



Longford County Archives Service

Archives Code: P/P/1

Archival Collection: Photographic collection, Longford County Archives Longford County Archives

Document Title: Photograph of Arthur Griffith and others outside St. Mel's Cathedral, Longford, 21 June 1922

Description: The photograph shows Arthur Griffith, President of Dáil Éireann, standing outside St Mel's Cathedral, Longford, following the wedding of General Seán MacEoin and Alice Cooney, on 21 June 1922. On his right, turned towards him in conversation, is Fr Patrick Gray ADM, who had performed the ceremony. There are other unidentified men around them.

Importance of photograph: Arthur Griffith (1871-1922) was a journalist and a major figure in Irish nationalism. He founded the original Sinn Féin, was a minister in the first Dáil and the leader of the delegation that signed the Anglo-Irish Treaty in 1921.

Seán MacEoin led the North Longford Flying Column in the War of Independence. He married Alice Cooney in a widely publicised ceremony, which took place against the backdrop of high tension between pro- and anti-treaty factions. Over a week later, the Civil War would begin and by the end of August 1922, both Griffith and another wedding guest, Michael Collins, would be dead.

Copyrighted Material