

James Figg (1695-1734) was an English bare-knuckle boxer. He is widely recognized the first English bare-knuckle boxing champion, reigning from 1719 to 1734. American champion Jack Dempsey called him the father of modern boxing. Figg was born in Oxfordshire and fought his early prize fights there. In 1719 he started his own school and taught boxing, fencing, and quarterstaff. He fought a total of 270 fights and retired in 1734. George Taylor took over his business after his death that year. Figg was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1992. A blue plaque dedicated to him was unveiled at The James Figg Pub (formerly The Greyhound Inn), Cornmarket, Thame, in 2011.



