



## John J. Dwyer

**BORN** August 15 1847; St.  
John's,  
Newfoundland,  
Canada

**DIED** March 10 1882;  
Brooklyn, New York

**HEIGHT** 5-9 1/2

**WEIGHT** 163-175 lbs

The career of John Dwyer was a meteoric one. Dwyer's record previous to his one ring battle for the title was that of an amateur, he having figured in ring affairs only as a skillful boxer with the

gloves. His qualities and science were, however, well known to his friends, as he had defeated many opponents, among them one or two professionals, in boxing bouts. Steve Taylor, of considerable fame as a heavyweight pugilist, had been bested by him.

Dwyer was a Brooklyn boy and held a position in one of the courts of that city, but being persuaded that he had a broader career as a pugilist and was a possible champion he issued a sweeping challenge In 1878 to fight any boxer in the United States and posted his money, which latter remained for a long time uncovered.

The heavyweight title was supposed to rest in a lukewarm manner with Joe Goss, but in truth the “**fancy**” and the general public looked upon Johnny Dwyer as able to take and hold the title should he at any time enter the ring as an aspirant for the “**belt.**”

No pugilist, seemed anxious, to meet Dwyer, but at length the match was arranged between him and Jimmy Elliott. Elliott was undoubtedly a game and desperate fighter, and was known throughout the United States at one time for his fierce and sanguinary battles In the ring.

Elliott possessed a splendid physique, standing, nearly 6 feet, and, weighing; when trained, 185 pounds. He had manyof the attributes of a champion and with proper handling and higher ambitions might have reached the highest honors.

*( Elliot was an able boatman, an adventurer, a handy man with fists and gun, and an able wrestler. In a Tavern brawl he was shot and killed by Jere Dunn, a notorious character who had been the chief of police of Elmira )*

This, battle of Dwyer and Elliott, fought May 8, 1879: at Long Point, Canada was without its equal as a brief encounter. Elliott was fearfully punished and Dwyer was declared the winner at the end of 12 rounds.

By this fight Johnny Dwyer became Champion of the “**American ring**” .He later visited. England, Ireland, and other foreign countries, but the effects of his battle with Elliott were so severe he never entirely recovered his health. He received permanent injuries from body blows during that fight and died a few years after, Leaving the only record of having fought but one battle, and that for the championship and winning it.

<http://www.cyberboxingzone.com/boxing/dwyer-j.htm>