

TIPPERARY ATHLETES



John McEniry

by Michael O'Dwyer

John McEniry was born in 1877 at Farranassa, Emly, County Tipperary. Local church records show he was baptised on 2 December 1877. He was the eldest son of David McEniry, a farmer, and Eliza McEniry (née Walsh). His parents got married in Oola church on 19 February 1873. The youngest daughter in the family, Mary 'Minnie' (1879–1956), was a teacher in Emly National School and was known by the pupils as Mrs Mac. Her husband was Pat McNamara, a sub-postmaster. There were six children in the McEniry family, two boys, and four girls. The youngest boy, Thomas, died of croup in 1884, aged fourteen months. John McEniry won two national GAA sprint titles in 1905, and was an international athlete for Ireland in 1906 and 1907. His two Irish titles (100 yd, 440 yd) were won at the Cork Athletic Grounds on Sunday, 23 July 1905. His placings in the Irish championships were second in the 440 yd and third in the 220 yd at the IAAA athletics championships in 1906, second in the 100 yd and third in both the 220 yd and long jump at the GAA athletics championships in 1907, and second in the triple jump at the GAA athletics championships in 1908. Both times he competed for Ireland in the annual international contest against Scotland he ran in the 440 yd. He came second in 1906 in Belfast where it was held at the Ulster Cricket Club grounds, and was the winner in 1907 at Ibrox Park, Glasgow. His winning time was 51.0 seconds, and he won by eleven yards. John McEniry got married to Annie Fitzpatrick on 6 February 1918 at Emly church. Their son Willie McEniry was a publican in Emly village and their daughter Teresa Cunningham (née McEniry) was the sub-postmistress in the premises adjacent to her brother's pub for many years. John McEniry died on 2 May 1951 at his residence in Farranassa, Emly, aged seventy-three, and is interred in Emly cemetery.

Titles Won at Senior National Championships:

Gaelic Athletic Association Championships

1905	100 yd	10.6
1905	440 yd	53.4