in the incident. This is part of the same sweep that had captured several other senior republicans a few days earlier. Lynch's death is often cited as the effective end of the war.
12 <sup>th</sup> April	Mary MacSwiney Imprisoned in Kilmainham alongside Kate O' Callaghan and Count Plunkett, while travelling by train to attend IRA chief of Staff, Liam Lynch, who had been killed by Free State Soldiers. Hunger Strike from day of their arrest: Kitty Costello, Nell Ran, Annie O Neill, Kate O' Callaghan, Maud Gonne MacBride & Mary MacSwiney.

April 20<sup>th</sup>

Frank Aiken is elected IRA Chief of Staff.

April 30<sup>th</sup>

Frank Aiken, new Anti-Treaty IRA Commander, calls a ceasefire.

Proposed Transfer to North Dublin Union: Day 19 of hunger strike for Kate O'Callaghan and Mary MacSwiney (rest had stopped). Prisoner resistance in protest against leaving behind 2 remaining women on hunger strike. Cosgrave accused of 'making war on women'.

Kilmainham Beatings (Iseult Stewart, Brigid O'Mullane, Sheila Harnett, Roisin Ryan, Melina Phelan, Florence Mc Dermott, Annie Mc Keown, Sheila Bowen, Lily Dunn, May O'Toole.

May 9<sup>th</sup>

Dorothy Macardle released from Prison

May 24<sup>th</sup>

Frank Aiken orders the Anti-Treaty fighters to "dump their arms" and return home. Éamon de Valera supports the order, issuing a statement to Anti-Treaty fighters; "Further sacrifice on your part would now be in vain and the continuance of the struggle in arms unwise in the national interest. Military victory must be allowed to rest for the moment with those who have destroyed the Republic".

End of the war

draft notes