

ANNA PARNELL

WICKLOW HERITAGE FORUM Co. WICKLOW

Anna Parnell was born at Avondale near Rathdrum on 13 May 1852, the tenth of eleven children.

Anna shared a keen interest in Irish Nationalism with her older brother Charles, and was a staunch activist on behalf of the poor as the founder of the Ladies' Land League in 1881.

The Ladies Land League provided crucial support to evicted families at a time when many of the male Land League leaders were imprisoned.



Anna Parnell, by Henry O'Shea of Limerick
www.historyireland.com/home-rule/anna-fanny-arnell/, PD-US,

THE LADIES' LAND LEAGUE

Finding the Land League records to be deplorably kept, the women compiled their own 'Book of Kells', with detailed information on every Irish estate.

In spite of the male executive's ambivalence, and criticism from some Catholic Church leaders and many newspapers, numbers grew rapidly, with more than 500 branches of the Ladies' Land League throughout Ireland by the beginning of 1882.

Anna and the story of the Ladies Land League remain largely untold in Irish history books. Read the story of Ireland's Forgotten Patriot on *Our Wicklow Heritage*.



Avondale House, photograph courtesy of Wicklow Heritage Office



Police raid on Ladies' Land League meeting
Illustrated London News 1881



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Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
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