

# TOM CLARKE

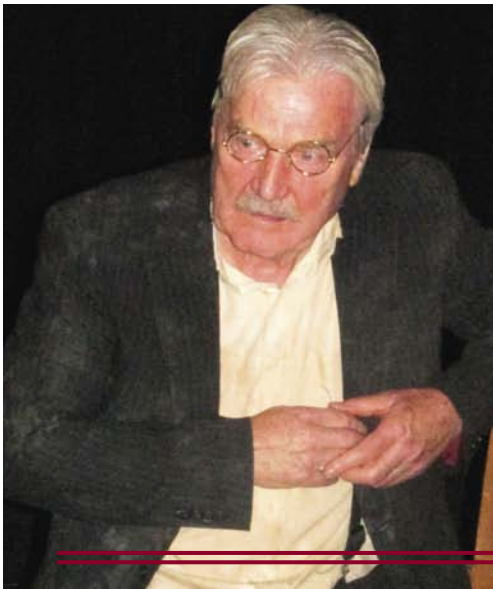
## THE CARRIGALLEN CONNECTION

*Killian McGuinness*

TOM CLARKE WAS a good actor. Hubert O'Grady, one of the best actor managers in Dublin in the 1880's, wanted him to join his professional traveling troupe. While Clarke would have liked to have been an actor, he felt more motivated to do something about the discrimination occurring against the nationalist community around Dungannon.

He was not a severely strident person despite what some people think. He grew up in a loving family. His father was a Protestant from Errew in Carrigallen, his mother a Catholic from Tipperary. The only quarrel he had with his father, who was a soldier in the British Army, was

■ **Killian McGuinness as Tom Clarke in his play 'One True Love'** *Photo: Tony Fahy*



■ **Raising the tri-colour and unveiling of Plaque to Tom Clarke & Peter Galligan by Dr Martin Mansergh, Carrigallen 7 Oct 2016** *Photo by Paul Donohoe*

their different attitude to Britain. His father would have liked Tom to join the British Army as his other son Alfred had done.

In the early 1880's Tom was imprisoned for planning to plant bombs in English cities, spending a substantial amount of his 15 years in prison in solitary confinement. It is hard to understand why he wanted to continue with his pursuit of Irish freedom after enduring such a harsh regime for 15 years. Despite his disagree-

ment with Redmond, leader of the Irish Parliamentary party, about Home Rule, Clarke was very grateful to him for the efforts Redmond made to obtain his release.

The 1916 rising would not have taken place without Clarke's determination. He spent the week of the rising in the GPO in Dublin and was well able to cope with the horror of what was happening, unlike Pearse and others who found coping much more difficult. His coping skills had been honed during his horrendous experience in prison.

Falling in love with Kathleen Daly, 20 years his junior, after

■ **Maura McGuinness as Tom Clarke's 'One True Love'—Kathleen Clarke** *Photo: Tony Fahy*





This plaque is erected in memory of

**Thomas J. Clarke**  
 1858 - 1916  
 one of the chief architects of the Easter Rising and first signatory of the Proclamation, whose father James was a native of Errew, Carrigallen.

and

**Peter Paul Galligan**  
 1888 - 1966  
 Born at Church Street, Carrigallen who led the Easter Rising at Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

*In grateful remembrance of their unselfish sacrifice*

■ Cllr' Paddy O'Rourke, Brendan Smith TD, Brid Dolan, Cllr' Mary Bohan, Cathaoirleach, Leitrim Co Co, Dr Martin Mansergh, Eamon Scanlon TD, Senator Diarmuid Wilson, John Ellis, Annn Smith, Cllr & Keith Henry.

*Photo by Paul Donohoe*

his release from prison, probably re-enthused his determination to continue with his revolutionary activities. "She was as fanatical into her love of Ireland as I was". They had three sons. She went to see him on the eve of his execution and had to brace herself to prevent breaking down in front of him. In order not to upset him any further she did not tell him she was pregnant with their fourth child.

Tom Clarke was executed at dawn on 3rd of May. Kathleen's brother, Ned Daly was executed on 4 May. Ned had been in charge of the first Battalion of the volunteers around the Four Courts area. John Daly, Kathleen's uncle, died shortly after the Rising from ill-health. Around this time, she had a miscarriage which was probably caused by the stress associated with losing her husband, brother and

favourite uncle in such a short space of time. Despite having three small children she went on to become a TD, Senator and Lord Mayor of Dublin. Tom Clarke probably never set foot in Leitrim. Kathleen assumed he was born in Ballyshannon. Some say he was born in Hampshire, others the Isle of Wight and indeed others maintain in Tipperary, where his mother came from.

We can be sure, however that his father was born in Errew in Carrigallen and the people of the area are justified in feeling very proud of that fact.

*Celebrations were held in Carrigallen in July 2016 for the erection of a plaque in honour of Tom Clarke and Peter Paul Galligan. As part of the occasion, Killian McGuinness' premiered his play—'Tom Clarke: One True Love'.*

#### A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A BUILDER

*Gearóid Bourke-O'Shea*

*The builder reaches the site  
 With a feeling of great might  
 But what could happen next  
 might make him very vexed  
 He started off with the hammer  
 To give the nail a good slammer  
 Mission complete  
 He could put up his feet  
 "Only joking " some danger will repeat  
 Then he stacks bricks  
 He is good at this—  
 he has his own tricks  
 Only when he rests does a brick  
 fall on his chest  
 He is happy that he wore his  
 protective vest  
 And I hope that after you read this  
 you'll make the best safety decisions  
 like the man who wore his  
 protective vest.*

Co Leitrim winner 2016. Health and Safety Authority Building Safety Competition. He was presented with his prize by the Minister of State, Gerald Nash in Croke Park.