

TIPPERARY ATHLETES



J. C. Hayes

by **Michael O'Dwyer**

J. C. Hayes was born on 15 May 1878 at Ballingrawn, Cloughjordan. The remaining of the family were born however at The Island, Cloughjordan. Both townlands are in County Offaly. He was the eldest son of John Hayes, a farmer, and Catherine 'Kate' Hayes (née Carroll). His parents got married in St Mary's Pro-Cathedral, Marlborough Street, Dublin on 26 July 1877. His mother belonged to a highly respected Templederry family, the Carrolls of Ballincara. Her nephew, Daniel Carroll, native of Ballincara, was shot on Bloody Sunday, 21 November 1920, at Croke Park and died two days later in Jervis Street Hospital from his injuries. Her husband, John Hayes, was a leading nationalist and suffered eviction and imprisonment during the Land League days. They had fifteen children and J. C. Hayes was the eldest. His full name was John Carroll Hayes but was always known in athletic circles as 'J. C.'. His first outing at a sports meeting recorded in newspapers was when as a sixteen-year-old he won both the 440 yd and half-mile handicap races at Cloughjordan sports on 15 August 1894. Three years later, he won his first national title when he won the 1,000 yd steeplechase which was held at the Royal Irish Constabulary sports meeting on 8 September 1897 in Nenagh. He also won a national 4 miles title in both 1900 and 1907. In cross-country, J. C. Hayes was Irish junior champion in 1898 when running for the Dublin-based Haddington Harriers. The same year he finished third in the senior championship and was a scoring member of the winning Haddington Harriers team. He was second finisher in the senior cross-country championship in 1899 and 1906. J. C. Hayes competed in the national cross-country championship in England with both Haddington Harriers and Cork City Harriers, and his best position was fifth with the latter club in 1901, and was a scoring member of both clubs when they finished second team in 1899 and 1901 respectively. He represented Tipperary in inter-county athletics competition in 1900, and represented Ireland in an athletics meeting against Scotland in 1901, and in the International cross-country championship in 1906. He was a founder member of the Nenagh Harrier and Cycling Club in January 1909 and was the first captain of the 'Harriers'. On 8 May 1909 he ran in the inaugural Polytechnic Marathon in London which started at Windsor, as did the Olympic marathon did the previous year and was won by his namesake, and finished at Stamford Stadium. J. C. Hayes was second at ten miles with 56:57 and was third at fifteen miles with 1:28:14 but soon began to fall back and finished in twenty-seventh position in 3:19.17.4. The following year he finished fourth in another twenty-six miles 385 yards marathon race at Jones's Road in Dublin with a time of 3:12.26. J. C. Hayes died on 29 January 1931 at the Richmond Hospital, Dublin, aged fifty-two, and is interred in the Church of Ireland cemetery in Dunkerrin, County Offaly.

Titles Won at Senior National Championships:

Irish Amateur Athletic Association Championships

1897	1,000 yd Steeplechase	-
1900	4 miles	20:43.2

Gaelic Athletic Association Championships

1907	4 miles	21:02.4
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