

OUR IRISH BAHÁ'Í HERITAGE



WHAT'S THAT?

HERITAGE

“That which is inherited”



But it's not just material things:

There is our
HISTORY

From which
we can draw
INSPIRATION



SIX THOUSAND YEARS AGO

(Give or take a millennium!)

- Early Indo-Europeans
- “Proto-Indo-European” language
- “Airyo” – “noble”
- From which we get
 - Aryan
 - Iran
 - Eire



THE DOCTORS CORMICK

- Dr William Cormick (1820-77)
- Only Westerner to meet the Báb
- Medical examination of the Báb
- Father Dr John Cormick
 - From Co. Kilkenny
- Mother “Armenian” Christian



DR WILLIAM CORMICK



BELFAST'S CONTRIBUTION

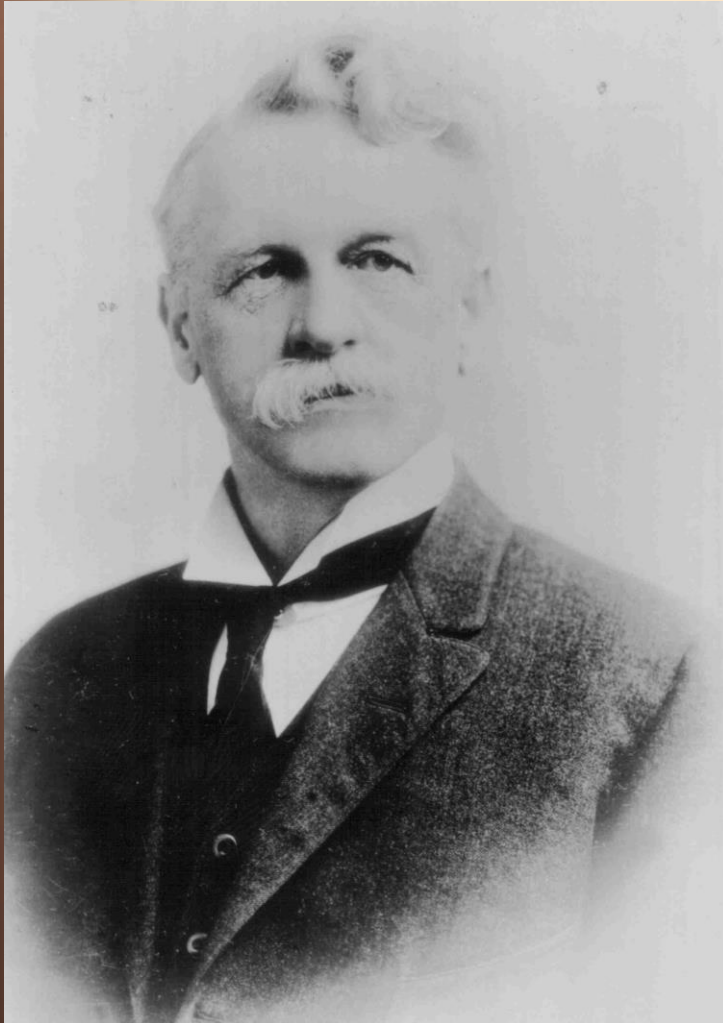


RMS CEDRIC

- Built Harland and Wolff shipyard, Belfast
- Launched 1903
- 21,000 tons
- 1912 'Abdu'l-Bahá crosses Atlantic (Alexandria-Naples-New York)
- He later returns on Cedric's sister ship, RMS Celtic



THE FIRST IRISH BAHÁ'Í



- Frederick D'Evelyn
- Born Belfast 1855
- Emigrated to USA
- 1901 Bahá'í
- Active and distinguished member of early Bahá'í community
- Died 1932



LADY BLOMFIELD



- Born Co. Tipperary
- Religious mixed marriage
- Humble early life
- Marriage to Sir Arthur Blomfield
- 1907 Bahá'í
- Host to 'Abdu'l-Bahá in London
- Service and writing
- Philanthropic work
- Died 1939



LADY BLOMFIELD



COYNE AND CULVERS

- Peter Coyne
 - Becomes Bahá'í in Missouri USA
1907
- Culver family, already Bahá'ís
 - Henry Culver US Consul
Queenstown (now Cobn)
1906-10



FIRST NATIVE BELIEVERS?

- Frances Joan Alice Waring
1883 – 1950
 - Waringstown, Lurgan
- Thomas Roderick Fforde
1882 – 1949
 - Raughlan, Co. Armagh
- Marriage

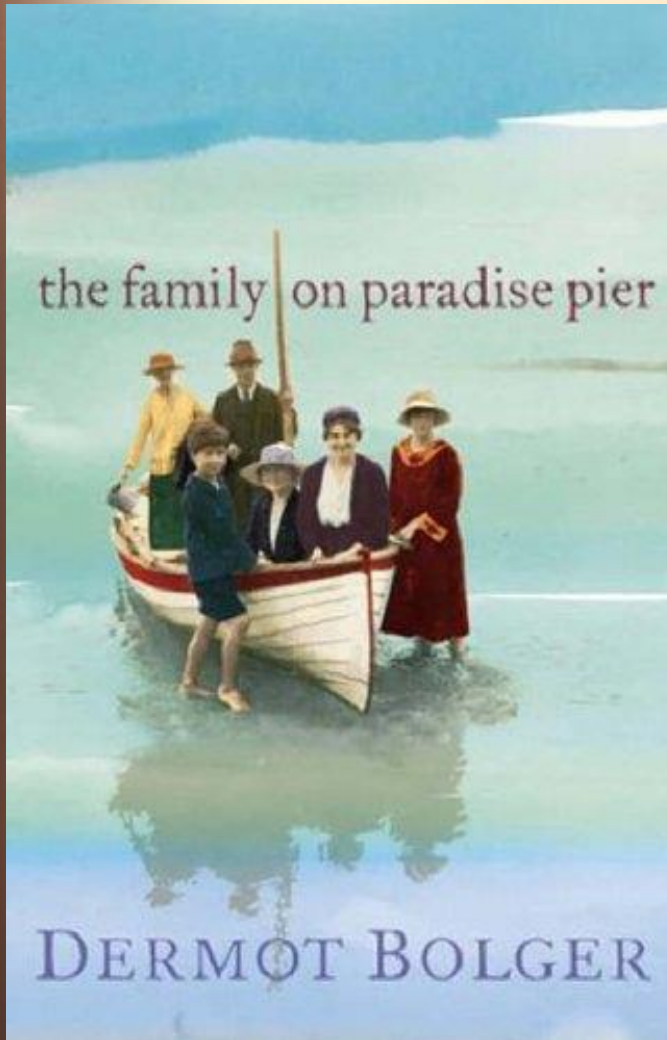


FIRST NATIVE BELIEVERS?

- Ahmad Sohrab's diary entry ("Star of the West") speaks of Joan
- Document 1913 – donation receipt
- First to have public identity as Bahá'ís in Ireland
- JE Esslemont and George Townshend both write of them
- Settle in Donegal



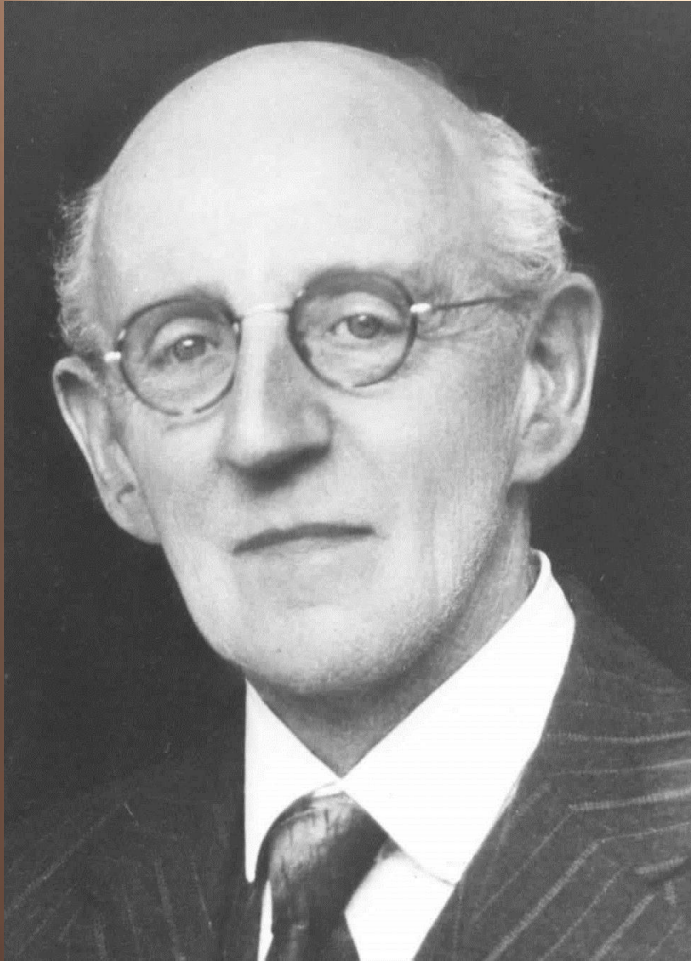
FIRST NATIVE BELIEVERS?



- Feature, rather fictionalised, in “The Family on Paradise Pier”
- Dermot Bolger, Harper, 2005
- “...this remarkable book.” (*Scottish Sunday Herald*)



GEORGE TOWNSHEND



- Churchman
- Bahá'í
- Author
- Teacher
- Hand of the Cause
- “Luminary”
- Inspiration



GEORGE TOWNSHEND

- “ A vigorous, prolific, adventurous, talented and highly diversified set”
 - David Hofman on the Townshend family of Castletownshend, County Cork
- Father, Charles Townshend, employed “ a promising youngster”
 - George Bernard Shaw



GEORGE TOWNSHEND

- Born Dublin 14.vi.1876
- Education
 - “...Hertford College, Oxford, from which he graduated with a modest B.A. and a good collection of trophies for his athletic prowess.”
(David Hofman)
- Dublin, law, called to the bar



GEORGE TOWNSHEND

- USA, ordained Episcopal Church
- 1916
 - Return to Ireland
 - Encounter with the Bahá'í Faith
- 1918 Writes to 'Abdu'l-Bahá
- Becomes a Bahá'í, believes passionately in reconciliation of Christian and Bahá'í beliefs



GEORGE TOWNSHEND



- 1932 Canon, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin
- 1933 Archdeacon of Clonfert
"Very Rev. George Townshend"



GEORGE TOWNSHEND

- 1930s - Begins to write books on the Bahá'í Faith and its teachings
- 1947 - Formally resigns from Church
- 1951 Appointed Hand of the Cause
- “Christ and Bahá'u'lláh” 1957
- Passes away 25.iii.1957



OTHER LIGHTS

- Adib Taherzadeh
- Lady Hornell
- Charles Dunning
- Dick Backwell
- Charles Macdonald
- Stan Wrout
- *And many more...*



DEVELOPMENTS

- First Spiritual Assemblies
 - 1948 Dublin
 - 1950 Belfast
- National Spiritual Assembly of the Republic of Ireland 1972
- Bahá'í Council for Northern Ireland established under jurisdiction of the NSA of the United Kingdom



THANK YOU FOR WATCHING

We hope you found it interesting

**Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'is
of Londonderry**

Tionól Spioradalta Bhahá'ithe Dhoire

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