



national collective of
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NCCWN Waterford Women's Centre
2015

Celebrating 20 years in Waterford

*'Celebrating Herstory' Tuesday 10th March 7 - 9 pm
by Ann Fitzgerald & Eleanor Murphy*

St. Patrick's Gateway Centre Patrick Street Waterford City

'Pioneering Waterford Women' Wednesday 11th March 6 - 7pm

*Photo & Narrative Exhibition launch by historian Andrew Kelly
Waterford Council Library History Room Lady Lane Waterford City*

*Women's Walking Tour Thursday 12th March 10 - 11 am
Commemorating Waterford Women*

Starting from the Women's Centre 74 Manor Street

Followed by refreshments in the Women's Centre 'Women's Day Cafe' open until 2pm

All events are free & light refreshments will be served

Historical and Pioneering Women of Waterford

March 10th 2015.

Presented by Ann Fitzgerald.

Mary Strangman

- A suffragette and advocate for women's health.
- Qualified as a surgeon in the Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin, which was the only college to accept women on the same terms as men.
- Opened her own practice on Parnell Street.
- First female councillor elected to the Waterford Corporation in 1912.

Mary Strangman

1876 – 1943

Dr. Mary Somerville Strangman, was daughter of **Thomas** and **Sarah Strangman** of Carriganore, Waterford.

She with her sister, **Lucia**, qualified as doctors together at the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin. She was the first woman to be elected to the Waterford Corporation in 1912.

She was also a member of the Munster Women's Franchise League. During the Civil War in 1922 she helped evacuate the Cork children who were attending Newtown School, and their luggage, to Kilmacthomas, crossing Free State and Republican lines en route, so that they could get a train to return home to Cork.

Both she and **Lucia** became students at the Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin in 1891 as it was the only medical school in the UK. admitting women on the same terms as men. She qualified in 1896 and worked for a time in England. Following her time in England she was awarded a fellowship by the Royal College of Surgeons and opened her own practice in Parnell Street.

Mary Strangman's election promise to the people of Waterford in 1912;

"As a member of the Working Committee of the Women's National Health Association since its inception in Waterford, I take a special interest in all matters affecting the health of the city. As a woman I am concerned for the welfare of the homes and the women and children of the community; and as a citizen and ratepayer I am prepared to do all I can to promote the efficient and economical administration of Municipal affairs"

(Waterford People by T. N. Fewer)

(Irene Finn. Decies 2010)

(Waterford News Jan. 10th. 1912)



Anna Haslam

- A founding member of the Irish Suffragette movement.
- A feminist in the 19th Century and campaigned for equal rights for women in education and employment, women's franchise, anti-slavery and married women's property reform.

WORDS Carmel Quinlan

Anna Haslam

STANDING UP FOR WOMEN IN POLITICS

Anna Haslam, with help from the writings of her husband, Thomas, was a pioneer in persuading women of all political hues to stand for election

ALIMESTONE seat in the centre of St Stephen's Green in Dublin bears an inscription honouring Anna and Thomas Haslam for their "long years of public service chiefly devoted to the enfranchisement of women." Anna Haslam, a pioneer in every 19th-century Irish feminist campaign, fought for votes for women from 1866 when she was part of the first salvo as a signatory of John Stuart Mill's petition to

addressed a suffrage meeting in 1869, her husband was criticised in parliament for allowing her to speak in such an "advanced" and "unsexing" a manner.

The minute book of the DWSA, held in the National Archives of Ireland, contains a record of 213 meetings, all of which Anna Haslam attended, between 1876 and 1913. Although it was a Dublin-centred association, great efforts were made to involve women all over Ireland.

Potent force: Thomas and Anna Haslam.
Photograph: Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin; leaflet below courtesy NLI

1898 there were 85 women Poor Law Guardians, 31 of whom were also rural district councillors. In acknowledgement the DWSA changed its name to Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association (IWSLGA).

The 20th century saw the rise of the suffragette movement in England, followed in Ireland by the foundation of the Irish Women's Franchise League (IWFL) by Hanna Sheehy



The Irish times, "How Irish Women won the vote" October 17th 2012

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- Who was she?
 - Not a prominent figure, but was a fringe activist.
 - Her commitment to women's issues was lifelong but at no point did she take a lead role or carve out a strong place in history.
 - Most remembered for her relationship with Frank Ryan, a well known republican.



- Born into a lapsed quaker family on the 13th October 1888.

The youngest of 3 children, the oldest sister died young.

Saw herself as equal as the concept of equality was central to the Society of Friends.

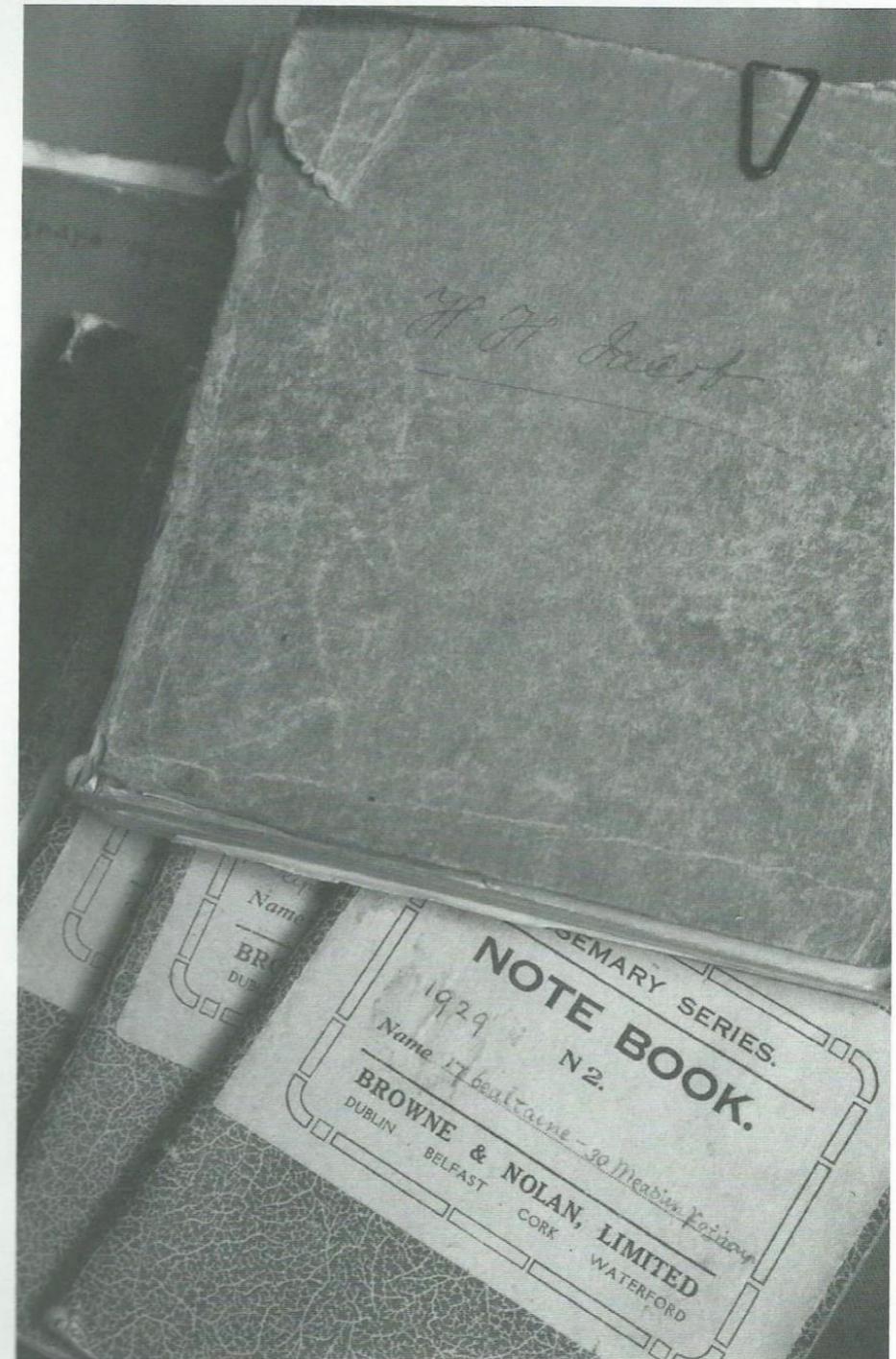
A passionate believer in women's equality.

Her childhood within her family was filled with debate and discussion on Irish National politics.



Rosamund Jacob.

- After her father's death, her only source of income was to care for her ill mother.
- Beginning at this time, she kept a personal diary which she maintained all her life. This gives us a rich source of social, cultural, political history and issues for women.
- These diaries and manuscripts are archived in the National Library in Dublin.



Rosamond Jacob Diary Ms33,582, NLI.

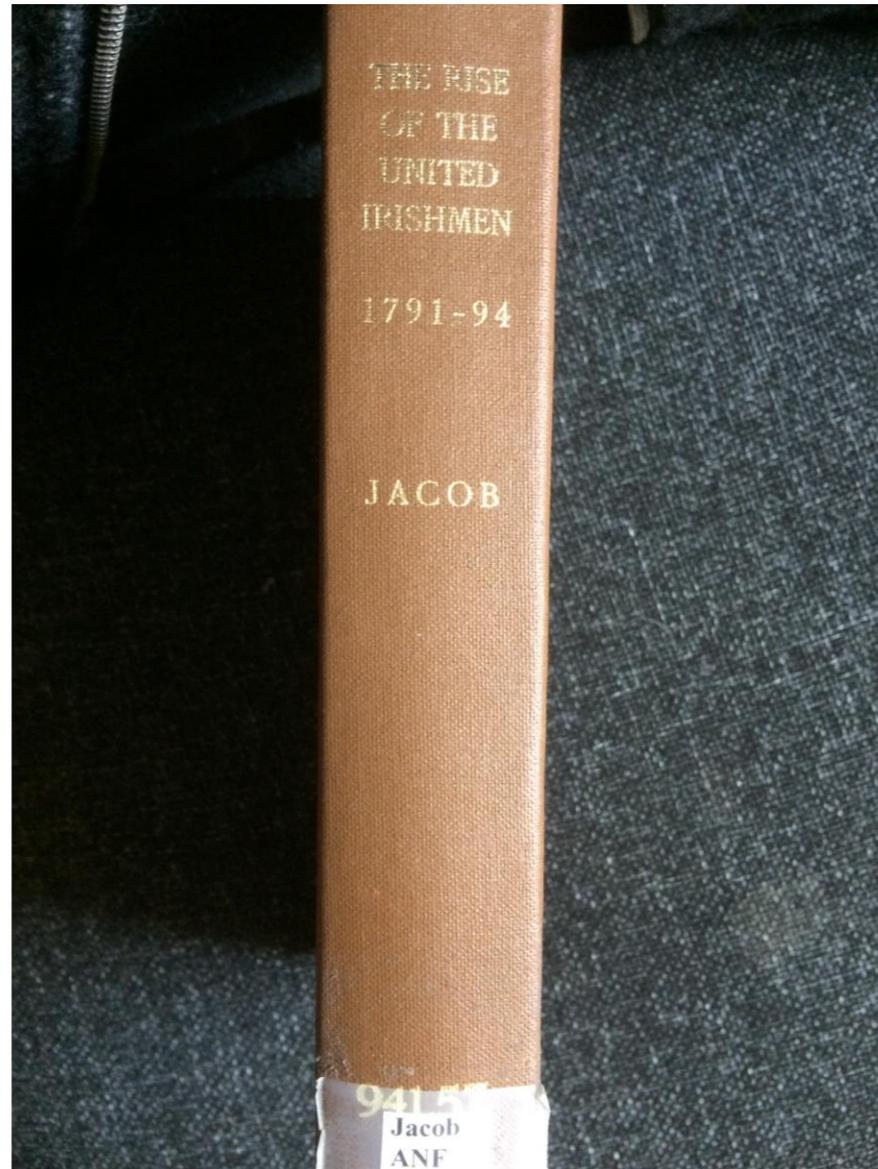
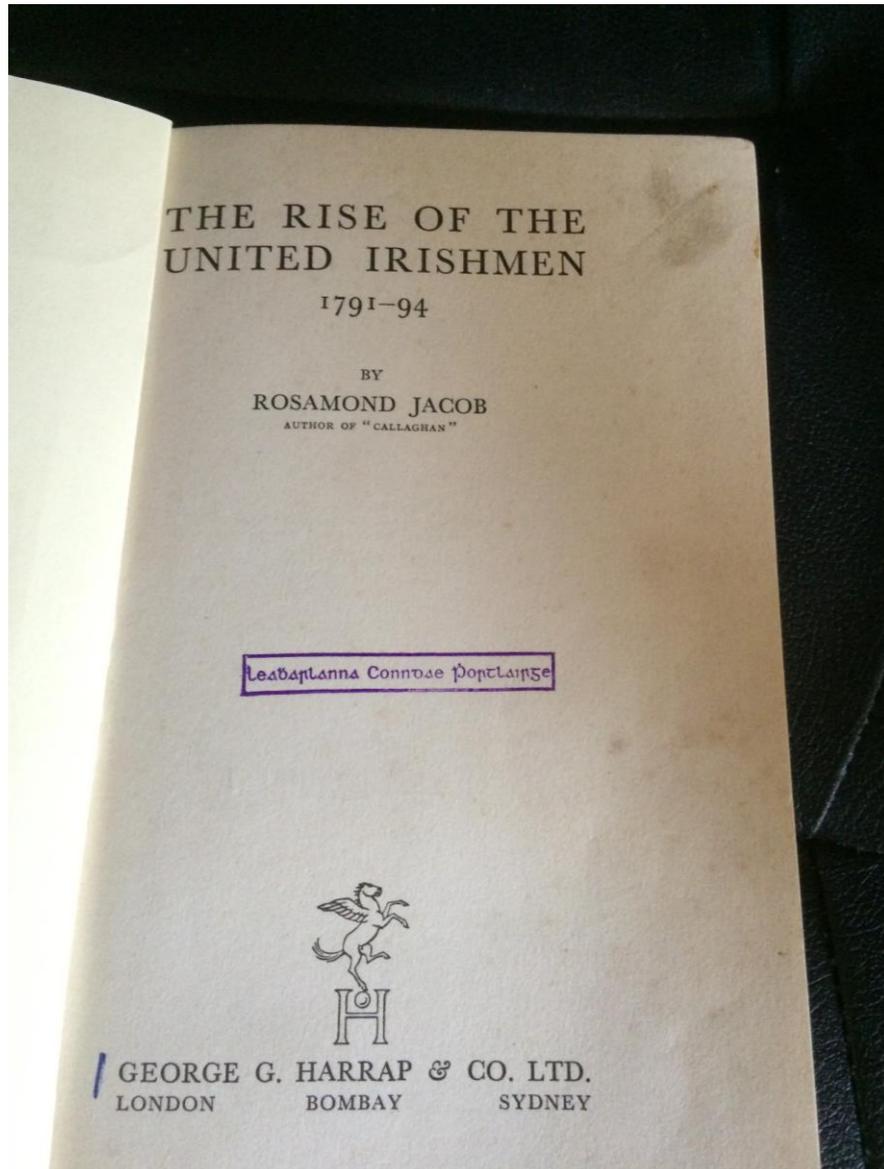
Achievements and Community Involvement

- 1901: Rosamond began a lifelong commitment to the Irish language and was a member of the Gaelic League.
- 1905: She was a member of the Irish Women's Citizens and local Government.
- 1906: Her and her brother were founding members of Waterford's Sinn Féin club.
- 1909: She was involved with the Irish Women's Franchise League, Cumann Na mBan, the Irish Women's International League and the Women's Social and Progressive League.

- She was a representative from the Irish Women's Citizens Group.
- 1912: Lobbied for Dr. Mary Strangman and had a strategy for targeting the monastic settlements and women's institutions in the locality.
- 1917: Criticised Éamon de Valera's speech for only including men. By 1922 de Valera was saying men and women without prompting.
- Was part of a women's delegation which attempted to
- negotiate peace between the Free State and the Republic at the start of the civil war.

- Rosamond was removed from a public event where she displayed a suffragist poster opposing the war.
- She responded with irony when de Valera would not meet with joint women's committee's, but would meet with a German football team.
- 1923: Rosamond was involved with challenging efforts to remove women from Jury service.
- 1920-30: She wrote a book called "The United Irishmen 1791- 1794".

- She wrote of the oppression to women as being a serious barrier to advancement.
- She was concerned about women's working conditions in all industrialised nations.
- Lived through two world wars and campaigned against nuclear threats of the cold war.
- Along side her diaries, she is also the author of 5 books.



- Rosamond was a novelist. We are told she was not a very successful one in her lifetime, she struggled to get her books published. Her work was too volatile and too critical.

Jacobs, Rosamond 1937 "The rise of the United Irishmen 1791-1794" George G Harrap & Co Ltd, London.

- From a local perspective, Rosamund Jacob has been forgotten among local historical research. Her name never appears in any book detailing Waterford People.
- Worked her entire adult life, from 1900- 1964, as an advocate for Women's rights in her native city and at a national and global level.
- Rosamund's years of political activity stem from her intense love of Ireland, mythology, culture and Women's rights. She believed in educating both men and women.
- I believe she deserves to be honoured for her vision, her leadership and her valuable contribution to women's equality.

References

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- Hughes, Ursula, 2010 “Rosamond Jacobs 1888” essay
- Cullen, Clara 2010 “An overview of the diaries of Rosamond Jacobs”
- Doyle, Damian, “Female Activists: Irish Women 1900-1960” Woodsfield Press
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