

The Gaelic Athletic Association through History and Documents 1870–1920

Education Department, GAA Museum, Croke Park



Resource Pack Contents

Factsheets

This pack contains 10 factsheets which focus on key personalities and events dating from the early history of the GAA up to the present day. These factsheets contain information relevant to the history of the Association, the museum's collections and Croke Park Stadium Tour. All factsheets are designed to be photocopied if necessary.

Documents

There are 18 written and visual documents included in this pack. These documents were chosen for their relevance to aspects of the GAA's history and can be used in the classroom or in conjunction with a class visit to the museum.

Note: all documents are subject to copyright and should not be reproduced without the permission of the GAA Museum.

Document Activity Sheets

These are specifically designed Document Activity Sheets for use by students preparing for 'The Work of the Historian' at Junior Certificate Level and for students preparing for the 'Documents Based Question' at Leaving Certificate Level. The Document Activity Sheets may be used in conjunction with documents in this pack, documents on display in the GAA Museum or with written and visual documents other than those pertaining to the GAA. The Document Activity Sheets are designed to be photocopied if necessary.

Further Reading and Glossary of Terms

A list of books and URL links is supplied.

Acknowledgements

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The GAA Museum

Information for Teachers



Aim of the Teachers Pack

The Education Department of the GAA Museum aims to involve, engage and provide learning opportunities for people of all ages and is committed to delivering an enjoyable, innovative and memorable learning experience. This resource pack contains everything you need to plan a successful and inspiring visit for your class to the GAA Museum.

This resource pack is primarily designed to help secondary school teachers plan an educational visit to the GAA Museum. The pack includes pre-visit resource material as well as on-site activities and is intended to be adaptable for secondary school students of all ages. When used in conjunction with a visit to the GAA Museum, this pack aims to provide an excellent stimulus for learning.

Introduction to the GAA Museum

Founded in 1884 the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) is Ireland's largest sporting and cultural organisation governing the country's unique national games of gaelic football and hurling. The GAA Museum, located at Croke Park, opened in 1998 and celebrates the history, development and heritage of gaelic games in addition to the GAA's enormous contribution to Irish sporting, cultural and social life.

Exhibited over two floors, the museum's collections interpret the birth and development of the GAA both at home and abroad, as well as its unique role during the cultural revival that gripped Ireland in the mid to late nineteenth century. The GAA Museum houses a vast collection of artefacts that illustrate the development of the GAA from its roots in ancient times and provides an insight into the games as they are played today. Items on display include documents relating to the Association's foundation, personal papers of the key figures involved in the Association's history, accolades belonging to famous players, and the original Sam Maguire and Liam MacCarthy Cups.

Touch-screen technology and databanks enable students to select games from the past and access information on GAA Clubs. Students can also test their own hurling and gaelic football skills in a specially-designed interactive games area on the museum's first floor.

Opening Times

The GAA Museum is open for group bookings on a daily basis, Monday to Saturday, from 9.30am to 5.00pm. Advance booking is **required** and it should be noted that at peak times availability cannot be guaranteed.



Dublin Young Ireland Football Team 1897

Organising your visit

A visit to the GAA Museum offers a unique opportunity to learn more about the history of the Gaelic Athletic Association through guided tours and museum exhibits. A typical visit includes the screening of a short audio-visual entitled 'National Awakenings' (15 minutes), a visit to the museum's exhibition galleries (30 minutes) and a behind-the-scenes guided stadium tour (1 hour).

Historical Museum Tour

The GAA Museum offers a tour of its collections focusing on artefacts relating to the history and development of gaelic games from medieval times up to the creation of the Irish Free State. Topics covered include the origin of Gaelic Games, the creation of the Association in 1884, influential personalities in the early years of the GAA, links with organisations such as the Land League, Home Rule and the Catholic Church, the fall of Parnell, the 1916 Rising, the Irish War of Independence and Bloody Sunday. The museum tour complements historical themes introduced by tour guides on the main stadium tour. It aims to present students with a comprehensive understanding of the formative years of the GAA while placing the Association within its historical context.

Stadium Tour

The Croke Park Stadium Tour entails a behind-the-scenes look at one of the most historic and at the same time one of the most modern sporting arenas in the world. The museum's experienced and dedicated tour guides bring to life the magic of Croke Park by guiding students through the dressing rooms, players' tunnel, VIP section, corporate levels and, of course, pitch side. Tours are wheelchair accessible and can be tailored to suit the needs of particular groups.

Access

The GAA Museum and Croke Park Stadium Tour are fully accessible to those with physical disabilities. There is also a wheelchair available for use, as well as a lift and exterior ramp. Should you have special requirements, it is advisable to let us know at the time of booking.

Costs

The current* admission rate is €8.00 per student. A group rate of €7.00 is available for groups of 40 or more.

*prices correct – January 2009



Trinity College Hurling Team 1879

How to Book

Please note that **all** group visits to the GAA Museum must be booked in advance by contacting the Bookings Department – Tel: (01) 819 2374 or email **tours@crokepark.ie**.

Group Visits

It is important to remember that the GAA Museum is located within a working stadium and that at peak times the museum can be very busy. The safety of all our patrons is a primary consideration and all teachers/group leaders should be aware of the following:

- The recommended adult to student ratio is 1 to 10
- Students should be made aware of the behaviour expected of them prior to the visit ensuring that the visit is both safe and enjoyable, not just for the students but also for other visitors to the museum and stadium.
- Students should be supervised at all times by a teacher when in the museum and while on a stadium tour. All teachers must be clearly identifiable.
- The consumption of food and drink is not permitted in the museum's exhibition galleries.
- Disruptive behaviour of any kind will not be tolerated. Should a problem arise, it will be initially addressed by the tour guide. If the problem persists, a teacher in charge will be requested to deal with the situation. Persistent disruptive behaviour will result in the termination of the tour.
- While on the stadium tour it is essential that teachers and students remain with the tour guide at all times and comply with safety instructions as set out by the guide.
- As the guided tour operates within a working stadium the tour route may be subject to change.

Helpful Tips

- Should you experience an unexpected delay en route to the GAA Museum, please telephone the museum to notify staff that your group may arrive late – Tel: (01) 819 2323
- A GAA Museum podcast is available to download in advance of your visit via the museum's website:
<http://www.gaa.ie/museum>
- Please inform your tour guide if you have time restrictions so that the museum visit and stadium tour can be tailored accordingly.



Further Reading

Bibliography

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Tierney, M. 1976. *Croke of Cashel – The Life of Archbishop Thomas William Croke 1832-1902*. Dublin: Gill and Macmillan.

Online Resources

University College Cork, History of the Gaelic Athletic Association

http://multitext.ucc.ie/d/History_of_the_Gaelic_Athletic_Association_GAA

The Gaelic Athletic Association

<http://www.gaa.ie>

Gaelic Athletic Association Oral History Project

<http://www.bc.edu/centers/irish/gaahistory>

GAA Museum

<http://www.gaa.ie/museum>

Croke Park

<http://www.crokepark.ie>

Glossary of Terms

IRB (Irish Republican Brotherhood)

The Irish Republican Brotherhood was a secret oath bound society whose ultimate aim was to overthrow British rule in Ireland and set up an Irish Republic. The organisation was set up in the 1850's in Ireland by James Stephens and in America by John O'Mahony.

RIC (Royal Irish Constabulary)

The Royal Irish Constabulary was Ireland's armed country-wide police force between 1822 and 1922. The RIC, whose Headquarters were in Dublin Castle, was disbanded on 31 August 1922 and was replaced in the Irish Free State by the Garda Síochána and in Northern Ireland by the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

British Auxiliary Force

The British Auxiliary Force was a formidable heavily armed corps of the Royal Irish Constabulary largely made up of British ex-service men who had fought in World War One. The British Auxiliary Force, also known as the Auxiliaries or Auxies, were introduced into Ireland in 1920 when it became apparent that the RIC were no longer effective in dealing with the Irish during the Irish War of Independence.

GAA (Gaelic Athletic Association)

The Gaelic Athletic Association was set up on the 1st November 1884 for the preservation and cultivation of Ireland's national pastimes including gaelic football, hurling, handball, rounders and athletics.

DMP (Dublin Metropolitan Police)

The Dublin Metropolitan Police was established in 1836 and served as a separate police force for Dublin City. Its Headquarters, like that of the RIC, was based at Dublin Castle, however, unlike the RIC the DMP was an un-armed force. In 1925, the DMP amalgamated into the new Garda Síochána.

Cultural Nationalism

In the late nineteenth century political nationalism reached a crisis with the fall of Parnell. In its wake a new form of nationalism emerged in the form of Cultural Nationalism which was a movement to de-anglicise Ireland with a revival of Irish literature, Irish language and Irish sport.

Factsheet 1

Michael Cusack

1847 – 1906



Michael Cusack was born on the 20th September 1847 in the parish of Carron, Co Clare. The son of a poor sheep herder, Cusack was one of a family of five. He excelled at school and by the age of 17 he was a pupil teacher in Wexford and a year later he acted as substitute teacher in Corofin, Galway. He then travelled to Dublin where he attended the Central Model School and qualified as a national teacher in 1866. He soon became headmaster of a new school at Lough Cutra in Galway. Through private study he acquired a qualification for secondary school teaching. His first post was in St. Colman's, Newry. Eventually he came to Dublin where he taught in the French College, later known as Blackrock College.

In Autumn 1877 Cusack took the bold step of setting up his own school, known as the Civil Service Academy, situated on Gardiner Place just a short distance from Croke Park. Here pupils were prepared for entrance examinations to the police and civil service. The school became widely known as 'Cusack's Academy'.

Cusack immersed himself in Dublin athletics but by late 1879 had become disillusioned with how athletics were organised and administered criticising the practice of cash prizes being offered to amateurs. Betting was widely tolerated and handicaps were framed to favour popular athletes. In particular, Cusack was angered by the fact that only "gentlemen amateurs" were allowed to compete. Thus manual labourers, police men and sailors were debarred from competing. In April 1880 Cusack organised a national athletics meeting open to all and in May the following year he held his own Cusack's Academy Sports Day in the Phoenix Park, Dublin. Around this period he wrote a number of articles for a publication called the *Irish Sportsman* in which he called for the inclusion of nationalists in the governing body of athletics.

In December 1882 Cusack set up the Dublin Hurling Club however the venture was not a success. In December 1883 he set up the Metropolitan Hurling Club. So successful was this club that Cusack believed that hurling could be revived on a nationwide scale. He also realised the need for a national organisation to help the spread of the new game. Cusack looked for backing for his ideas from influential men around the country and in August 1884 wrote to Maurice Davin suggesting a meeting in Thurles on the 1st November (Document 1). Both men then set about enlisting the help of others and in October 1884 an article appeared in *The Nation* calling for the revival of Ireland's national pastimes governed by Irish people (Document 2).



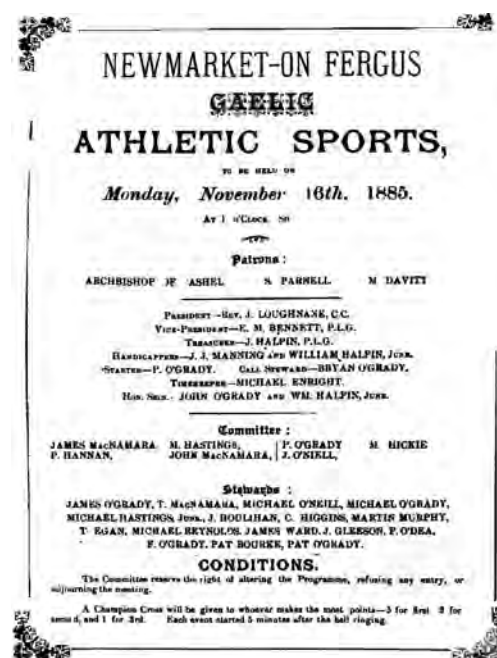
Michael Cusack

A meeting was then called for 1st November 1884 at Hayes's Hotel, Thurles, Co. Tipperary to set up a '*Gaelic Association for the preservation and cultivation of our national pastimes and for providing national amusements for the Irish people during their leisure hours*'. Davin was selected as President while Cusack was chosen as one of three secretaries. Cusack believed that political independence was not an end in itself and true freedom would only arise when the nationalist community had its own separate cultural identity through its language, games, music and dance. Cusack never believed that the GAA was an end in itself. Archbishop Thomas Croke of Cashel, Michael Davitt and Charles Stewart Parnell were asked to become patrons of the new Association.

The GAA spread rapidly throughout the country. For some the GAA and its games were more than mere leisure time activities acting as a kind of 'national service' where the young men of Ireland could be trained, kept fit and ready for an impending strike against the British forces in Ireland. The British authorities were well aware of this danger and kept a close watch on GAA activities. In the late 19th Century the GAA was actively linked with other bodies, cultural and semi political.

However, within a year personality differences arose and Cusack was deposed as Secretary. He was not a man to accept defeat easily and he set up a weekly newspaper in order to regain control of the GAA. His determined efforts to fight back meant that he neglected his academy and soon he was forced to give that up. This proved a major financial blow from which he never recovered. Despite these difficulties and disputes Cusack never resigned from the Association and for the next 18 years maintained contact with the GAA. At the Annual Congress in 1901 he narrowly missed election as General Secretary. He had planned to retire to Clare but he died suddenly in Dublin in 1906 and is buried in Glasnevin Cemetery.

Cusack was a remarkable man who possessed boundless energy. He was an able, tireless debater and propagandist both in the English and the Irish language, indeed Cusack was a pioneer in the Irish language revival movement. He was a well-known figure around Dublin City, a bearded individual who constantly carried a blackthorn stick which was dubbed 'Bás gan Sagart' (Death without a priest) and is currently on display in the GAA Museum. He appears as "The Citizen" in James Joyce's famous book *Ulysses*. Ultimately Cusack's greatest achievement was in bringing about a revolution in Irish sport.



Advertising poster, 1885

Related Documents

Document 1 – Letter from Michael Cusack to Maurice Davin suggesting the first meeting of the GAA – August 1884

Document 2 – 'A word about Irish Athletics' – *The Nation* October 11th 1884

Factsheet 2

Maurice Davin

1842 – 1927



Maurice Davin was born on 29th June 1842 at Deerpark near Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary. He was the eldest of five children and one of three brothers who dominated Irish athletics during the 1870's. The Davin family owned a modest farm and a river haulage business which the young Maurice worked on and eventually took over once his father passed away. Continuing the family tradition Davin developed an interest in sports and general fitness which he followed up with an interest in rowing. During the 1860's he won accolades at every level in rowing, however, towards the end of the decade, he turned his attention to athletics which was then growing in popularity.

Davin made his first appearance at an athletics meeting in 1869 at Gurteen Co. Waterford where he tied for first place in the Long Jump and earned second place in the 100 Yards Sprint. He followed up these successes with wins in the High Jump at the Tramore and Cahir sports meetings. The following year saw Davin participate in both rowing and athletics meetings however by the end of 1871 he took a decision to abandon rowing and focus his attentions on athletics.

In the years that followed Davin excelled at weight throwing events. In 1876 the first international athletics meeting between England and Ireland was staged in Lansdowne Road in Dublin, where Davin set a world record in the hammer event. His brothers, Tom and Pat, tied for first place in the High Jump. Davin's meticulous attention to training is evident through his note book and his many accolades that are on display in the GAA Museum. Indeed his reputation was such that he received a letter from another athlete, D.H. Brownfield, stating that if Davin was going to participate in an athletics meeting in England then Brownfield saw no point in his own training (Document 4). In 1879 Davin retired from athletics at the age of 37. Two years later, however, he was enticed out of retirement to participate in the British Amateur Athletic Championship in Birmingham after a British newspaper claimed there were no great athletes left in Ireland. Davin competed in the hammer and shot putt events and won both.

In 1884 Michael Cusack approached Davin about his idea of forming a new sporting organisation which would be controlled by ordinary Irishmen. Davin enthusiastically supported the idea believing that it was time a handbook with rules for all Irish games was published. He referred to Irish football as being '*a great game and worth going a long way to see when played on a fairly laid out ground and under proper rules*'. He believed that only hurling exceeded it as a trial of strength. Davin was anxious to see both hurling and gaelic football revived under regular rules.



Maurice Davin

A number of reasons persuaded Cusack that Davin was an ideal man to lead the new organisation he had in mind. He was an exceptional athlete who had beaten the best English weight throwers and high-jumpers. Davin was also a moderate nationalist having had involvement with the Land League and was thus acceptable to all shades of political opinion - even to some Unionists. Thus Davin along with Cusack signed a circular letter of 27th October 1884 calling on interested individuals to come to Thurles to attend a meeting to *'take steps for the formation of a Gaelic Association for the preservation and cultivation of our national pastimes'*. At least seven men attended the meeting that followed on the 1st November 1884 including Cusack, Davin, P. J. Ryan, John McKay, James Bracken, John Wyse-Power and District Inspector McCarthy.

Once this first meeting of the GAA got underway Cusack proposed Davin as first President of the newly formed Gaelic Athletic Association and this was seconded by John McKay. At a second meeting in Cork on the 27th December Davin was asked to draft the new rules of the Association, a task he was well equipped to undertake. Once the rules were drawn up they were published in the national newspapers and also printed in booklet form. The rules were widely adopted and in 1886 the first All-Ireland Championships in football and hurling were organised.

The Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) soon began to regard the GAA as a means to further their ideals and as a recruiting ground for new members. By the end of 1886 the IRB had tightened its grip, temporarily at least, on the Association. Davin, disliking the influence of the IRB, resigned from the GAA in April 1887 only to be re-elected the following year. Davin's re-election however coincided with massive financial difficulties for the Association. In September 1888 Davin organised for a group of 51 GAA players and athletes to travel to the USA to stage exhibition matches and raise much needed funds (Document 5). The trip proved to be a financial disaster which also saw Ireland lose more than 20 out of the original 51 athletes to the lure of American life. The trip became known as the 'Invasion Tour'. At the GAA's annual meeting in 1889 many delegates blamed Davin for the Association's heavy debt. The Limerick delegates left and disorder broke out. Davin followed soon after. His departure was interpreted as a resignation from office.

While Davin never again actively participated in the administration of GAA affairs his love of the GAA was far from over. On his home land of Deerpark he developed a pitch and athletics ground. The first sports meeting took place there in 1889. The venue was developed to such an extent that two All-Ireland Finals were staged there in 1901 and 1904. In later years he maintained his health and managed to attend many Munster GAA matches. In 1927 at the age of 85 years Maurice Davin passed away. Davin was an all-round athlete who took part in rowing, boxing, coursing, rugby and cricket earning him the title 'Father of Irish Athletics'. He was a modest and big-hearted Tipperary man noted for his moral as well as physical strength and courage. Davin played a pivotal role in the early years of the GAA acting as the Association's first President and was instrumental in formulating national rules for both hurling and football. In April 2006 he was honoured by the GAA when the Canal End Stand of the newly redeveloped Croke Park was renamed the Davin Stand.



The Davin brothers, Tom, Pat and Maurice

Related Documents

Document 1 – Letter from Michael Cusack to Maurice Davin suggesting the first meeting of the GAA – August 1884.

Document 4 – Letter to Maurice Davin from D.H. Brownfield regarding his attendance at an English athletics meeting.

Document 5 – Group of Irish athletes and hurlers photographed before they visit America 1888 (Invasion Tour) .

Document 6 – The first playing rules of gaelic football as adopted by the GAA's Second Convention in December 1884.

Document 7 – The first playing rules of hurling as adopted by the GAA's Second Convention in December 1884.

Factsheet 3

Archbishop Croke 1823 – 1902



Thomas William Croke was born on 19th May 1823 in Castlecor, Co. Cork. The third of eight children, the young Croke received his primary education at the village school in Castlecor and his secondary education in Charleville Co. Cork. In 1839 Croke was awarded a scholarship after sitting a qualifying test for entry to the Irish College in Paris, an international Irish seminary. After spending six years studying in Paris, Croke moved to Rome to finish his education and was ordained into the priesthood in 1847. Thereafter Croke spent much time travelling before returning to Ireland to take up a position as a curate in his native diocese of Cloyne. In 1870 Croke was again on the move after being appointed Bishop of Auckland, New Zealand. In 1875 Croke again returned to Ireland to take up the position of Archbishop of Cashel which he held until his death in 1902.

The latter years of Croke's life, 1875 to 1902, coincided with a social and cultural revolution in rural Ireland. The foundation and consolidation of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) was part of this social revolution. The GAA was founded in Thurles, Co. Tipperary on 1st November 1884 with the aim of reviving native Irish games. The new Association also sought to ensure that Irish athletics were placed under the control of Irishmen. The first meeting of the GAA ended after passing the following resolution *'That the objects of the association should be submitted to his Grace the Archbishop of Cashel and to Messrs. Parnell and Davitt with the view to securing their patronage'*

Croke believed that the GAA fitted in with his concept of Gaelic democracy and would do for sport what the Land League had done for the Irish tenant farmer. He saw the GAA as an expression of Irish independence, a form of Home Rule. Croke, along with Charles Stewart Parnell and Michael Davitt was asked to act as patron of the new Association. Croke replied in a letter dated 18th December 1884 giving his unqualified approval to the new Association. This letter was subsequently published in *The Nation* and is frequently described as epitomising the character of the GAA (Document 3). In 1885 when the first edition of the GAA rules were published a recommendation was made that *'Croke's letter ought to be read at every annual meeting'*.

Croke kept in close touch with the early GAA as much as possible often providing prizes for events. When a new rule was being debated in 1885 which aimed to bring in a type of 'ban' Croke felt compelled to intervene. This new 'ban' provided that *'Any athlete competing at meetings held under the laws other than those of the GAA shall be*



Archbishop Croke

ineligible for competing at any meeting held under the auspices of the GAA. Croke wrote to the Association expressing his dissatisfaction and hoped the Association would modify its new rule. He wanted to show English observers that the Irish people were in fact a united race. Relations between Croke and Cusack soured and Croke accused Cusack of acting in a dictatorial way. Worse was to follow in 1887 when the IRB tried to infiltrate the GAA in the hope that a seemingly respectable, non-physical organisation would act as a cover for their secret activities. Croke was concerned about the GAA especially after the resignation of Davin and given that some top IRB men were on the executive of the GAA. In November Croke threatened to dissociate and break from the 'Gaelics'.

Croke's threat of resignation had an immediate effect. He recommended radical changes in the administration of the GAA, giving more power to the county, thus making the Association less centralised. These changes were ratified at Thurles on 4th January 1888. Croke may be credited with reconciling the factions within the GAA. However, by 1890 the GAA was still suffering and Croke wrote that the Association was almost dead. Later in 1890 the Parnell affair had a dramatic effect ensuring that the Association lost both prestige and influence. After 1891 the Association went into rapid decline but against all odds survived. In 1895 new rules and a revised constitution were drawn up, prompted in part by Croke. The GAA got a new lease of life, rid itself of internal feuding and put itself on a sound financial footing.

In July 1895 the GAA honoured Croke in his silver jubilee year praising his efforts to extend the interests of the Association. In turn Croke presented the Association with two cups for inter-county competitions in hurling and football. In 1896 Croke retired from public life and passed away in 1902. In 1913 the GAA purchased a site on Jones Road renaming it Páirc an Chrócaigh in honour of Archbishop Croke.



Croke Park 1938

Related Documents

Document 3 – Archbishop Croke and Parnell respond to Cusack's invitation to act as patrons of the GAA – *The Nation* 27th December 1884.

Factsheet 4

Patrick William Nally 1855 – 1891



Patrick William Nally was born in Balla, Co. Mayo on March 17th 1855. Throughout his short life Nally was considered a brilliant athlete. His first known appearance as a competitor was at the age of 20 at Swinford, Co Mayo in May 1875 when he astounded spectators by winning every single event in which he competed. At a later sports meeting in 1876 he was either first or second out of a total of 17 events. These successes ensured that he was one of the country's most promising athletes and the most successful competitor outside Dublin. Athletic ability ran in the Nally family. One of his brothers became a successful athlete in the United States while another brother captained a rugby team which was set up by Michael Cusack in the 1870's.

On 11th September 1879 Nally organised the National Athletic Sports of Mayo on his father's farm. Charles Stewart Parnell MP and leader of the Home Rule Party, along with the local Home Rule MP, acted as patrons of the meeting. This was a radical and symbolic departure from the normal practice where all such sports meetings were traditionally organised for and by the middle and upper classes. In an equally daring move Nally organised an additional meeting on 14th October 1880 and the organising committee contained the names of no local landlords.


Nally took a keen interest in politics and in 1874 along with local Fenians he put in a huge effort to have John O'Connor Power elected to the House of Commons. Power won by a slim margin after a fierce struggle and in spite of solid opposition from the clergy, headed by Archbishop John McHale of Tuam. Hundreds of Fenians from the surrounding area gathered in a show of support for Power and Nally successfully organised these groups in a military fashion.

Nally organised two meetings to generate support for the Land League. In February and April 1879 he led over 1,000 marchers from Claremorris to a Land League meeting in Irishtown, Co Mayo. Later he organised and led marchers at the eviction of the Dempsey family of Balla, Co Mayo. Michael Davitt credits Nally as having a huge influence on the success of the famous Irishtown meeting which would eventually lead to the end of landlordism in Ireland.

Nally was also sworn into the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) in his local area. He soon became chief organiser in Connacht and was elected to the Supreme Council of the IRB at the early age of 23. However it wasn't long before the authorities found out about his activities forcing him to go on the run. Eventually he escaped to Manchester where he spent a year organising the movement there, under the assumed name of O'Dowd. While out of the country in 1881



Land League Membership Card



the *Irish Sportsman* carried the following cryptic announcement in its personal column - '*P W Nally;- owing to circumstances over which this celebrated amateur athlete has no control, we regret to state he may not be able to compete at any our of our athletic meetings this season*'. Despite his difficult position Nally could not resist the lure of athletics and he is on record as taking part in a competition in Preston under his assumed name of O'Dowd. By Christmas 1881 Nally was able to return home to work on the family farm.

In 1882 Nally was arrested along with six others for his alleged involvement in the so called 'Crossmolina Conspiracy', a plot to kill the son of a farmer and shopkeeper who supported the local landlord. At his trial he was convicted of treason and given a ten-year jail sentence. He initially spent time in Downpatrick Jail where he was offered his freedom and a large sum of money if he would give evidence against Parnell before The Times Commission. He refused to give evidence.

In 1891 Nally was transferred to Mountjoy Jail in Dublin where conditions for prisoners at the time were poor. On 9th November 1891, just a couple of weeks before he was due for release on the grounds of good behaviour, Nally died of typhoid fever at the age of 36. Suspicion still surrounds his death and foul play was suspected. Nally was laid to rest in Glasnevin Cemetery on 15th November with his coffin draped with the same flag which had been put over that of Parnell's a month previously. The entire Central Council of the GAA marched behind his coffin.

At some point in the early 1880's, at a chance meeting with Michael Cusack in the Phoenix Park in Dublin, Nally discussed the benefit of forming a national body for the promotion of athletics. Despite the huge size of the Phoenix Park only a handful of people were engaged in sport there. This so depressed Nally and Cusack they agreed that it was time to '*make an effort to preserve the physical strength of our race*'. Throughout his life Michael Cusack held Nally in great reverence and repeatedly made it clear that nobody had done more to persuade him to found the Gaelic Athletic Association in 1884. Nally believed that sport should be open to all classes and like many other prominent people in Europe at the end of the 19th Century Nally believed that politics and sport were inseparable.

In 1952 the GAA erected a terrace stand at the north end of Croke Park naming it the Nally Stand to commemorate a man in the same tradition as Croke, Cusack and Hogan. Just over 50 years later, in January 2003, it was removed from Croke Park as part of the redevelopment of the stadium. The stand was relocated at the grounds of Carrickmore GAA club in County Tyrone while a new Nally terrace was erected at Croke Park.

Factsheet 5

Frank Dineen 1862 – 1916



Frank Brazil Dineen was born in 1862 in Ballylanders, Co. Limerick. On leaving national school he was sent to Rockwell College, Co. Tipperary after which he returned to Ballylanders. Arguably one of the GAA's least acknowledged personalities, Dineen was not only responsible for the acquisition of Croke Park but he is the only man to have held two of the most important jobs in the Association, that of GAA President and GAA Secretary.

During the 1880's Dineen began his sporting career as a sprinter of note at athletics meetings. The first mention of Dineen in athletics circles is on 2nd August 1880 when he won the 100 Yards Sprint at Kilfinane Sports and also figured prominently in the High Jump. In 1882 he set an Irish record when he completed the 100 Yards Sprint in a little over 10 seconds. He was associated with the GAA from its early days and competed at an early athletics meeting held at Blarney, Co. Cork in 1885, soon after the Association was formed. In addition to his speed and ability at the 100 Yards Sprint, Dineen was also a competent high jumper, capable of jumping over five feet four inches. In that early GAA athletics meeting at Blarney, Dineen defeated T. J. Mahony, the so-called 'Roscarbery Steam Engine' in the 100 Yards. During his athletics career Dineen was reputed to have won upwards of 300 prizes.

When his athletic career ended due to ill health Dineen maintained his connection with the sport, becoming a handicapper and eventually turning his attention to sports writing. With a keen interest in juvenile athletics, he is said to have given all his prizes away at local sports events. Around 1898 Dineen moved to Dublin and soon made a name for himself as a sports writer for such newspapers as the *Freemans Journal* where he quickly gained a reputation as an authority on sports. Dineen did not confine his interests or activities to athletics. Like many influential GAA figures he was closely involved with the Land League movement and in 1882 his activities with the Land League led to his arrest as a suspect under the 1881 Coercion Act.

In 1895 Dineen succeeded P. J. Kelly as President of the GAA, a position he occupied for over three years until 1898 when he became the Secretary of the Association. He held this position until 1901 when he was elected as the first President of the Athletic Council. He was largely responsible for the organisation of an Irish team to attend the 'Sports in Rome' event in 1908 in honour of the Papal Jubilee. The year 1908 was a hugely important one in the history of the GAA, as the Jones Road pitch came up for sale. The GAA, however, had made a mere £1,273 profit in 1907. Thus it was felt it would be unwise to buy into



Frank Brazil Dineen

what the Association perceived as a large debt. Dineen took a more daring view and considered purchasing the ground through loans and his own resources. He bought 14 acres in 1908 for the sum of £3,250. To enable the purchase to go ahead Dineen took out a mortgage on the property. New terraces were built and the pitch was re-laid. Dineen ran into financial difficulties in 1910 and had to sell some of the land to the Jesuit priests of Belvedere College. Ironically, when the stadium was re-developed in the 1990's, the GAA re-purchased this land from the Jesuits.

In 1913 the GAA wished to commemorate its first patron Archbishop Croke of Cashel and so the Croke Memorial Tournament was arranged. So successful was this venture that not alone was there enough money to pay for a memorial but there was a significant surplus, thanks to two highly attractive matches between Kerry and Louth which were watched by up to 35,000 spectators.

With the surplus funds from the Croke Memorial Tournament, the GAA offered Dineen £3,500 for the Jones Road grounds. This was accepted and thus the grounds were now officially owned by the GAA. The Jones Road grounds became officially, but briefly, known as Croke Memorial Park and the first match played under the new name was the 1913 All-Ireland Football Final between Kerry and Wexford (*See Document 11*). At the GAA's Congress held in City Hall, Dublin on Easter Sunday 9th April 1914 a resolution was passed that all future All-Ireland Senior Championship Finals be played in Croke Memorial Park on fixed Sundays each year.

In 1916 at the age of 54 Frank Dineen passed away. With the modern re-development of Croke Park, Dineen's contribution to the GAA has fittingly been recognised. In April 2006 the old Hill 16 terrace was renamed Dineen-Hill 16. In the early days of the GAA, finals were played at a variety of venues all around the country, including Athy, Birr, Dungarvan, Kilkenny, Thurles, Clonturk, Inchicore and Dublin's Phoenix Park. It is thanks to the foresight and financial sacrifice of Frank Dineen that the GAA acquired its home and headquarters, Croke Park Stadium.



Players parade pre-1913 All-Ireland Football Final
Kerry v Wexford

Related Documents

Document 11 – All-Ireland Football Final
Match Programme 1913

Factsheet 7

Gaelic Sunday 4th August 1918



After the 1916 Rising the GAA began to witness a fall off in games, when a series of unforeseen circumstances combined to halt the steady progress the Association had made over the preceding years. Many members turned their energies towards more political ends and preferred to join the Irish Volunteers. The Rising itself had caused major disruption to native games. During the latter part of 1916 there was intermittent harassment by the British military and police forces. Perhaps of greatest impact was the withdrawal of special trains. This ban on excursion trains for Gaelic games continued into 1917.

During 1917 the Sinn Féin party grew in popularity. In September 1917 Thomas Ashe, who had fought in the 1916 Rising, died from forced feeding while in custody. A large number of GAA men all carrying hurleys played a prominent part in his funeral procession. In 1918 Sinn Féin contested the general election winning a landslide victory. These Sinn Féin MP's pledged not to attend the British parliament. The British Government banned the wearing of Volunteer uniforms and the public carrying of arms. Volunteers in Clare, Tipperary and other counties appeared with hurleys instead of rifles. The political temperature rose dramatically in Ireland in 1918 as the British Government carried out its coercive policy.

In April 1918 a decision was taken to extend conscription to Ireland, the reaction to this was immediate and on a nationwide scale. The Central Council of the GAA voiced its opposition to conscription, pledging '*to resist the attempt at the conscription of Irish manhood*'. The intensity of Irish resistance to conscription forced the British authorities into repressive action. In May 1918 news came of the so-called German Plot which led to the arrest of Sinn Féin and GAA leaders. The Gaelic League was declared a '*grave menace*' and both Sinn Féin and the Volunteers were proclaimed. Thirteen counties across Ireland were declared proclaimed districts while in other areas public meetings were banned. Then in July 1918 the holding of any public meeting, except with an official permit, was announced.

The police were ordered to prevent the public playing of games and other sports such as athletics. Acting immediately, the RIC began breaking up games and sports meetings. Reports from the period tell of the RIC uprooting and confiscating goal posts, while in Cork camogie matches were prevented. On 17th July the Ulster Senior Football Final was due to take place at Cootehill between Cavan and Armagh. However, as the game was about to start players were confronted with a large detachment of fully armed military. One of the players involved wrote that '*it was impossible to play owing to the danger of tripping over some*



Irish Volunteers drilling with Hurleys

"Tommy's" feet or falling on to a bayonet'. However, the game went ahead the next day when the players only had to face a smaller number of armed RIC without bayonets.

The GAA, unwilling to accept this ban, decided not to seek special permits which would have enabled games to go ahead. No member or unit of the Association was allowed to apply for such a permit and to do so entailed immediate and indefinite suspension. On 20th July 1918 Central Council acted in a sensational manner directing each of the 32 County Boards to call a special delegate meeting inside ten days to arrange for a series of GAA games to be played all over Ireland. On Saturday 3rd August a notice appeared in the national newspapers calling for 'Gael's' to come out and play gaelic games on Sunday 4th August. The following day approximately 54,000 GAA members played games at the designated time of 3pm. In Dublin alone 24 different teams played at different venues across the city and it was only at Croke Park that there was any attempt to prevent matches taking place. As armed police backed up by troops prevented entry to the grounds camogie players treated officers at Croke Park to the spectacle of a game of camogie outside on Jones Road!

An oral tradition has survived in the Fingal area to the effect that Michael Collins and Harry Boland turned up on bicycles at St. Margaret's Ground and took part in a football match. Gaelic Sunday even extended to jails and prison camps throughout the British Isles. In Belfast, Gaelic Sunday was celebrated with an interprovincial football match where Munster and Ulster combined to play against Leinster and Connacht. The game ended in a diplomatic draw. Gaelic Sunday succeeded beyond all expectations. It has been described as the greatest single act of defiance outside of the purely political sphere between 1916 and 1922. Later the British Government argued that, in fact, no prohibition of games had been intended. Instead, according to Government spokesmen, the ban only applied if a GAA event was used as an occasion of a political speech.

From a practical point of view one of the major gains achieved by Gaelic Sunday was that in the immediate aftermath there was no more harassment and obstruction by police. A near contemporary account of that day was provided by Tommy Moore of the Dublin club, Faughs, when he wrote:

'From Jones's Road to the craggy hillsides of the Kingdom the day was fought and won in fields no bigger than backyards, in stony pastures and on rolling plains ... wherever posts could be struck and spaces cleared, the descendants of Fionn and the Fianna routed the seal of servitude. In one never to be forgotten tournament we crossed our hurleys with the lion's claw and emerged victorious'



Michael Collins talking with Kilkenny hurlers

Related Documents

Document 12 - GAA Secretary, Luke O'Toole in reaction to the British authorities' prohibition of public gatherings without a permit.

Factsheet 8

Bloody Sunday

21st November 1920



At around 9am on Sunday 21st November 1920, an elite assassination unit known as 'The Squad' or the '12 Apostles' mounted an operation planned by Michael Collins, Director of Intelligence of the Irish Republican Army (IRA). 'The Squad' had been set up by Collins in 1919 shortly after the outbreak of the Irish War of Independence and consisted mainly of members of the Dublin Brigade of the Irish Republican Army. Their orders were clear – they were to take out the backbone of the British Intelligence network in Ireland, specifically, a group of British Intelligence Officers known as 'The Cairo Gang'. The shootings that morning occurred mainly around Dublin's South Inner City area. The dead included twelve agents, of which two were members of the British Auxiliary Force.

The GAA had organised a challenge football match for later that afternoon between Dublin and Tipperary to raise funds for the families of Irish political prisoners. When news broke of that morning's shootings, GAA Officials became worried but nevertheless decided to proceed with the scheduled match. They believed that if the match were cancelled the British Authorities would immediately identify the shootings with the GAA. So, the match proceeded with the referee, Mick Sammon from Kildare, throwing in the ball at 3.15pm.

At 1.30pm orders had been given to Lieutenant-Colonel Bray of the British Auxiliary Force to surround Croke Park, piquet all exits and 15 minutes before the end of the match a Special Intelligence Officer was to warn the crowd by megaphone that anyone trying to leave, other than via the official exits, would be shot. Bray, whose riflemen would be reinforced by two armoured cars and members of the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC), was given instructions that every male attending the match was to be stopped and searched as they filed out of the stadium. Bray proceeded with his orders, his infantry meeting with armoured cars at the junction of Fitzroy Avenue and Drumcondra Road. One of the armoured cars led the convoy down Clonliffe Road to the intersection with St. James' Avenue and onto Croke Park where members of the Dublin Metropolitan Police were on duty.

Meanwhile back inside Croke Park, unaware of what was about to happen, over 10,000 spectators had gathered to watch what was turning out to be an exciting match. Many of the spectators did not notice an aeroplane flying low around the field, circling the area a couple of times and then shooting a red flare from the cockpit.

As the military convoy neared Croke Park uniformed men began to open fire on what they reported were IRA pickets that had opened fire on them first. This shooting continued onto the pitch, where a stampede of spectators and players broke out towards the railway end



Dublin Football Team 1920

of the ground. Rapid fire continued successively for about 90 seconds. Most of the spectators scattered out over and behind the terrace area, while others fled along the northern sideline towards the GAA Office Building situated where the Nally Terrace is today. Michael Hogan, the Tipperary half-back, crawled towards the top end of the pitch where he was shot. The minority of spectators who followed military orders assembled in front of the GAA Office Building where they were obliged to prove their identity.

That afternoon 13 people lay dead in Croke Park, including Jane Boyle aged 26 who had attended the match with her fiancée, John William Scott aged 14 and Jerome O'Leary aged 10. Over 80 people were injured. Later that day, two high-ranking IRA Officers, Dick McKee and Peadar Clancy along with their civilian friend, Conor Clune, were shot while trying to escape captivity in Dublin Castle. Thomas Hogan, a spectator at the match, died a few days later in hospital due to injuries he sustained in Croke Park. His passing brought the tally of deaths on the day to 31, ensuring the name Bloody Sunday.

Reactions to the events of Bloody Sunday were immediate. On Tuesday 23rd November the Belfast MP Joseph Devlin was shouted down in the House of Commons when he demanded to know why questions were asked about The Squad's killings and not about the loss of civilian life in Croke Park. The situation became heated, arguments erupted, and fisticuffs followed which resulted in Devlin being restrained. It was around this time, in an air of heightened security, that barriers were set up at both ends of Downing Street in fear of IRA reprisals, while in Dublin British personnel were re-housed in secure accommodation. Perhaps this British unease was justified given the events that were to follow on 28th November 1920, exactly one-week after Bloody Sunday. On that day, 36 men from the Irish Republican Army's West Cork flying column ambushed and shot 18 RIC Auxiliary troops on the Kilmichael section of the road from Macroom to Dunmanway in Cork.

The immediate result of this controversial ambush, coupled with the events of Bloody Sunday, ensured the arrest of over 500 people including Arthur Griffith, President of Sinn Féin, and the introduction of martial law throughout much of Munster on the 10th December 1920. By the 1st December 1920 Lloyd George was making peace overtures to the Irish, however it wasn't until the 11th July 1921 that an actual truce was signed.

The year 1920 was to prove one of the greatest tests for the GAA. Primarily due to the escalation of the War of Independence it became almost impossible to organise match fixtures. It wasn't until 11th June 1922 that the 1920 All-Ireland Football Final was played and quite fittingly it was a rematch of the two teams involved in that ill-fated Bloody Sunday match - Tipperary and Dublin. Dan Breen, in front of 20,000 fans, threw in the ball. By all accounts Dublin had the better first half but Tipperary fought back with a final score line that read Tipperary 1-6 to Dublin 1-2. After the match the players converged at the spot where Michael Hogan had been shot and the Charles J. Kickham band played 'The Dead March'.

The greatest tribute to Michael Hogan came in 1924 when a new stand in Croke Park was named in his honour. In recent years, a commemorative plaque has been erected in memory of those who lost their lives on Bloody Sunday. The re-developed Croke Park still retains a modern Hogan Stand.



Tipperary Football Team 1920

Related Documents

Document 13 - Bloody Sunday Military Court of Inquiry - Order to raid Croke Park 21st November 1920

Document 14 - Bloody Sunday Match Ticket Tipperary V Dublin 21st November 1920

Factsheet 9

Bloody Sunday Military Court of Inquiry 1920



In 2002 the British Public Records Office at Kew made public a file containing the official Military Court of Inquiry in lieu of an inquest into the deaths at Croke Park on Bloody Sunday 21st November 1920. The findings of this Military Court of Inquiry had been kept secret for over 82 years. The inquiry was conducted by a three-man team consisting of Major R. Bunbury as president, Lieutenant S.H. Winterbottom and Lieutenant B.J. Key as members. These men took statements under camera from over 32 witnesses whose identities were withheld. The documents contain no indication of exact date or location however it is believed that the inquiry occurred before the 8th December 1920 and probably took place at Military Headquarters at Parkgate, Dublin. To date this file is the only extant piece of official documentation on one of the most important events during Ireland's struggle for independence.

The focus of the inquiry was to ascertain who fired the first shots at Croke Park on that ill-fated day. In the immediate aftermath of Bloody Sunday the only public statement issued by the authorities was by Dublin Castle – *“A number of men came to Dublin today under the guise of asking to attend a football match between Tipperary and Dublin. But their real intention was to take part in the series of murderous outrages that took place in Dublin that morning. Learning on Saturday that a number of these gunmen were present in Croke Park, the Crown Forces went to raid the field. It was the original intention that an officer would go to the centre of the field and speaking from a megaphone, invite the assassins to come forward. But on their approach, armed pickets gave warning. Shots were fired to warn the wanted men, who caused a stampede and escaped in the confusion.”* This statement evidently laid blame with the IRA while the release of the Military Court of Inquiry sheds much light on what had occurred, who was involved and enables rival accounts to be compared.

While the identities of all the witnesses were withheld, indication is given as to who they were e.g. members of the RIC, members of the Auxiliary force, members of the Dublin Metropolitan Police (DMP) who were an unarmed force stationed at Croke Park, two ambulance drivers who arrived at the scene, civilians who had attended the match and the manager of Croke Park who we now know to have been Luke O'Toole.

As stated the objective of the court was to ascertain who had fired the first shots at Croke Park. Witness 6, a member of the RIC, states *‘I heard shots... some of my men immediately opened fire from the*



Michael Hogan

bridge by the gate'. Witness 8 who was in the first car in the convoy to Croke Park states 'I observed several men rushing... three of them turning backward as they ran and discharging revolvers in our direction.' Witness 15 (Document 15) a member of the police convoy to Croke Park states '*As soon as we got to the top of the Canal Bridge I saw a group of about 10 civilians... they gave me the impression that they were a picquet. These men immediately on our arrival turned round and started to run...as they ran they turned and fired at the first car. These were the first shots I heard fired.'*

These and many more of the witness statements point to the first shots coming from civilians outside and within the grounds of the stadium while many more, particularly from the Dublin Metropolitan Police (DMP) witnesses, contradict the evidence of the RIC/Auxiliary Officers. Witness 16 on duty at Jones Road Bridge states '*I was still on the bridge when the lorries arrived. I saw no civilians in the road near the bridge except one man selling badges... and three men selling tickets.'* Witness 22 (Document 16) who was on duty outside the entrance to Croke Park on Jones Road states '*3 small Crossley lorries pulled up in Jones Road. There were about 10 or 12 men dressed in RIC uniform in each. When they got out of the cars they started firing in the air...almost immediately firing started all round the ground.'* Witness 24 states '*some of the RIC got out of the cars and went into the grounds. Some of the remainder who stayed outside fired a few rounds into the air with rifles and revolvers. That was the first firing I heard'*.

Today two theories exist as to what happened in Croke Park. At a time when there was considerable infiltration of the GAA by the IRA, the authorities claimed that the first shots were fired by IRA men hiding in the crowd of spectators in order to create a panic and evade arrest. The alternative theory is that Auxiliary/RIC forces went to Croke Park in reprisal for the attacks that morning on British secret service men at the hands of Collins' squad. According to the RIC/Auxiliary witness accounts, on their arrival at Croke Park a number of civilians appearing to be a piquet, were seen outside at the entrance close to the turnstiles and began firing at the forces as they dismounted from their convoy. It is this piece of information that is central to the authorities according blame to the civilians. It is also this same piece of information that is expressly contradicted in the witness accounts of the DMP.

On the 8th December 1920 the findings of the Military Court of Inquiry were issued. The court found that the first shots had been fired by civilians unknown and that injuries inflicted upon deceased persons were by rifle or revolver fire by members of the RIC and by certain unknown civilians in the grounds. The court also found that the RIC had fired over the heads of the crowd, at persons whom they believed to be evading arrest but that this firing was carried out without orders and exceeded the demands of the situation. On the 11th December the convening military authority, signed by Major-General G.F. Boyd, found that it agreed with the court findings (above), that the first shots were fired by the crowd leading to panic and that the firing on the crowd was carried out without orders and was indiscriminate and unjustifiable (Document 18).

Related Documents

Document 15 - Bloody Sunday Military Court of Inquiry- Witness statement 15

Document 16 - Bloody Sunday Military Court of Inquiry- Witness statement 22

Document 17 - Bloody Sunday Military Court of Inquiry- Map of Croke Park

Document 18 - Bloody Sunday Military Court of Inquiry- Findings

Factsheet 10

History of Croke Park



Today Croke Park is home and headquarters to the GAA, however prior to the Association's purchase of the stadium in 1913 the grounds had been in private ownership. By a deed dated 10th December 1829 '*an orchard, dwelling-house, yard and garden together with the fields adjoining*' amounting to a little over 12 acres was leased to a Mr. John Bradley. By another deed dated 16th April 1864 another plot of land containing over 21 acres was leased to Mr. Maurice Butterley. The two plots of ground in these two leases were adjoining and during the course of time came into the ownership of the GAA. In 1894 a newly formed company, the City and Suburban Racecourse and Amusements Grounds Ltd, purchased over 14 acres from Butterley. The new owners leased the grounds for a variety of sports' meetings and whippet racing as well as for gaelic games.

In the early years of the GAA All-Ireland Finals were played at a variety of venues around the country. The first finals played at what is now Croke Park took place in March 1896 with Tipperary successful in both codes, beating Kilkenny in the All-Ireland Hurling Final and Meath in the All-Ireland Football Final. By 1906 the City and Suburban Racecourse and Amusements Grounds Ltd. was in financial difficulty and was put up for auction. In the auctioneer's advertisement the property was described as then consisting of '*14 acres and 17 and a half perches*'. Frank Brazil Dineen decided to bid for the grounds and by a deed dated 17th December 1908 he paid £3,250 for the grounds.

Dineen intended this purchase to be a short-term matter and that in time the Association would eventually purchase the grounds from him. Once purchased Dineen made substantial improvements to the grounds, the pitch was re-laid and terracing was erected. These improvements placed a massive financial strain on Dineen and by 1910 he was forced to sell off four acres to the Jesuits of Belvedere College for £1,090. This portion remained in Jesuit hands until 1991 when it was repurchased by the GAA as part of the modern redevelopment of Croke Park.

In 1913 Central Council decided to initiate the Croke Memorial Tournament to raise funds for a suitable monument to the GAA's first patron, Archbishop Thomas Croke. The final of this tournament was played on 4th March 1913 with Kerry facing Louth. The attendance of 26,000 at the final surpassed all expectations and was the highest number to date at the venue. The game ended in a draw and the replay on 29th June was eagerly awaited. Such was the excitement that the three major Irish railway companies ran over 40 special trains to Dublin for the replay, carrying more than 20,000 passengers. Special stands were erected and voluntary stewards controlled the crowds.



Croke Park mid 1920's

The gates were closed after 32,000 spectators had been admitted but thousands more swarmed along or over the railway wall. Louth were noted for passing the ball on the ground and for a “soccer” style of play. Kerry, on the other hand, used a traditional catch, swing and kick style. The two teams were level at half time but the staying power of the Kerry men proved the deciding factor and they ran out winners 2-4 to 0-5. All records for a GAA fixture were smashed and it is estimated that up to 35,000 spectators were present to witness a magnificent exhibition of gaelic football. So successful was this venture that not alone could the Association afford to finance a monument but could think seriously of acquiring a new central sports ground. When all expenses had been met Central Council had made £2,365. On 27th July 1913 Central Council decided to buy the grounds and re-name it as Croke Memorial Park, a title which was never subsequently used. Dineen sold the grounds to the GAA for £3,500 and Croke Park became the principal grounds of the Association and also its administrative headquarters.

Accommodation for spectators in 1913 was primitive. Two stands existed along the Jones Road side of the grounds – one known as the Long Stand and the other simply called The Stand. The latter was a fragile timber construction which had an office underneath. The GAA's first effort at modernisation was the construction of a terrace area at the northern end of the ground, in what is now Dineen-Hill 16. This was created in 1917 using the rubble from O'Connell Street in Dublin, which had been destroyed in the 1916 Rising.

In 1924 the GAA built a new stand along the Jones Road side of the stadium and took the historic decision to name it the Hogan Stand, in honour of Michael Hogan of Tipperary who had been shot during Bloody Sunday. The Cusack Stand was finally completed in 1938 and cost £50,000 and was regarded as one of the finest in Europe at the time. It had two tiers – 5,000 seats on the upper deck and terracing underneath. In 1966 this terracing was replaced with seating for 9,000 spectators. At the Canal End new terracing was provided in 1949 and the Nally Stand was built in 1952.

The 'old' Hogan Stand was replaced in 1959 when it became a two-tier structure standing 500 feet high and with seating for 16,000. By this time, Croke Park could house 23,000 seated spectators and 62,000 standing. However, 87,768 spectators watched Down beat Kerry in the 1960 All-Ireland Football Final. The following year an all-time record was reached when Down beat Offaly in the All-Ireland Football Final before 90,556 fans. After 1961 development of the grounds slowed.

In the 1980's a grand plan for the entire redevelopment of Croke Park was set in train. This redevelopment was staged in four phases starting in 1993 with a new Cusack Stand and culminating in 2005 with a new Hill 16. The redevelopment was completed in just over 12 years with no disruptions to any All-Ireland Finals. Today Croke Park is one of the largest stadiums in Europe and is the crowning glory of the Association.



Croke Park in 2007

Document 1

Letter

Michael Cusack to Maurice Davin
suggesting the first meeting of
the GAA – 26th August 1884



GAA MUSEUM
CROKE PARK

4 Ferdinand's Place
the gaelic union,
10 KILDARE STREET,
DUBLIN, Aug. 26. 1884.

EDITOR
"Gaelic Journal."

Dear Mr. Davin: The Irish Assocⁿ
with its tal^{ts}, &c. must be
formed before the end of this year.
The Assocⁿ could organize the
whole Country within the year
1885. We could then safely
hold the projected Nat^l
gathering in 1886. The business
must be worked from
Munster. Suppose we held
a meeting of delegates in some
central place in Tipperary on
the 1st of Nov next?

Don't bother your head about
Dublin. The place couldn't
well be worse than it
is. We'll have to look
to the provinces for men.
Dublin will have to fall
in, or keep up the connection
with England.

I have written to Cork this
day telling them that you have
responded most heartily. I am
sure Mr. Staack of Kistowel
will look after north
Kerry. Although I am not a
member of the Nat^l League
I think I am not without
influence with several of its
leading members. The Nat^l
press will give me room
for squibs when I am ready.
The Shamrock is also at my
disposal. I hope to see it.

enlarged in about a month
and then the education of the
people could start in earnest.
The paragraphs ^{on Athletics} in 'United
Ireland' are exploding like
shells in the enemy's ranks.
Of course they know it is
my doing and that therefore
^{the paper is} ~~I am~~ not likely to hang fire
soon.

I have found it to be
utterly hopeless to revive
our natl. pastimes without
the assistance of the leaders
of the people; and I have not
hesitated to urge my claim
^{on them} with a persistence that

brooks no refusal. After
a protracted struggle I won
all round. Our business
now is to work together
caring for none but the
Irish people, and quietly
shoving aside all who would
denationalize ~~the~~ ^{these} people.

I'll write to you again
when business is a little
further advanced.

With many thanks
I am
Yours faithfully
Michael Cusack

Maurice Davin Esq.

Dear Mr. Davin,

The Irish Association with its members must be formed before the end of this year. The Association could organize the whole country within the year 1885. We could then safely hold the projected national gathering in 1886. The business must be worked from Munster. Suppose we held a meeting of delegates in some central place in Tipperary on the 1st of November next.

Don't bother your head about Dublin. The place couldn't well be worse than it is. We'll have to look to the provinces for men. Dublin will have to fall in or keep up the connection with England.

I have written to Cork this day telling them that you have responded most heartily. I am sure Mr. Stack of Listowel will look after North Kerry. Although I am not a member of the National League, I think I am not without influence with several of its leading members. The national

press will give me room for signs when I am ready. The shamrock is also at my disposal. I hope to see it enlarged in about a month and then the education of the people could start in earnest. The paragraphs on athletics in 'United Ireland' are exploding like shells in the enemy's ranks. Of course they know it is my doing and therefore the paper is not likely to hang fire soon.

I have found it to be utterly hopeless to revive our national pastimes without the assistance of the leaders of the people and I have not hesitated to urge my claim with a persistence that brooks no refusal. After a protracted struggle I won all round. Our business now is to work together caring for none but the Irish people and quietly shoving aside all who would denationalise these people.

I'll write to you again when business is a little further advanced. With many thanks. I am yours faithfully.

Michael Cusack

'A Word About Irish Athletics.'
The Nation, 11th October 1884



GAA MUSEUM
CROKE PARK

A WORD ABOUT IRISH ATHLETICS.

No movement having for its object the social and political advancement of a nation from the tyranny of imported and enforced customs and manners can be regarded as perfect if it has not made adequate provision for the preservation and cultivation of the National pastimes of the people. Voluntary neglect of such pastimes is a sure sign of National decay and of approaching dissolution. The strength and energy of a race are largely dependant on the National pastimes for the development of a spirit of courage and endurance. A warlike race is ever fond of games requiring skill, strength, and staying-power. The best games of such a race are never free from danger. But when a race is declining in martial spirit, no matter from what cause, the national games are neglected at first and then forgotten. And as the corrupting and degrading influences first manifest themselves in capital towns and large cities, so, too, we find that the national pastimes and racial characteristics first fade and disappear from such large centres of population. And further, as persons whose reason is unhinged often put off the substantial and decent clothes suitable to their condition, and deck themselves in gaudy frippery and fading flowers, thereby demonstrating that the throne of man's dignity is uncrowned, so, too, we find the deteriorating residents of cities and the thoughtless votaries of fashion ever impotently looking out with feverish anxiety for some change in their dreary pastimes after having abandoned those of the people. The corrupting influences which for several years have been devastating the sporting grounds of our cities and towns are fast spreading to our rural population. Foreign and hostile laws and the pernicious influence of a hated and hitherto dominant race drove the Irish people from their trysting-places at the cross-roads and hurling-fields back to their cabins where but a few short years before famine and fever reigned supreme. In these wretched homes—homes consecrated by sufferings which

should appal the devil—the Irish peasant too often wasted his evenings and his holidays in smoking and card-playing. A few years later a so-called revival of athletics was inaugurated in Ireland. The new movement did not originate with those who have ever had any sympathy with Ireland or the Irish people. Accordingly labourers, tradesmen, artists, and even policemen and soldiers were excluded from the few competitions which constituted the lame and halting programme of the promoters. Two years ago every man who did not make his living either wholly or partly by athletics was allowed to compete. But with this concession came a law which is as intolerable as its existence in Ireland is degrading. The law is, that all Athletic Meetings shall be held under the rules of the Amateur Athletic Association of England, and that any person competing at any meeting not held under these rules should be ineligible to compete elsewhere. The management of nearly all the meetings held in Ireland since has been entrusted to persons hostile to all the dearest aspirations of the Irish people. Every effort has been made to make the meetings look as English as possible—foot-races, betting, and flagrant cheating being their most prominent features. Swarms of pot-hunting masters sprang into existence. They formed Harrier Clubs, for the purpose of training through the winter, after the fashion of English professional athletes, that they might be able to win and pawn the prizes offered for competition in the summer. We tell the Irish people to take the management of their games into their own hands, to encourage and promote in every way every form of athletics which is peculiarly Irish, and to remove with one sweep everything foreign and iniquitous in the present system. The vast majority of the best athletes in Ireland are Nationalists. These gentlemen should take the matter in hand at once, and draft laws for the guidance of the promoters of meetings in Ireland next year. The people pay the expenses of the meetings, and the representatives of the people should have the controlling power. It is only by such an arrangement that pure Irish athletics will be revived, and that the incomparable strength and physique of our race will be preserved.

Archbishop Croke and Parnell respond to Cusack's invitation to act as patrons of the GAA – *The Nation* 27th December 1884



GAA MUSEUM
CROKE PARK

The Gaelic Athletic Association.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEEKLY NEWS.

DEAR SIR—I beg to enclose copies of letter which I have had the honour of receiving from his Grace the Archbishop of Cashel and Mr C S Parnell, M P. Will you be so kind as to publish these in your next issue, and oblige yours faithfully,

MICHAEL CUSACK,

Hon Sec Gaelic Athletic Association,
4 Gardiner's-place, Dublin,
Dec 19th, 1884.

"To Mr Michael Cusack, Hon Sec of the Gaelic Athletic Association.

"The Palace, Thurles,

Dec 18th, 1884.

"MY DEAR SIR—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your communication inviting me to become a patron of the 'Gaelic Athletic Association,' of which you are, it appears, the hon secretary. I accede to your request with the utmost pleasure.

"One of the most painful, let me assure you, and, at the same time, one of the most frequently recurring reflections that, as an Irishman, I am compelled to make in connection with the present aspect of things in this country, is derived from the ugly and irritating fact that we are daily importing from England not only her manufactured goods, which we cannot help doing, since she has practically strangled our own manufacturing appliances, but, together with her fashions, her accent, her vicious literature, her music, her dances, and her manifold mannerisms, her games also and her pastimes, to the utter discredit of our own grand national sports, and to the sore humiliation, as I believe, of every genuine son and daughter of the old land.

"Ball-playing, hurling, football kicking, according to Irish rules, 'casting,' leaping in various ways, wrestling, handy-grips, top-pegging, leap-frog, rounders, tip-in-the-hat, and all such favourite exercises and amusements amongst men and boys, may now be said to be not only dead and buried, but in several localities to be entirely forgotten and unknown. And what have we got in their stead? We have got such foreign and fantastic field sports as lawn-tennis, polo, croquet, cricket, and the like—very excellent, I believe, and health-giving exercises in their way, still not racier of the soil, but rather alien, on the contrary, to it, as are, indeed, for the most part the men and women who first imported and still continue to patronise them.

"And, unfortunately, it is not our national sports alone that are held in dishonour, and dying out, but even our most suggestive national celebrations are being gradually effaced and extinguished, one after another, as well. Who hears now of snap-apple night, or bonfire night? They are all things of the past, too vulgar to be spoken of, except in ridicule, by the degenerate dandies of the day. No doubt, there is something rather pleasing to the eye

in the 'get up' of a modern young man who, arrayed in light attire, with parti-coloured cap on and racket in hand, is making his way, with or without a companion, to the tennis ground. But, for my part, I should vastly prefer to behold, or think of, the youthful athletes whom I used to see in my early days at fair and pattern, bereft of shoes and coat, and thus prepared to play at hand-ball, to fly over any number of horses, to throw the 'sledge' or 'winding-stone,' and to test each other's mettle and activity by the trying ordeal of 'three leaps,' or a 'hop, step, and a jump.'

"Indeed, if we continue travelling for the next score of years in the same direction that we have been going in for some time past, contemplating the sports that were practised by our forefathers,

effacing our national features as though we were ashamed of them, and putting on, with England's stuffs and broadcloths, her 'masher' habits and such other effeminate follies as she may recommend, we had better at once, and publicly, adjure our nationality, clap hands for joy at sight of the Union Jack, and place 'England's bloody red' exultingly above 'the green.'

"Deprecating, as I do, any such dire and disgraceful consummation, and seeing in your society of athletes something altogether opposed to it, I shall be happy to do all that I can, and authorise you now formally to place my name on the roll of your patrons.

"In conclusion, I earnestly hope that our national journals will not disdain, in future, to give suitable notices of those Irish sports and pastimes which your society means to patronise and promote, and that the masters and pupils of our Irish colleges will not henceforth exclude from their athletic programmes such manly exercises as I have just referred to and commemorated.—I remain, my dear sir, your very faithful servant,

"T W CROKE,

"Archbishop of Cashel."

Irish Parliamentary Offices,

Palace Chambers, 9 Bridge-street,

London, S W, 17th Dec, 1884.

DEAR SIR—I have received your letter of the 11th instant. It gives me great pleasure to learn that a "Gaelic Athletic Association" has been established for the preservation of national pastimes, with the objects of which I entirely concur.

I feel very much honoured by the resolution adopted at the Thurles meeting; and I accept with appreciation the position of patron of the association which has been offered to me.

I need not say that I shall do anything I can to render the working of the movement a success.—I am yours very truly,

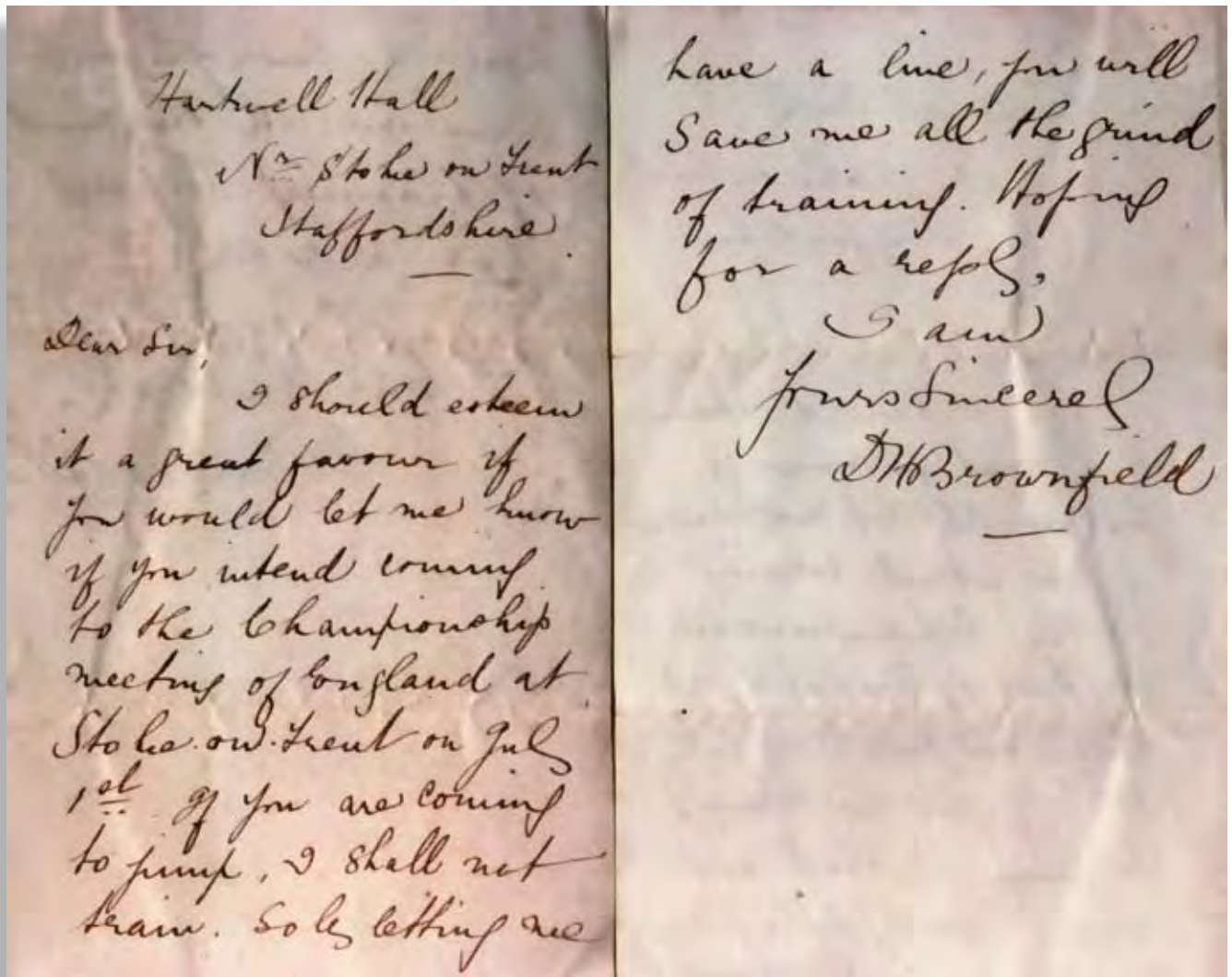
CHAS. S. PARNELL.

Michael Cusack, Esq.,
4 Gardiner's-place, Dublin.

Document 4

Letter

D.H. Brownfield to
Maurice Davin



Dear Sir,

I should esteem it a great favour if you would let me know if you intend training for the championship meeting of England at Stoke-on-Trent on July 1st. If you are coming to jump, I shall not train. So by letting me have a line you will save me all the grind of training. Hoping for a reply, I am
Yours Sincerely.

D.H. Brownfield

Document 5

**Photograph of Irish athletes and
hurlers before they visit America
1888 (Invasion Tour)**



Document 6

The first playing rules of gaelic football as adopted at the GAA's second convention in December 1884



1. There shall not be less than fifteen or more than twenty-one players aside.
2. There shall be two umpires and a referee. Where the umpires disagree, the referee's decision shall be final.
3. The ground shall be at least 120 yards long by 80 in breadth and properly marked by boundary lines. Boundary lines to be at least five yards from the fences.
4. Goal-posts shall stand at each end in the centre of the goal-line. They shall be 15 feet apart, with cross-bar eight feet from the ground.
5. The captains of each team shall toss for choice of sides before commencing play and the players shall stand in two ranks opposite each other, until the ball is thrown up, each man holding the hand of one of the other side.
6. Pushing or tripping from behind, holding from behind, or butting with the head shall be deemed foul and players so offending shall be asked to stand aside and may not afterwards take any part in the match, nor can his side substitute another man.
7. The time of actual play shall be one hour. Sides to be changed at half-time.
8. The match shall be decided by the greater number of goals. If no goal be kicked, the match shall be deemed a draw. A goal is scored when the ball is kicked through the goalposts under the cross-bar.
9. When the ball is kicked over the side-line it shall be thrown back in any direction by a player of the other side. If kicked over the goal-line by a player of the other side, the goal-keeper whose line it crosses shall have a free kick. No player on the other side to approach nearer than 25 yards of him till the ball is kicked.
10. The umpires and referee shall have, during the match, full power to disqualify any player or order him to stand aside and discontinue play for any act which they may consider unfair as set out in Rule 6.

No nails or irontips allowed on the boots (strips of leather fastened to the soles will prevent slipping).

The dress for hurling and football to be knee-breeches and stockings and boots or shoes.

It would be well if each player was provided with two jerseys, one white and the other some dark colour. The colours of his club could be worn by each. Then when a match was made, it could be decided the colours each side should wear.

Document 7

The first playing rules of hurling as adopted at the GAA's second convention in December 1884



1. The ground shall, when convenient, be at least 200 yards long by 150 yards broad, or as near to that size as can be got.
2. There shall be boundary lines all around the ground, at a distance of at least five yards from the fence.
3. The goal shall be two upright posts, twenty feet apart, with a cross-bar ten feet from the ground. A goal is won when the ball is driven between the posts and under the cross-bar.
4. The ball is not to be lifted off the ground with the hand, when in play.
5. There shall not be less than fourteen or more than twenty-one players at the side in regular matches.
6. There shall be an umpire for each side and a referee who will decide in cases where the umpires disagree. The referee keeps the time and throws up the ball at the commencement of each goal.
7. The time of play shall be one hour and twenty minutes. Sides to be changed at half-time.
8. Before commencing play hurlers shall draw up in two lines in the centre of the field opposite to each other and catch hands or hurleys across, then separate. The referee then throws the ball along the ground between the players or up high over their heads.
9. No player to catch, trip or push from behind. Penalty, disqualification to the offender and free puck to the opposite side.
10. No player to bring his hurley intentionally in contact with the person of another player. Penalty same as in Rule 9.
11. If the ball is driven over the side-line it shall be thrown in towards the middle of the ground by the referee or one of the umpires; but if it rebounds into the ground it shall be considered in play.
12. If the ball is driven over the end-lines and not through the goal, the player who is defending the goal shall have a free puck from the goal. No player of the opposite side to approach nearer than twenty yards until the ball is struck. The other players to stand on the goal-line. But if the ball is driven over the goal-line by a player whose goal it is, the opposite side shall have a free puck on the ground twenty yards out from the goalposts. Players whose goal it is to stand on the goal-line until the ball is struck. NB: Hitting both right and left is allowable

Document 8

RIC Crime Branch report notes on the political allegiance of officers in County Louth GAA Clubs



County of Louth (Continued)					
List of G.A. clubs in above County and Officers of each					
No.	Name of Club	Names of Officers	Position	Approximate No. of members in each club	Remarks
5	Tullyallen "Lars"	Patrick Pentony Michael Walsh Shos Downey Jas Brammigan Jas Carther	President V.P. Captain Treasurer Secretary	60	J.R.B. J.R.B. J.R.B.
6	Sandpit "J.P. Gills"	Patrick McKeown Hugh Woods Lawrence McKeown	Pres & Treas Captain Secretary	40	J.R.B. J.R.B.
7	Sumker "O'Mahoneys"	Patrick Campbell Shos Carey Shos Rafferty	Pres & Treas Captain Secretary	45	
8	Collon "Campaigners"	Jas Finnegan Christopher Kalfhenmy Bernard Cooke Wm Sullivan	President Captain Treasurer Secretary	45	
9	Annagasson "The Mcaghers"	John Clinton Peter McGuinness Jas Casey	Pres & Capt Treasurer Secretary	35	J.R.B.

Document 9

Special Branch Police Report on GAA Activities in 1895



137 100 100-1240-12

13699 13732 98 S. 9914

SECRET. **NORTHERN DIVISION.**

Crime Department—Special Branch.

SUBJECT Constitution of the Gaelic Athletic Association as revised 25th April 1895

DUNDALK. Date, 11th May 1895

<p>Inspector General Submitted with reference to A.</p> <p><i>Wm. Fleming</i> D.C.B. Acting for D.C.B.</p> <p>1. Chief Secretary. 2. Major President. 3. Note. <i>D.H.</i> 14.5.95</p> <p>3. Donegal <i>C.B.B.</i> 15.5.95</p> <p><i>W.A.</i> 30.5.95.</p>	<p>Under Secretary Submitted.</p> <p>The previous papers are with Goot.</p> <p>sect. 2. of the new rules meets the suggestion of His Grace Dr. Croke the Association to steer clear of politics and that no club should assume any party name. Please see file 98 S. submitted 13699 25th ult.</p> <p><i>H. Dwyer</i> 13.5.95.</p> <p>(2) Under Secretary <i>See</i> 16.5.95 <i>R. President</i> 16/5/95</p>
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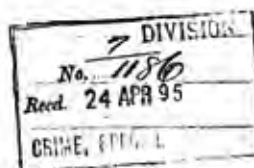
Document 10

Police Report on GAA Activities in County Tipperary 1895



Tipperary N.R.

G.A.A. Central Council
Meeting on 21st April 95



Secret.

County of Tipperary N.R.

Wenagh 22nd April 1895

The report
that about 8.30 pm. last evening,
upon the football field at Bally-
sunore, Thurles, the president,
vice-president, secretary, and
treasurer of the Association and
the following members of the
Central Council met hurriedly.
Viz. Mr. Durning (Cork), Palmer
(Droghda), Gleeson (Limerick), Mr.
Dooley (Cork) and P.P. Sutton
(Dublin), and on account of the
position of affairs created by the
presence and patronage that
day of His Grace the Archbishop
of Cashel, decided to postpone
the consideration of all Council
business until Sunday 28th
inst. at Hayes Hotel Thurles.

A friend has informed me that
it is probable an effort will be
made upon the occasion of the
the County Inspection

C. Insp.
Wenagh
Please submit a
further report after
28 insts.

By order
Richd Harrison
D.I. C.O.

24.4.95

Document 10

Police Report on GAA Activities
in County Tipperary 1895



the celebration of the Archbishop's
jubilee in July — to bring off
hurling, the biggest Gaelic
tournament ever held in Ireland,
to which American athletes will
be invited.

J. Horgan P.
Sergeant Hurling

Remaghs 23. apr. 95

Submitted. —

R. Gallman Smith
C1

50

Remaghs 26. iv. 95

For compliance. —

R. Gallman Smith
C1

Sergt. Horgan

Document 11

All-Ireland Football Final Match
Programme 1913



GAA Secretary, Luke O'Toole in
reaction to the British authorities'
prohibition of public gatherings
without a permit, 22nd July 1918



GAA MUSEUM
CROKE PARK

a ghagannas Dubh. J. J. Finney, 90 Leabonn, 100 Westport.

GAAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.

Croke Park,
Dublin.
22nd July, 1918.

Dear Sir,

At a Meeting of Central Council held on Saturday last the existing situation regarding the playing of the Matches was considered, and the following decisions arrived at:-

- I. That under no circumstances must a permit be applied for either by Provincial Councils, Co. Committees, Leagues, Tournament Committees, Clubs, or by a third party such as Secretaries of Grounds, etc.
- II. Any individual or Club infringing the foregoing order becomes automatically and indefinitely suspended.
- III. Orders I and II apply also to sports promoting bodies and registered athletes and sportsmen.
- IV. You are directed to summon within the next 10 days a Meeting consisting of one Delegate from each Club; (a) to inform them of these orders and for transmission of same to their respective Clubs; (b) to arrange for Sunday, August 4th. at 3 p.m. (old time) a series of Matches throughout your County, which are to be localised as much as possible.
- V. Having regard to the abnormal circumstances, and to the fact that I have received applications from Soccer and Rugby Players, the Council decided with a view to propagandist work to grant an amnesty to all such persons, but they must apply to your Committee for reinstatement on or before September 1st., and I shall be glad if you will give this matter all the prominence possible.

I may add that the advertising of these Matches is in the discretion of your Committee, who will of course be guided by local circumstances, but should you be disposed to publicly advertise, you must not do so before the Thursday or Friday preceding the match.

Yours truly,
L. J. O'TOOLE.

Document 13

Bloody Sunday Military Court of Inquiry – Order to raid Croke Park 21st November 1920



A.

SECRET AND V. URGENT.

C.R./245/1.
21.11.20

G.C.

-
1. There is a football match between a TIPPERARY team and a DUBLIN team taking place at CROKE PARK at 1445 hours this afternoon.
 2. You will surround the ground and picquet all exits.
 3. Picquets will be required on the Railway N of the ground at Points 'A' and 'B' At Points 'C' on the Eastern side. Points 'L' & 'R' on the railway on the Southern and Canal side and at the three known exits.

No picquet should be less than 1 Officer and 15 men.

A reserve of not less than 1 platoon should be at exit 'Y'

2 Armoured cars under an Officer will meet your party on the lower DRUMCONDRA ROAD at junction of FITZROY AVENUE at 1515 hours.

About a quarter of an hour before the match is over a Special Intelligence Officer will warn by megaphone all people present at the match that they will only leave the ground by the exits. Anybody attempting to get away elsewhere will be shot.

4. All male persons will be stopped and searched.
Special party 'C' will meet you at the same point as the Armoured Cars to assist in search.
5. A C K N O W L E D G E.

(Sd.)

DUBLIN
R.F.

Major
Brigade Major,
Infantry Brigade

Certified true copy of
original order.

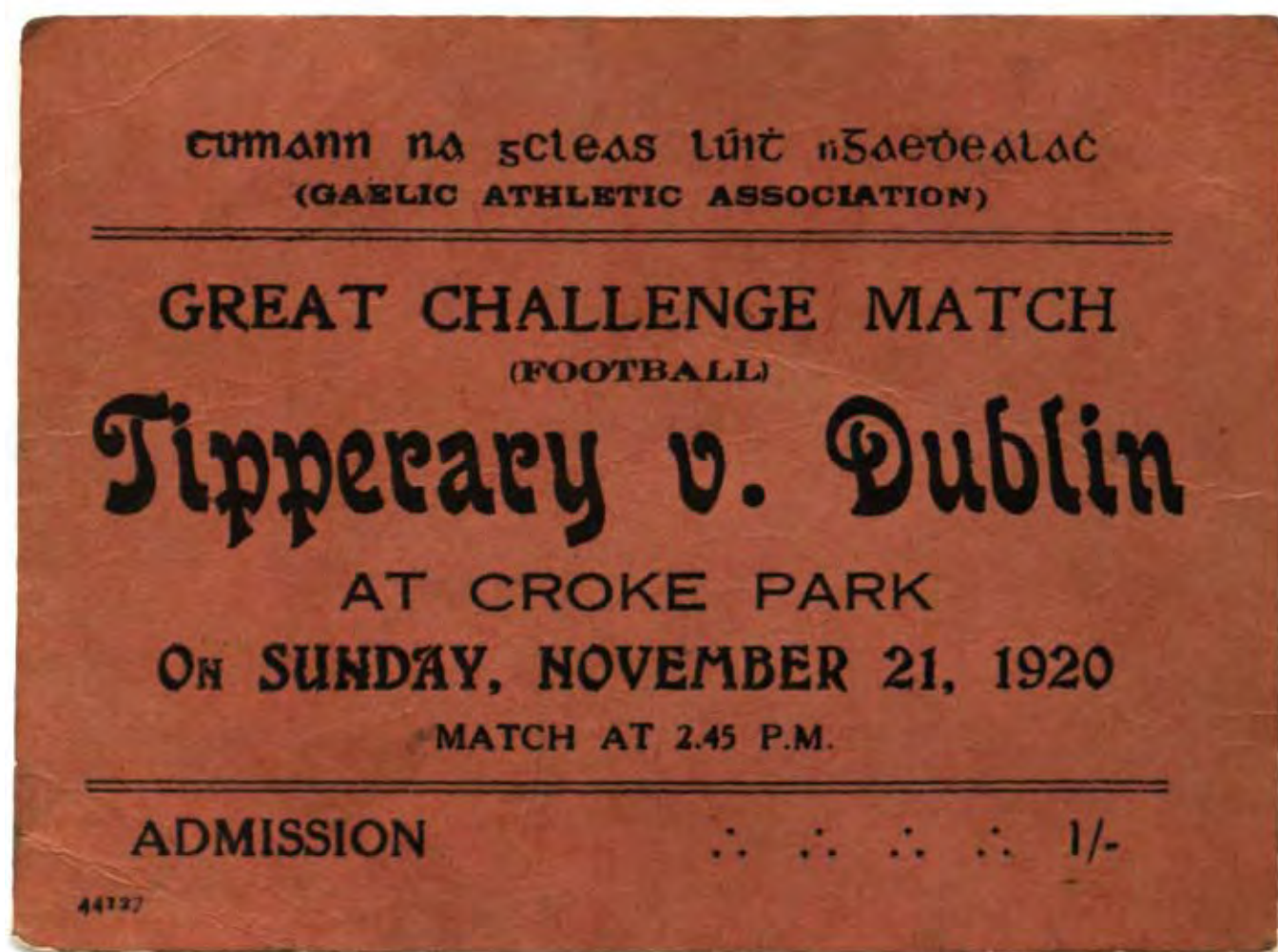
(Sd.)

2.12.20

(Sd.) R. S. O'NEILL, Major R.F.A.
Pres. C. of I.

Document 14

Bloody Sunday Match Ticket
Tipperary V Dublin
21st November 1920



Document 15

Bloody Sunday Military Court of Inquiry – Witness Statement 15



15th Witness.

having been duly sworn is examined by the Court and states:-

At Croke Park on 21st November I was in the second lorry of the police convoy. As soon as we got to the top of the Canal Bridge I saw a group of about 10 civilians. Some in the middle of the street and some on the sides between the bridge and the turning down to the turnstile. By their demeanour and formation they gave me the impression that they were a piquet. These men immediately on our arrival turned round and started to run towards the nearest entrance gates; as they ran they turned round and fired at the first car. Those were the first shots I heard fired. I noticed three or four of them firing. The civilians fired about half a dozen rounds rapidly. I immediately jumped down from the car and other constables followed me. We went straight to the canal entrance gate and entered the ground climbing over the turnstiles. As soon as we entered I heard firing from the mound in the far opposite corner of the ground. I ran in that direction going round the fence on the south side of the playing field. I got about half way round when I was hit by a ricochet or what I thought was a ricochet. Subsequently on my return to barracks, I found in my left breast pocket a bullet, which had apparently struck something and had been dented. This bullet had passed through my cigarette case and pocket book and dented my whistle. I have on the same tunic now as I was wearing then. I produce the bullet -

The Court examines the bullet, (exhibit C) and examines the witness's tunic, which has a small ragged hole in the left breast pocket.

Document 16

Bloody Sunday Military Court of Inquiry – Witness Statement 22

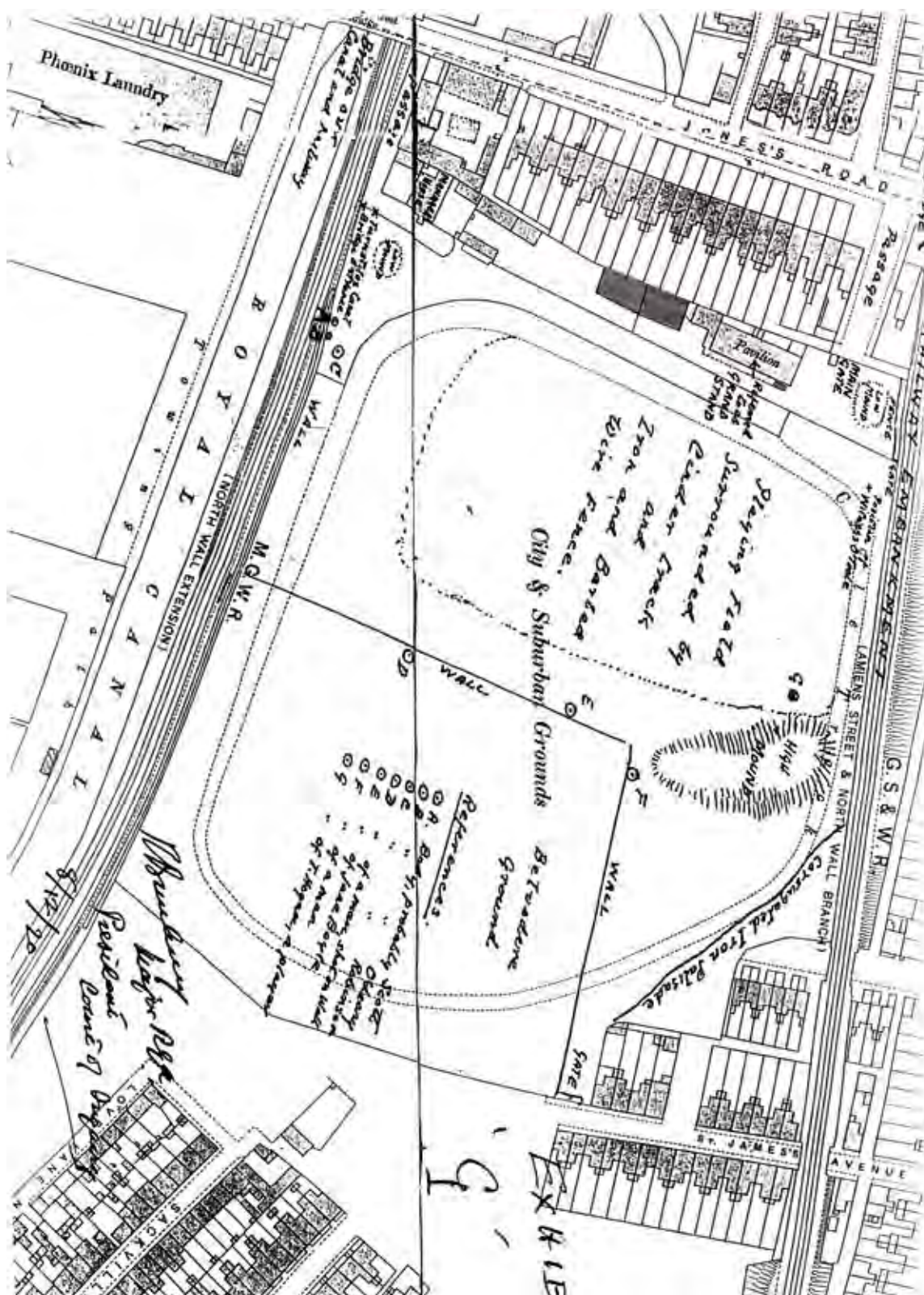


22nd WITNESS,
having been duly sworn is examined by the Court and states:

On Sunday 21st inst. I was on duty outside the main entrance Croke Park in Jones's Road. At about 3¹⁵ 3.25 p.m. I saw about 6 or 7 large lorries accompanied by two armoured cars, one in front and one behind, pass along the Clonliffe Road from Drumcondra towards Ballybough. Immediately after a small armoured car came across Jones's Road from Fitzroy Avenue and pulled up at the entrance of the main gate. Immediately after that, 3 small Crossley lorries pulled up in Jones's Road. There were about 10 or 12 men dressed in R.I.C. uniform in each. When they got out of the cars they started firing in the air which I thought was blank ammunition, and almost immediately firing started all round the ground. Some of the men who got out of the lorries went into the field and others remained on the road. There appeared to be no firing at the main gate. The firing appeared to be the other side of the ground. The armoured car was still at the gate and did not fire at all. As the people were leaving they were being searched by the R.I.C. When the firing started I got all the women and children that were in the street into the houses. When the firing ceased, on information received that there were some dead people in the grounds, I went to Fitzgibbon Street Police Station for the purpose of having an ambulance sent up. I returned to Jones's Road and remained there till all the people had cleared away.

The 3 Crossley lorries pulled up just under the railway bridge. The men in the lorries started firing in the air in Jones's Road before they went into the ground. No other R.I.C. men entered the main gate except those who came out of the lorries.

Bloody Sunday Military Court of Inquiry – Map of Croke Park



Document 18

Bloody Sunday Military Court of Inquiry – Findings



OPINION OF CONVENING AUTHORITY.

- (1) I concur in the opinion of the Court generally.
- (2) I consider, that the first shots were fired by members of the crowd, and that these shots led to the panic.
- (3) I consider that the firing on the crowd was carried out without orders, was indiscriminate, and unjustifiable, with the exception of any shooting which took place inside the enclosure.

11th December 1920.

(sgd) C.P. BOYD, Major General
COMMANDING DUBLIN DISTRICT.
COMPETENT MILITARY AUTHORITY.

Activity Sheet

Written Evidence



Comprehension

1. **What** type of document is this?

☐

Eyewitness account

☐

Letter

☐

Report

☐

Journal

☐

Newspaper

☐

Autobiography

What type of readership was this document intended for?

☐

Official

☐

Private

☐

Public

2. Can you tell **when** and **where** this document was written?

Explain your answer.

3. **Why** do you think this document was written?

Explain your answer.

4. Are there people or events mentioned which you are familiar with?

5. Is this document primary or secondary evidence?

Explain your answer.

☐

Primary

☐

Secondary

Criticism

1. Does this document seem reliable?

Explain your answer.

2. Does the author **express** a viewpoint?

Explain your answer.

3. Is the author **biased** in any way?

Explain your answer.

Contextualisation

1. **Place** this document in its historical context and list three things that are relevant?

1.

2.

3.

2. **What** other relevant events took place around the time this document was written?

Comparison

Choose another document from the same period and compare the two.

1. **What** are the main differences between the two documents?

Consider – type, intended readership, bias, viewpoint.

2. **Which** document offers readers more information regarding the topic?

Explain your answer.

Activity Sheet

Photograph Analysis



Comprehension

1. **What** can you see in the photograph?
It might be useful when answering this question to divide the photo into a grid of 6 sections.

People	Objects	Activities

2. Can you tell **when** and **where** this photograph was taken?
Explain your answer.

3. **What** do you think is happening in the photograph?
Explain your answer.

4. Can you tell **who** the people in the photograph might be?

5. Who might have taken this photograph?
Explain your answer.

Professional ☐

Amateur ☐

6. **What** viewership and aim do you think the photographer had in mind for this image?

Viewership	Aim

Criticism

1. **Does** this photograph seem reliable?
Explain your answer.

2. **Does** this photograph seem posed or natural?
Explain your answer.

Contextualisation

1. **What** do you know already about events or people in this photograph?

2. **What** other relevant events took place around the time this photograph was taken?

Comparison

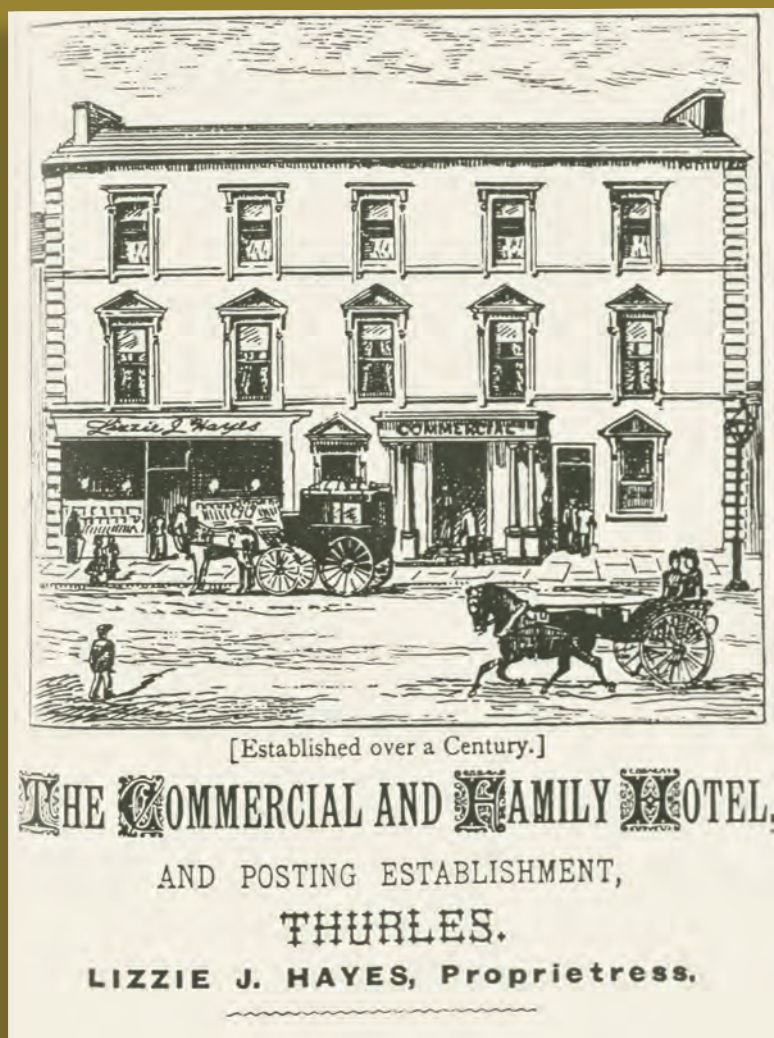
Choose another photograph from the same period and compare the two.

1. **What** are the main differences between the two documents?

Consider- type, intended readership, bias, viewpoint.

2. **Which** photograph offers readers more information regarding the topic?

Explain your answer.



Above: Mrs. Hayes Hotel, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.
Front Cover: Rival captains 1932 Tailteann Games hurling match.



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under the 2008 Museums and Archives Grant Scheme.

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council

