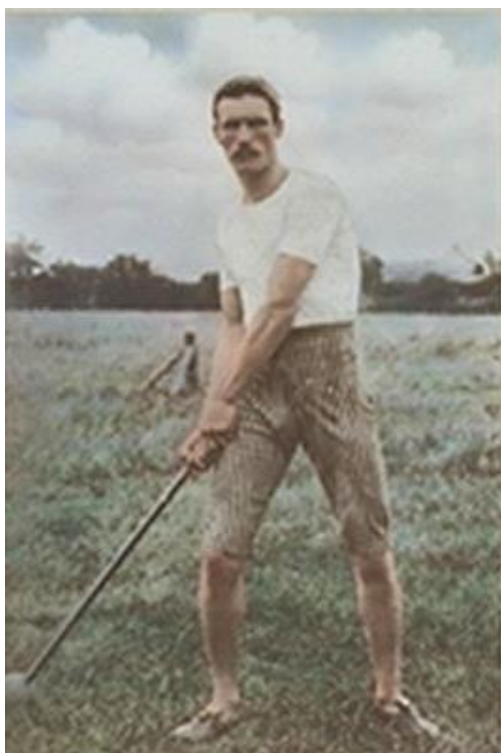


TIPPERARY ATHLETES



Tom Kiely

by Michael O'Dwyer

Tom Kiely was born on 25 August 1869 at Ballyneale, Carrick-on-Suir, County Tipperary. He was the eldest son of William Kiely and Mary Kiely (née Downey). His parents got married in Ballyneale church on 29 January 1866. Tom Kiely was educated at Ballyneale National School and his main sports were athletics, hurling and Gaelic football. He played hurling for Tipperary and in 1896 was picked for the Munster hurling team which beat Leinster in London. He was also captain of the Grangemockler Gaelic football team, and the same day he played hurling for Munster he played Gaelic football for Ireland when they beat London-Irish at Stamford Bridge. Tom Kiely won an astounding fifty-three Irish athletics championship titles, comprising of thirty-eight GAA titles and fifteen Irish Amateur Athletic Association (IAAA) titles, as well as five English hammer titles and two American all-round championship titles. His first Irish title was the IAAA all-round championship which he won at Ballsbridge, Dublin on 1 August 1892. The following month on 10 September at the GAA athletics championships at Jones's Road, Dublin he was the hero of the day carrying off no fewer than seven titles, a truly wonderful performance. Although offered passage and expenses by the British and sponsorship by the Americans, Tom Kiely proudly refused to represent any country but Ireland at the 1904 Olympics in St Louis, USA. Arriving in America on 2 June, on the RMS *Teutonic*, the *New York Times* ran a headline the next day in its newspaper, 'Ireland's Champion Athlete, Thomas F. Kiely Here To Compete In The Olympic Games'. He competed in the all-round championship with all ten events held on the one day. Held on 4 July, he won the Olympic event, which also doubled as the American all-round championship title. Tom Kiely died on 6 November 1951 at his residence, Shawfield, Deerpark, Carrick-on-Suir, aged eighty-two, and is interred in Ballyneale cemetery. A memorial was erected to Tom Kiely in 1978 outside Ballyneale church.

Titles Won at Senior National Championships:

Irish Amateur Athletic Association Championships

1892	All-Round Championship	31 points	
1893	Long Jump	21 ft 5¾ in.	(6.55 m)
1893	All-Round Championship	29 points	
1894	All-Round Championship	21 points	
1895	120 yd Hurdles	17.2	
1895	Long Jump	20 ft 7 in.	(6.27 m)
1895	Hammer	133 ft 7 in.	(40.71 m)
1895	56 lb Weight For Distance	26 ft 7 in.	(8.10 m)
1897	Hammer (9 ft circle)	139 ft 10 in.	(42.62 m)
1898	Hammer	135 ft 1 in.	(41.17 m)
1899	Hammer	139 ft 4 in.	(42.47 m)
1900	Hammer (9 ft circle)	141 ft 6 in.	(43.13 m)
1901	Hammer (9 ft circle)	150 ft 3½ in.	(45.81 m)
1902	Hammer (9 ft circle)	150 ft 3½ in.	(45.81 m)
1903	Hammer (9 ft circle)	133 ft 6 in.	(40.69 m)

Gaelic Athletic Association Championships

1892	120 yd Hurdles	16.8	
1892	Long Jump	21 ft 7½ in.	(6.59 m)
1892	Triple Jump	49 ft 7 in.	(15.11 m)
1892	Shot-Put	38 ft 0 in.	(11.58 m)
1892	Putting 28 lb Weight	31 ft 10½ in.	(9.71 m)
1892	Hammer (unlimited run & follow)	123 ft 0 in.	(37.49 m)
1892	Throwing 7 lb Weight	84 ft 4½ in.	(25.72 m)
1893	Triple Jump	46 ft 10 in.	(14.27 m)
1893	Putting 28 lb Weight	32 ft 3 in.	(9.83 m)
1893	Throwing 7 lb Weight	84 ft 10 in.	(25.86 m)
1893	Hammer (unlimited run & follow)	128 ft 10 in.	(39.27 m)
1894	56 lb Weight (unlimited run & follow)	33 ft 6½ in.	(10.22 m)
1896	Hammer (9 ft circle)	134 ft 8 in.	(41.04 m)
1896	Hammer (unlimited run & follow)	143 ft 2 in.	(43.64 m)
1896	56 lb Weight (unlimited run & follow)	33 ft 5½ in.	(10.20 m)
1897	120 yd Hurdles	18.2	
1897	Long Jump	20 ft 7½ in.	(6.28 m)
1897	Triple Jump	45 ft 2 in.	(13.76 m)
1897	Hammer (9 ft circle)	139 ft 9 in.	(42.59 m)
1897	Hammer (unlimited run & follow)	143 ft 2 in.	(43.64 m)
1897	56 lb Weight (unlimited run & follow)	36 ft 7 in.	(11.15 m)
1898	120 yd Hurdles	16.4	
1898	Hammer (9 ft circle)	147 ft 9 in.	(45.03 m)
1898	56 lb Weight (unlimited run & follow)	38 ft 11 in.	(11.86 m)
1898	All-Round Championship	30 points	

1899	Hammer (9 ft circle)	156 ft 0 in.	(47.55 m)
1899	56 lb Weight (unlimited run & follow)	37 ft 4 in.	(11.38 m)
1900	Hammer (unlimited run & follow)	143 ft 0 in.	(43.58 m)
1901	120 yd Hurdles	16.8	
1901	56 lb Weight (unlimited run & follow)	35 ft 11 in.	(10.95 m)
1902	120 yd Hurdles	16.2	
1902	56 lb Weight (unlimited run & follow)	36 ft 2 in.	(11.02 m)
1903	120 yd Hurdles	16.8	
1903	Hammer (9 ft circle)	145 ft 7 in.	(44.37 m)
1903	56 lb Weight (unlimited run & follow)	34 ft 5 in.	(10.49 m)
1905	56 lb Weight (unlimited run & follow)	33 ft 9 in.	(10.29 m)
1907	120 yd Hurdles	16.8	
1907	56 lb Weight (unlimited run & follow)	34 ft 5½ in.	(10.50 m)

Amateur Athletic Association of England Championships

1897	Hammer	142 ft 5 in.	(43.41 m)
1898	Hammer	140 ft 1 in.	(42.70 m)
1899	Hammer	136 ft 4½ in.	(41.57 m)
1901	Hammer	148 ft 6½ in.	(45.27 m)
1902	Hammer	142 ft 9 in.	(43.51 m)

American Amateur Athletic Union Championships

1904	All-Round Championship	6,086 points
1906	All-Round Championship	6,274 points