

# The Gaelic Revival

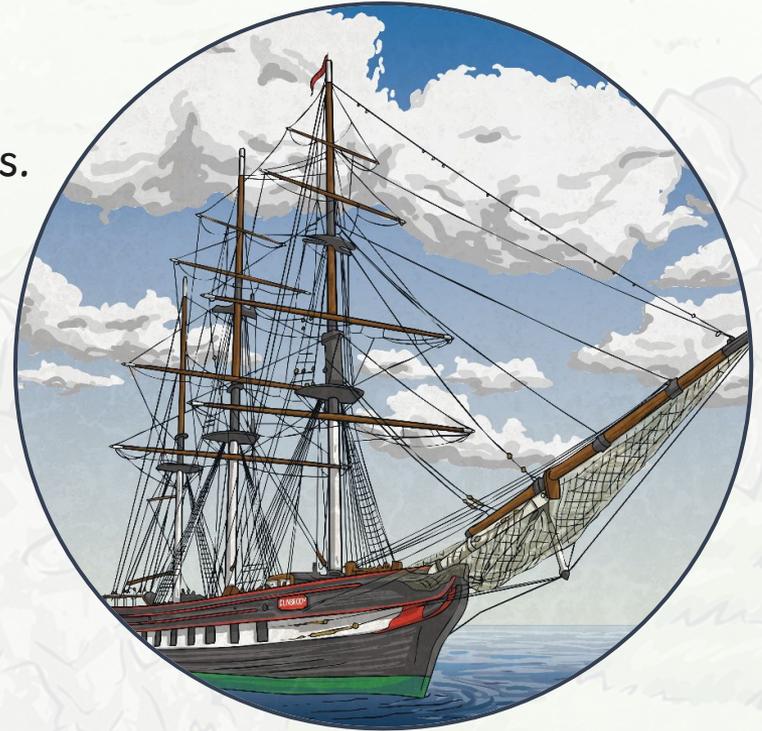


# Life in Ireland after the Famine

The Great Irish Famine occurred in Ireland between 1845 and 1850. During this time, severe crop failure meant that approximately one million people died.

After the Great Famine, many people decided to emigrate to different countries. They decided it would be better to speak English rather than Irish so they would be able to find work in Great Britain, Australia and America.

At this time, Ireland was ruled by Great Britain. The British banned the teaching of the Irish language and Irish history in schools in Ireland.



# The Beginning of the Gaelic Revival

Some Irish people decided that the traditions and customs of Ireland needed to be protected.

Michael Cusack, Maurice Davin and Dr Douglas Hyde believed that Irish people should be proud of their language and traditions.

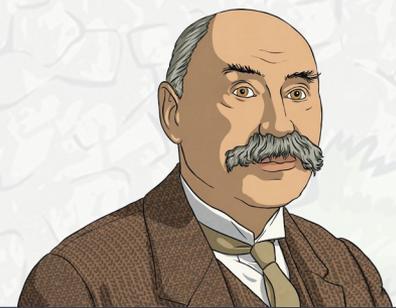
They wanted the Irish language, music, dance, stories, writing and games to be revived. Their efforts to promote the Irish language culture were known as the Gaelic revival.



**Michael Cusack**



**Maurice Davin**



**Dr Douglas Hyde**

# Michael Cusack

Michael Cusack loved the traditions and customs in Ireland.

While working as a teacher in Dublin, he was shocked to see how few children had any interest in Irish games.

Together with Maurice Davin, he established an organisation called 'The Gaelic Athletic Association' (the GAA) to promote Irish sport and games.



# The Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)

In the beginning, the GAA organised athletic events.

Hurling and football soon became the focus. The Irish language, Irish music and Irish dancing were also encouraged through this organisation.

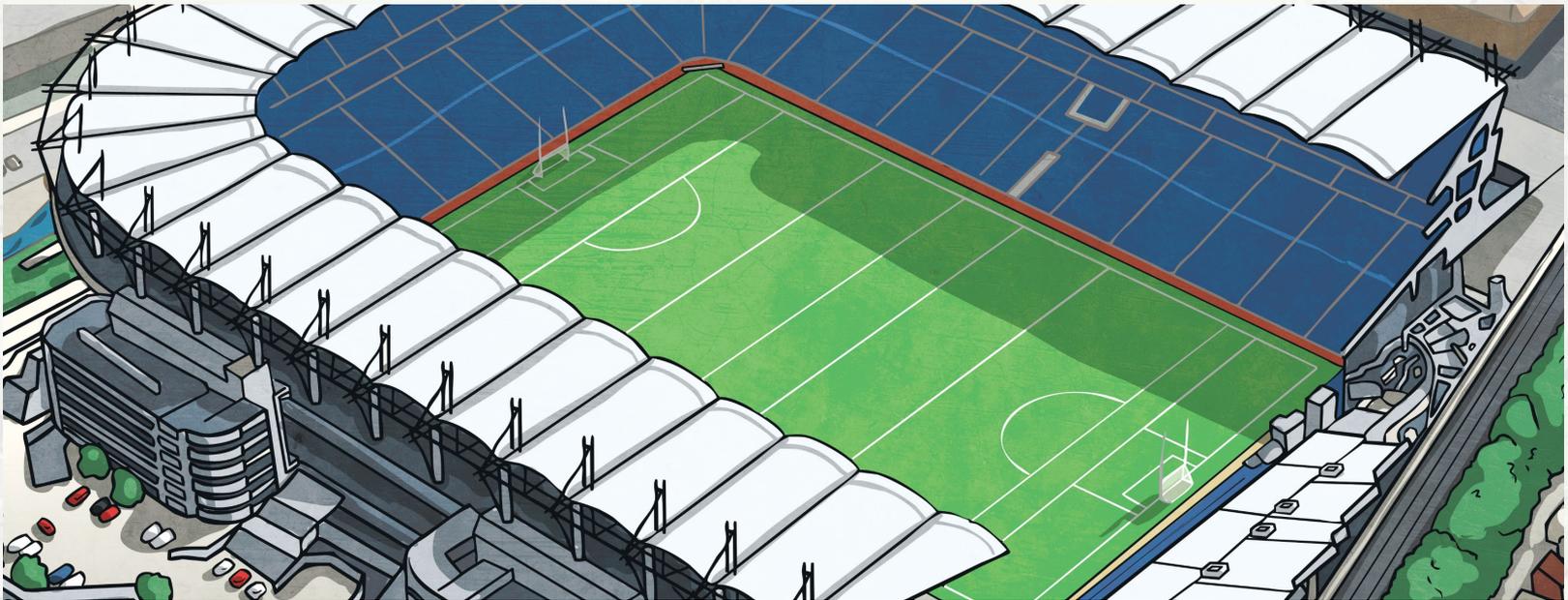
Maurice Davin was the first president and Michael Cusack was the first secretary of the GAA.



# Croke Park

In 1913, the GAA bought a plot in Dublin, which would become Croke Park, where hurling and football matches and finals would be played.

Croke Park was named after Archbishop Croke of Cashel, who was the first patron of the GAA.

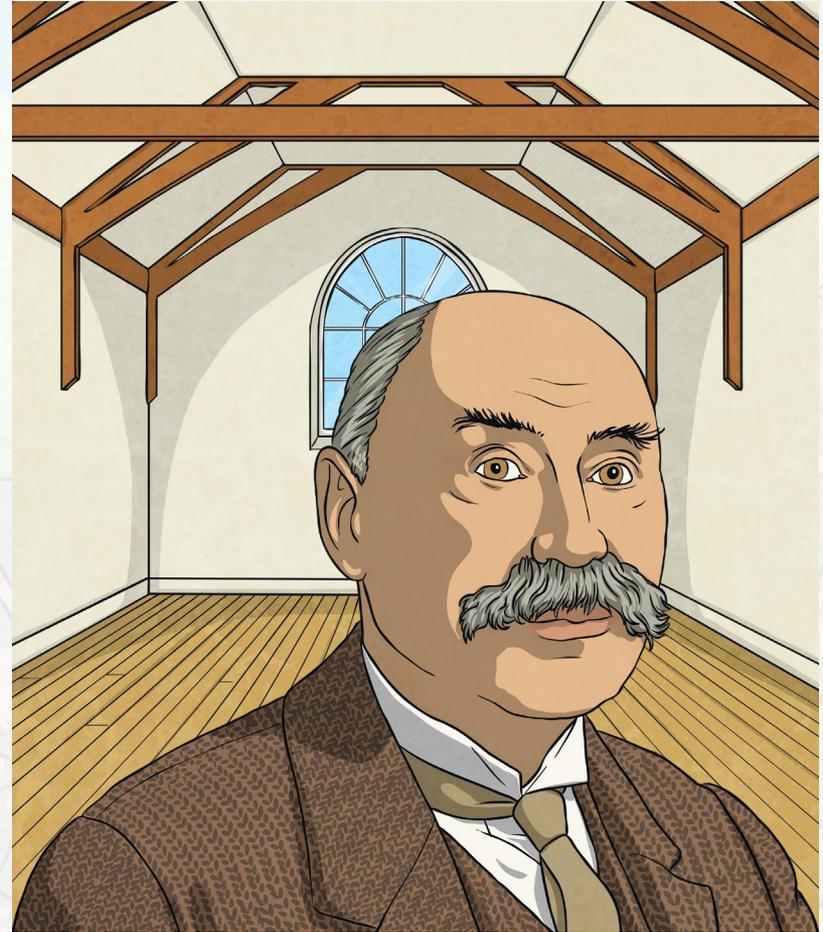


# Dr Douglas Hyde

Dr Douglas Hyde, Eoin MacNeill and five other men met in Dublin to discuss how the Irish language could be preserved and encouraged.

Nine years after the GAA was established, the Gaelic League was founded in 1893 to promote the Irish language.

Dr Douglas Hyde was the first president of the Gaelic League.



# The Gaelic League

The Gaelic League was set up to preserve the Irish language and promote all things associated with this language.

In 1898, the first English and Irish bilingual newspaper was published.

It was called 'Fáinne an Lae'.

It contained news of the day and news from Irish people in different countries, such as America.

A year later, in 1899, a weekly newspaper was published called 'An Claidheamh Soluis' and this became the official paper of the Gaelic League.



# Irish Stories

At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, many old Irish stories and legends had been translated into English.

Many Irish writers were influenced by these stories.

William Butler Yeats wrote poems and stories about ancient Irish heroes.



# The Abbey Theatre

In 1904, William Butler Yeats, Lady Gregory and John Millington Synge established the Abbey Theatre in Dublin, where people could come to watch Irish plays.

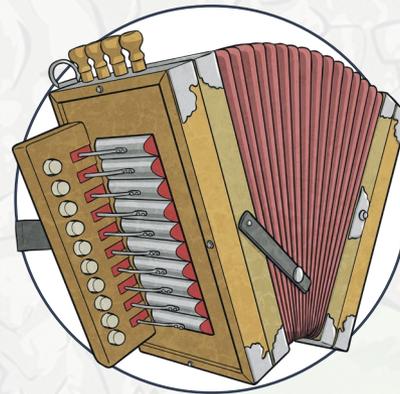
On the opening night, 27<sup>th</sup> December 1904, three plays were performed: 'On Baile's Strand', 'Cathleen Ní Houlihan' and 'Spreading the News'.



Photo courtesy of (bjaglin@flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution

# The Gaelic Revival

Today, Irish traditions, stories, cultures, sports and music continue to flourish. It is important to celebrate this by supporting these customs and traditions.





twinkl