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‘The Medlar’s Gotcha!’

The story of a Dublin family

Pól Ó Duibhir

This article will revolve principally around PJ Medlar (1885-1949), undertaker, alderman and city councillor. This year (2019) is the 70th anniversary of his death. It will also fill in some background on the Medlar family whose origins are in Paulstown, Co. Kilkenny, but the emphasis will be on that part of the family which settled in Dublin.

Why an article on the Medlars?

For the past few years, I have been following up my family history almost from scratch. While the Medlars are not in my direct line of ancestry they are in-laws. The breadth of experience in this one family caught my interest and instead of putting all my efforts into going further and further back in my own ancestry, I have had the pleasure of this horizontal diversion.

In this family I have discovered the following: a Dublin city councillor; an undertaker; an IRA commandant; a lock keeper (canal); a professor of dancing (female); a hunger striker; and a variety of other occupations ranging through blacksmith, tram conductor, dispensary porter, and domestic servant (female). I also have a family that is well woven into the political, commercial and entertainment life of the capital city.

Various Lord Mayors and also Alderman Tom Kelly, for example, have been well covered in print. It would seem appropriate to delve a bit into the life and background of a more ordinary and unremembered, but nonetheless interesting, councillor at this time.

On a purely personal level I am grateful to the Medlars for providing me with a much needed Republican counterbalance to the British Army and RIC branches elsewhere on the family tree. A word of warning. This is by no means a definitive work. There are lots of unanswered questions and lots of lines of enquiry still to be pursued. I am simply sharing what I know at this point.

I will be covering the descendants of two Medlar brothers: Michael, who was a blacksmith in Paulstown and who remained there; and John, who was also a blacksmith, but who came to Dublin to ply his trade. Despite their different locations there was a lot of interaction and movement between the two families.

John Medlar

I will start with John who was born before 1863 and died about 1890. John was born in Paulstown and came to Dublin as a blacksmith. When I caught up with him in the records just prior to his marriage in 1884 he was living and plying his trade in the Lower Mayor Street area on the north docks of the Liffey.

His wife to be, Ellen Brennan, from Ballyellin not far from Paulstown, was in domestic service in 37 Belvedere Place in north inner city Dublin to a Mrs Devitts, the widow of Richard Joseph Devitts (1825-1869), a sugar and tea merchant. Ellen’s people were lock-keepers on the Upper Ballyellin Lock in Co. Carlow on the Barrow River/Grand Canal near Goresbridge.



This was PJ Medlar's undertakers premises from c. 1916 to his retirement in 1942. Note the agencies for Fanagans and the Royal Liver Friendly Society

Shortly after their marriage, they moved to 26 Denzille St., now Fenian Street. The house was classed as a tenement at that time. It has been replaced by offices in more recent times. Ellen may have been a nervous first-time mother because she went back to her folks in Ballyellin, in 1885 to have her first born who was christened Patrick Joseph. So PJ, whose life became so entwined with that of Dublin city itself, was not actually a native Dubliner. Ellen seems to have become more confident by the time the second child Laurence was born in 1888. He saw the first light of day in the house in Denzille Street.

I don't know if there was a surfeit of blacksmiths in Dublin at this stage¹, but, for whatever reason, John set off alone for the United States of America, where he planned to stay with his sister, find a job, and then send for the rest of the family.² Unfortunately, John died soon after reaching the USA and Ellen and the two children were left to fend for themselves.

Ellen farmed out the children to her own and John's families down the country, while she went back into domestic service, this time at 22 Merrion Square, home of Samuel Mason, Professor of Midwifery in the College of Surgeons.³ PJ went to the Medlars in Paulstown and Larry to the Brennans on the Lock. Incidentally No. 22 Merrion Square, which was recently restored, retains its connection with the College of Surgeons and now houses its College of Anaesthetists.

By 1897 Ellen was married again, this time to James Donohoe, a railway train guard, who lived at 13 Creighton Street, opposite Windmill Lane. This was not far from where Ellen was in service. By 1901 Ellen, James, and Patrick who was now 16 and had returned from the country, were living in 6 James's Street. Ellen is now listed as a roomkeeper and Patrick as a messenger. Laurence was still boarded with his mother's people in Ballyellin.

I don't know why they ended up in this part of town. Perhaps James Donohoe, by now described as a railway engine fitter, knew the Fox family who ran the dairy in the same block. The Fox family had a long railway tradition including porters, stokers, guards and so on. This family will come back into the story later on.

By the time of the 1911 census, Larry had also returned from the country. As a matter of interest, the two boys were the only Medlars, by name and possibly blood, in the county and city of Dublin at that time. Ellen, James and the two boys were now living in 154 James's St, almost directly across from No. 6 where the family had been in 1901.

Had the family not moved to this end of town it is unlikely PJ would have become a relation of mine. My great grandfather, Christopher Burgess, had a well-established shoemaker's business just down the street, at the Fountain, and he had a number of daughters to marry off.

Patrick J Medlar 'PJ' – Undertaker & City Councillor

In the event, PJ married Tess, my grandmother's sister, in 1911. At that time he is described as a 'Registration Agent.' Families were very mobile in those days as they usually rented rather than owned the houses they lived in. It might just be worth looking at where PJ lived in the course of his life.

He moved into 128 South Circular Road where his first child, Helena Sara (Nell), was born the following year. By 1914, when his next child, John, was born, he appears to have been living above O'Neill's undertakers at 120 James's Street. When Connie was born in 1917, he was living in Windsor House in Rialto, and had set up his undertaking business in 48a James's Street. By the time Mai was born, in 1920, he was living in 17 Ushers Island, a branch office



This photo appears to date from PJ's period as an Alderman, 1933-36.

of 'Medlar and Claffey' undertakers. When the twins, Paddy and Tess, came along in 1925 he was living in 29 Adelaide Road. His partnership with Charles Claffey seems to have begun in 1916 and it broke up in 1927.⁴

While he tended to give 48a James's St. as his address, this seems to have been mainly his office and the family generally lived elsewhere. He is recorded in *Thom's* as being in No. 48a between 1916 and 1942, either as one of two tenants (1916-18), as Medlar and Claffey Undertakers (1919-27) and under his own name alone (1928-1942).⁵ My maternal grandmother, Sarah Mortimer, seems to have lived at 48a for a few years after the death of her husband Patrick in 1918 – he was drowned in the Liffey at Eden Quay – and the address pops up the odd time in a residential rather than a purely business context. In the course of his life, he seems to have lived in 15 different locations, in addition to No. 48a, where he also seems to have lived some of the time.

Folklore & City Life

PJ's undertaking business has entered into the folklore of Dublin city. Here are two examples. Firstly I met a lady in the Dublin City Library and Archive who told me that anyone who so much as sneezed in her family was met with the phrase 'The Medlar's Gotcha', indicating that one sneeze could lead to more than just another. Given the epidemic nature of TB at the time, there must have been a very 'healthy' fear of the undertaker. Incidentally, the lady had no idea what the origin of the phrase was until I explained to her that Medlar was the undertaker.

Then Pete St. John in his book *Jaysus Wept* quotes the song, *The Inchicore Wake*, which contains the lines:

*And Bigamy O'Keeffe and Black Paddy Medlar
With the Claffey was talkin'
Of grave stones and flowers*

PJ is also remembered for providing the undertaker's vehicles which drove republican prisoners to their homes around the city on their release by the British authorities at the end of 1921 after the signing of the Treaty. The *Freeman's Journal* of 9 December 1921 records that:

Messrs. Medlar and Claffey, James's street, placed their cars and brakes at the disposal of the released men and drove them home to the various districts round Dublin. Mrs. Medlar also entertained a number to lunch.

PJ was also an insurance agent for Royal Liver Insurance Company.⁶ Apart from providing occasions for travel to the UK for annual conferences, this particular role must have brought him into contact with a wide range of the city's population. Alfie Byrne⁷ was also an insurance agent. It is likely that this occupation was no handicap in garnering votes in both local and national elections. As insurance for a decent burial was the only connection most people had with the insurance business in those days, it is not surprising that an undertaker would also be an insurance agent. In 1931 PJ was manager of the City of Dublin Assurance Co., Thomas St. branch.

PJ's two sons, John and Paddy, further stitched the family into the cultural life of Dublin by marrying two *Royalettes*, dancers from the famous theatre, Phyllis Conroy and Connie Connell, respectively. In this way the family had an

'intimate' relationship with the old Theatre Royal, the essence of multi-media in the Dublin of its day: theatre, cinema, music.⁸

'The Corpo'

One of the most interesting features of PJ's life, from my point of view, was his membership of Dublin Corporation. He was first elected councillor in 1920 and remained on the council until its suspension in 1924. He became a member of the new council when that body was reinstated in 1930, and he served from then until 1942.

The first council period was a most interesting one from the point of view of the emerging independent Irish State. The Dáil had got a mandate in the 1918 general election but was not recognised by the British authorities and was effectively 'on the run'. Nevertheless the Dáil slowly increased its influence and control over a not unwilling and increasingly nationalist Dublin Corporation. After the 1920 local elections, for example, the city council had a majority of republican members and was set on a collision course with the British authorities.

This came to a head almost immediately when, on instructions from the Dáil Minister for Local Government, the council refused to let the British government auditor have sight of its books, on the basis that the British now had no such authority and the books would be examined in due course by a duly constituted independent Irish government auditor.⁹ The British retaliated by withholding some revenues from the council,¹⁰ taking them to court, arresting members at a meeting¹¹ and finally ejecting them from City Hall. The council then met in the Mansion House.

The conflict also put considerable strain on the council's relationship with its own staff. This eventually led to the council dismissing the town clerk and his assistant because they refused to behave in what they considered an illegal manner (i.e. withholding the books from the British auditor and registering votes cast in Irish). The council then appointed new and more compliant staff.¹² Voting in Irish at council meetings was increasing and a refusal to recognise such votes would, in many cases, have tipped the balance against the Republican members.

Patrick voted with the nationalist members most of the time. Relations between the council and the British authorities continued to deteriorate, with the authorities raiding council meetings and arresting members, and the council passing resolutions condemning their activities.

When the new Irish (pro-Treaty) government took over, relations with the council were strained, and the two parties were now on a firm collision course. Two examples will give an idea of what was going on. The council instituted its own



Tess Medlar (née Burgess), PJ's first wife with her daughter Mai

enquiry into the mistreatment of prisoners by the new government, eventually sending its own medical officer to visit the prisons where he was refused access.¹³ Also the council passed a resolution voting half salaries to the dependents of those in the council's employ who had been imprisoned by the new government. They attempted to quote earlier Dáil authority for this type of action, but of course at the earlier stage it applied to Irish fighters in the war of independence who had been incarcerated by the British.

The council very quickly got two very sharp and threatening letters from the government. The first from Richard Mulcahy, commander in chief of the armed forces, who told them in no uncertain terms that if they did not immediately rescind their order he would have them arrested. The second, from Eanáin de Blaghd, who was then Minister for Local Government, said that he would stop housing grants if the order remained in force.¹⁴ The council promptly rescinded the order.¹⁵ Patrick figured on the Sinn Féin list of Republican councillors, found by Free State Forces in 6 Harcourt St. on 5 January 1923.¹⁶

The government eventually suspended¹⁷ the council on 20 May 1924 and ran the city through three unelected commissioners until 1930 when new legislation was brought in reconstituting the local government process.

Patrick stood for the 1923 Dáil elections on an Independent Progressives ticket but failed to get elected. He also stood unsuccessfully in 1932 and 1937.

The new council, the 'Medlar' Bridge and Tivoli Theatre

The new Dublin council saw many of the powers, formerly exercised by the elected members, now handed over to an unelected manager. The geographical area covered by the council was also extended to take in some of the new suburbs, including adjacent old townships, outside the two canals.

Patrick was elected to the new Dublin Corporation for Borough No.4 area, in 1930.¹⁸ Each councillor was presented with a special commemorative medal by the Lord Mayor to mark their membership of the newly constituted city council under the Local Government (Dublin) Act of 1930. The medal had the city arms on one side and an inscription on the other. Patrick was more than a simple councillor, he was an alderman, a designation applied to the poll-topper in a multi-seat electoral area. He held this distinction in the 1933-1936 period.

It is possible to get some idea of his areas of interest and the scope of his influence from his membership of various corporation committees over the years. Compiling this list has been facilitated by the release of the Dublin City Archive Councillors' Database which lists names, addresses and membership of committees and boards of all councillors over the years.

At various stages of his career he was involved in committees dealing with: (i) a number of hospitals, including Grangegorman Mental Hospital, the Richmond District Lunatic Asylum, the Dublin Fever and Orthopaedic Hospitals; (ii) the Dublin Board of Assistance¹⁹ and the Old Age Pensions Committee; (iii) in the area of children – School Attendance, School Meals, and Child Welfare Committees; (iv) Improvements, Supplies²⁰ and Streets Committees; (v) a full ten years on the Housing and General Purposes Committee. These must surely add up to a considerable degree of influence on the practices and procurement of the council as well as on the fortunes of end-consumers of their services. Incidentally, at the time of the construction of the 'Medlar Bridge', which we shall look at shortly, PJ was a member of the Housing and General Purposes

Committee which is where most of the action on this particular issue took place. Ironically, in 1924, he was appointed to the TB Committee. Both his eldest daughter and his wife were to die of the disease later.²¹

1932 was the year of the Dublin Eucharistic Congress which was an enormous triumphalist Roman Catholic event. It was not simply a church occasion, but a major state event. This was an age of symbiosis of church and state and de Valera badly needed Vatican endorsement of the new 'revolutionary' administration. The symbiosis also applied at local government level as shown by a picture of the Lord Mayor on bended knee kissing the papal legate's ring at the Booterstown



EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS, 1932. The Papal Legate replying to the Lord Mayor's Address of Welcome

POST CARD

COMMUNICATION ADDRESS

11 July 1939

Very many thanks for all your presents to me.

Do you remember this photo. Alfie

Patrick Medlar Esq
48 James St
Dublin

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city gate.²² On the occasion of the formal ceremony welcoming the papal legate to the city, Patrick was placed next to de Valera on the podium. Dev was then President of the Executive Council (head of government) having just come to power earlier in the year.

A member of the Medlar family told me there was a Medlar bridge over the Grand Canal in the region of James's Harbour. It took me a while to pin this down and the outcome is a bit ambiguous. There was a metal bridge linking Maryland and Basin St. Upper, but it appears to have been known locally as 'The Mettler' after the substance from which it was constructed. However it was promoted by PJ both in the council chamber and in the Housing and General Purposes Committee which was dealing with it, so I am also claiming it as the 'Medlar Bridge'.²³ It was also known as the 'The Cage' because it was completely enclosed from the entry at Maryland until it released its 'prisoners' into Basin St. Upper. This arrangement, insisted on by the Canal Company, was to isolate bridge-users from valuable and volatile stores on the company's ground north of the canal. There were two swing bridges in the harbour and if these were closed to pedestrians it was a long way round to get from Maryland to Mount Brown.

Among Patrick's public activities was the opening of the 1,700 seater Tivoli cinema in Francis St. on 21 December 1934. In his speech he recalled that he had attended school in the parish forty years previously²⁴ and said was very proud to be there to open this the third largest cinema in the city of Dublin. Present in the audience that night was a fellow alderman, Alfie Byrne, TD and Lord Mayor of Dublin. The cinema appears to have closed in September 1964. It was subsequently used briefly as a bingo hall and for the odd concert, until it burned down and lay derelict for many years. Following two brief temporary openings as a theatre in 1986 and 1987, it opened in 1988 as a permanent double theatre, seating 1,560. In recent times it has also hosted a popup nightclub known as 'District 8'. The site is now part of a major redevelopment in Francis Street.

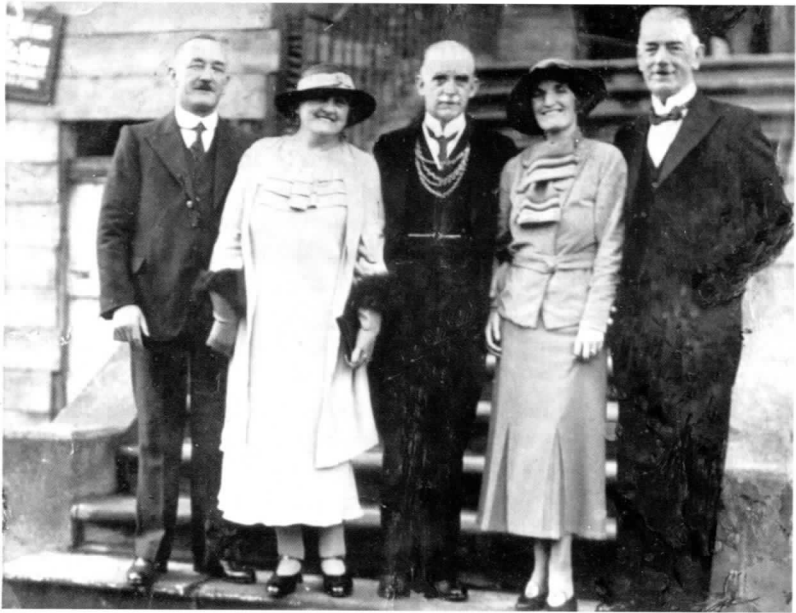
Patrick remained a member of the Corporation until 1942 when he was defeated in the local elections of that year. It was also the year in which his second wife died and he left 48a Patrick Street and the undertaking business to pursue an estate agency business. This was located in St. James's Terrace, beside Dolphin's Barn Church.

Second Marriage

1934 was a difficult year in Patrick's life. His wife, Tess, died on 23 May 1934 of TB and heart failure at the Hospice in Harold's Cross. They had five children: Ellen (Nell, 1913), John (1914), Constance (Connie, 1917), Mary (Mai, 1920), and the twins Paddy and Tess (1925). Nell had already died of TB in 1929, aged sixteen.

On 23 September 1935, barely one year after Tess's death, Patrick married Catherine Roche of 6 James's Street, a widow woman and daughter of Laurence Fox, a railway signalman turned dairy proprietor. Two of her brothers had been in the railway, one a porter and the other a fireman/stoker. So Patrick, just like his mother on her second marriage, was marrying into a railway family.

When Patrick came back from the honeymoon he moved in with Catherine to No.6, back to the house he had lived in as a teenager. The bridesmaid at the wedding was Peggy Medlar, a cousin of Patrick's, and we will come back to her later.



PJ Medlar 2nd Wedding DHR

PJ's second wedding in September 1935. From left: PJ, Catherine Roche (née Fox) his new wife, Alfie Byrne – Lord Mayor, Peggy Medlar - bridesmaid, John Burgess – best man & PJ's brother-in-law

PJ and Catherine left No. 6 in 1938 when those buildings were demolished to make way for flats. They moved to 7 Dolphin Road,²⁵ which was owned²⁶ by Catherine. I don't know much about that marriage, but it does appear to have become strained, to say the least, by the time Catherine died in 1942. In her will, dated 9 May 1940, Catherine left the house, not to PJ, but in trust to his twin children.²⁷

For his part, Patrick buried Catherine in Glasnevin cemetery, despite there having been two spaces in the Medlar grave in Mount Jerome at the time she died. She was the sole occupant of a newly opened grave in Glasnevin, until joined in 2011 by 80-old Marjorie Doyle, whose gender and occupation are unknown, if we are to believe Glasnevin Trust online records.

After Catherine's death, PJ and some members of the family moved to 53 (subsequently renumbered 101) South Circular Road. This is near Clanbrassil Street and the Jewish quarter of Dublin. In fact this had been a Jewish house until the Medlars moved in and it was an interesting example of a house in transition. Between 1942 and 1944 it hosted the Nathan, Baigal, and Burman families. In 1944 Patrick Medlar moved in and the Baigal family moved out, or on, as the case may be. Medlars did the needful with the Sabbath light switches and so on for their co-tenants (Sabbas Goy is the term for non-Jews who did this task). By 1950 Patrick had died and the Burmans had moved on leaving only the Nathans and remaining Medlars, and by 1962 it hosted the Medlar and two other non-Jewish families. The Dublin Jews got on very well with their neighbours. I know from the family that they were as proud of Chaim Herzog, local boy²⁸ made good, President of Israel between 1983 and 1993, as were the Jews themselves.

Laurence Medlar

Before returning to the Paulstown Medlars, I would like to divert briefly to look at PJ's brother, Larry. You will know from above that, after his father's death, Larry was farmed out to his maternal grandfather on the Upper Ballyellin Lock on the River Barrow at Goresbridge (where PJ was born).

This was part of the Grand Canal network which actually linked the Ballyellin Lock and the Harbour in James's St. where Larry was later to live and where his brother Patrick was to have a thriving undertaker's business.

The size of the lock-keeper's fee clearly necessitated a supplementary source of income. While Larry's grandfather and grandmother were supplying (legal) eels on a commercial scale to Billingsgate market in London, his uncle Pat was extending his activities into some slightly trickier areas (like poaching salmon/trout).

When he came back to Dublin, Larry went through a variety of occupations: conductor on the Tram; he worked in May's music shop on the Green, in Hely printers, and eventually in the Dispensary on Castle St. He was in the Dispensary by 1914 when he married the daughter of a porter there. He also appears to have been moonlighting as an usher in the old Tivoli theatre on Burgh Quay.

Larry's son-in-law interviewed him on his 90th birthday in 1978. I have put a number of snippets from this long interview up on my website²⁹.

There are probably not too many funny stories around about Bloody Sunday. This is one of them.

Larry was present at the match that day and on his way out, with people pushing and shoving he saw what he thought was a man who had been trampled to the ground and who looked in a bad way. Larry had a naggin of whiskey on him as he was to visit a sick friend later that day. He bent down over the man and put the naggin to his lips. Half the naggin was gratefully consumed, but Larry later felt an awful eejit when he discovered the reason the man was on the ground and looking so under the weather was that he was already pissed out of his mind and couldn't keep up with the fleeing crowd.³⁰

Mention of the dispensary reminds me that there is, by now, a sort of health service tradition grown up in the Medlar family. Larry worked most of his life in the dispensary while PJ served on a number of health related corporation committees. PJ's own son John made a career in the public health service and John's daughter, Colette, has only recently retired from the Health Service Executive.

Other Medlar Family Members

Coming back to Paulstown and Michael Medlar, the blacksmith who stayed at home. Unlike John who only had two children (the Lord having denied him time to have any more), Michael had had 12 children of whom 9 were alive in 1911. I clearly cannot deal with all of these now, so I will briefly refer to three of them who seem to have the most relevance to my story.

Laurence was born in Paulstown in September 1896. He was commandant of the No. 4 Battalion, Kilkenny Brigade IRA, in the War of Independence. In February 1921, he was arrested, accused of having 39 sticks of gelignite in his possession and having taken part in an attack on nearby Gowran police barracks. He had also in his possession incriminating documents relating to the No. 4 Battalion.

His defence, at a court martial in April 1921, was a combination of an alibi for the barracks raid (supplied by his father), mental incapacity (the doctor said he had a lack in him since a bout of flu two years earlier) and 'minding the materiel for others' who had threatened him to silence.

The court was not impressed and Laurence was sentenced to death. This was commuted to 15 years penal servitude from which he was released on the signing of the Treaty. On 18 January 1922, volunteers and a large crowd welcomed him home from Waterford jail where he had been serving his sentence. However, after independence Larry became an 'irregular' and spent much of the few remaining years of his life in internment. He died in 1929 from heart failure.

Martin Medlar was born in Paulstown in December 1899 and he was also active in the War of Independence. Like Larry he took up arms against the Free State Government in the Civil War. He went on the run but was captured and arrested in January 1923 by Free State forces. In common with about one thousand other prisoners, he went on hunger strike in October/November of that year. Although the hunger strike was called off at the end of November, Martin was not released until July 1924. He was secretary³¹ of the Paulstown Fianna Fáil Cumann and was elected to Dáil Éireann in 1957. He was a TD until his death in 1965.

Peggy Medlar

And, finally, we come back to Dublin and the Belle of the Ball. Peggy was born Margaret Medlar on 23 April 1901 in Paulstown, Co. Kilkenny. She came to Dublin, probably in her late teens, and became well-known as an Irish dance teacher. A competition purely for Medlar pupils was inaugurated in the CYMS Hall in Harrington Street in June 1921. On that occasion a Fr. Xavier complimented her pupils 'on having as their teacher one of the greatest exponents of the art of Irish dancing'.³²

By the following year the competition had moved to the Round Room in the Mansion House, by which time the number of competitors reached three hundred. At the same competition the following year, also in the Round Room, another priest, a Fr. O'Brien recalled that 'when he had become first interested in it there were all men teachers of Irish Dancing. Miss Medlar opening as a dancing teacher was quite an innovation.'³³

By 1925 the Feis had moved to Parnell Square, on which occasion Mr. F. Fahey, TD, 'expressed pleasure at Miss Medlar's decision to establish a class in which dancing would be taught through the medium of Irish'. So Peggy seems to have been at the vanguard of change in her day. Peggy was arrested by Free State Forces on 18 February 1923. She had in her possession letters and photographs which were judged to be incriminating and were duly confiscated.³⁴

Most of the photographs taken from Peggy were of young men, many of them sporting the Fáinne (the old solid model for proficiency in the Irish language). Many are studio photographs but the men are not named. There are two exceptions, one of which is inscribed *Do chara, Stiophán S Ó Raghallaigh* ("Banba"). Stiophán was one of the two O'Reilly brothers killed in the raid on the Custom House in May 1921.

Peggy married Detective Sergeant Michael Lynch at the beginning of 1938. Sadly, by early 1939 she was critically ill with TB. On 4 March of that year she made a will which is a very sad document to read.³⁵ In it, for

example, each room in the house is inventoried and the contents assigned to different family members, principally her husband, sisters and brother in law. However the saddest and most touching indication of her state of mind at the time was the very large sum she left to Fr. O'Brien in Kill, Co Kildare, the priest who had married her, for public masses (50 in all), and the significant sum given to her brother-in-law for Gregorian masses to be said in Ireland or elsewhere. These were all for the repose of her soul. Peggy died on 29 July 1939.

Patrick Medlar died on 11 December 1949, aged 63. He was buried in Mount Jerome cemetery with his daughter who had died of TB in 1929, and his first wife, Tess, who died in 1934, also of TB. So 'The Medlar' got them all in the long run, including Medlar himself.

Notes

1. *Thom's Directory* 1884, shows that there were 793 blacksmiths (excluding farriers) in Dublin, or 1 per 300 people. In terms of relative importance at this time, this is roughly the same proportion as for greengrocers. It compares with 1 milliner/dressmaker per 42 people, and at the other end of the spectrum, 1 physician per 600 people.
2. Ellis Island records were checked with no result. The station opened in 1892.
3. Samuel Roberts Mason (1852-1900)
4. This partnership was formally dissolved on 17/2/1927. On 21/2/1927 PJ applied for a bookies licence.
5. In the 1940s his estate agent business was in James's Avenue West.
6. Appropriately the Royal Liver Friendly Society was originally set up to 'provide for the decent interment of deceased members'. It subsequently expanded into the Royal Liver Assurance Group and spread from Liverpool throughout Britain and Ireland. The Society held its 1907 Annual General Meeting in Dublin and it was at this meeting that the decision was taken to build a new head office, the Liver Building in Liverpool. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Liver_Friendly_Society (accessed 10/5/2019).
7. Alfie Byrne in Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfie_Byrne (accessed 10/5/2019).
8. 3,800 seater. Bigger than Paramount in Oakland and same number as the Chicago Theatre in that city. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theatre_Royal,_Dublin (accessed 10/5/2019).
9. Dublin City Council meeting 9/20/1920.
10. Council meeting 6/9/1920.
11. Council meeting 6/12/1920.
12. Council meetings 1 & 8/11/1920.
13. Council meetings 9 & 23/12/1922.
14. Council meeting 29/1/1923.
15. Council meeting 12/2/1923.
16. Irish Military Archives CAP/D/F Lot 33.
17. Not just for the reasons above. There were accusations of maladministration etc.
18. Borough No. 4 area included the Merchant's Quay, Usher's Quay and New Kilmainham Wards (it did not include the Wood Quay Ward).
19. Vice-chairman 1933
20. Chairman 1920-21
21. Council meeting of 19/5/24. The minister dissolved the council one month later.
22. <https://photopol.blogspot.com/2007/09/rome-rule.html> (accessed 10/5/2019)
23. https://photopol.com/james_st/medlar_bridge.html (accessed 10/5/2019)
24. *Irish Independent* 22/12/1934
25. The voters register lists this address for both of them.
26. On a 238 year lease from 1935.
27. 1943 Index of Wills and Administrations. Will dated 9/5/1940 Probate 8/12/1942.

28. Born in Belfast in 1918, but raised at 33 Bloomfield Avenue from 1919 to 1935.
29. <https://photopol.com/larry/larry.html> (accessed 10/5/2019)
30. https://photopol.com/larry/bloody_sunday.mp3 (accessed 10/5/2019)
31. 'The Paulstown Meeting' letter in the *Irish Independent* 10/8/1932.
32. *Freemans Journal* 13/6/1921
33. *Freemans Journal* 5/6/1922.ium
34. Military Archives CAP/D/F A1080 Lot 90 (i) (a).
35. **I was told by Peggy's nièce, Maura, that this was not the first will and that an earlier will had left everything to her new husband. Following protests from the family Peggy made this will which distributed her estate more widely among the family and beyond.**