

# TIPPERARY ATHLETES



## **Jim Hill**

**by Michael O'Dwyer**

Jim Hill was born on 24 April 1888 at Timoney, Roscrea, County Tipperary. He was the third eldest son of Sergeant John Hill and Anna Maria Hill (née Brownlow). His father, who was a member of the Royal Irish Constabulary, was native of County Wicklow and got married in 1875 in Athy, County Kildare where he was a sub-constable for a number of years. The same year he was moved to Newport, County Tipperary and was promoted to acting-constable in 1877 and to constable in 1878. He was later stationed in Lorrha and Portland before residing at Timoney. In May 1891 he was transferred to Templemore as inspector of weights and measures. He retired in 1892, and was for many years clerk on the Earl of Rosse farm near Birr. Jim Hill first moved to London in 1907 and with his forward running as an athlete was regarded as someone who would gain distinction sooner or later. Clubs he competed for in Ireland and England were Clonliffe Harriers, Kildare AA, Queen's Park Harriers and Harrodian AA. On 2 July 1910 at the AAA championships held at Stamford Bridge, London he won the 880 yd in a time of 2:01.4 after only very narrowly qualifying for the final. At the Irish AAA championships he won the 880 yd in 1911 and 1912, and both the 440 yd and 880 yd in 1913. He also came second and third in the 440 yd in 1911 and 1912 respectively, and at the AAA championships he came third in the 880 yd in 1913. Jim Hill represented Ireland in the 440 yd and 880 yd at the Ireland v. Scotland international in both 1910 and 1913. In the latter year he won the 440 yd in 53.0 and the 880 yd in 2:01.6. Another major race he won was at the Inter-Empire athletic championships held on 24 June 1911 at Crystal Palace, London when representing the United Kingdom he won the 880 yd in 1:58.6. The athletics meeting was part of the 'Festival of the Empire' celebrating the coronation of King George V. All four Hill brothers fought in the First World War, with Jim giving up his job as superintendent in the millinery department of Harrods, London. His younger brother Sergeant Fred Hill was killed in action on 13 April 1918. Jim Hill was living at Mere Farm, Reydon, Suffolk when he died on 14 August 1938. He was aged fifty.

## **Titles Won at Senior National Championships:**

### **Irish Amateur Athletic Association Championships**

1911	880 yd	2:00.6
1912	880 yd	2:02.0
1913	440 yd	57.2
1913	880 yd	2:08.6

### **Amateur Athletic Association of England Championships**

1910	880 yd	2:01.4
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