

TIPPERARY ATHLETES



Jack Holloway

by Michael O'Dwyer

Jack Holloway was born on 9 December 1878 at Cappauniac, Bansha, County Tipperary. He was the eldest son of Maurice Holloway, a farmer, and Grace Holloway (née O'Neill). His father was native of Cappauniac, and his mother was native of Dromomarka, near Rossadrehid, Glen of Aherlow. They got married in Bansha church on 6 March 1878. Jack Holloway attended Tankerstown National School. An all-round performer he competed mainly in the jumps, hurdles and his specialty event, the pole vault, and won two GAA All-Ireland athletic championships titles in the pole vault in 1897 at Tipperary town and in 1899 at Midleton, County Cork. He also came second in the high jump in 1897 to County Limerick athlete Paddy Leahy. The other sport Jack Holloway played was Gaelic football and he was a member of the Arravale Rovers team that won the county championship in 1899. Among others on that team were Willie Ryan, Davy Quane, and Mike and Jack Ryan, the international rugby players from Cashel. At around this time Jack Holloway's uncle bought a farm in Madamsland, Fethard and he went to live with him and help him on the farm. Jack quickly got on the local 'Fethard Blues' Gaelic football team and became their captain. On 22 May 1904 he departed Queenstown (Cobh) on the RMS *Lucania* for America. There he joined the Greater New York Irish Athletic Association and competed in the Olympic Games held in St Louis, Missouri. He participated in the all-round championship event, now known as the decathlon. All ten events were held on the one day and Jack finished in fourth place. Jack Holloway and Tom Kiely are the first Tipperary-born athletes to have competed in the Olympic Games. After the Olympics, Jack Holloway decided to remain in St Louis, got a job in the life insurance business and joined up with the local Missouri Athletic Club. In 1918 he joined the US army and when he left in 1920 he returned to life insurance in Topeka, Kansas. Jack Holloway died on 15 October 1950 in Topeka, aged seventy-one, and is interred in Mount Calvary Cemetery, Topeka.

Titles Won at Senior National Championships:

Gaelic Athletic Association Championships

1897	Pole Vault	9 ft 6 in.	(2.89 m)
1899	Pole Vault	10 ft 4 in.	(3.15 m)