

# TIPPERARY ATHLETES

## Charles Carr

by Michael O'Dwyer

Charles Carr was born on 6 January 1867 at Tullaghmelan Rectory, Ballybeg, Newcastle, County Tipperary. He was the third son of the Reverend James A. Carr and Anna Maria Carr (née Fry). The marriage notice of his parents in the *Freeman's Journal* of 11 May 1861 reads, 'May 8, at St Peter's Church, the Rev. James Anderson Carr, curate of Carlow, to Anna Maria, daughter of the late Alderman Fry, of Pembroke-place.' His father, the Reverend James A. Carr, was ordained for the curacy of Baggotrath, Dublin in 1858, and was afterwards curate of Carlow (1859–62), Tarbert, County Kerry (1862–3), and Tramore, County Waterford (1863–4) before being appointed to the curacy at Tullaghmelan Rectory where he was from 1864 to 1871. He was appointed rector of the parish in 1870. He was subsequently appointed to the vicarage of Whitechurch in the diocese of Dublin where he remained until his death in 1900. Charles Carr was a prominent figure in Irish athletics from the mid-1880s to the early 1890s. His full name was Charles Cassels Carr, and was simply known by many as C. C. Carr, and by some of his athletic friends as 'Cross-Country Carr'. He twice won the Irish cross-country championship, in 1886 and 1887, and was on the winning club, the County Dublin Harriers, on five occasions (1885, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890). The two times he won, the race was held on the last Saturday of March at Baldoyle, Dublin. His next best performance in the Irish cross-country championship was coming second in 1889 to Michael Kennedy, from Golden, County Tipperary. On the track Charles Carr finished third in the four miles at the Irish athletics championships in 1886. Once retiring from athletics he joined the Mount Pleasant Lawn Tennis Club which was established in 1893. His brother Frederick Carr was also an Irish athletics champion, and another brother, William Dargaville Carr, was first elected president of the Cross-Country Association of Ireland in 1894. Charles Carr died on 19 April 1904 at his residence, Rainsford Cottage, Sandford Road, Ranelagh, aged thirty-seven, and is interred in Mount Jerome cemetery, Dublin. His eldest sister, Eveleen Alice Carr, born at Tullaghmelan Rectory in 1864, was married to William Lloyd Aherin, of Hensbrook, Broadford, County Limerick, who was also an Irish athletics champion. He won the 1 mile steeplechase at the athletics championships in 1887 and the 880 yd at the athletics championships in 1888.

### Titles Won at Senior National Championships:

#### **Cross-Country Association of Ireland Championships**

1886	Cross-Country (Inter-Club)	35:14
1887	Cross-Country (Inter-Club)	38:07