

# THOMAS, THOMAS (1880 - 1911), first British middle-weight boxing champion

**Name:** Thomas Thomas  
**Date of birth:** 1880  
**Date of death:** 1911  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** first British middle-weight boxing champion  
**Area of activity:** Sports and Leisure Pursuits  
**Author:** Moelwyn Idwal Williams

Born 8 April 1880 at his mother's home in Glynarthen, Ceredigion, and brought up at Carncelyn Farm, Pen-y-graig, Rhondda, Glamorganshire. He started his boxing career in the hard way, touring in a boxing booth with [Jim Driscoll](#) and [Freddie Welsh](#) (F. H. Thomas). His main training took the form of bare-back horse-riding which he did over the mountains above Pen-y-graig, and it was in this way that he prepared for most of his contests. Thomas avoided the limelight and lived a detached life. He saved every penny of his ring earnings and even fought with a bull called 'Billy One-Horn,' thus saving himself the expense of paying for sparring partners.

After winning the heavy-weight championship of the Rhondda Valley, Thomas went to London and took part in a National Sporting Club middleweight competition which he won. Four more victories in London were gained in 1899. But his first important contest was in May 1906 when he met and defeated the Irishman Pat O'Keefe in what was virtually a championship contest. When the first Lonsdale Belt was put for the middle-weight class in 1909, Thomas was matched against Charlie Wilson, whom he defeated in two rounds, and thus became the first holder of the Lonsdale Belt in the middleweight class.

He died 13 August 1911 at Carncelyn from cardiac failure following pneumonia.

## Author

Dr Moelwyn Idwal Williams

## Sources

*Boxing News world's premier fight weekly*, 20 August 1947, 5

*Western Mail*, 14 August 1911, and 2 December 1949 (Former Welsh Boxing Champions, No. 11, by Tudor James)

## Further Reading

[Death of Great Boxer](#), The Rhondda Leader, 19 August 1911, p.1

[Funeral of Tom Thomas](#), The Rhondda Leader, 26 August 1911, p.6

[Noted Boxer's Will](#), The Rhondda Leader, 28 October 1911, p.3

BoxRec: [Tom Thomas](#)

Wikipedia Article: [Thomas Thomas \(boxer\)](#)

## Additional Links

Wikidata: [Q7794427](#)

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