

Remembering 1916: The Easter Rising, The Battle of the Somme and Impact on Lowell—A Public Engagement Conference



This conference was held at the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Centre in Lowell, Boston, on the September 7th & 8th.

This conference was presented in partnership with Queen's University Belfast and was an interdisciplinary look at remembering and commemorating the events of 1916 both in Northern Ireland and in Lowell.

The Centre for Irish Partnership has fostered collaborations and partnerships with institutions in Ireland and Northern Ireland. It's slogan 'A shared heritage, a shared future,' runs along similar themes to the Living Legacies 1914-18 centre.

The conference featured many speakers from the Living Legacies Centre. Prof Keith Lilley introduced William Blair, keynote speaker on 'Remembering 1916: Legacy & Commemoration.' William covers the NMNI 1916 Programme and the issues surrounding the legacy of 1916 in contemporary Northern Irish society. William shared some evaluation of the exhibition which is mixed but highlights the passions of the memory of 1916 to both the Nationalist and Unionist communities.



Prof Keith Lilley telling the delegates about the Living Legacies Centre 1914-18 and outlines the services, support and funding we provide and highlighting some of the work the centre has undertaken.

Dr Kurt Taroff and Sophie Long, PhD Candidate at QUB, highlighted their community engagement work they have conducted in Northern Ireland through drama and research workshops.





Heather Montgomery illustrates how her research is revealing new understanding about the standard of training Irish recruits received. Her work on recent excavations shows the extent of the training at Finner Camp in Co. Donegal and highlights features in the cultural landscape.

Fiona Byrne presented the community engagement work carried out in relation to preparing for the Remembering 1916: Your Stories exhibition. The talk featured a short video showing William Hunter and Margaret Hamilton tell their own family war stories. We met William and Margaret through Living Legacies community engagement.

