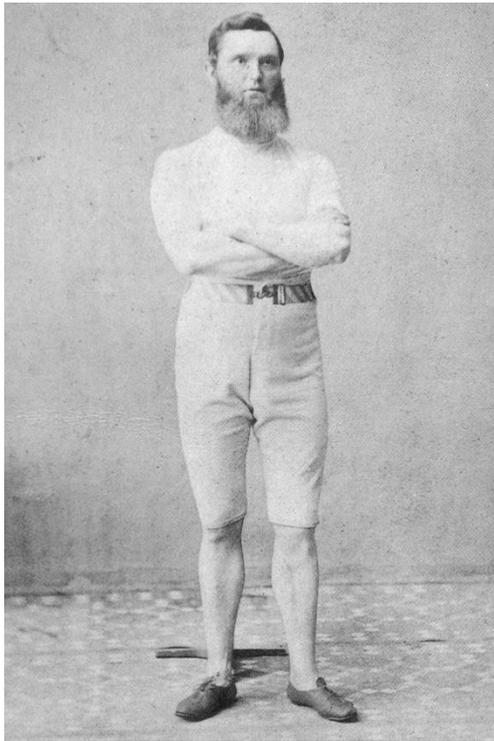


TIPPERARY ATHLETES



Maurice Davin

by Michael O'Dwyer

Maurice Davin was born on 29 June 1842 at Deerpark, Carrick-on-Suir, County Tipperary. He was the eldest son of John Davin, a farmer, and Bridget Davin (née Walsh). His parents got married in Carrick-on-Suir church on 15 November 1840. The Davin family, in addition to having a fine farm, also ran a highly successful boat business on the stretch of the river Suir between Carrick-on-Suir and Clonmel. When Maurice Davin's father died in 1859 both Maurice and his mother managed the farm and the family's river haulage business. Initially, Maurice Davin's main sport was rowing and was a regular winner, as stroke, at local regattas. He was also an accomplished boxer, and at cricket played a fair bat and was considered a very good slow underhand bowler. His athletics career started to take off in his mid-twenties, mainly in the high jump. However, by the time of the inaugural national athletics championships in 1873 he concentrated on the throwing events. These championships were held by the Irish Champion Athletic Club which was set up the previous year to in order to hold an annual national championship. Maurice Davin came second in all four weight throwing events at these first championships. In the following years he won ten Irish titles (four shot-put, five hammer, and one 56 lb weight for distance), and both the shot-put and hammer titles at the AAA championships held in Birmingham in 1881. In what was the first ever international athletics meeting anywhere in the world, on 5 June 1876 Ireland took on England at Lansdowne Road. In the very first event, the hammer, Ireland's two representatives were Maurice Davin and Dr J. C. Daly. The latter was a doctor based in Borrisokane, and native of Clogher, Dromin, County Limerick. Maurice Davin was victorious, having thrown the hammer 131 ft 6 in. (40.08 m), and also won the shot-put. He again represented Ireland in an international against England at Stamford Bridge the following year. Maurice Davin was one of the founders of the GAA on 1 November 1884 in Thurles. He was also the first president of the GAA and the only man ever to serve two terms as president. Maurice Davin died on 27 January 1927 at his residence, Deerpark, Carrick-on-Suir, aged eighty-four, and is interred in Churchtown cemetery. A statue of Maurice Davin was unveiled on 1 June 2013 outside Davin Park in Carrick-on-Suir.

Titles Won at Senior National Championships:

Irish Champion Athletic Club Championships

1875	Shot-Put	40 ft 10 in.	(12.44 m)
1875	Hammer	113 ft 6 in.	(34.59 m)
1876	Hammer	128 ft 10 in.	(39.27 m)
1877	Shot-Put	38 ft 5 in.	(11.71 m)
1877	Hammer	123 ft 0 in.	(37.49 m)
1877	56 lb Weight for Distance	28 ft 4 in.	(8.63 m)
1878	Shot-Put	40 ft 6½ in.	(12.36 m)
1878	Hammer (3 ft 6 in. handle)	123 ft 2 in.	(37.54 m)
1879	Shot-Put	41 ft 3 in.	(12.57 m)
1879	Hammer	100 ft 6 in.	(30.63 m)

Amateur Athletic Association of England Championships

1881	Shot-Put	39 ft 6½ in.	(12.05 m)
1881	Hammer	98 ft 10 in.	(30.12 m)