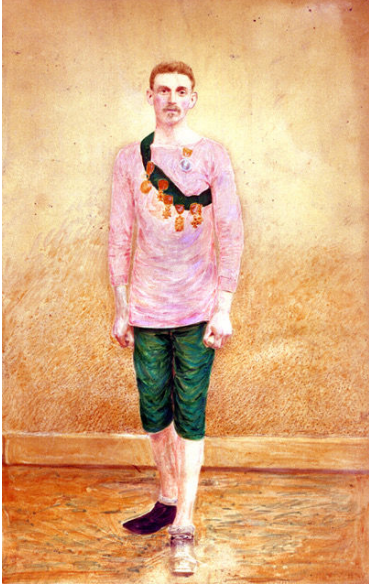


# HENRY VAUGHAN



So who was Henry Vaughan?

Vaughan was a professional pedestrian - just one of many hardy athletes - who entertained huge crowds at sporting venues worldwide by walking and running ultra long distances in pursuit of generous prize money and ornamental gold belts.

At 5ft.11½ inches in height, the former carpenter, who was born in Chester in 1847, was described as, *“fine looking, tall, well built, with dark hair and dark, piercing eyes”*.

Vaughan would make sporting history when, after entering Mr. Lewis’s 24-hour “walking match” at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, London, on May the 8<sup>th</sup> 1876, he pocketed £100 for winning the heel-and-toe race in front of thousands of delirious fans with a total of 120 miles - thus beating the previous 24-hour record by almost 11 miles. During his incredible performance, the exhausted “ped” also notched up the then fastest ever 100-mile time of 18h.51m.35s.

Vaughan would eclipse that distance by two miles on the first day of a 48-hour match against Peter Crossland, the *“Sharp Sheffield Blade”*, at Manchester’s Pomona Palace in May of 1877, going on to win the £200 stakes money with a final tally of 191 miles.

Then, as the 13/8 favourite, he took on the great walking sensation from America – the then world-champion – Daniel O’Leary of Chicago, and 22 others, in the 142-hour, “1<sup>st</sup> International Astley Belt” go-as-you-please (running and walking) contest in March, 1878. Again, at the “Aggie”, he managed to score 500 miles in the allocated time winning yet another £100 for finishing in the runner-up position.

After being forced to pull out of the “Long Distance Championship of England” contest at the same venue later in the same year due to injury, O’Leary said of him, “I think Vaughan when in condition, is the best pedestrian in England.”

Vaughan competed in many other races up and down the UK, before making his way over to America, where at Madison Square Garden, New York, in March of 1881, he gained his revenge on O’Leary in a “Four-Cornered Event”.

He then went on train the Londoner, George Hazael, the first man to cover 600 miles in six days at Madison Square Garden in 1882.

\*\*\* Image submitted by Tommy Elliot who is related to Henry Vaughan... Thanks Tommy!!!