

EXPERIENCE Glasnevin

IRELAND'S NATIONAL CEMETERY



Q. This is a photograph of Jennie Wyse Power (1800s). What does it reveal about life in the past?



Key Words

Nationalist
Suffrage



Discussion Points

The 1916 Rising
The War of Independence
Cumann na mBan
The Anglo-Irish Treaty
The Irish Civil War



Classroom Links

Eras of change and conflict:
The changing role of women in the 19th and 20th centuries

Politics, conflict & society:
1916 and the foundation of the State



Look Out

The statue on the right (of Charles Stewart Parnell) stands on O'Connell St. in Dublin. Do you recognise it?

Jennie Wyse Power

Jane 'Jennie' O'Toole was born in Co. Wicklow in 1858 and was the youngest of seven children.

As a **Nationalist** she wanted to achieve political independence for Ireland and later became a member of the Ladies' Land League, Inghinidhe na hÉireann and Sinn Féin.

Jennie married a journalist, John Wyse Power, and they had four children. The youngest child Charles, was named after Charles Stewart Parnell.

Jennie was a business woman and opened a shop and restaurant at 21 Henry St. Dublin.

Her business was called 'The Irish Farm Produce Company'. She focused on only selling Irish produce and the restaurant was a meeting place for Nationalists.

Jennie was a member of the Dublin Women's **Suffrage** Association and worked to achieve greater equality for women.

In 1914 Jennie was a founding member of **Cumann na mBan** (a Nationalist organisation for women). She became the first President of the organisation.

Time to Research!

- Q.** When did women in Ireland receive the right to vote?
- Q.** Was the vote given to all women at that time?



Time to Research!

Q. What activities were carried out by members of Cumann na mBan during the 1916 Rising?

Q. Did you read about any members in particular? What did you discover?

Q. Within the text seven terms are written in bold. Class Research: Write an explanation for each of these terms.



On the first day of the **War of Independence**, Patrick Pearse stood at the G.P.O. and read the Proclamation of the Irish Republic aloud.

Members of the Provisional Government had signed the Proclamation in Jennie's premises on Henry St. and much of that street was destroyed during the Rising. This plaque (below) was later placed at 21 Henry Street.

Jennie, along with her daughter Nancy, delivered food to the rebels who were stationed inside the G.P.O. during the Rising.

The **War of Independence** began in 1919 and lasted until a truce was called in July 1921. During this time Cumann na mBan worked alongside the IRA and carried out a range of activities. They were less likely to be searched than men and became scouts, smuggled weapons and carried important information. Some members worked in the First Dáil and more senior members travelled abroad to spread news of the war in Ireland.



Badge worn by Cumann na mBan members.

Jennie carried out work for the Dáil and was chosen to carry out intelligence tasks (as part of a spy network). Her premises were often raided.

In December 1921 the **Anglo-Irish Treaty** was signed. A vote was called and the vast majority of Cumann na mBan rejected the Treaty. Jennie supported the Treaty and saw it as a 'step' towards a Republic. She established Cumann na Saoirse - a women's organisation for those who were pro-Treaty. Jennie also owned a shop on Camden Street and it was bombed during the **Irish Civil War**.

Jennie became a member of the Irish Free State Seanad (a section of Ireland's parliament) from 1922-1936 and used her voice to promote greater equality for women.

Jennie Wyse Power died in 1941 and was buried in Glasnevin Cemetery.

