

TIPPERARY ATHLETES



Jackie Morrissey

by Michael O'Dwyer

Jackie Morrissey was born on 28 September 1878 at Dromline, Kilfeacle, County Tipperary. He was the fourth son of John Morrissey, a farmer, native of Dromline, and Ellen Morrissey (née Barlow), native of Spittle, Ballylanders, County Limerick. His parents got married in the parish of Ballylanders on 8 February 1864. Jackie Morrissey came into prominence as a cross-country runner and a track runner in the years 1901 and 1902. On 2 March 1901 he finished sixteenth in the English cross-country championship at Leicester racecourse and was one of the six scorers for Cork City Harriers (104 points) which finished second to Essex Beagles (100 points) for the club title. The six scorers were Harry O'Sullivan, J. C. Hayes, Jerry Duggan, Jackie Morrissey, Michael Hynan and Con Phibbs. Four weeks later in the Irish cross-country championship at Elm Park, Merrion, Dublin, he finished seventh and was a scoring member for Cork City Harriers which won the title. These six scorers were Jerry Duggan, Harry O'Sullivan, Jackie Morrissey, William O'Connell, Con Phibbs and D. J. Corcoran. The following year he finished thirteenth and was the first scorer for his club which finished ninth in the English cross-country championship at Lingfield Park racecourse. Jackie Morrissey had even more success on the track. On 18 August 1901 he won the GAA national 5 miles title at Tipperary town, and on 10 August 1902 he won the GAA national 2 miles title at the same venue. In 1902 he also finished second in the GAA national mile championship at the Markets Field, Limerick, and was second in both the GAA national 3 miles championship and the Irish AAA 4 miles championship at the Mardyke, Cork. On 19 July 1902 he competed in the 4 miles event in the Ireland v. Scotland athletics international at Ballsbridge, Dublin. Jackie Morrissey got married to Margaret Meagher, native of Cappawhite, on 20 October 1903 in Tipperary town. He worked as a creamery manager in Hollyford, but after his wife died on 27 September 1909 of pulmonary tuberculosis, he emigrated to New York, sailing from Queenstown (Cobh) on 7 July 1910 on the SS *Majestic*. He arrived at Ellis Island, New York, on 14 July and immigration records show his contact in the city was his brother-in-law William Meagher. Jackie Morrissey died on 27 May 1914 in Brooklyn, New York, aged thirty-five, and is interred in Holy Cross Cemetery, Brooklyn.

Titles Won at Senior National Championships:

Gaelic Athletic Association Championships

1901	5 Miles	26:0
1902	2 Miles	9.02.6