

TIPPERARY ATHLETES



Peter Kenny

by Michael O'Dwyer

Peter Kenny was born in 1864 at the Strand, Carrick-on-Suir, County Tipperary. He was a son of Nicholas Kenny and Ellen Kenny (née O'Connor). His father was the proprietor of extensive woollen mills in Carrick-on-Suir, and also outside the town at Millvale. His first wife was Maryanne Frances Price, of Irishtown, Clonmel, whom he married in 1845. However, she died in 1849 at the early age of twenty-one years, and Nicholas Kenny got married again, to Ellen O'Connor from Clonmel in 1850. When the first national athletics championships organised by the newly founded Gaelic Athletic Association were held on 6 October 1885 at the racecourse in Tramore the 100 yards championship and 120 yards championship events were won by Peter Kenny, wearing the blue and cream colours of Carrick-on-Suir Amateur Athletic Club. A close friend and protégé of the Davin brothers, he won the 100 yards in 10 seconds, with Richard Doody of Ardnamoher, Galbally, County Limerick, second and Timothy J. O'Mahomy of Rosscarbery, County Cork, third. The 120 yards hurdles was won in 20 seconds, with Michael Clune of Lisronagh, Clonmel, second. He scored another victory that day in the 150 yards handicap race, with Michael Clune again the runner-up. Peter Kenny had chosen the law as a profession, and had passed all his examinations with distinction, including the final, but before he could set up in practice as a solicitor he was stricken by phthisis to which he succumbed. His death notice in the *Freeman's Journal* reads, 'Kenny – June 8, 1887, at Carrick-on-Suir, after a tedious illness, Peter S. Kenny, eldest surviving son of Nicholas Kenny, Esq, aged 23 years.' He is interred in the family burial place at the Friary cemetery, Carrickbeg.

Titles Won at Senior National Championships:

Gaelic Athletic Association Championships

1885	100 yd	10.0
1885	120 yd Hurdles	20.0