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Dublin Core

Title

Caergybi's Unique Hospitality for Countess Markievicz | Lletygarwch Unigryw Caergybi ar gyfer Iarllles Markievicz

Subject

Holyhead

Countess Markievicz

Holyhead Police Station

War of Independence

Caergybi

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Relation

<https://perma.cc/A5K3-APMT>

Format

Curatescape story

Language

English

Welsh

Coverage

53.312413290511294, -4.633118479433855

Curatescape Story Item Type Metadata

Lede

'Dress suitably in short skirts and sitting boots, leave your jewels and gold wands in the bank, and buy a revolver.'

Countess Markievicz, Member of Parliament and Irish revolutionary.

Lede (Welsh)

'Dress suitably in short skirts and sitting boots, leave your jewels and gold wands in the bank, and buy a revolver.'

Iarlles Markievicz, Aelod Seneddol a chwyldroadwraig Wyddelig.

Story

In the decade 1912-1923, continuous waves of events impacted Irish society, including the 1913 Lockout, the First World War, the 1916 Easter Rising, the Spanish flu, the War of Independence, Anglo-Irish treaty, partition, Civil War and finally the withdrawal of the majority of British forces from Ireland. The need for politicians to commute between Dublin and London intensified, and other related movements of people and resources took place mainly through the ports on the Irish Sea, especially Dublin and Holyhead (Caergybi).

Irish leaders emerged; some lost their lives in the struggle, while many secured their places in history. Countess Constance Georgine Markievicz (née Gore-Booth) played her part throughout and her activities were closely followed in the press. During the Easter Rising, Markievicz fought in Dublin City Centre, especially St. Stephen's Green. She was subsequently arrested, and she pleaded guilty to attempting 'to cause disaffection among the civil population of His Majesty'. She was sentenced to death, but it was commuted to life in prison 'solely and only on account of her sex'. She famously responded, 'I do wish your lot had the decency to shoot me'. Markievicz served her sentence in Mountjoy (Dublin) and the English prisons of Holloway and Aylesbury; she was released in a general amnesty for 1916 Rising rebels in 1917. She was arrested and jailed again in 1918 for protesting against the possibility of implementing conscription in Ireland. It was decided to imprison her in Holloway, which required her to be taken via boat and train from Dublin to London.

We caught up with Markievicz's journey in a report in the *North Wales Chronicle*, May 24 1918. She was the only woman in a party of 46 Sinn Féin prisoners being transported under cover of darkness in a Royal Navy vessel, and she was separated from the men when they landed in Holyhead. The Countess was quietly taken to the local police station where she was handed over to the custody of Deputy Chief Constable Prothero. Amazingly she was

accompanied by her large brown spaniel which the newspaper said was allowed to stay with her in the cell.

But do not believe all you read in the newspapers. The military authorities and the Holyhead police were clearly impressed by the fact that Constance Markievicz was titled and allowed to call herself a Countess, because she was given preferential treatment by Mr. Prothero and his fellow officers. Propriety meant that she could not be housed overnight in the army camp with the men and Mr. Prothero was loath to lock her up in a damp, unhygienic and cold cell in the police station. On the clear understanding that she would not try to abscond, she was given a bed and full hospitality in the Superintendent's own apartment situated on the upper floor of the station. Evidence from Mr. Prothero's own grand-daughter, states clearly that this unique arrangement did in fact take place and that the formidable revolutionary was treated both honourably and with respect.

The following quiet Sunday morning, Countess Markievicz walked to the railway station with her dog and Mr. Prothero. Social standards were maintained as she was put in a first-class train compartment with Miss Annie Thomas (a matron of the local Soldiers and Sailors Rest Home) and an officer. An armed guard of four was in the compartment next door. She was surprised to be asked to pay for a ticket for her dog, but parted with six shillings to Mr. Taylor, the station superintendent. At this stage, word had leaked out in Holyhead and a large crowd had gathered at the station to get a glimpse of the Countess, but they were disappointed because the blinds were closed in the carriage compartments. One is left to wonder if she pushed back the curtains to see the green fields of Anglesey after the train left the station.

Countess Markievicz was welcomed at Euston Station, London, by a contingent of her relatives, friends and well-wishers who brought her gifts and greetings, and who accompanied her to the waiting police vehicle to start her journey to Holloway Prison. In 1918, she was elected as the first woman MP in the UK House of Commons, but she never took her seat. She did serve in Dáil Éireann and became Minister for Labour (1919-1922). She remains one of the most stylish and fascinating women in Irish History, and she is still remembered in Holyhead.

Catherine Duigan (@c_duigan), is an Irish writer and researcher, Professor (Hon.) of Environmental Science at Aberystwyth University and she has a keen interest in history and heritage issues.

Dr. Gareth Huws is a historian with a special interest in urban growth and migration during the nineteenth century and their effects on movement across the Irish Sea.

Barry Hillier is an energetic historical researcher and a trustee of the very special Holyhead Maritime Museum: <http://www.holyheadmaritimemuseum.co.uk/>.

The authors are indebted to Nora (Mr. Prothero's granddaughter) and Simon Richards for sharing their family history and supplying the photograph of Mr. Prothero.

Story (Welsh)

Yn ystod degawd 1912-1923, gwelwyd tonnau parhaus o ddigwyddiadau yn effeithio ar gymdeithas yn Iwerddon, gan gynnwys Cloi Allan 1913, y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf, Gwrthryfel y Pasg 1916, fflw Sbaen, y Rhyfel Annibyniaeth, y cytundeb Eingl-Wyddelig, rhannu Iwerddon, y Rhyfel Cartref ac yn olaf, y cam o dynnu mwyafrif lluoedd Prydeinig allan o Iwerddon. Gwelwyd yr angen i wleidyddion gymudo rhwng Dilyn a Llundain yn cynyddu, a

gwelwyd symudiadau pobl ac adnoddau cysylltiedig eraill yn digwydd trwy borthladdoedd Môr Iwerddon yn bennaf, yn enwedig Dulyn a Chaerkybi.

Gwelwyd arweinwyr Gwyddelig yn codi; bu farw rhai yn ystod yr ymdrech, a gwelwyd sawl un yn hawlio'u lle yn hanes y wlad. Bu i Iarlles Constance Georgine Markievicz (Gore-Booth gynt) gyflawni rhan amlwg trwy gydol y cyfnod, a dilynwyd ei gweithgareddau yn agos yn y wasg. Yn ystod Gwrthryfel y Pasg, bu Markievicz yn ymladd yng Nghanol Dinas Dulyn, yn enwedig yn St. Stephen's Green. Fe'i harestiwyd a phlodiodd yn euog i geisio 'achosi anfodlonrwydd ymhlith poblogaeth ddinesig Ei Mawrhydi'. Fe'i dedfrydwyd i farwolaeth, ond newidiwyd y ddedfryd i garchar am oes 'oherwydd ei rhyw yn unig'. Ei hymateb enwog oedd, 'Byddai'n dda gennyf petai gennych chi y cwrteisi i'm saethu'. Treuliodd Markievicz ei dedfryd yn Mountjoy (Dulyn) ac yng Ngharchardai Holloway ac Aylesbury yn Lloegr; fe'i rhyddhawyd yn ystod amnest cyffredinol ar gyfer gwrthryfelwyr Gwrthryfel 1916 ym 1917. Fe'i harestiwyd a'i dedfrydu i garchar unwaith eto ym 1918 am brotestio yn erbyn y posibilrwydd o gyflwyno gorfodaeth filwrol yn Iwerddon. Penderfynwyd ei charcharu yn Holloway, a oedd yn golygu y bu gofyn ei chludo mewn cwch ac ar drên o Ddulyn i Lundain.

Darllenom am daith Markievicz mewn adroddiad yn *North Wales Chronicle*, 24 Mai 1918. Hi oedd yr unig fenyw mewn grŵp o 46 o garcharorion Sinn Féin a gludwyd mewn un o longau'r Llynges Frenhinol dros nos, ac fe'i gwahanwyd wrth y dynion pan gyrhaeddant Caerkybi. Aethpwyd â'r Iarlles yn dawel i'r orsaf heddlu leol, lle y'i trosglwyddwyd i ofal Dirprwy Brif Gwnstabl Prothero. Mae'n rhyfeddol nodi bod ei sbaniel mawr brown wedi teithio gyda hi, a nododd y papur newydd ei fod yn cael aros gyda hi yn y gell.

Ond ni ddylech gredu popeth yn y papurau newydd. Roedd yn amlwg bod y ffaith bod gan Constance Markievicz deitl wedi gwneud argraff ar yr awdurdodau milwrol a Heddlu Caerkybi, a chaniatawyd iddi alw ei hun yn Iarlles, oherwydd cafodd driniaeth ffafriol gan Mr. Prothero a'i gyd heddweision. Am resymau yn ymwneud â gweddustra, nid oedd modd cynnig lle iddi dros nos yng ngwersyll y fyddin gyda'r dynion ac roedd yn gas gan Mr. Prothero ei chloi mewn cell laith, budr ac oer yng ngorsaf yr heddlu. Ar sail y ddealltwriaeth glir na fyddai hi'n ceisio dianc, rhoddwyd gwely a lletygarwch llawn iddi yn fflat yr Uwcharolygydd a leolwyd ar lawr uchaf yr orsaf. Mae tystiolaeth gan wyres Mr. Prothero yn datgan yn glir bod y trefniant unigryw hwn wedi digwydd a bod y chwyldroadwraig wydn wedi cael ei thrin mewn ffordd anrhydeddus a gyda pharch.

Ar y bore Sul tawel dilynol, cerddodd Iarlles Markievicz i'r orsaf rheilffordd gyda'i chi a Mr. Prothero. Cynhaliwyd safonau cymdeithasol ac fe'i rhoddwyd mewn adran dosbarth cyntaf ar y trên gyda Miss Annie Thomas (metron y Cartref Gorffwys lleol i Filwyr a Morwyr) a swyddog. Roedd gwarchodlu arfog o bedwar yn yr adran drws nesaf. Roedd yn synnu pan ofynnwyd iddi dalu am docyn ar gyfer ei chi, ond rhoddodd chwe swllt i Mr. Taylor, goruchwyliwr yr orsaf. Ar yr adeg hon, roedd y si wedi mynd ar led yng Nghaerkybi a daeth tyrfa fawr ynghyd yn yr orsaf i gael cipolwg o'r Iarlles, ond fe'u siomwyd gan bod y bleinds ar gau yn y cerbydau. Tybed a wnaeth hi agor y llenni rhyw ychydig i weld caeau gwyrddion Ynys Môn ar ôl i'r trên adael yr orsaf.

Croesawyd Iarlles Markievicz yng Ngorsaf Euston, Llundain, gan ddirprwyaeth o'i pherthnasau, ffrindiau a dymunwyr da a ddaeth â rhoddion a chyfarchion iddi, ac a aeth gyda hi i gerbyd yr heddlu a oedd yn aros amdani, er mwyn cychwyn ei thaith i Garchar Holloway. Ym 1918, fe'i hetholwyd fel yr AS fenywaidd gyntaf yn Nhŷ'r Cyffredin y DU, ond ni wnaeth fyth gymryd ei sedd. Gwasanaethodd yn y Dáil Éireann a daeth yn Weinidog Llafur (1919-1922). Hi yw un o'r menywod mwyaf steilus a rhyfeddol yn Hanes Iwerddon hyd heddiw, ac mae'n cael ei chofio o hyd yng Nghaerkybi.

Mae Catherine Duigan (@c_duigan) yn awdures ac yn ymchwilydd Gwyddelig, mae'n Athro (Anrh.) Gwyddor Amgylcheddol ym Mhrifysgol Aberystwyth ac mae ganddi ddiddordeb brwd mewn materion treftadaeth a hanes.

Mae Dr. Gareth Huws yn hanesydd sy'n ymddiddori mewn twf trefol a mudo yn ystod y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg a'u heffeithiau ar symudiadau ar draws Môr Iwerddon.

Mae Barry Hillier yn ymchwilydd hanesyddol egniol ac yn ymddiriedolwr Amgueddfa Forol arbennig iawn Caergybi: <http://www.holyheadmaritimemuseum.co.uk/>.

Mae dyled yr awduron yn fawr i Nora (wyres Mr. Prothero) a Simon Richards am rannu hanes eu teulu ac am roi'r llun o Mr. Prothero.

Factoid

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