11-year-old Bridget Stewart was the daughter of a general labourer. She lived with her family in No. 10 Turner’s Cottages, near St Stephen’s Green, where she, her parents and four siblings occupied two rooms. Bridget was shot during Easter Week 1916 while collecting coal on the banks of the Dodder, and died from her wounds on April 28th.
Four-month-old Mary Donnelly died of malnutrition caused by enteritis on September 9th 1916. Born to an unmarried mother, Mary had been fostered out some days earlier to Hannah Connor, who noted that the baby was already ‘weak and thin’. Hannah Connor, a widowed tailoress, had previously fostered a child on behalf of an organisation caring for the children of unmarried mothers, which paid twelve shillings for the first month. According to the 1911 Census, Mrs Connor had herself borne six children, of whom three survived. At the inquest into Mary’s death, Hannah Connor stated that she carried Mary to Sir Patrick Dun’s Hospital, but was told on arrival that the baby was dead.
JAMES TEMPLETON

James Templeton was born the son of a general labourer in Belfast; his mother had borne ten children, of whom seven were still alive at the time of the 1911 census. After leaving school, James became an apprentice in a mill but enlisted in the Royal Irish Rifles when war was declared and was quickly sent to France. Two days after Christmas Day in 1915 he failed to turn up for a parade; in February 1916 he again went missing after a day of heavy shelling. He eventually returned to his regiment, was court martialled and executed for desertion.
MARY ANN WARSFOLD

Mary Ann Warsfold was approximately 34 years old when she, along with six other women, died in a fire at the Belfast O & T Gallagher rag, waste and paper mill in March 1916. Eleven other workers – primarily rag and tow sorters – were also injured. The inquest into the deaths heard that the floors and stairs in the building were wooden while an exposed gas jet was located some seven feet above the floor. The jury did not attribute blame for the deaths, but did recommend new bylaws providing for means of escape in factories and workshops. In the 1911 Census, Mary Ann and her husband Thomas, a dockworker, are recorded as having had four children, three of whom were still living. They occupied one room in a house shared with three other families.
21-year-old Peter Lawless was a motor mechanic who lived with his widowed mother, a milk seller, at 27 North King Street in Dublin. According to the 1911 Census, both Peter and his younger sister had been born in New York. During the Rising, together with several lodgers and visitors, Peter and his mother remained in the house while fighting was continuing. On April 29th soldiers broke into the house; the women were told to leave while the men were taken prisoner. When Mrs Lawless returned, all the men in the house, including her son Peter, had been shot.
JOHN CLARKE

John (James) Clarke was one of thirteen children born to timber salesman Edward Clarke and his wife Bridget in Rathory, near Ardee, Co. Louth. In the 1911 Census, John is listed as a ‘labourer at timber cutting’. On the outbreak of war, aged 23, he joined the Irish Guards in Dundalk and subsequently fought at the Somme. John was killed on September 13th 1916 and is buried in Lesbeaufs war cemetery. A younger brother, Peter, was to later join the new Irish army.
JOHN HALLY

Born in 1891, John Hally from Kilmeaden in Co. Waterford entered the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve in November 1914. John Hally was one of two children born to Patrick Hally, listed in the 1911 Census as an agricultural labourer, and his wife Margaret who is listed in both 1901 and 1911 as a weaver. In 1911, John was working as a factory hand; he then moved to Durham and had been working as a miner before the war. His military records show that he was in ill health for much of 1915, having been treated for gastritis and enteritis in Cairo and at Gallipoli. Nevertheless, he re-joined his battalion from hospital shortly before Christmas 1915. John Hally was declared missing in France on November 13th 1916, and his death was formally assumed in June 1917.
JAMES HERBERT HILDITCH

One of eleven children born in Belfast to Jane Hilditch and her husband Robert, a gas stoker, James Herbert Hilditch was 17 when he died in Iraq as a result of illness on July 2nd 1916. He had gone to Iraq with the 596th (Indian Motor Transport) Company, Royal Army Service Corps, which formed part of the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force. Two older brothers had emigrated to Canada before the war where they were working as labourers before joining the Canadian Expeditionary Forces. Unlike James Herbert, both survived the war.
EMILY NOBLE

Emily Noble was one of seven children of Galway-born Richard Noble, a clerk, and his wife Emily. The family lived on James’s Street in Dublin’s South Inner City. Richard Noble died in the Cork Street Fever Hospital in 1909, following which three of the sons were sent to an orphanage in Swords while Emily and an infant brother remained with their mother. Emily was among several hundred women recruited through Labour Exchanges to work as munitions workers for the National Shell Factory on Parkgate Street. On December 22nd 1916, 20-year-old Emily Noble was having a piece of shell removed from her finger when she fell against a gas stove causing her clothing to catch fire; the inquest found that she had died of shock.
64-year-old William Gregg was a bottle-blower who lived in Simpson’s Lane in Dublin’s South Inner City; he had previously lived in Dignam’s Cottages close by. Along with his sons, he worked at the Glass Bottle Works in Ringsend. He was accidentally shot as he cycled to his shift on April 29th, the last day of the Easter Rising. According to the 1901 Census, William and his wife Mary had six children, of whom three sons were still alive and living with their parents in 1911. Both the 1901 and 1911 census returns indicate that none of the family could read.
MARTIN MURRAY

Martin Murray was one of eight children born to William Murray and his wife Mary Anne. In the 1911 Census Martin, like his father, is described as a ‘servant and gardener’. They lived in Lucan, where Martin attended school sporadically, having started work at the age of nine. He enlisted in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers at the age of 19, and was taken captive after being wounded in the vicinity of Loos. Martin spent 1916 and the remainder of the war as a prisoner. Although he survived the war and went to work in Hills’ Mills, delayed shell shock – or what today would be called post-traumatic stress disorder – caught up with him in the 1950s when he suffered a nervous breakdown. He was treated with electro-convulsive therapy, leaving him unable to work for the rest of his life.
ROBERT CARSON

Born in Knockahollet in 1895, Robert Carson was one of nine children born to James Carson, a yardman, and his wife Ellen. Eight children were still alive at the time of the 1911 census, and the family lived in Portballintrae in Co Antrim. Robert was among the first to enlist in Ballymena. On June 30th 1916, he was in the forward trenches of Hamel Village at the Somme. On July 1st, Robert was reported missing in action; it is thought that he was either killed on that date or taken prisoner.
GEORGE CORR

George Corr, from Belfast, was 34 when he was killed during the Battle of the Somme as a member of the 54th Australian Infantry Battalion. There were eleven children in the family. One brother, Henry, was a member of the Irish Volunteers while two of George's sisters, Elizabeth and Nell, were members of Cumann na mBan and took part in the 1916 Rising. Another brother, Charles, was a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force and fought on the Western Front.
THOMAS McEVOY

Thomas McEvoy was born in 1899, the son of a builder’s labourer and his wife. The McEvoy families were one of three families living in a tenement in Sampson's Lane, just off Moore Street in Dublin’s North Inner City. Of the seven children born to Andrew and Annie McEvoy, five were still alive at the time of the 1911 census. Thomas – who was working as a grocer’s assistant – took part in the 1916 Rising, and was stationed in the GPO on Easter Sunday. He performed a range of roles, including escorting noted suffragist Hanna Sheehy-Skeffington from the GPO to the Royal College of Surgeons. It is reported that, when informed on the final day of the Rising that Thomas was just 17, James Connolly told him to 'go home to your mother, son’. Thomas was a shop steward in the ITGWU until his death in 1970.
Born in Bushmills, James McGowan was one of seven children; his father was a labourer. According to the 1911 census, James – then aged 13 – and his two older brothers were millworkers. Before enlisting in May 1915, James McGowan worked in the Braidwater Spinning Mill, Ballymena. James McGowan was 18 when he died at the Somme on July 1st 1916 along with his older brother John who, before the war, had been working for Ballymena Urban Council.
Margaret Kehoe was born in Leighlinbridge, Co Carlow, in 1867, the daughter of a farming family. She was one of the first professional nurses employed by the South Dublin Union in 1897, at a time when the death rate in workhouses was as high as 25 per cent. In 1911, according to the Census, the South Dublin Union workhouse was home to 3,817 inmates, most of them destitute, sick, elderly or homeless. On Easter Monday 1916, the Union was the scene of a firefight during which Margaret Kehoe, in full nursing uniform, came downstairs looking for a patient and was shot dead.