

# Kerry 1916 from the Archives

## Kerry Newspapers in 1916

There were several newspapers in circulation in Kerry at the time of the rebellion. Some were published every few days (e.g., *Kerry Evening Post*, *Kerry News*) while others were published weekly (e.g., *Kerry Weekly Reporter*, *Kerryman*). Some were “sister papers” and many of them re-used articles from other Irish and British newspapers. There seems to have been little difference in the treatment of the uprising across the papers, in the sense that all agreed that the use of violence was not justified and all consequently denounced the rebellion.

## Censorship

Given that stronger censorship was in place since the beginning of the Great War, none of the papers espoused views that were not in keeping with what was considered politically acceptable by the authorities. Therefore, while expressing hopes for the enactment of the Home Rule Bill was in itself uncensorable, there was no overt approval of specifically republican ideals in any of the papers. In the context of this relative homogeneity of editorial judgements and viewpoints, the most striking reaction to the rebellion may be found in the *Kerry Evening Post* which espoused more stringent views

Instances of allusions to censorship on the issue of the rebellion occur in *the Kerry Sentinel* and the *Kerryman*.

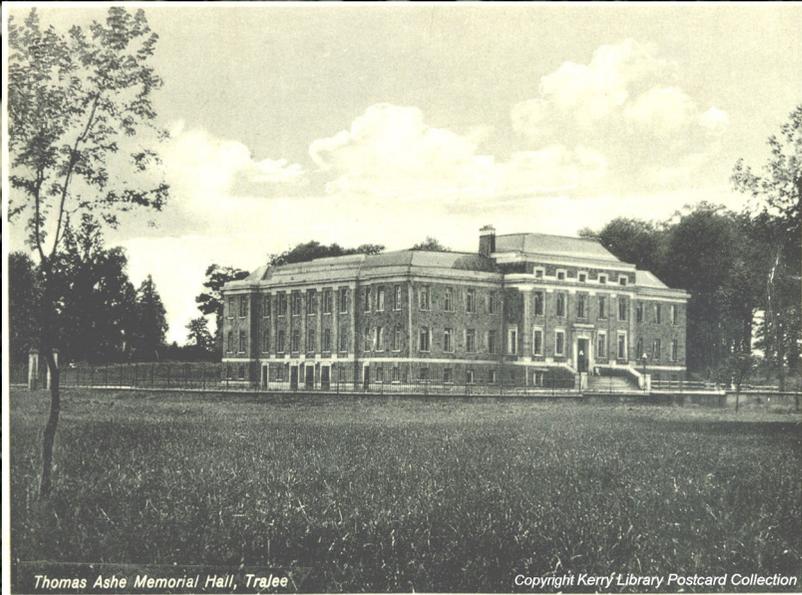
## Kerry Evening Post

Unlike the other newspapers used in this exhibition, the *Kerry Evening Post* was written primarily for the Protestant Ascendancy. Aside from any political references, this can be seen from its far greater mention of the Church of Ireland than the other papers. Another clue is found in the frequent advertisements for the Tralee “Picturedrome” – “going to the pictures” would have been too expensive a pastime for most people living in Kerry in the 1910s. The *Kerry Evening Post* was politically conservative in that it favoured the Union of Britain and Ireland and was particularly condemning in its treatment of the rebellion, favouring stronger language than the other papers.

**Note:** The last edition of the *Kerry Advocate* was released on 6 May 1916, after which the paper went out of business. This does not appear to have been a consequence either of the rebellion or of the paper's reporting on the topic, but was due to financial problems.

An editorial in the *Kerry Sentinel* on 26 April, bemoans the fact that Kerry news editors have to rely on “some gentleman in Cork or Dublin [when he] has time at his disposal” to grant approval to their news reports. The editorial calls for the appointment of a censor specifically for Kerry. He argues that, considering that Tralee produced a larger number of newspapers than any other town in Ireland, by giving Tralee its own censor, “the Government will safeguard the newspaper proprietors in this town”, relieve the editors of “a great deal of trouble and worry”, and avoid “unnecessary loss of time”.

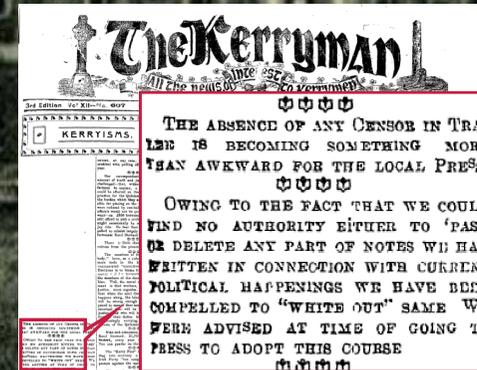
On the front-page of the *Kerryman* of 29 April, there is a prominent “white-out” in the regular “Kerryisms” column. Two brief paragraphs directly below the white-out provide an explanation; namely, that the lack of a censor based in Kerry meant that the editor had to self-censor doubtful content on the page based on advice from an unnamed source (possibly a solicitor). Similar to the editor of the *Sentinel*, the writer here goes on to lament the lack of guidance on the matter of censorship.



Thomas Ashe Memorial Hall, Tralee

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By appointing a Censor the Government will safeguard the newspaper proprietors in this town, as well as devoting proper care and attention to their own interests. As matters stand at present we are placed in a shaky, peculiar, and by no means enviable position. Whenever we receive news which, in our carefully considered judgment, we imagine the Government may object to and come down upon us with the weight and effect of a load of bricks if we ignore the possible consequences, we are compelled to shelve it until some gentleman in Cork or Dublin has time at his disposal to grant it his approval. Now, there are more newspapers published in Tralee than in any other town in Ireland, or,



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