

TIPPERARY ATHLETES



James Carmody

by Michael O'Dwyer

James Carmody was born on 7 November 1858 at Ralahine, Newmarket-on-Fergus, County Clare. He was the second son of Patrick Carmody, a schoolmaster, and Catherine Carmody (née Cox). His parents got married in Kilfearagh church, Kilkee on 2 April 1856. When James was about a year old the family moved to County Waterford where his father was employed by John Palliser (an explorer of Western Canada), of Comeragh House, to teach in the Church of Ireland school at Mahon Bridge and to act as tutor to his nieces. Patrick Carmody along with his neighbour and friend, Robert Weldon, the great poet of the Comeraghs, were ardent Irish enthusiasts. The *Waterford Standard* of 16 January 1909 states, 'It is with deep regret we announce the death of Mr P Carmody, who passed away last Friday at his residence, Mill House, Comeragh. The late Mr Carmody was a man of rare culture and a fine Irish scholar. He took a great interest in the revival of the Irish language, and his transcription of "Keating's History of Ireland" in Irish will bear comparison with the best work of the old Irish scribes! He had an extensive library and was always a keen student.' Two of his four children were the Reverend Samuel Carmody (1857–1912) and the Reverend William Carmody (1860–1938). The third eldest son, John William Carmody, died in 1889, aged twenty-nine. James Carmody was a noted distance runner with Carrick Amateur Athletic Club. He is known to have competed in England and won from some of the best runners there. The 1880 Irish athletics championships were the last held under the auspices of the Irish Champion Athletic Club. Held on Whit Monday, 17 May, then a bank holiday, at Lansdowne Road, seven of the eleven events were won by Carrick Amateur Athletic Club athletes. Of these, five were won by Pat Davin, who won all before him, James Carmody won the mile, and James Tobin won the hammer. Runner-up in the mile was the Reverend Ernest H. Nunns, of Irish Champion Athletic Club, and it was won in 4 minutes 40 seconds. James Carmody died on 16 October 1943 at his residence, Mill House, Comeragh, aged eighty-four, and is interred in Comeragh cemetery.

Titles Won at Senior National Championships:

**Irish Athletics Championships
(under the auspices of Irish Champion Athletic Club)**

1880

Mile

4:40