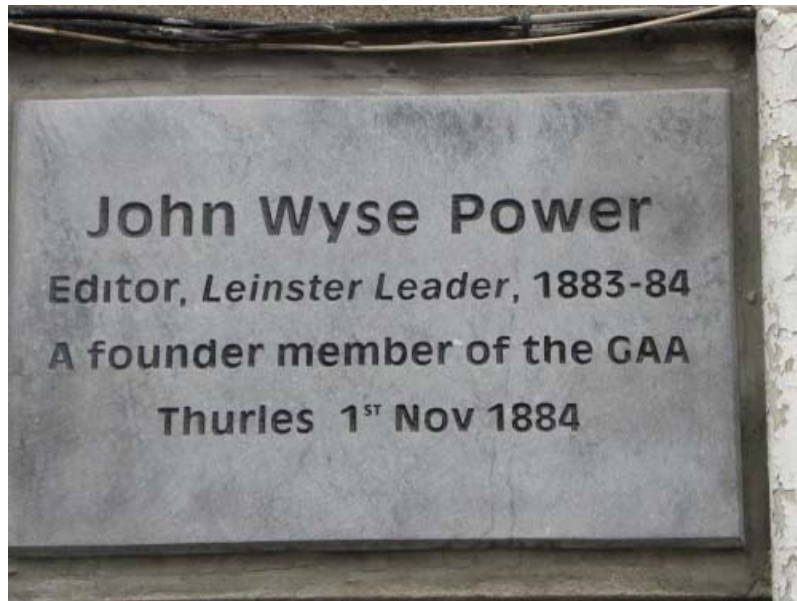


HIDDEN GEMS AND FORGOTTEN PEOPLE
NAAS LOCAL HISTORY GROUP



JOHN WYSE POWER

I suppose most Kildare supporters would remember the heroic exploits of the great Kildare football team of the early nineteen twenties and their two all Ireland victories. Younger GAA followers would remember the final in 1998 when the county lost to Galway. However the name of John Wyse Power might not resonate so widely with people and the contribution he made to the GAA, to Irish history and to Naas. He was in fact a founder member of the GAA. He was one of seven members who met on 1st. Nov.1884 in the billiard room of Miss Haye's Commercial Hotel in Thurles Co. Tipperary and formed the GAA. The other members were Michael Cusack, Maurice Davin, John McKay, Joseph O'Ryan, J.K.Bracken and Thomas St. George McCarthy.

Although born in Waterford he had strong connections with Naas being editor of the *Leinster Leader* from 1883-1884. He was a member of the Fenian movement and a journalist by profession. He also worked in Dublin with the *Freemans Journal*.

Power was the official GAA athletics handicapper for several years and served as Honorary Secretary of the GAA and Dublin GAA Board Chairman. His wife Jenny was an elected member of Seanad Eireann. He had a life long involvement in nationalist politics, joined the Irish Parliamentary Party and was a loyal supporter of Charles Stewart Parnell. He died on 29th May, 1926 and is buried in Glasnevin Cemetery. A fitting tribute to his memory is recorded on this commemorative plaque at the *Leinster Leader* building on South Main Street Naas.