

Kate Molony, 1850 – 1919

I am bringing in [Kate Molony](#), who died in 1919. She was my great-great-aunt.

From Dublin, she started life as Catherine Mac Cready in 1850, married William Frederick Molony in 1877 and became one of the two treasurers of the Ladies' Land League (LLL) in 1881-82.

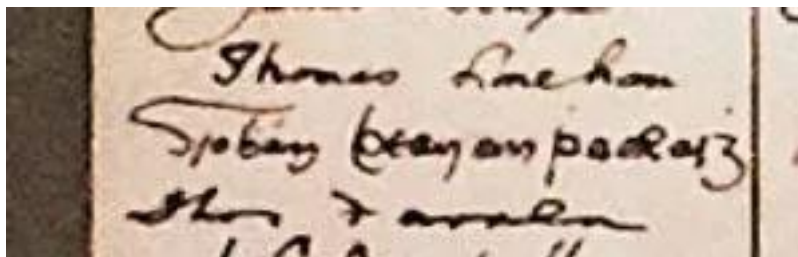
Her father, Edward, was an Alderman on Dublin Corporation. Her grandmother, Mary Moore, was a member of The Society of United Irishmen and was involved in the 1798 Rebellion in Thomas Street. Politics flowed freely in Kate's veins!

As well as managing the LLL finances, she worked on producing the newspaper 'United Ireland'. When the police raided their offices in Upper Sackville (O'Connell) Street to take and destroy the printing plates, she chided them. She also upbraided Charles Parnell, 'the uncrowned king of Ireland', for his sloppy dress!

Kate shared her political passion with her husband, an activist in the Land League. He was arrested with Davitt and Parnell in 1881 and imprisoned in Dundalk. When the lads negotiated the Kilmainham Treaty to win the release of the dozens of Land Leaguers languishing in Irish prisons, it was on condition that the Land League be disbanded.

The ladies, in the meantime, had been carrying on League business with gusto, and were more radical than their jailed confrères. When released, [Parnell](#) shut down the LLL, an act which destroyed his relationship with his sister, [Anna](#), its leader.

Both Kate and Anna later lived many years in England and were close friends. Anna lived in straitened circumstances and Kate wrote to several prominent politicians in Ireland pleading for help for her.

A photograph of a handwritten signature in Gaelic script. The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The text is written in a cursive style and is partially obscured by a vertical line on the right side. The visible text includes "Shonos Anachan", "Siobán Bean an paoraig", and "Shon & Anachan".

[Jennie Wyse Power](#)'s signature as "Siobán Bean an paoraig"

After her husband's death in London in 1914, Kate, persuaded by [Jennie Wyse Power](#), returned to Ireland. Power had worked with Kate in the Ladies' Land League. She was a notable feminist and nationalist, in whose home the 1916 Proclamation was signed. When Kate died in April 1919, Jennie was at her bedside.

Kate left whatever possessions she had to Jennie, possibly as a contribution to the many radical campaigns that were being waged in Ireland at that time.

In the 100 years of Women in Politics and public Life exhibition, curated by Sinead McCool, there is a panel with an archival photograph showing the signatures of the members of the first Seanád. Jennie's is there. She was signing as "[Siobán Bean an páoraig](#)"

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