



O'Leathlobhair Line

From Laois, Ballarat & beyond

Edition 9 - March 2015

GALLIPOLI HERO: CAPTAIN JOSEPH PETER LALOR

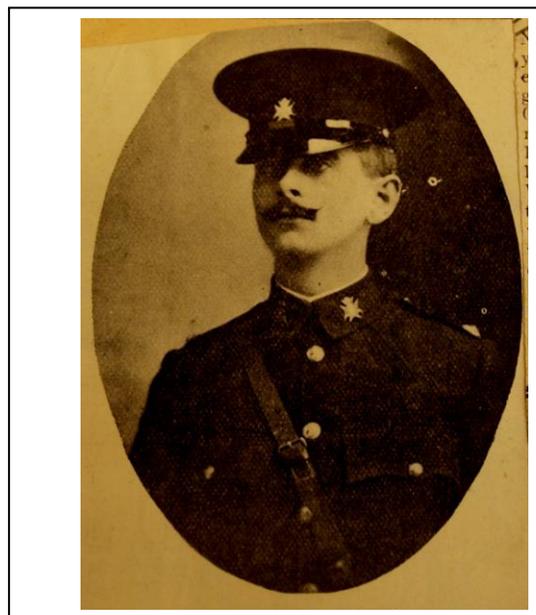
It's 100 years since Joe Lalor, known to his comrades as 'Little Jimmy' died a hero on the slopes of Baby 700, Gallipoli. That was the first day of the ANZACs' landing – April 25 1915.

Joe Lalor, son of Dr Joseph and Agnes Lalor and grandson of Eureka's Peter Lalor was an amazing character. Alongside Peter Lalor's cousin, Field Marshall Joseph O'Lawlor of Spanish fame, Joe was probably the greatest of the Lalors' military leaders. One of his obituaries states that "wherever trouble and fighting were in evidence, Captain Lalor was to be found."

Born in Richmond in 1884, educated at Xavier College, Kew, Joe joined the British Merchant Navy before deserting and alienating himself with a revolutionary force in Argentina. In typical Lalor tradition he was fighting with the people's army against a military backed dictatorship. When the rebels were defeated he made a daring escape out of South America and became a member of the French Foreign Legion. Apparently he made good friends amongst the legionnaires however the pay was lousy. Following a number of notable incidents he was invalided out of the legion and returned to Australia where he continued his army career, in administration and instructional roles.

On 4 January 1911 he married Hester Loughrey in Perth. Hessie was a member of a prominent Melbourne family of lawyers and doctors.

Joe enlisted for military service on 26 August 1914 in the 12th Battalion.



He embarked from Fremantle on board Transport A7 Medic on 2 November 1914.

At 8.30am on 25 April, 1915, Joe Lalor led his men in an advance on Baby 700 hill – part of the Sari Bair Ranges. The hill was won and lost twice on that day. The History of the 12th Battalion records:

"Lalor then moved forward on the seaward slope of Baby 700 where the fighting was thickest. Although the mental strain and anxiety, which he had experienced since landing early in the morning had been enormous, he never-the-less rallied his men and waving his arms shouted "Come on, the 12th". The words had hardly passed his lips when he fell dead, and the 12th lost one of its most gallant capable officers.

"Although small in stature, Little Jimmy's heart was large...his vitality was almost inexhaustible."

EUREKA – 160th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The importance, the fragility and the justice of Australia's democracy were emphasized during the week long 160th Eureka celebrations in Ballarat.

It was a very significant time for the Lalor family, not only because of their presence but the level of their involvement in the activities and discussions.

Pivotal for the Lalors was having the participation of its international Chieftain and Ambassador, Margot Coogan.

"One hundred and sixty years ago, Peter Lalor was the central leader at the Bakery Hill meetings; so today it was important to have another Lalor leader involved. Margot carried out her role with style. So too did Peter Lalor's great-great grand daughter Sue Lalor White and two members of the younger generation, Nainalicia and Daniel Lalor Philp," Leader of 'Lalors Australia', Peter Lalor Philp said.

The family were official guests at the dawn 'Blood on the Southern Cross'; 'Welcome to the Country and Smoking Ceremony' with Elder Uncle Bryon Power; 'The Raising of the Recreated Eureka Flag'; 'The Memorial Service'; 'Unveiling of the Statue of the Pikeman's Dog'; 'Walking the Pathway of Eureka's Fallen' and a theatre presentation of 'Demanding Democracy'.



Margot Coogan installs the Leader 'Lalors Australia' Pictured with Peter and Margot is Sue Lalor White.

O'Brien. The Chieftain also met executive and board members of The Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka.

One of Margot Coogan's most important duties was to install Peter Lalor Philp as the second Leader of 'Lalors Australia' beneath the state of Peter Lalor in Sturt St. Ballarat. As part of the installation, Margot gave Peter the Lalor Blessing. Peter replaces Alicia Lalor Christie who served as the first leader.

Sue Lalor White organized and hosted the Alicia Dunne Dinner at the North Britain Hotel.

The Lalors enjoyed afternoon tea with the Howard family whose ancestors were prominent at Eureka. Eric Howard is the President of Eureka's Children and brother Shane is one of Australia's leading folk singers.

Following the celebrations in Ballarat, Margot spent time with Eileen Mount, writer and member of the Carroll family who were instrumental in rescuing Peter Lalor from Ballarat and taking him to Alicia Dunne in Geelong.

"I would like to congratulate Margot for all the passion and energy she put into this important trip to her second home, Ballarat. Margot was going from dawn till night meeting people and acting as a splendid representative not only for 'Lalors Australia' but also the international O'Leathlobhair Clan," said Peter Lalor Philp

'Lalors Australia' is proud to be associated with the Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka and Eureka's Children both of whom made a major contribution to making these celebrations an outstanding success.

Acknowledgements

- Governor Sir Charles Hotham – Dick Patterson
- J.B. Humffray – Conrad Corry
- Father Patrick Smyth – Eric Howard
- George Black – Phillip Moore
- Henry Seekamp and Raffaello Carboni, Tom Log
- Peter Lalor – Peter Lalor Philp
- Commissioner Rede – Bob Allen
- Thomas Kennedy – David McGinniss
- Mrs Ellen Young – Susan Kruss
- Mrs Anastasia Hayes and Clara Seekamp - Nainalicia Lalor Philp



• Some of the players in Demanding Democracy

While in Ballarat, Margot Coogan met the Irish Ambassador in Australia, Tom White and the former Irish Ambassador, Richard



A missing historic figure from the Eureka story has found a home in Ballarat – James Fintan Lalor. Every history and story about Eureka and its leader refers to the influence and connection of James Fintan on his younger brother. When James Fintan’s statue was unveiled outside the County Offices in Laois, a plaque was attached proclaiming the deeds of Peter at Ballarat. The famous Ray Scanlon folk song, James Fintan Lalor also tells the story of Eureka. However there has never been a physical recognition of James Fintan in Ballarat until now.

During Margot Coogan’s visit for the 160th Eureka celebrations, the Chieftain presented the Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka with a limited edition print of the Irish rebel. The print is part of the excellent collection highlighting James Fintan by prominent Irish artist Brendon Deacy. The collection was recently exhibited by Deacy at the James Fintan Lalor School in Laois.

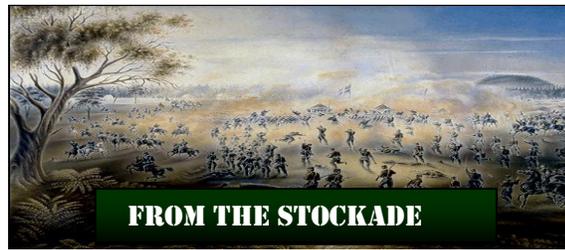
Margot Coogan’s presentation was made before a live audience in the museum’s theatre to M.A.D.E.’s CEO, Jane Smith.

The reaction has been so good that the museum and Brendon Deacy are in negotiations about bringing the exhibition to Ballarat maybe next year.

The original oil collection, titled Siorai, (Eternal), displays Lalor’s words and Deacy’s pictures.

In 1847 James Fintan declared the government of Ireland to be ‘null and void as of moral effect’. Brendon Deacy asks: ‘What has changed?’

‘Lalors Australia’ is delighted that the exhibition is likely to come to Ballarat.



When I was young, the outline was clear but the substance was vague. I grew up in a proud Lalor household where the exploits of the past were frequently spoken about.

However the whys and hows of our historic story were not really understood. Peter Lalor was a great leader of the diggers who stood up for what was right against a bad government that was British, protestant and which had invaded Ireland. His large portrait hanging in our hallway, gowned and wigged, constantly reminded me that he was also a famous politician.

My understanding was wanting. The only Irish relative that I had known was my grandmother ‘lee’ and it was years before I learnt that the Lalors came from Queens County, a term I used until abruptly reminded one day that the Irish Lalors would not appreciate me calling it Queens County.

Reading the historic story and exploring the issues, I began to understand the complexities of the Lalor history. Yet homeland Ireland still remained a distant emerald isle made famous by St Patrick.

Christine Lalor Gillespie was the first Australian to go to Ireland in nearly a century. She opened the way for a number of us to visit, participate in clan meetings and better appreciate our culture.

‘Lalors Australia’ is important because we are no longer isolated and vague. Margot Coogan as a reigning Chieftain has played a major part in helping to internationalize us. Fr Terry Southerwood has introduced us to the Tasmanian Lalors and through Angelia Janda in Grand Rapids, to North American Lalors.

Now we are about to build another broader Lalor link of understanding. Hopefully the Brendon Deacy exhibition of James Fintan Lalor will come to Ballarat.

Let’s move forward with pride.

Peter P.P

TENAKILL TO WILLIAMSTOWN

By
Esther Lalor

Thomas Lalor, one of the sons of Patrick and Mary Lalor of 'Tenakill', was born in 1790.

Thomas married Catherine Kelly and they produced Peter, Michael, Catherine, Mary, Patrick, Thomas, William, Patrick, James and John.

It is interesting to note that the baptismal records of the family list the child as Lalor Lawler and Lawlor.

The 8th child (Patrick Lalor born 1839) is the ancestor of interest for our family.

He was born at Moanvane, County Offaly, which is where his father Thomas a 'farmer' died on 15th December 1874. His wife had possibly died before him.

Their son Patrick Lalor had made the journey to Australia in the mid 1860s in search of gold. He was in Black River in 1868.

He finally found his way to Creswick where he met and married an Irish lass – Mary Halplin who was from County Meath. Mary was the daughter of Nicholas and Elizabeth (nee Finnegan) Halpin. Her family lived on the "Whitewood Estate" in Nobber, where Mary worked as a 'general servant'.

After arriving in Victoria, Mary went to live with her sister Anne who had married Lawrence Lamb. Lawrence's family was also from the "Whitewood Estate". Anne and her husband became farmers at Napoleon.

Mary's sister Catherine had also settled in Australia marrying George Douglas who was a Scot. George was a 'miner' and played an important part in the history of the mines at Creswick. A memorial stone from the workmen of the New Australasian Gold Mining Company sits in the Creswick Cemetery.

Catherine having worked previously in the Buninyong Hotel, purchased the Australasian Hotel after the death of her husband. This was sold and she moved to Melbourne with her family taking over the Anchor and Hope in Church Street Richmond for a time.

Mary Halpin and Patrick Lalor married at Creswick 18th August 1872 at St. Augustine's Catholic Church in Creswick.

Patrick moved away from working in the mines and took up employment in the railways. This finally took his family to Sunbury where he was the railway "waterman" and "locomotive pumper".

Patrick and Mary had three children – Thomas, Catherine and Patrick.

Patrick Lalor died in 1897 and the family moved to 74 Yarra Street Williamstown. Their son Thomas married Bessie Brooks who gave him a son Thomas. It was at the birth of her second child that Bessie died leaving Thomas with the young Tom to raise.

The young Tom was mostly cared for by his grandmother Mary Lalor and his Aunt Catherine at the Yarra Street home. His father Thomas worked as the Chief Engineering Draftsman at the Newport Workshops. He was recognised for his work on the Walschaert A2 steam engine which was produced in Newport between 1915 and 1922, as well as the development of Puffing Billy.

After his father's death, young Tom who also worked with the railways married Doris Beckman. They produced a son Peter and a daughter Pauline Lalor.

It was their son Peter Lalor who broke the pattern of Lalors working in the railways.

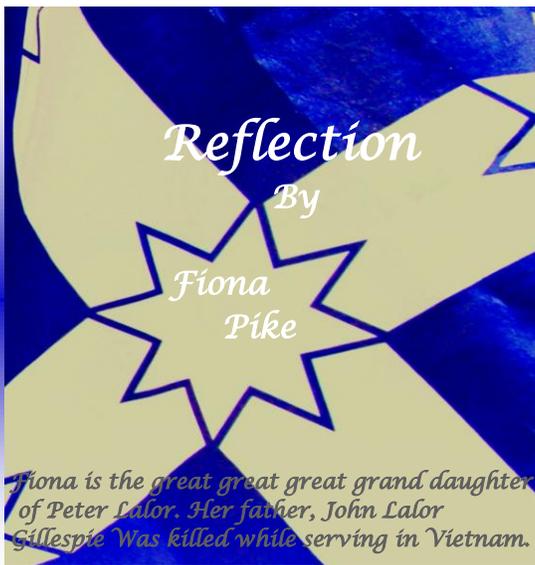
Peter started work at 16 as a Mechanical Draftsman with Australian Glass Manufacturers in Spotswood. He later became the organisation's Development Manager working for some of Australia's largest corporations including Price Waterhouse.

He was in council from 1970-1979 and was Mayor of Williamstown in 1976 and responsible for transforming the council into more democratic processes including allowing people to speak more than once for any motion they had proposed with the idea of creating understanding.

Peter with his wife Esther (Curtis) produced a son Brett Lalor and daughter Janita.

Brett Lalor married Carolyn (Webb) and has made a wonderful contribution to the Lalor name by producing three sons – Oscar, Luke and Adam.

The Lalor name goes on.



When I think of Eureka or the Lalor name various words come to mind: "Family", "strength", "beliefs" and "social responsibility".

A number of members of our Lalor clan have displayed many of these qualities. Moya, my grandmother - her family was everything and her centre. My father, John through his short life showed these traits which we are trying to instill into our impressionable, two young sons. I often reflect on Moya, my dad and also my Aunty Christine and see these family members as having a "voice" in different ways and who shared and displayed the importance of "family life" and the importance of standing up for what you believe in.

For me personally, I feel blessed the Lalor family has such a strong heritage, for members such as Peter Philp, who pulls our family together by compiling this newsletter, also for members who organise the Lalor get togethers and for the members who can attend these functions.

As I recall the Lalor family march in 2012, I fondly remember the young and slightly older... family members present, walking together and reliving the past and enjoying the present and talking about the future together and this gives me faith the Lalor spirit will always continue.

THE RESERCH GOES ON

One of the most valuable chapters in the expansive story of the O'Leathobhair Clan has been penned by Australian historian, John Cherry.

Everyone bearing this name should have a copy of John's 'Lalors of Laois', which traces the story back to its origins and attempts to link the complex web of the many Lalor families.

John Cherry's great great grandfather was John Lalor, born in the village of Rosenallis, County Laois. John Cherry believes that John Lalor was the great great grandson of Joseph and Joan (nee Vicars) Lalor.

Being a good historian, John's research continues. The Tenakill Lalor family tree before Patrick Lalor, (Peter of Eureka's grandfather) is unclear with a number of possibilities as to who Patrick's mother and father were. However this has been part of John Cherry's latest research.

"As to the parents of Patrick Lalor (Peter's grandfather) the best hypothesis is that they were Joseph Lalor and Joan Vicars. I have not been able to settle the issue with certainty since writing my book," John Cherry said.

It is likely that Patrick Lalor had three brothers or maybe four. John and Denis are most likely brothers of Patrick. Florence Lalor is a possible brother however there is doubt about Peter Lalor from Clonaheen. Peter is more likely to be a cousin. The problem is there are too many Peters, Patricks and Josephs.

John is also still trying to research the ancestry of Alicia Dunne but there are also too many Dunes in the surrounded counties.

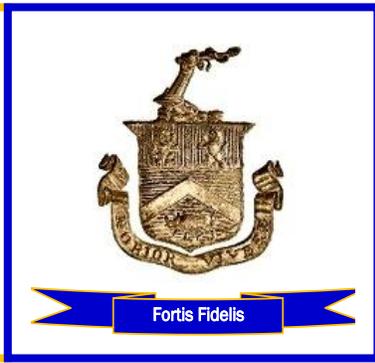
LALOR DINNER

Margot Coogan managed a few days after Ballarat at Fish Creek walking on the beach and watching the birds. While Margot was in South Gippsland a special handmade replica of the Southern Cross flag was displayed in her honour.

In Melbourne Margot had a dinner with Peter and Pauline Lalor and Marie and Martin McCarthy.

WELCOME PETER LAWLER

The O'Leathlobhair Line welcomes more clan members, Peter and Joan Lawler from Canberra. Peter and Joan were part of the recent 160th celebrations in Ballarat.



Lalor history has again been recorded with the first ever joint Christmas message from the Clan Chieftain and the Leader 'Lalors Australia'. The idea was suggested by Margot Coogan to mark the 160th Anniversary of the Eureka Stockade and the presentation to the Eureka city, Ballarat, of a limited edition print of James Fintan Lalor. The draft of the joint message was written in the foyer of the historic Craigs' Hotel, Ballarat.

Dear Clan Members,

I feel privileged to be elected your Chieftain for the second time. I thank you for this great honour and the trust you have placed in me. This is an historic year for the Lalor clan because it marks the 160th Anniversary of The Eureka Stockade, Ballarat, led by Peter Lalor, from Raheen, County Laois.

My first official function was to present a "Life time Certificate" to Josie Dunne, for her contribution to Lalor History which included her song "James Fintan Lalor". In September, many of you travelled with me to Glasnevin Cemetery for the wreath laying ceremony on the grave of James Fintan Lalor, as well as laying a wreath on the grave of our Poet, John Keegan, Killeaney, Shanahoe. I was invited in October, to speak at the opening of the James Fintan Lalor Autumn School. As the prelude to the James Fintan Lalor School was the launching of the Brendon Deacy's, Siorai (Eternal), visualising the words of James Fintan Lalor. This was a collection of ten oil paintings incorporating the words of 'James Fintan Lalor Today'.

Sunday, 7 December, was a great honour for me to install the second Leader 'Lalors Australia', Peter Lalor Philp. The installation was performed beneath the statue of Peter Lalor, in the main Street, of Ballarat.

For our new members let me outline a little about myself. I was born at Killeany, near Shanahoe, in County Laois. I have three sisters Sadie, Vera and Moira and three brothers Jack, Jim and Joe. Jim passed away in March, 2003. May he and all our loved ones "Rest In Peace".

Finally, I want to dedicate this great honour to the memory of my late father Joseph Coogan and his mother, my granny, Sarah Lalor.

I am writing my Christmas message to you from Australia. One of the most moving experiences of my life time has been this opportunity to participate in the 160th Anniversary of the Eureka Stockade. You have all been in my heart and thoughts during this time. It is now at this point that I should like to introduce to you to the newly elected Leader "Lalors Australia", Peter Lalor Philp, the great great grandson of Peter Lalor of Eureka.

Le gach dea I gcomhaire na Nollag agus na h-ath Bhliana.

Margot Lalor Coogan, Clan Chieftain.

Dear Lalor Clan Members,

My warmest greetings to you all. The principle aim of my leadership is to better connect 'Lalors Australia' with our treasured homeland of Ireland. Immediately following my election, it was my privilege to invite our Chieftain Margot Coogan to officially participate in the major events of the 160th Anniversary of Eureka. Margot did us all proud in this role. The most significant event during these celebrations for me was when Margot presented an important piece of Ireland to Ballarat. What a surprise it was for all of us. Margot's presentation to the CEO of the Museum of Australian Democracy Eureka, Jane Smith, before a live audience, was '*From the Sod to the Sky*', one of the 10 part collection by Brendon Deacy. The artist wrote on this special limited edition 'presented to the good people of Ballarat, by Margot Coogan, Lalor Clan Chieftain on the 160th Anniversary of the Eureka Stockade.'

Christmas blessings from Australia to you all.

Peter Lalor Philp, Leader 'Lalors Australia'.

December 2014