

# GEORGE PARRY, of Manchester

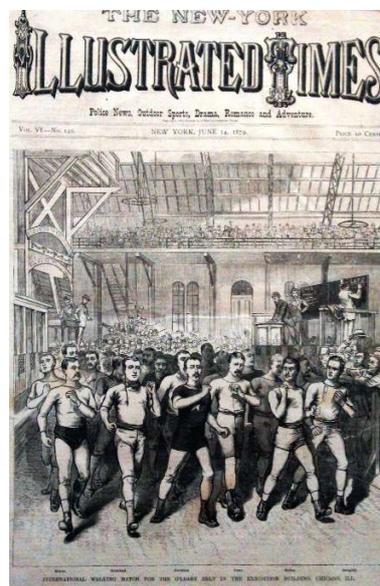
**EXPOSITION BUILDING.**  
**THE CHAMPION**  
**75-HOUR WALK**  
 AT THE  
**Exposition Building**  
 FOR THE  
**Daniel O'Leary Champion Belt**  
 (VALUED AT \$300)  
**AND \$1,900 IN CASH,**  
 Will commence at the Exposition Building WEDNESDAY EVENING, May 28, at 8 o'clock.  
 Twenty-two competitors, among whom are Peter Crossland and George Parry, of England, who have come over especially for this contest.  
 Seats Reserved for Ladies, and Gentlemen accompanying them.  
**ADMISSION - 50 CENTS**

(Left) *Chicago Daily Tribune*, May 25, 1879

\*\*\*

(Right) *THE NEW YORK ILLUSTRATED TIMES*  
 International Walking Match  
 For the O'Leary Belt  
 in the Exhibition Building,  
 Chicago, Ill., USA,

Scene at the start of the evening of  
 Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. 1879  
 (Left to right):  
 Guyon; Crossland; Goodman;  
 Parry; Banks; Geraghty



## *The New York Clipper*—14 June, 1879



**GEORGE PARRY**  
**75-Hours Champion.**

We present a portrait of the noted English pedestrian George Parry, who won the race for the championship at seventy-five hours, fair heel-and toe walking, offered by Daniel O'Leary, at Chicago, Ill., May 28 to 31.

He was born June 3, 1841, stands 5ft.8½ in. in height, and weighs 144lb. Beaten by E. Gill or Sheffield, who had 100 yards' start, in a six-mile walk, for £5 a side, Hyde Park, Sheffield, June 7, 1865; received £1 forfeit from W. Caphorn, in a match to walk six miles for £10 a side, Ang. 19, 1865; beat E. Gill, who gave 100 yards' start in a six-mile walk, for £10 a side, Hyde Park, Sheffield, Sept. 30, 1867; beat E. Gill, walking six miles level (time, 40min.30sec.), Hyde Park, Sheffield, Jan. 1, 1868; beaten by W. Windred, walking five miles, £5 a side, Bow Grounds, London, March 20, 1869; with 1¼ min. start got second prize (£1) in a four-mile walking handicap, Bow Grounds, March 27, 1869; beat C. Simmonite in a six-mile walk, for £26 a

side (time for four miles, 34min. 2sec), Hyde Park, Sheffield, Nov. 29, 1869; beaten by R. Brown, walking five miles, £25 a side, Hyde Park, Sheffield, Nov. 12, 1870; forfeited £1 to R. Brown (who was to have given 2½ min. start in a five-mile walk for £100), Feb. 28, 1871; beat J. Hurley, walking four miles, £15 a side (time, 32m. 52s.), Bow Grounds, March 11, 1871; met H. Boot, to walk two miles, for £20 a side, but both ran and were disqualified, Star Grounds, Fulham, June 6, 1871; beat W. Bines of London, who had 100 yards' start, in a two-mile walk, for £20 a side (time, 17m, 53s.), City Grounds,

Manchester, Oct 14, 1871; beaten by H. Vaughan of Chester, in a seven-mile walk, for £25 a side (time 67m. 64s.), Royal Oak Park, Manchester, March 16, 1872; failed to walk seven miles and a quarter in one hour, losing £50 to £40, by. 1m. 3/4s., Royal Oak Park, Manchester, June 1, 1872; beat C. Dorsett, who had 15 yards' start, in a one-mile walk, for £20 a side (time, 7m.45s.), Royal Oak Park, Manchester, Aug. 3, 1872; beat J. Hurley, who gave 40sec. start. In a three-mile walk, for £100 (time, 22m. 21s.), Royal Oak Park, Manchester, Dec. 28, 1872; beat J. P. Cooke of Harpurhey, who had 110 yards' start, In a two-mile walk, for £25 a side, Royal Oak Park, Manchester, April 6, 1873; with 150 yards' start, won a silver cup and £8 in a two-mile walking handicap, Royal Oak Park, Manchester, May 12, 1873; undertook to walk from All-Saints' Church, Manchester, to the G. P. O., Chester, about 40 miles, in 8½ hours, for £25 a side, but lost, owing to spraining one of his ankles, May 11, 1874; beaten by E. P. Weston, in a 24-honrs' walk at the Pomona Palace, Manchester, April 11, 1876; beaten by Peter Crossland, in a 24-honrs' walk for £200, Pomona Palace, Manchester, Sept. 12, 1876; got third prize (£3 and one-sixth of the "gate") in a 50-mille walking competition at Lillie Bridge Grounds, London, Oct. 16, 1876; in conjunction with G. Ide and Peter Crossland (each having to walk for 48 hours), beat E. P. Weston in a six days' walking competition at the Agricultural Hall, London, Dec. 23, 1876; forfeited £3 to H. Vaughan, in a match to walk 48 hours for £100. a side, Feb. 20, 1877; beat W. H. Smythe of Ireland, in a 30-hours' walk for £25 a side, at the Park Skating Rink, Liverpool, April 28, 1877, with 17 laps' start (9 to the mile); won £30, in a fifty-mile walking handicap (time, 8h.17m.36s.), Pomona Palace, Manchester, May 22, 1877; failed to walk 255 miles in 75 hours, at the Skating Rink, York, Aug. 25, 1877; got third prize (£20) in a six days' walking competition (349 miles 4 laps), at the Pomona Palace, Manchester, June 16, 1878. In a six days' walk at Hull, ending Dec. 16, 1878, won first money (£50), doing 387 miles.

He arrived in this country May 6, having been sent over expressly to compete for the O'Leary belt, **which he won by over four miles, the distance traveled being 268 miles in 74h.7m.39s.**

The official score of the other contestants was: John Dobler, 263 miles 4 laps, in 74h.10m.59s.; John Banks, 253 miles 7 laps, 74h.39m.38s.; J. Sherry, 242 miles 6 laps, 74h.41m.18s.; A.M. Dana, 221 miles, 72h.11m.50s.; J.J. Geraghty, 185 miles 4 laps, 72h. 53m.28s.; P. Crossland, 153 miles, 59h.23m.41s.; Capt. Harry, 122 miles 3 laps, 31h.37m. 3ls.; A. Schoek, 100 miles, 33h.48m.40s.; Otto Sallmann, 80 miles, 24h.12m.22s.; F. Benton, 57 miles 1 lap, 15h.36m.17s.; J.B. Dammers, 42 miles 5 laps, 9h.39m.43s.; Geo. Guyon, 24 miles 1 lap, 4h.32m.42s. ; Geo. Brandstetter, 205 miles 1 lap, 74h.31m.37s.; W.L. Goodman, 168 miles 5 laps, 72h.59m.58s; Guy Burns, 152 miles 3 laps, 53h.14m.53s.; P. VaCaslella, 100 miles, 25h.31m.18s.; W.H. Hoffman, 86 miles 2 laps, 69h.17m.27s.; J. McAndrews, 69 miles 4 laps, 23h.20m.3s.; Iowa George, 55 miles, 16h.12m.; R.H. Dodge, 37 miles 6 laps, 12h.23m.35s.; Wm. Heine, 21 miles 5 laps, 4h.54m.37s.

Just before the conclusion of the race a protest on behalf of Dobler was handed Dr. Rowe (stakeholder) against giving the first prize and belt to Parry, on the ground that Dobler's score was not correct, that Parry had been coached in violation of the rules (by putting a policeman to walk around the track after him to guard him), and that Jim Smith had saturated Dobler's bed with ether. Dr. Rowe announced the score of all the men, and stated that he would hear the evidence bearing on the protest on June 3; and the crowd, which had grown until it reached between twelve and fifteen thousand people, dispersed. On the afternoon of June 2, Dobler withdrew the protest, and on the 3d Parry received \$1,000; Dobler, \$500; and Sherry, fourth prize, \$150; and in the afternoon Banks called in and received \$250, being the third prize. The belt remains in Dr. Rowe's possession until Parry gives him the pecuniary value of it, as a

guaranty to produce it, and in good condition, when called on to defend it. In regard to the charge that chloroform had been used upon Dobler, *The Chicago Field* (Dr. Rowe's journal) says:

“*The Inter-ocean* coming out on May 31 with a statement prejudicial to Jim Smith, who was handling Parry, reflecting on him for taking hold of Parry instead of Dobler after Guyon had retired, and *the Daily News* in its noon edition following it with a sensational statement that Dobler had been stupefied the night before with ether at the instigation of the Parry party, which was the reason that Parry had got the lead of him, created the most intense excitement and bitter feeling. First, the charge was made that Jerry Monroe had used his professed and proffered friendship on Friday night to Dobler, merely to give him the opportunity of saturating Dobler’s bed with ether, which produced the desired drowsiness, in order that Parry might get the lead of him. Then Monroe was exonerated, and Jim Smith, Parry's handler, was charged with it, some claiming to have seen him saturate Dobler's bed. It is safe to say there was no truth whatever in the charges, the foundation for them being only in the act that a liniment was being used to rub Dobler with of which ether was a compound: and if it was that which was given us to smell, acetic and not sulphuric ether was being used; and, as is well known, neither anesthesia nor any of its symptoms is possible from acetic ether.”



George Parry (Manchester) and Peter Crossland (Sheffield)

(Right) *Chicago Daily Tribune*, June 1, 1879

NB: *What Else Happened in 1879* (Chapter 23 of *King of the Peds*) covers this race...

P.S. Marshall [www.kingofthepeds.com](http://www.kingofthepeds.com)

**PEDESTRIANISM.**

**THE O'LEARY BELT.**

The seventy-five hour walk for the O'Leary belt was brought to a successful close last night at 11:42 o'clock, the four men in the leading positions being as follows: George Parry, 288 miles; George Dobler, 263 miles; John Baska, 254 miles; John Sherry, 243 miles.

During the evening a rumor gained currency to the effect that pepper had been thrown in the eyes of Crossland, who was accompanying Parry on the track, and the story assumed gigantic proportions by the time it had traveled three blocks from the building. An investigation of the affair revealed the fact that the eyes of the alleged injured man were in first-class condition. Capt. Tuttle claimed that a package of red pepper had been picked up on the track just after it was thrown at Crossland, but nobody could be found to verify the story. If the pepper was thrown, it did not reach Crossland's eyes.

The crowd was simply immense, not less than 12,000 people visiting the building during the evening, and a more orderly assemblage could scarcely be imagined. Some feeling was excited by the conduct of Shock, one of the poorest walkers that started in the race. During the greater portion of the evening he dodged Parry's steps, and rendered himself as disagreeable as possible. It was of no avail, however, as the plucky Englishman had the race at his mercy, and could win as he chose. Sherry and Baska, who had second and third prizes safe, remained on the track until the time was up, but Parry left about 10 o'clock, and Dobler soon after. Just before the close, the backers of Dobler entered a protest against the belt, and first money being awarded to Parry, claiming that he had been coached while on the track by his trainer, Smith, and that the same person had endeavored to "dope" Dobler Friday night. This allegation was started by some intoxicated parties, but contained not an atom of truth. The protest was received, but nobody imagines that it should or will have any effect, as Parry won the belt honestly and is entitled to it. The scores of the walkers were as follows, most of them having dropped out early in the race:

Name	Miles	Name	Miles
1. John Baska.....	254	12. H. L. Goodman.....	168
2. Frank Benson.....	27	13. George Guyon.....	17
3. Geo Brandeletter.....	206	14. Guy Banta.....	162
4. Capt. Harry.....	122	15. W. H. Baska.....	31
5. Van Courton.....	100	16. W. M. Hoffman.....	26
6. Peter Crossland.....	263	17. Tom George.....	23
7. J. J. Dammore.....	40	18. J. McAndrews.....	20
8. A. M. Dunn.....	231	19. George Parry.....	288
9. John Dobler.....	263	20. Albert Schack.....	100
10. E. H. Dodge.....	22	21. John Sherry.....	243
11. J. Geraghty.....	183	22. Otto Kellyman.....	82

A large force of police was present during the evening, and kept things in perfect order. From start to finish each man had a fair show, and O'Leary deserves credit for this state of affairs.