

HIDDEN GEMS AND FORGOTTEN PEOPLE

KILL HISTORY GROUP



JOHN DEVOY MEMORIAL

On the new service road between Kill and Johnstown stands a memorial to one of Ireland's almost forgotten heroes.

The memorial, which was erected in the 1960s, commemorates John Devoy (1842-1928) and, until its recent re-location to accommodate road widening, marked the site of the cottage where Devoy was born.

After joining the Fenian Brotherhood as a young man, Devoy was jailed in England for five years and released on condition that he would not return to the United Kingdom. He went to America where he worked as a journalist and rose to head the Clan na Gael organisation which provided funding and material support for the cause of Irish independence. He was largely responsible for the daring rescue of Fenian prisoners in Australia in 1876 using a whaling ship 'The Catalpa' and for financing initiatives such as 'The United Irishman' newspaper, St Enda's school and, later, the Irish Volunteer organisation. Described by Pádraig Pearse, the leader of the 1916 Rebellion, as "*The greatest of the Fenians*" he is buried in Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin.