Early Golf in Picton:

Of Presbyters & Proselytes, 1897 - 1907

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Preface

Today's Picton Golf and Country Club was incorporated in 1968. It replaced the Picton Golf Club that was incorporated in 1907. The membership of the Picton Golf and Country Club in 1968, however, was continuous with the membership of the Picton Golf Club of the year before. And so today's golf club regards itself as having been founded in 1907.

Yet, as we shall see, there was also a Picton Golf Club founded in 1902, and its membership was continuous with the membership of the Picton Golf Club incorporated in 1907.

And there was a Picton Golf Club founded in 1897.

So there is a history of golf in Picton before 1907, and it needs to be told.

In 1980, Fred Rose hinted at part of this story in an article in the *Picton Gazette*, in which he outlined a process that extended over seven years, involving several elements and stages – introduction to the game, incorporation of a club, and acquisition of land:

> *The game of golf was introduced to Picton and Prince Edward County in the years 1903 to 1907. The charter for the Picton Golf Club Ltd. was issued in 1907. This club was reincorporated in 1968 as Picton Golf and Country Club.*
>
> *The land to establish the golf course was obtained … in 1907 with final registry taking place Oct. 1910. (*Picton Gazette*, 1980)*

So Rose alludes to golf developments in Picton as early as 1903. What did he have in mind?

In 1930, as we shall see, the *Picton Gazette* suggested an even earlier introduction of golf to Picton: sometime in the 1890s.

It seems that we must investigate events at least a decade before the present club's first incorporation to understand the earliest days of golf's history in Picton.

Golf Club versus Golf Course

Rose implicitly acknowledges that in discussion of the origins of a golf club, one must bear in mind the distinction between a golf club and a golf course.

A golf course is a piece of land, a geographical location fixed on the earth. A golf course does not change its location: course and location are identical.

A golf club, however, is an organization of people – whether as a legal entity or as a less formal grouping – and so a golf club can change its geographical location without becoming a different club. Golf clubs often move from one piece of land where golf is played to another, as conditions may require or suggest. In Scotland today, for instance, some of the oldest golf clubs in history find themselves playing not just on land remote from where the club began to play, but also on land developed for golf hundreds of years after the club was formed.

And so a golf club may be the same age as the golf course upon which it plays golf, or it may be older or younger than the golf course on which it happens to play the game at any particular time.

The Picton Golf Club has been located on several different golf courses over the years, so of course one must beware confusing the physical duration of one of its golf courses with the club's own duration as a golf club. The physical duration of particular tees, fairways, and greens in a specific location is less relevant to the history of a club than its duration as a fellowship of people sharing the common cause of developing and promoting the royal and ancient game of golf.

The Royal Ottawa Golf Club makes this point on its website. It was not legally incorporated until ten years after its founding as a golf club. Similarly, the Royal Montreal Golf Club was not incorporated until seventeen years after its founding in 1874. And like both Royal Montreal and Picton, the Ottawa Golf Club had played at different locations before its incorporation:

> *The Royal Ottawa is one of the oldest golf clubs outside of Britain. It was founded in the spring of 1891, in the dying years of Queen Victoria's reign, by a group of businessmen and professionals who decided they should organize themselves "for promotion of this healthy and satisfying game" …. The first nine-hole course was on 50 acres of land lent to the club by … a real-estate developer, in Sandy Hill, on the banks of the Rideau …. As Sandy Hill became a more fashionable place to live and*

> *property values increased, the club found a new site in Quebec, a mile north of Hull, along the old Chelsea Road. For $15 a year they leased 108 acres of farmland …. In 1901, in order to buy the house and land from the owners, the club became legally incorporated. (Royal Ottawa Golf Club website)*

Royal Ottawa incorporated only to enable the purchase of its own land for a golf course.

It turns out that the Picton Golf Club did the same thing in 1907: it incorporated in order to buy land. Yet it had existed as an unincorporated golf club for several years before that, complete with an executive committee comprising a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and members without portfolio.

Many people were part of the story of the pre-1907 Picton Golf Club, and they each had a story of their own.

The Epic Fail of Forgetting D.G. Macphail

In its "centennial number" published on December 29th, 1930, the *Picton Gazette* explains the origins of golf in the town of Picton: "Golfing was introduced into Picton over thirty years ago by Rev. D.G. Macphail, who was at that time minister of St. Andrew's [Presbyterian] Church here" (*Picton Gazette*, 29 December 1930, cited in *Canadian Golfer*, vol 12 no 9 [January 1931], p. 693).

Written in 1930, the newspaper's phrase "over thirty years ago" clearly refers to the 1890s, which was the Picton decade in the eventful life of Reverend Donald George Macphail.

Figure 1 Donald George Macphail, 1889, aged 25, Queen's Review *(October 1929), p. 236.*

Macphail (often also spelled Mcphail, and sometimes spelled either way with a capital "P"), was born on a farm near Perth, Ontario, in 1864.

Attending the public schools of that town, he was a very good student, but it was once a week at Sunday School that he was an intellectual superstar, taking to heart Francis Wayland's *The Elements of Moral Science* (1835), a careful, accessible explanation of "Theoretical Ethics" and "Practical Ethics" as understood and expressed via a Christian conscience.

Years later, Macphail delivered a speech to fellow Presbyterians in which he implied that the kind of Sunday School stimulation of personal growth that he had enjoyed at Perth could help to build the nation as a whole if it were made available to all: "If Canada is to become a great nation it must produce great men …. Now the Sunday School should be a producer to supply this need" (*Jarvis Record*, 12 October 1910, p. 1).

Graduating from Perth Collegiate in the late 1880s, Macphail had already determined that he would become a Presbyterian minister. He therefore enrolled at Queen's University, which was affiliated with the Presbyterian Church in those days.

Macphail studied in the Faculty of Arts, perhaps following a literary inclination instilled by his mother, who was "a remarkably well-read woman in the literary traditions and not afraid to address any

question of her day" (Malcolm McGillivray, *The Presbyterian and Westminster* [1 August 1918]). He easily earned his B.A., even though devoting much of his time in his final year to editing the *Queen's Journal*. Upon graduation he immediately enrolled in Theology at Queen's, combining study in Kingston with study at Knox College in Toronto.

His first posting as a minister was to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Picton in May of 1892. Once installed at the church, according to the *Picton Gazette*, the new minister Macphail proselytized not just on behalf of the Christian faith, but also on behalf of the royal and ancient game of golf: "He interested some of the young men of the town and they used to do some golfing wherever a bit of suitable open ground could be found" (cited in *Canadian Golfer*, vol 12 no 9 [January 1931], p. 693).

The ground where they did "some golfing" seems to have been within sight of people travelling about Picton and so news of the arrival of an ancient Scottish game in town began to spread, and golf attracted the attention of the curious.

It is not clear where Macphail himself was first introduced to golf. Although the game had been played at Montreal since 1873, and the first version of the Kingston Golf Club had been established in 1884, golf did not come to Macphail's home town until around 1890:

> *In the 1890s Capt. Roderick Matheson, manager of a local bank, was transferred to Montreal and while in Montreal was introduced to the game of golf at the Royal Montreal Golf Club. Upon his return to Perth, Capt. Matheson decided that his friends might enjoy this new form of recreation, so he invited them to come up to his farm on the banks of the Tay River to try their hand at the game…. The pioneer golfers who accompanied Capt. Matheson were as follows: Charles Stone, T.A. Code, John Code, Judge Scott, W.P. McEwen and Senator MacLaren. From these seven men the Links O'Tay was born. (*Perth Courier*, 1960).*

Macphail had left Perth before Matheson laid out a three-hole course on his farm (which is still the site of the present golf course in Perth, into which the original holes have been incorporated). Yet he certainly returned to town regularly during the 1890s to visit his parents, particularly after his marriage in 1894 and the birth of two daughters, the first in 1895 and the second in 1897, so it is possible that he was introduced to the game at Perth in the 1890s and then brought the game to Picton.

Figure 2 Professor James Cappon, 30 September 1898, Official Golf Guide 1899*, p. 312.*

Before golf came to Perth, however, Macphail may have been introduced to the game at the Kingston Golf Club.

An early member of that club was Queen's University's first Professor of English, James Cappon, who arrived at Kingston in 1888.

Cappon was a Scot who had studied at the University of Glasgow, graduating in 1879 and beginning his career in Europe as a teacher of history. When he was hired by Queen's University to develop its first Department of English Literature, he brought his love of golf with him to Canada.

As soon as he arrived in the "Limestone City," he immediately joined the new Kingston Golf Club. He served for decades on its executive committee. He represented the club in inter-club matches, and he represented Ontario in inter-provincial matches against Quebec as early as 1892.

In the course of studying for his degree in Arts, Macphail would have taken courses from Cappon and may have learned of the game from conversations with him. Classes were quite small in those days, and Macphail would have had many opportunities for informal conversations with his instructor. The Kingston Golf Club, furthermore, made memberships available to Queen's University students at favorable rates.

“Suitable Open Ground”

The space needed for golf in the 1890s was not the same as the space that is required today.

On the one hand, an amateur golfer like Macphail and the novice golfers of Picton that he introduced to the game would not have been able to drive the golf ball of the 1890s much more than 200-225 yards, even with a perfect hit. At that time, a hole of 200-225 yards was regarded as a proper “four-shotter,” so Picton’s first golfers could have laid out a primitive three-hole golf course in a field a couple of hundred yards long, and perhaps half as many yards wide.

When Macphail first brought golf to Picton, the ball in use was the gutta-percha ball, or guttie (made from the rubbery sap of a Malaysian tree). In one of the first books on golf ever published in North America, *Golf* (1898), Gardener G. Smith explained to people who were new to the game that “The ball used in playing golf is made in various sizes, but that most in use measures about 1 ¾ inches in diameter. It is usually made of well-seasoned gutta-percha, grooved or notched on the surface and painted white” (New York: Frederick A Stokes Co, 1908, pp. 11-12.). Note that the rubber had to be “seasoned”: a golfer who ordered a new line of golf balls would have to factor six months of seasoning time into the expected delivery date. Golfers would also buy cans of white and red golf-ball paints, since the gutta-percha rubber would not retain its original paint, and so balls would begin to return to their natural black colour after several rounds of golf began to wear off the paint.

As at Perth around 1890, so at other places in Canada like Brantford and Nova Scotia in the 1870s, a rudimentary three-hole course that was laid out on a commons or in a farmer’s field sufficed to get golf underway. Only a small number of people in these communities knew of the game – Roderick Matheson was the only one in Perth, and that was because he had gone to Montreal! – and an even smaller number of people possessed golf clubs.

Macphail and his small cohort of golf proselytes could easily have laid out a makeshift course within the open area inside the racecourse at the Crystal Place fair grounds. Compare below the 1919 aerial view of the Picton fair grounds with a contemporary aerial view of the racetrack within which the ancient Musselburgh Links (near Edinburgh, Scotland) are laid out (this nine-hole golf course hosted the Open Championship four times in the 1800s).

Figure 3 1919 aerial photograph of Picton (left) and a contemporary view of the Musselborough Links, Scotland.

In Musselburgh, seven golf holes – in whole, or in part – are laid out within the infield of the racetrack.

If Machpail and his fellow devotees of the royal and ancient game ever used the fair grounds for "some golfing," they did not use it regularly, for the *Gazette* refers to their doing "some golfing wherever a bit of suitable open ground could be found," which implies that their golf grounds never became associated with any one location.

A slightly earlier photograph of the same fair grounds from the opposite direction shows that the racetrack area was surrounded to the north, east, and west by open fields. People could have played golf in these fields.

Figure 4 View northward beyond the Crystal Palace fair grounds circa 1912. Picton: the Scenic Town of Canada, the Angler's Paradise Home *(1912), p. 18.*

Any pastureland grazed by cattle or sheep, or even horses, would have sufficed to allow Macphail to drive several stakes into the ground a couple of hundred yards apart, and then drive balls toward each in succession as a circuit of golf holes.

That was how golf was introduced to hundreds of communities in North America from the 1870s to the 1890s.

Other Golf in the Neighbourhood

Macphail may have observed how the game was being played in the mid-1890s on Le Nid Point on the Bay of Quinte across from the Glen Island resort, which was frequented by Pictonians at that time. Each summer from the mid-1890s onward, a provisional golf course was laid out at a place called Camp Le Nid. In the open fields to the east of the Camp Le Nid tents, play on this golf course was clearly visible across the open water on all sides of the point.

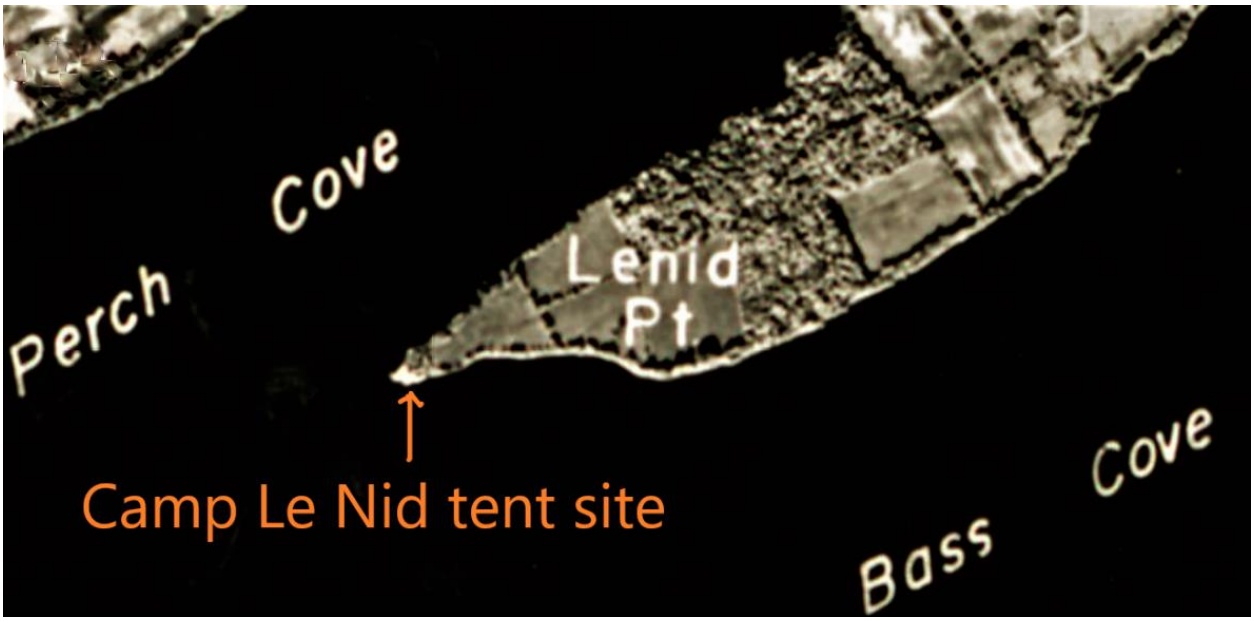


Figure 5 1954 aerial photograph of Le Nid Point in the Bay of Quinte between Perch Cove and Bass Cove.

In 1886, Walter S. Herrington, of Napanee, had led a band of fellow Victoria College law graduates to a camping site on Le Nid point belonging to a farmer named Ruttan, whose United Empire Loyalist ancestor Peter Ruttan had arrived there in the 1780s. Camp Le Nid was the site of summer vacations by Herrington's widening band of colleagues and friends from 1886 to 1946 (the year before Herrington died). The annual vacations at Camp Le Nid were to allow Herrington's fellow graduates across Canada and the United States (and one other who came from South Africa!) to rough it in the bush, living in tents, and learning to know each other "as we are," as Herrington later wrote (*Reveries of Camp Le Nid*, 1908). The campers' motto was "*Sans souci, sans cérémonie, sans peur, et sans reproche*": without worry, without ceremony, without fear, and without reproach (*Dominion Illustrated*, Vol vii no 168 [19 September 1891], p. 267).

We find the first reference to golf at the camp in Herrington's account in the *Napanee Express* of 1897 of the opening of the camp that summer. He describes club members arriving from Baltimore, Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa, and Oshawa and then departing "per steam yacht Jessie Forward" for Ruttan's Point: "After a pleasant sail down the river and bay we arrived at Ruttan's Point at 5 p.m. and before dark had our tents pitched and our baggage under shelter"; the baggage included golf clubs: "The Golf links, as usual, are the main source of attraction for the sporting members of camp" (30 July 1897).

For golf to have become "usual" at the camp by 1897, we can infer that it had been played there since the mid-1890s.

Figure 6 Herrington (standing), with two unidentified golfing companions, at Camp Le Nid in the late 1890s. Photograph N-10992 Courtesy of Lennox and Addington County Museum and Archives.

The earliest photographs of the golf course at Camp Le Nid show that it was quite primitive. The first photograph below was taken on one of the "Visitors Days" at the camp (when the exclusively male camp members entertained women and children for a day). A woman poses with a golf club in hand as though she is about to tee off. Note in each of the two photographs below the flags stuck in the ground as tee markers.

Figure 7 First tee at golf links of Camp Le Nid late 1890s. Photograph N-02720 courtesy of Lennox and Addington County Museum and Archives.

Figure 8 Another teeing ground on the golf links of Camp Le Nid late 1890s. Photograph N-11016courtesy of Lennox and Addington County Museum and Archives.

Simple poles of some sort, not flagsticks, marked the location of golf holes in the 1890s, as seen below.

Figure 9 Camp Le Nid putting green late 1890s. Photograph N-02691 courtesy of Lennox and Addington county Museum and Archives.

Figure 10 Seven men gathered around a putting green at Camp Le Nid late 1890s. Photograph N-11070 courtesy of Lennox and Addington County Museum and archives.

The putting green in the photographs above is about three feet in diameter. Its grass is trimmed shorter

than that of the fair green (today called the fairway). The hole at the centre of the putting green is marked by a pole about two feet in height, to which is fixed a rectangular piece of wood, measuring about four inches by ten inches.

Golf holes being very short on rudimentary courses of this sort, Herrington and his golf-mad band of Le Nid campers somehow routed a 14-hole golf course through the fields that Ruttan allowed them to use. We learn of this 14-hole layout from a second story in the *Napanee Express* about the 1897 season at the camp: "The golf championship rests between Mr. Herrington, of Napanee, and His Honor Judge Ingram of Baltimore, each having covered the links (14 holes) in 67 strokes" (13 August 1897). The newspaper also notes that "Several excellent photographs of camp life have been secured this year. These will be bound in albums and preserved by the members as souvenirs of the summer's outing" (13 August 1897). We might suspect that the photographs of the golf course above were among these photographs "secured" in 1897, and so might speculate that the photograph of the seven men above documents the climax of the club championship that summer.

The men of Camp Le Nid that we see in the photographs above were very aware of nearby Glen Island, which was developed extensively as a resort during Macphail's time in Picton

According to an article by Jane Lovell in *The Neighbourhood Messenger*, Glen Island was originally known as Hog Island in the 1880s and a hotel of some sort was built on it at that time, but in 1890 it was "bought by the Dingman brothers of Picton and the resort was renamed Glen Island" (Jane Lovell, "Vacation Destination: The Bay of Quinte," *The Neighbourhood Messenger*, June 2013, p. 10).

> *The island stayed in the Dingman family for the next 32 years and during that period the resort flourished. While there was never a hotel, as such …, there were up to 29 cabins and cottages. In 1892, furnished and unfurnished cottages could be had from $3 to $5 per week …. The …. resort may have been able to accommodate 150 people in the cabins, in the area partitioned for sleeping quarters above the dance hall, and in the "tent camp" erected yearly at the far eastern end of the island. Mail and newspapers were delivered daily by steamer from Picton and Kingston, and by 1900 a summer post office had been established on the island. Rail and steamer timetables were coordinated to allow convenient travel to and from the resort from Toronto and Rochester, and from a wider net of American cities, including Buffalo, Philadelphia, Niagara Falls, Baltimore and Pittsburgh. Croquette, quoits, lawn bowling and tennis*

vied with fishing trips and soirées at the dance pavilion as amusements for the resort guests. (Lovell, pp. 10-11)

Figure 11 Glen Island ferry wharf circa 1900. Lovell, p. 11, indicating the photograph courtesy of Harry Wells.

The men from Camp Le Nid regularly visited Glen Island:

The many attractions of Glen Island held an irresistible draw for the men who annually attended a "gentlemen's camp" across Bass Cove on Ruttan's Point, just to the north of the Island…. Initially, the camp was a very rough affair consisting of a few canvas tents erected on an acre or so of land leased from the local farmer. Over the years, however, more commodious structures were erected, including a kitchen and dining hall in 1897, and an icehouse soon thereafter. It was during this period that Glen Island's dining hall and dance pavilion, as well as the potential for congenial social interaction on the island, enticed the campers from Le Nid to make the crossing from the camp to the island by boat. (Lovell, p. 12)

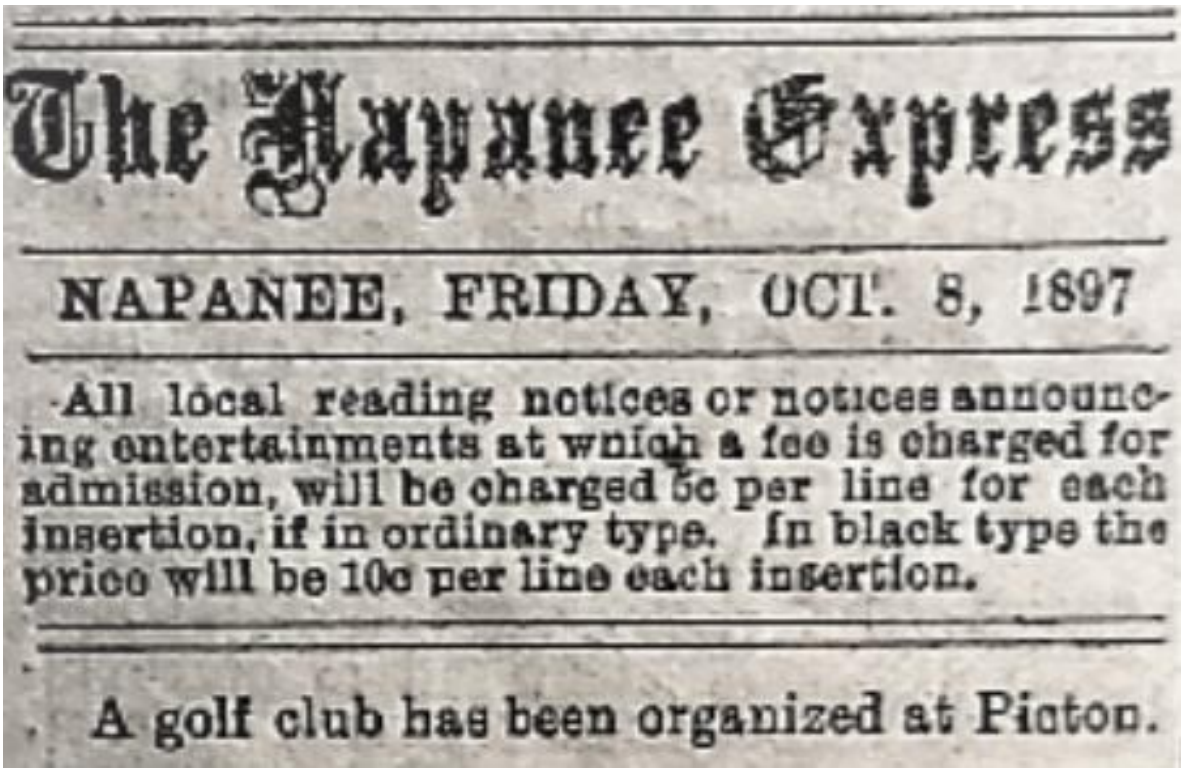
I note that it “was a popular destination for excursions by steamer out of Napanee, Deseronto and Picton” and that “The most numerous were Sunday school excursions and picnics” (Lovell, p. 11). And so I wonder if Reverend Macphail, Picton’s great promoter of Sunday School as a foundation for the formation of Canada’s future leaders, arranged these sorts of outings to Glen Island for his congregation.

Whether or not Macphail visited Glen Island either in connection with outings by his church, or perhaps as a vacationer, it is certain that Macphail enjoyed fishing in this area. Even after he had been transferred to other churches in Alberta and Ontario, Macphail returned to the area to fish. And of course the golfers at Camp Le Nid were quite visible from the water.

One way or another, it seems inevitable that Macphail would have learned of the like-minded men in the Bay area who were also doing “some golfing.” Given the passion for golf shown by Macphail’s pioneering efforts in Picton on behalf of the game, one wonders if he contrived an opportunity to talk with the men of Camp Le Nid about their golf course, or perhaps an opportunity to play a round of golf with them.

The 1897 Golf Club

There is evidence from Napanee that by 1897 Macphail had produced a critical momentum in the development of the game of golf in Picton:



The Napanee Express

NAPANEE, FRIDAY, OCT. 8, 1897

All local reading notices or notices announcing entertainments at which a fee is charged for admission, will be charged 5c per line for each insertion, if in ordinary type. In black type the price will be 10c per line each insertion.

A golf club has been organized at Picton.

Figure 12 Napanee Express*, 8 October 1897, p. 1.*

By the end of the summer in 1897, there was clearly a large enough group of people in Picton playing the game for the desire to form a club to have arisen. Perhaps the local devotees of the game formed this club in order to organize formal competitions amongst themselves. Perhaps they wished to pool their resources by means of membership fees to finance the rental of a pastureland where they could set up a permanent golf course.

At this point, all we know is that the first Picton golf club was formed by the fall of 1897.

"Several Pictonians" Proselytized

The sight of Macphail and his band of "young men of the town" trekking across Picton to their various makeshift golf courses had piqued the curiosity of an older generation of Pictonians. The *Picton Gazette* observes – with regard to Macphail's popularizing of the game with some of the young men of the town – that "It was about this same period that several Pictonians became interested" (cited in *Canadian Golfer*, vol 12 no 9 [January 1931], p. 693).

In those days, when the device known as a golf club appeared in Canadian towns, most people had never seen one before, so they were invariably interested to learn what this odd tool was for and how it was used.

James E. Darling, an employee of the Bank of British North America who introduced golf first to Brantford and then to Halifax in the 1870s, spoke of the reaction of people in those days to the site of golf clubs. On his way from Brantford to Halifax in 1873, Darling found that his golf clubs made him a curious figure: "I remember, going down the St. Lawrence on my way to Halifax, the many inquiries as to what my clubs were for. We had to change to a small steamer to run the rapids, and, having no cabin for this part of the trip, I was carrying my clubs in my hands. The boat was full of American tourists, and the strange clubs, especially the irons, seemed to excite their curiosity" (*Canadian Golfer* [July 1915], vol 1 no 3, p. 189).

And of the site of a golf course itself was equally exotic and mysterious, as we can see from an account in the *Orillia Packet* of the way community members misinterpreted what a sequence of flags appearing across a farmer's field meant:

> *The report that the C.P.R. was surveying a line into Orillia had a rather amusing origin. Some who saw the men placing the flags in laying out the golf links on the Dallas farm at once jumped to the conclusion that it was a C.P.R. survey party running a line, and immediately brought the good news to town. (cited in the* Barrie Examiner*, 5 May 1898, p. 8)*

Darling's account of reactions to his travelling across Canada with golf clubs in his hands and the amusing item in the *Orillia Packet* allow us to imagine the response of Picton residents in the 1890s to

the site of Macphail and his golf converts strolling through the town centre with golf clubs in hand on the way to the open ground where they would play golf on a field with flags arranged across it.

The “several Pictonians” who also “became interested” in golf at this time were probably no different from fellow Pictonians generally in gossiping about Macphail’s obsession with this ancient Scottish game, and they were probably no different from others in watching intently as Macphail and his converts swung the strange hickory sticks with a never-before-seen motion. The difference was that these “several Pictonians” probably asked to be allowed to handle a club and ball, and then to take a swing with a club at a ball.

And then the die was cast.

Like many people before and since, those who hit a pure shot, long and straight, experienced the usual epiphany: I must do that again!

Pictonians Who Count

Although the *Picton* Gazette says in 1930 that all these things happened "about [the] same period" "over thirty years ago," the order of events seems pretty clear: first, Macphail came to town and played golf; second, he thereby inspired some of the young men of the town to take up the game; third, Macphail and the young men in turn inspired "several Pictonians" to become interested in the game.

The newspaper's narrative of these events implies that it was the "several Pictonians" who "became interested" in the game (in addition to Macphail's "young men of the town") who were the most important converts to golf.

Oddly, these men are named "Pictonians," whereas Macphail and his young golfing cohort are not. Macphail and the "young men of the town" are implicitly distinct from these other men. One presumes that the "Pictonians" in question were older and of greater standing in the community than the "young men of the town": these were the men who counted when it came to whether or not the game of golf would have a future in the town.

By the ambiguous conjunction "and," the newspaper's sentence links these Pictonians' interest in the game and the laying out of Picton's first permanent golf course: "It was about this same period that several Pictonians became interested and a course was laid out just outside the town limits" (cited in *Canadian Golfer*, vol 12 no 9 [January 1931], p. 693). It is not clear whether the "and" marks two events that simply *happened* to occur around the same time, or whether it marks two events related as *cause and effect*.

Whatever the case may be with regard to the missing explanation of any relationship between these two events, there is something else missing from this part of the newspaper's account of the introduction of golf to Picton, and that concerns the necessary stage between the interest in the game taken by "several Pictonians," on the one hand, and the laying out of the first permanent golf course, on the other.

We miss an account of the formation of the golf club that must have arranged for the use of the land where the course would be laid out.

Was it the golf club formed at the end of 1897?

Or had a different club been formed since then?

The Picton Golf Club of 1902

As we shall see in another section below, the *Daily British Whig* published items in March of 1903 and March of 1904 that named the people elected each year to the executive committee of "the Picton Golf Club" (28 March 1903, p. 4; 31 March 1904, p. 2).

Similarly, in March of 1903, the Toronto *Globe* referred to the election of officers "at the annual meeting of the Picton Golf Club," so it would seem that the Club had been formed prior to 1903 (27 March 1903, p. 10). Otherwise, the *Globe* would have referred to the **first** meeting of the Picton Golf Club.

But how long the club had existed before 1903 was not exactly clear. Later in the spring of 1904, however, in a general item about events in Picton, we read in the *Daily British Whig* that "The golf club is in its third year" (27 May 1904, p. 6).

We know, then, that the Picton Golf Club was formed in 1902.

Confirmation of this fact comes from Cleveland, Ohio, in the summer of 1922. That is when a man named Arthur Field wrote to the Cleveland *Sunday News-Leader* to tell readers about the Picton Golf Club: "Picton is a beauty spot in the Bay of Quinte district, and the nine-hole course overlooks the bay. It is one of the best kept courses we've seen for many a day" (Arthur Field, *Sunday News-Leader* [Cleveland, Ohio], July 1922, cited in *Canadian Golfer*, vol 8 no 4 (August 1922), p. 364). He tells of "the influx of the numerous American visitors who have recently invaded Glen Island, an ideal camping place," and suggests that because of the increased play on the course caused by this influx "there is some talk amongst the moguls behind the game of enlarging the course" (Field p. 364). He then describes two of the club members he has met (both were directors of the club in those days): Colin Hepburn, "who has the best private putting green that one will find in many a day's travel," and H.B. Bristol, "another great enthusiast" (Field, p. 364). It seems to have been from these "moguls behind the game" that he learned the following: "The Picton Golf and Country Club [sic] was first established in 1902 and incorporated in 1907" (Field p. 364).

The First Executive Committee

The relationship between the golf club formed at Picton in 1897 and the "Picton Golf Club" formed in 1902 is not clear.

After the 1897 reference to the former in the *Napanee Express*, the next reference to a golf club in Picton that I can find in a local newspaper comes in March of 1903 in the *Daily British Whig*: "The Picton Golf Club has organized with these officers …." (28 March 1903, p. 4).

As we know, this statement does not mean that the club was organized for the first time in March of 1903. In fact, it means almost the opposite, for this locution was the way newspapers of the day indicated that a pre-existing club like Picton's had organized for the coming season by electing the officers in question.

We shall meet in sections below the officers elected to the executive committees of 1903 and 1904. Unfortunately, however, I can find no newspaper references to the executive committee of 1902.

It is interesting to note, however, that only one person left the executive committee between 1903 and 1904. Every other member of the 1903 committee continued to serve on the 1904 committee. We might presume, then, that the constant figures on the committees of 1903 and 1904 were also the founding committee members of 1902.

Before meeting these committee members, however, let us review a few of the decisions made anonymously by the first executive committee.

Location! Location! Location!

One of the most important actions of the 1902 executive committee was to arrange for the laying out of a permanent golf course.

New golf clubs invariably organized in the late winter or early spring – when a sportsman's fancy turns to golf. A meeting of interested persons was called, a committee was appointed, and a top priority was to arrange for the use of land as a golf course.

The *Picton Gazette* concludes its 1930 account of the introduction of golf to Picton by observing that "It was about this same period that … a course was laid out just outside the town limits along the Cherry Valley road" (cited in *Canadian Golfer*, vol 12 no 9 [January 1931], p. 693).

Fred Rose explains that the first golf course was laid out "on the north side of Lake Street, near Sandyhook" (*Picton Gazette*, 1980). This land can be seen from an oblique angle in the annotated aerial photograph shown below that was taken in the 1940s.

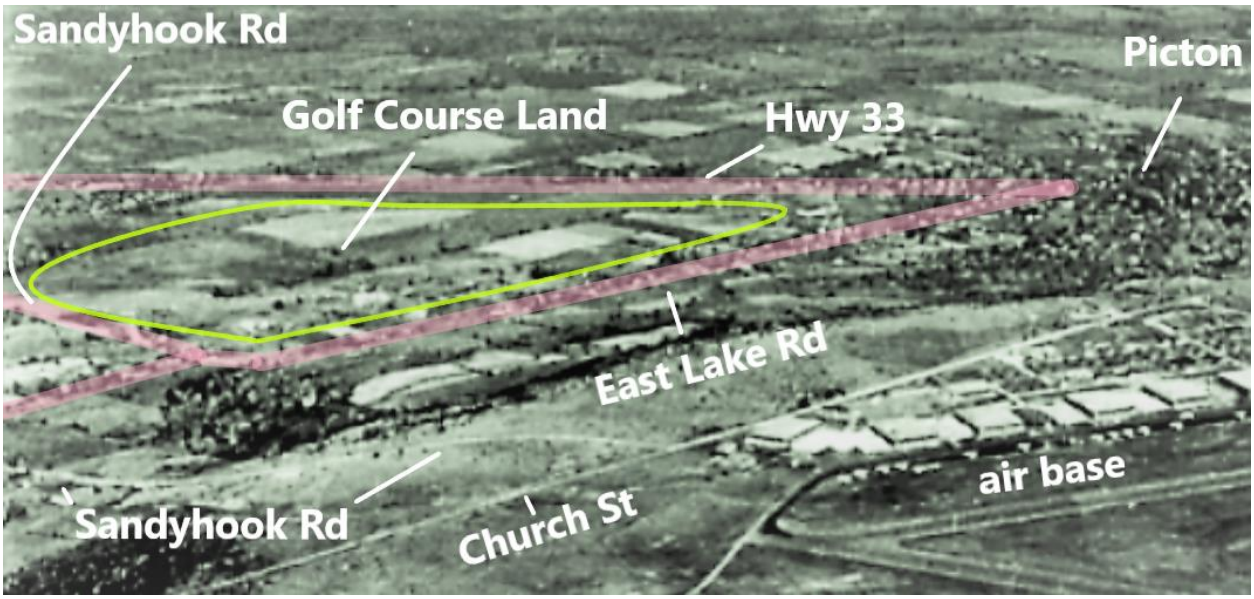


Figure 13 Detail of an aerial photograph of the Picton air base taken in the 1940s.

Land Ownership

Did the golf club own the land on which this first permanent golf course was laid out?

Was this land north of East Lake Road regarded as a commons?

We can see on an 1878 map of Hallowell Township that part of the land in question was marked out even then for residential development. We can see below that rectangular lots on the north and south sides of what would be named Upper Lake Street were marked precisely on the map (appearing just below the center of the map under the name “D. Platt.”)

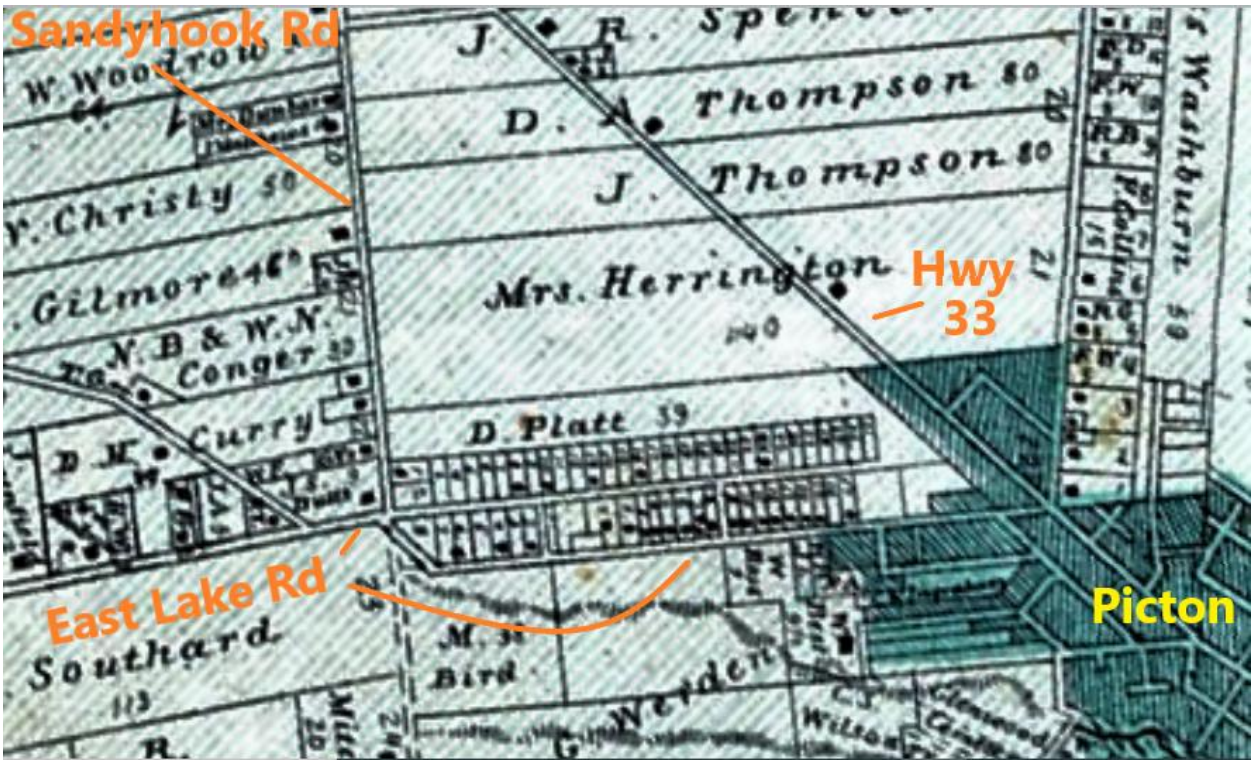


Figure 14 Detail from Hastings and Prince Edward Counties 1878 *(H.Beldon & Co., 1878).*

After the golf course was laid out on this land, it continued to be used by other groups. We read in the fall of 1904, for instance, that “The young ladies’ walking club had their tramp to the golf links this week” (*Daily British Whig*, 11 November 1904, p. 4).

The *Picton Gazette* writes ambiguously about this property on which the Picton Golf Club’s first permanent golf course was located: “Later this property was sold and the present links purchased” (cited in in *Canadian Golfer*, vol 12 no 9 [January 1931], p. 693).

The passive construction of the sentence makes it impossible to determine whether it means “Later this property was sold” by the Picton Golf Club, or “Later this property was sold” by the person who had allowed the Picton Golf Club to use it.

As the club had not yet been incorporated, however, it seems more likely that the land where its first golf course was laid out had been either loaned or leased to the club, as was the case for the Ottawa Golf Club in the 1890s before it incorporated in 1901.

Laying Out the First Golf Course

Whether or not the new Picton golf Club hired a golf professional to lay out its first golf course is not clear. In 1902, the pickings were slim: there was a golf professional at Royal Montreal, another at the Ottawa Golf Club, and a third at the Toronto Golf Club.

Note that to lay out a golf course around 1900 did not take long, and it could be accomplished with local resources.

No earth was moved during the building of such a course, either to shape a fairway or to build up a green. A farmer's pastureland was generally chosen for a golf course because the land had been cleared and had well-established pasture grass growing on it – grass that only needed to be cut regularly in order to produce a decent fairway surface from which to play a golf shot.

Putting greens were developed on a level area of the field. Rakes and shovels might be used to fill in minor depressions or to shave off little rises in order to produce a flat surface. The preference in those days was not for an undulating or wavy surface, but rather for a fairly level surface that would minimize the break of putts made across it.

The green comprised grass cut shorter than the fairway grass, and it was usually cut in the shape of a square, with sides of perhaps 20 to 30 feet.

The putting green would be compacted to produce a relatively smooth putting surface on which the bounce of a rolling ball would be minimized. With a minimum of manpower, the compacting would be achieved in one of three ways:

(1) by rolling the entire putting surface with a heavy barrel-shaped cylinder on a horizontal axis attached to a handle (designed to be pulled by two men);
(2) by thoroughly soaking the putting surface with water, then placing planks over it, and finally pounding the planks with a heavy object;
(3) or simply by pounding every square foot of the putting surface with a heavy-handled instrument with a flat square bottom, as in the photograph below.

Figure 15 A late nineteenth-century golf groundsman (greenkeeper) flattens the surface of a tee or green by pounding it. Michael J. Hurdzan, Golf Greens: History, Design, and Construction *[Wiley, 2004], chapter 1).*

In the early 1900s, the construction of a golf course by these methods could be completed in several weeks from start to finish. Play on the course would then commence immediately.

And as for the routing of the golf holes?

Practical advice on building a golf course was scant at the turn of the century. James Dwight's section on "Laying Out Links" in his 1895 book *Golf: A Handbook for Beginners* comprised just seven sentences: "It should be understood that links vary greatly in length as well as in the character of the ground. There is no definite distance between the holes. If you possibly can, get some competent person to lay out the course for you. It is hardly likely that a beginner can take all advantage of the different natural hazards, etc. The distance between the holes must vary according as open places occur with some hazard in front. As to distance, an average of 300 yards makes a good long course. Some of the holes should be 400 to 450 yards apart, and one short hole of 100 to 120 yards" (p. 41). That is all the advice he offers. Now build it!

In 1897, the Wright & Ditson sporting company published a *Guide to Golf in America*, which included a section on how to lay out a golf course that must have seemed encyclopedic compared to Dwight's book. I provide here a summary of the sections "Laying Out a Course" and "Construction and Upkeep":

> *Laying Out a Course*
>
> *The game may … be played on any fields affording requisite room and turf that can be kept in condition to afford reasonably good lies between the holes…. It is not possible or desirable that the distances between the teeing-grounds and holes should everywhere be the same…. Holes should not be too much alike …. The distances and hazards should be as varied as possible. The putting-greens may be sometimes on the flat turf, sometimes on the top of a ridge or knoll, or even on the side of a gently sloping hill. The first drive from the tee should be sometimes from the crest of a low hill, and sometimes on the flat; and the hazard to be surpassed (for there should be always some hazard or bunker to trap a poorly played drive) should be sometimes near the teeing-ground and sometimes at nearly a full drive's distance from it….*
>
> *Selecting a convenient place for the first teeing-ground, not too far from the club house, and having determined from the general "lay of the land" the direction in which the first hole is to be, walk in that direction and seek a convenient stretch of level turf which may be used as the putting-green, at least 250 yards from the tee, for the first hole should not be a short one. See that a full drive will be rewarded with a tolerably good lie. Having placed a stake in the centre of the spot selected for the first green, consider where is the most favorable spot for the next teeing-ground to be placed….*
>
> *Do not be afraid of hazards. A good sporting hole may be often made in the most unpromising place if a good drive can place the ball where a good lie can be obtained for a second shot….*
>
> *Where nature, by some oversight, has forgotten to provide hazards or bunkers, they should be built by man. The best are made by building a pile of earth work, about waist high and with sloping sides…. The trench behind the mound should be filled with loose sand, if possible, as … it is less unpleasant to play a ball out of sand than out of the mud that is sure to collect in such a place in wet weather….*

Running water and small ponds add to the variety of the course and are desirable hazards.

Returning to the second teeing-ground, we continue as before, weighing considerations of distances, difficulty of ground, favorable spots for putting-greens and position of hazards, and driving our little stake that marks the position of the future putting-greens as we go along, constantly bearing in mind that we must return to a point somewhere near where we started, and arriving at the last hole but one choose our last teeing-ground, so that we may return to the home green in such a way as not to endanger the lives of members who may be watching the game from the clubhouse veranda or grounds, and at the same time not make the hole too easy, for the last hole should be a difficult one.

Now we may go over the whole course again and see if it cannot be improved by shifting this hole or that teeing-ground a little. If it cannot be so improved we may return home and give our orders for the construction of such holes, teeing-grounds and bunkers as we have described.

Construction and Upkeep

It is not necessary or desirable that the greens should be absolutely flat, but … it is essential that they should be as smooth as may be. Wetting and pounding under heavy boards will work wonders, and grass treated in this way takes far less time to become playable than when the whole is re-sodded…. To keep the greens in the best condition, they should be cut and rolled every morning and after every rain. A heavy roller drawn by two men should be used, and the lawn mower should be set low…. The putting-green is defined by the rules as all ground within twenty yards of the hole, not including hazards, but all putting-greens are not kept in that swept and garnished condition we have a right to expect for so great a distance. Indeed, on many links we have to be satisfied if we find tolerable smoothness within five yards of the hole….

The teeing-ground is sometimes indicated by a parallelogram in whitewash marked upon the ground…. This is drawn upon the level ground or on a gentle upward slope, and is the simplest and cheapest form. Sometimes, however, there is not sufficiently

large or level space for this, and a teeing-ground has to be built. These are built of earth, well pressed and pounded down and covered with sod….

Through the green, the amount of care required to keep the course as it should be depends altogether on the quality of the soil. Loose, sandy-soiled links practically look out for themselves; but many inland courses on rich, clayey soil require constant attention with a horse mower. In any case, the grass should certainly be short enough anywhere near the middle of the course to afford a good lie to the ball … for few things are more provoking than to find a well-played ball lying so deep in grass that a stroke must be sacrificed to play it out. At the sides and edges of the course longer grass does not matter so much, as it may be considered a fit punishment for erratic play. (pp. 29-35)

Longer Courses for Longer Balls

Incidentally, by 1902, Picton golfers may have been motivated to find a place to play golf that was larger in area than the “open ground” where they had played previously, for a new golf ball had been invented, and its increasing popularity meant that more space for playing golf was required than had ever been needed before.

From 1900 to 1902, the gutta-percha golf ball was gradually replaced by the rubber-wound, rubber-core golf ball invented by a man named Haskell, who patented it in 1899. This ball – called the “Haskell Flyer” – could be driven twenty yards further than the gutta-percha ball.

The latter had not been dimpled, but rather scratched and scored in various ways when golfers discovered that the gutta-percha ball that was roughed up after play (losing its smooth manufactured surface) flew further than it did when new. The scratched golf ball could also be played with better control by the golfer. These discoveries led to the study in the early 1900s of the aerodynamic effects of dimples on a golf ball. When the new rubber-wound, rubber-cored golf ball received scientific dimples, it flew another twenty yards further.

After both the British and US Opens were won in 1902 by players using the new rubber-wound, rubber-core ball, it became the golf ball of choice. The gutta-percha golf ball went the way of the Dodo bird.

Consequently, golf courses began to be lengthened to accommodate the new ball.

Five Holes

Fred Rose points out that the golf course designed in this area was "a five-hole layout" (*Picton Gazette*, 1980). The executive committee of 1902 may have been confined to a five-hole layout because of constraints relating to the size or nature of the golf course property.

Note, however, that in the 1890s and early 1900s, five-hole layouts were popular all over the world when it came to designing a community's first golf course. At Saint John, New Brunswick, in the mid-1890s, "The original course was a five-hole layout with the longest hole being 200 yards" (https://www.riversidecountryclub.ca/news/a-brief-history-of-the-riverside-country-club). The first planned golf course in Kansas City was a five-hole course built in 1894. Along the shores of Lake Michigan near Chicago in 1896, the exclusive Edgewater Golf Club built a five-hole course. In 1893, the first golf course in Kuala Lumpur was "a makeshift five-hole golf course" (*Sun Daily* [Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia], 25 April 2017).

And so on, and so on.

Perhaps most importantly, the nearby Napanee Golf Club had a five-hole golf course, which had served the members well since 1897. The golfing communities in the two towns seem to have been close. Recall that the Napanee newspaper had reported the formation of the Picton Golf Club in the fall of 1897. In 1904, a team from the Napanee Golf Club visited the Picton five-hole golf course: "The golf tournament held at the links this afternoon resulted in a victory for Picton against Napanee. The ladies of the club served a delightful supper after the game" (*Daily British Whig*, 26 May 1904, p. 8). In 1905, a Napanee team again travelled to Picton to contest a match: "The tournament held on the golf links, Wednesday, was in every way a delightful success. Napanee sent a contingent of ten, and they were the victors by two points. The ladies of the club served a delicious supper after the game" (*Daily British Whig*, 27 May 1905, p. 4).

At a time when a small-town golf club like Picton's might have between one and two dozen members in total, and seldom (if ever) had its full membership on the course at the same time, five golf holes laid out parallel to each other could easily be played as nine. Because the holes would all be side-by-side, with a green at the end of one hole not far from the tee of another hole, once golfers had finished the fifth hole, they could return to where they had begun by playing their way back in reverse order on the

very holes played on the way out: golfers would play the fourth hole as their sixth hole, the third hole as their seventh hole, the second hole as their eighth hole, and the first hole as their ninth hole.

Of course the holes could also have been arranged in a circuit (either clockwise or counter-clockwise) so as to bring golfers back to where they began, or the holes could even have criss-crossed each other, and so on.

Whither Macphail?

Of all the advice in the self-help books that might have been relevant to the situation of the new Picton Golf Club, perhaps the most important was offered by Dwight: "If you possibly can, get some competent person to lay out the course for you. It is hardly likely that a beginner can take all advantage of the different natural hazards, etc."

The Picton Golf Club may have felt that it had just such a competent person ready to hand: Reverend D.G. Macphail.

Note, however, that Macphail left Picton at the end of June in 1902. At his Sunday sermon on March 12th, 1902, Macphail announced to his congregation that he would be leaving Picton for Alberta (*Ottawa Citizen,* 22 March 1902, p. 1).

There was no obvious church-related reason for making this announcement when he did. He would not be leaving town for three and a half more months and the officials of the Presbyterian Church in Eastern Ontario would not be able even to consider the matter until their regular April meeting a month later, so it is not clear why he decided to make his announcement early in March.

I wonder if the timing of Macphail's announcement to his congregation was determined by the impending organization of the Picton Golf Club for its inaugural season in 1902.

In 1903 and 1904, the club's organizational meetings took place in March. The planning to create the new golf club in 1902 may have begun even earlier than March. If, as seems likely, Macphail was invited to participate in the planning of the new club, it is possible that he spoke to church members when he did because the organization of the golf club forced his hand.

Macphail seems to have been the most experienced golfer in Picton. He may well have struck the "several Pictonians" who had become interested in the game as the "competent person" that Dwight said should take charge of laying out a club's first golf course. I expect that he was asked to stand for election to the executive committee. Macphail knew that because he was planning to leave Picton at the beginning of the summer, he would not be able to serve out a full term on that committee. He would have to explain this matter to his fellow golf enthusiasts. But he would have recognized immediately that members of his congregation, not his fellow golf-club planners, deserved to be the first to hear the news that he was leaving town.

My suspicion is that he agreed to serve as vice-president of the new Picton Golf Club for as long as he was in town.

In any event, Macphail did not leave Picton until the end of June. Whether or not he had an official role on the Picton Golf Club's executive committee, he was the golfer in town with the most experience, so he is likely to have been consulted about the selection of the East Lake Road land as the site of the club's first permanent golf course. And he was also probably asked to advise on the routing of golf holes across it.

I expect that he also played golf on the new course.

When Almonte established its first golf club in the spring of 1902, at exactly the same time as Picton did, play was underway on its newly laid-out course by the middle of May. Before Macphail left town, he would have had plenty of time to play quite a few rounds of golf on the new course, and I cannot imagine that he would have passed up the opportunity to do so. He must have been quietly satisfied by the fact that the town's first permanent golf course had developed organically out of what he had begun in the 1890s.

The Presbyterian Succession

The Presbyterian minister who succeeded Macphail at St. Andrew's was Walter Wallace McLaren.

Figure 16 Walter Wallace McLaren, circa 1908.

Like Macphail, McLaren was from Eastern Ontario. Born in Renfrew in 1877, he achieved sustained success in the local schools and, like Macphail again, attended Queen's University, enrolling in the Arts programme in 1894. As an undergraduate he won many prizes and scholarships, including the medal in political science. And once again like Macphail, he served as editor of the *Queen's Journal*. McLaren graduated with an M.A. in 1899 and a B.D. in 1902. After half a year at a Presbyterian church in Hamilton, he was called to St. Andrew's at Picton in the fall of 1902.

He quickly adopted the life of a Pictonian. He served as the minister of Picton's Sons of Scotland Society (alongside the society's "senior Guard," future Picton Golf Club director James de Congalton Hepburn). He invited to his sermons groups ranging from the Citizens' Band to the local lodge of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. The congregation loved it: "Rev. W.W. McLaren's sermon was much enjoyed" (*Daily British Whig*, 7 June 1904, p. 3).

More importantly, just as Macphail had brought a love of golf with him to Picton, so did McLaren. As soon as he arrived in town, he not only became a member of the Picton Golf Club; he was elected its vice-president. It is almost as though to do so were part of the Presbyterian ministry at Picton!

And perhaps, in a way, it was.

It seems likely that members of the 1902 executive committee carried on in the same roles for at least the first three years of the club's existence. The person who was president in 1903 was president also in 1904; the same is true of the people who served as vice-president and secretary. The 1903 treasurer left town, so he was replaced by another person in 1904. So as I indicated above, I regard the president, secretary, and treasurer of 1903 as probably the president, secretary, and treasurer of 1902.

Now we know that the vice-president of 1903, W.W. McLaren, was not the vice-president of 1902, for he arrived at St. Andrew's only in October of 1902, so there was a different vice-president of the Picton Golf Club in 1902.

Was it Macphail? Was his departure for Alberta in the early summer of 1902 the reason that there was a position open on the golf club's 1903 executive committee for the new Presbyterian minister?

For some reason, newcomer McLaren was slotted right into the vacant executive committee position.

Interesting in this context is the fact that McLaren was about the same age as "the young men of the town" that Macphail had converted to golf in the 1890s. McLaren's age definitely stands out: at twenty-six years of age, he was the youngest member of the 1903 executive committee by thirteen years. He would have been an appropriate representative on the committee of the younger members of the community whom Macphail had converted to golf. And of course there may have been a higher than usual proportion of young Presbyterean churchgoers amongst that group, the ones most likely to have been the first to have been converted by Macphail's passion for golf.

McLaren's service at the Picton Golf Club is notable. Although he was a member of the club for just three years, while he was vice-president of the club it established its first ground committee and built its first clubhouse.

When he left Picton in 1905, it is clear that he had also made a notable impact upon St. Andrew's: "Rev. W.W. McLaren conducted service in the Presbyterian church, Picton, on Sunday. Large congregations assembled as this was his leave-taking, prior to his departure for Harvard" (*Daily British Whig*, 21 September 1905, p. 6).

He received his Ph.D. from Harvard in 1908 and thereafter pursued an academic career.

He began his teaching career in Tokyo, Japan, being appointed professor of economics and politics at University of Keio, Tokyo, from 1908 to 1914. While there he wrote the *Political History of Japan and Present-Day Japanese Government* (1914), a work still cited by scholars today. He then joined the staff of Williams College (Williamstown, Massachusetts). He was also appointed economist for Far Eastern countries in the United States Department of State, secretary to the American delegation and chief of the international secretariat at the Washington Conference on Electrical Communications in 1920, executive secretary of the Institute of Politics at Williamstown (which taught government officials from around the world), and chairman of the executive committee of the Conference on Canadian-American

Affairs in 1935, which brought him back to Canada frequently in negotiations with Canadian government officials regarding trade relationships between the two countries. He received honorary doctorates from Lawrence College (Wisconsin) and Queen's University, retired in the late 1940s, and moved to Pasadena, California, where he died in 1970 at 93 years of age.

1903 Executive Committee Members

Nowhere on the Reverend Doctor's *curriculum vitae* was it ever mentioned that McLaren was a founding father of the Picton Golf Club.

Yet the *Picton Gazette* said in 1937 that another person who served alongside vice-president McLaren on the 1903 executive committee as its treasurer, Edward Augustus Bog, "was a co-founder of the county's first golf club" (*Picton Gazette*, 1937, cited in *Picton Gazette*, 20 April 2017, p. 8).

McLaren and Bog were listed along with the other officers in the *Daily British Whig* in March of 1903:

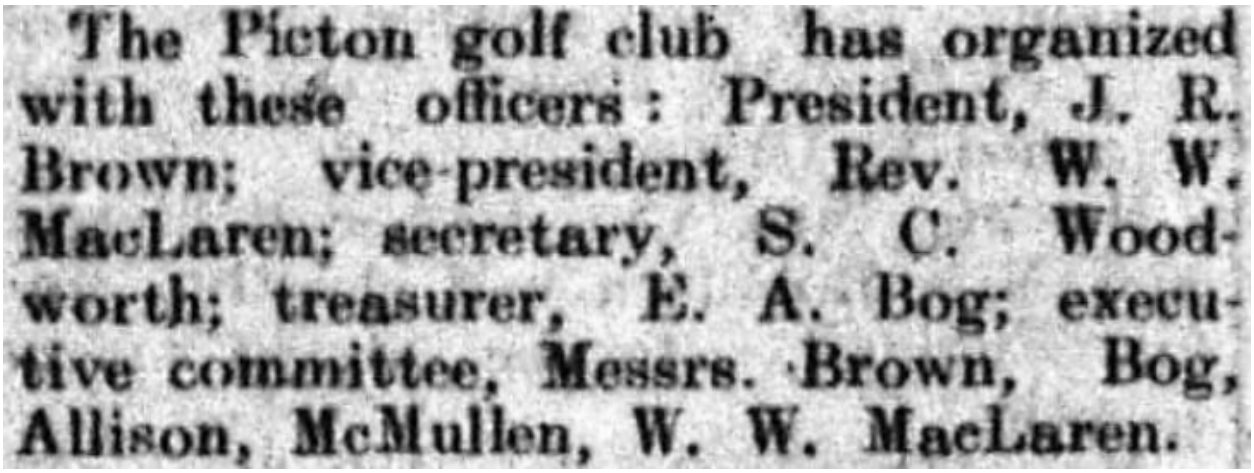

The Picton golf club has organized with these officers: President, J. R. Brown; vice-president, Rev. W. W. MacLaren; secretary, S. C. Wood-worth; treasurer, E. A. Bog; execu-tive committee, Messrs. Brown, Bog, Allison, McMullen, W. W. MacLaren.

Figure 17 Daily British Whig*, 28 March 1903, p. 4.*

Born in Picton in 1858, Bog was a banker. He worked in the Campbellford branch of the Standard Bank from 1883 to 1900, serving most of that time as manager, but he was then transferred to the Picton branch to serve as its manager. But he was also a man on the rise, for he was concurrently serving as the Standard Bank of Canada's Assistant Inspector.

Bog immediately entered into Picton public life. In 1902, he was named a future public-school trustee (for the 1904 year). He served that year as vice-president of the Picton cricket club and as honorary president of the Picton association football club, but in terms of his avocations, his enthusiasm for golf was perhaps rivalled only by his enthusiasm for gardening: Bog was secretary of the Campbellford Horticultural Society in 1899; he worked his way up to president of the Picton Horticultural Society by 1904. But just when he became king of the horticultural castle, Bog was appointed Chief Inspector of the Standard Bank and had to move to Toronto.

Bog was the only member of the 1903 Executive Committee of the Picton Golf club not on the 1904 executive committee, presumably unable to serve because he was moving to Toronto.

As of 1905, Bog appears in directories for the city of Toronto, where he and his wife took up residence in "The St George Apartments." They were listed thereafter in the "Society Bluebook" for Toronto, Hamilton, and London. He eventually retired to Picton, and when he died there in 1937, the newspaper observed two facts about him: first, "The Picton native was a financial wizard and he rose to become the chief inspector with the Standard Bank"; second, "Bog was a co-founder of the county's first golf club, which was located on East Lake Road" (*Picton Gazette*, 1937, cited in *Picton Gazette*, 20 April 1917, p. 8).

Residing in Picton for just four years at the turn of the century, Bog nevertheless left a lasting mark on the history of the Picton Golf Club.

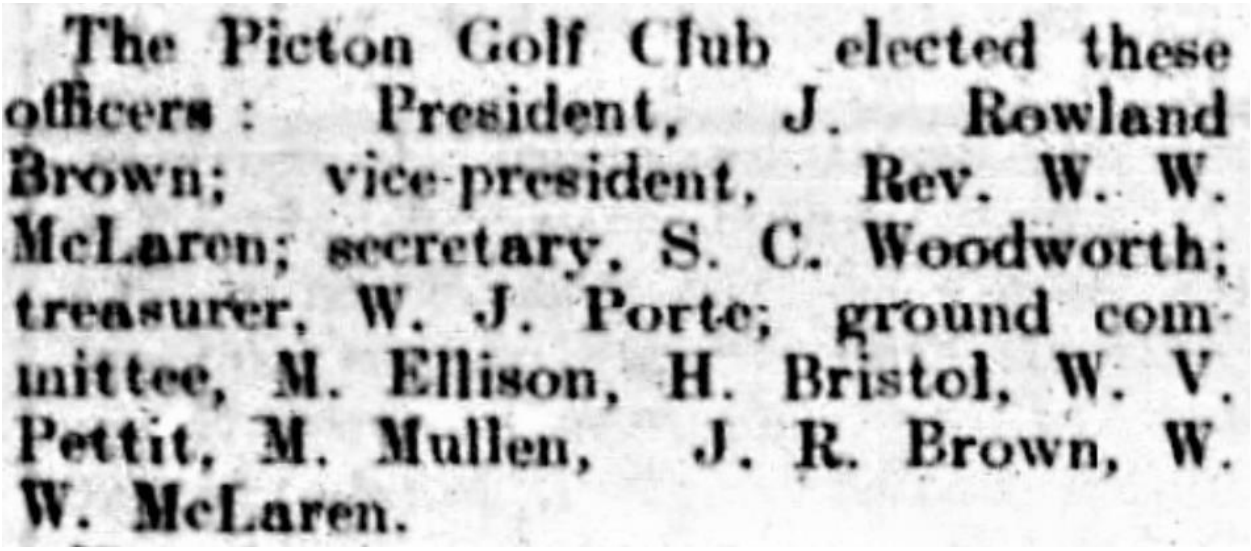
Like vice-president McLaren, 1903 and 1904 club president James Roland (or sometimes Rowland) Brown was never spoken of as a co-founder of the golf club, but he seems to deserve as high a standing as a founding father of the club as any of the members of the first executive committees.

Born in 1855, Brown was a Picton barrister and solicitor. He was called to the bar in 1881 and had practised law for many years before he took up golf. In the early 1880s, he established a law office in Picton, taking a partner there in 1885. He had been appointed King's Council (or Crown Attorney) by 1892. In 1898 he was elected vice-president of the Picton Horticultural Society. He served again as vice-president in 1904, when Bog was president. He himself had served as president in 1899, with Mrs. H.B. Bristol serving as his vice-president (her husband would become a member of the golf club's executive committee in 1904). When Brown died in 1913, the *Daily British Whig* said that "Picton has lost one of its best citizens in the death of James Roland Brown, the well-known county crown attorney of Prince Edward County" (30 August 1913, p. 8).

The club secretary in 1903 and 1904 was Sandford C. Woodworth, born in 1849 in Crowland Township, near Welland, Ontario. Like Bog and McLaren, he had arrived in Picton only recently. He had begun his career as a teacher in the late 1860s in Elgin County, Ontario, teaching in Ontario's Model Schools (county-based schools for training students to become teachers). By the early 1880s he had become a Principal and served as such at a number of schools in succession. In the late 1890s he was the Principal of a Model School in Welland, his old stomping grounds. But in 1901 he received an appointment in Picton. Like Bog and McClaren, one the first things he did when he arrived in town was to join the golf club. But he also loved soccer, serving as vice-president of the Picton association football club in 1902.

There were two other members of the 1903 executive committee, officers without Portfolio: Allison and McMullen. The newspaper gives them neither first names nor initials.

"Allison" seems to have been Malcom R. Allison, a barrister. He was the same age as McPhail, having been born 1864, which made him the second-youngest person on the executive committee. He was on the cusp of a substantial legal and political career. He was elected Mayor of Picton at the end of World War I. He was appointed a Crown Attorney, and he was appointed Clerk of the Peace for Prince Edward County. (In the *Daily British Whig*'s list of 1904 executive committee members, his name seems to have been misspelled as "M. Ellison." There is no person named Ellison living in Prince Edward County at the time of the 1901 Canadian Census.)



The Picton Golf Club elected these officers: President, J. Rowland Brown; vice-president, Rev. W. W. McLaren; secretary, S. C. Woodworth; treasurer, W. J. Porte; ground committee, M. Ellison, H. Bristol, W. V. Pettit, M. Mullen, J. R. Brown, W. W. McLaren.

Figure 18 Daily British Whig*, 28 March 1904, p. 2. The information in this item seems to have been transmitted to Kingston via a poor telephone connection: Roland is misspelled Rowland; the wrong Porte is listed; Allison is misspelled Ellison; Pettet is misspelled Pettit; McMullen becomes M. Mullen.*

The McMullen in question is probably one of two brothers: George Whitman McMullen or Harvard Conger McMullen. These brothers were two of the twelve offspring of Daniel McMullen, the first Methodist preacher in Prince Edward County.

George McMullen, born in 1844, left Picton at a young age for Chicago, and, along with another brother, became a successful businessman there by his mid twenties. In the 1870s, he became involved in providing American backers for the trans-Canada railway being built by John A. Macdonald's government. McMullen's exposure of unethical behaviour by Macdonald's government and some of the businessmen with whom he was dealing led to Macdonald's defeat as a result of what became known as the "Pacific Scandal." Undeterred by his sullied reputation in Canada, McMullen prospered in dozens of

other business ventures, focussing in Prince Edward County on the development of railway lines running north from Prince Edward County into southern Ontario's mining areas, from which ore was brought to ports along Lake Ontario for delivery to American industries.

In later life back in Picton, McMullen also led another life as experimenter and inventor. In 1910, he had his lawyer, Picton Golf Club president J. Rowland Brown, negotiate options on boggy lands to the west of Picton along the East Lake Road. Purchasing a large part of this area, he built an experimental farm, machine shop, and laboratory. He and his three sons built huge dams and causeways to control water levels and stream water flow through areas growing various crops and hosting various species of waterfowl. They experimented with the growing of mushrooms, celery, ginseng, and sugar turnips; they produced maple syrup; they raised chickens; they manufactured explosives. They had a drying kiln where they dried various kinds of food, including eggs and milk. In 1914, McMullen and his eldest son George Barrett McMullen received a U.S. patent for a process enabling the preservation of railway ties by a special kiln-drying process that infused them with a creosote oil-mixture made from the wood tar of beech trees.

But then, in 1915, G.W. McMullen unexpectedly died of a heart attack while visiting his brother in Chicago, and then, just four years later, his son George Barrett McMullen, who continued his father's work, also died prematurely. With the deaths of their most eccentric leaders, the McMullen family saw its experimental energies dissipate in the succeeding years, and eventually the property was sold.

Now government-owned, this site is known as the Beaver Meadow Conservation Area, and the remnants of the eccentric McMullen enterprise are fast disappearing under a tangle of vegetation.

Brother Harvard Conger McMullen, born in 1838, worked with George in the railway business in Prince Edward County. He never wandered far from home. In fact, he became a local politician. In 1904, he defeated a large number of opponents to win the contest for mayor of Picton. In 1908, not able to secure the nomination of the Liberal Party for the provincial election, he ran as an independent liberal, earning the scorn of his opponents: "As far as the candidature of Harvard McMullen, as an independent liberal, is concerned, he is being treated as a huge joke" (*Daily British Whig*, 23 September 1908, p. 1). But Harvard McMullen always soldiered on. In 1911, he became the agent in Prince Edward County for the Children's Aid Society.

As George Whitman McMullen's son George "Barrett" McMullen eventually also became a member of the club's executive committee after his father died in 1915, I presume that it was probably his father

who was the McMullen on the 1903 executive committee – father passing on to son not just his eccentric business activities, but also his love of golf. As George Barrett McMullen himself was just nineteen in 1903, however, it seems unlikely that he was the McMullen who was a member of that year's executive committee.

The McMullen in question also seems to have served on the executive committee in 1904. Although there is a mysterious figure named "M. Mullen" in the *Daily British Whig*'s item about the 1904 executive committee, I assume this name to have been produced by a compositor's mistaking a small "c" for a period, accidentally turning McMullen into M. Mullen. (In the 1901 Canadian Census, there is only one person named Mullen in Prince Edward County: Margaret Mullen, a servant.)

The 1904 Executive Committee

Bog was the only person from the 1903 executive committee who did not appear on the 1904 committee. Yet he was more than replaced on the 1904 committee; two more members were added to the new committee.

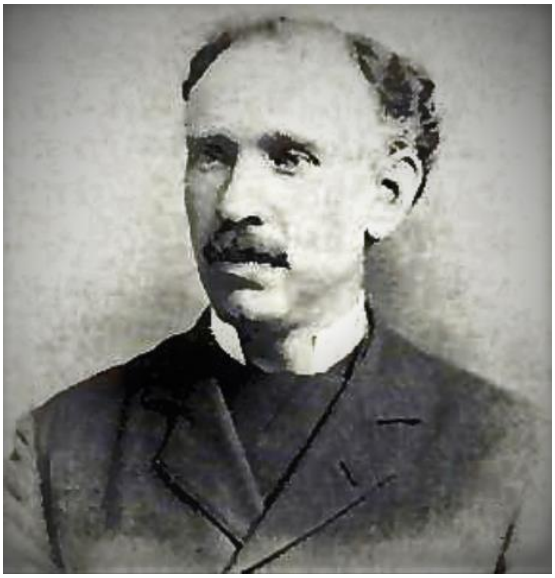


Figure 19 William Varney Pettet, 1857 - 1938.

One of the new executive committee members was a man named William Varney Pettet. Born in 1857, Pettet was by the end of the nineteenth century a farmer-turned-politician. In a long campaign for the provincial legislature, he was from 1895 to 1896 the Prince Edward County candidate for the brand-new provincial Patrons of Industry party, winning election in 1896 to Queen's Park. The party lasted for just a one term. He ran as an independent in 1900 and eventually became heavily involved in the provincial Liberal party.

He was perhaps a bit of a rascal, an inverse of Solomon in his practical wisdom: in 1899, he was in charge of filling the vacant postmaster position in Picton, a patronage appointment for which there were between 30 and forty applicants – a difficult situation that he resolved by temporarily appointing himself postmaster! He was properly awarded the position in 1908 and served in it for six years.

Pettet went on to become secretary of the Prince Edward Liberal Association, holding the office for 20 years. He was also "paymaster with the old Bay of Quinte Regiment, holding the rank of Major" (*Ottawa Citizen*, 22 June 1938, p. 14).

Pettet regularly served on the executive committee of the Picton Golf Club for decades to come.

The *Daily British Whig*'s naming of W.J. Porte as 1904 treasurer of the Picton Golf Club is a mistake. William James Porte, who had immigrated to Picton from County Wexford Ireland in 1854 and worked in town for 45 years as watchmaker and jeweler, had died on Christmas morning of 1899. He had been joined in his business since the late 1870s by his son James H. Porte, born in 1862, who was presumably the one who had been elected treasurer of the Picton Golf Club in 1904. The Portes maintained their shop in the same downtown building that is still known as the Porte building today. The same year he

was elected treasurer of the Picton Golf Club, Porte was also elected treasurer of the management committee of the Glenora-Adolphustown ferry. He was named a public-school trustee for 1905. In 1910, he was elected Mayor of Picton. More than twenty-five years after first being named to the executive committee of the Picton golf Club as treasurer, James Porte was elected president in 1930.

Figure 20 Hazard Benjamin Bristol, 1856 - 1936. Canadian Golfer *vol 16 no 9 (January 1931), p. 693.*

From the perspective of later club history, perhaps the most important new person named to the 1904 executive committee was Hazard Benjamin Bristol, an important Picton merchant and owner of Picton's Canadian Department Stores, an enterprise that H.B. Bristol built up from the store his father had started in the 1850s and bequeathed to him in the early 1900s:

> *He was born at Newburgh in 1856, attended school until he was sixteen, and then spent some time upon the survey of the Central Ontario Railway. He served in the Council and was active in making changes to the electric light system, having served upon the Board of Commissioners of Light and Heat since 1900. It must be gratifying to father and son alike to note the great advance from the first general store at Hallowell Bridge to the metropolitan proportions of the triple fronted emporium of general dry goods now known as "A. Bristol & Son." Mr. Hazard Bristol has been in partnership with his father since 1897, and in the conduct of his store employs … all modern methods of handling his wares and serving the public. He goes to Europe twice a year, to purchase goods, and has crossed the ocean a number of times. (William Felix Edmund Morley*, Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte *[Toronto: Rolph and Clarke, 1904], p. 164)*

Hazard Bristol thereby became a very experienced traveller: in 1910, in fact, he set the record for the fastest trip from London, England, to Picton (he covered the distance in one hour less than seven days).

Bristol's store was eventually sold to the Eaton's company in 1928 (when Hazard Bristol retired after 53 years of business in Picton).

Bristol was much more than a local store owner. He was active in the Reform Association of the Liberal Party, being elected to its Council for Eastern Ontario in 1897. He was one of the first commissioners of Picton's Public Utilities Commission. He was honorary president of Picton's cricket club in 1902. He was a charter member of the Canadian Seniors' Golf Association, and of course he has long been regarded as an important figure in the establishment of the Picton Golf Club. He served in various capacities on the club's executive committee for three decades, frequently serving as president, and he also donated the original trophy for the men's club championship.

The First Clubhouse

The 1904 executive committee was the first to name a "ground committee," and it was responsible for building the first clubhouse, about which the Kingston newspaper jested:

A Sporty Theft.

Thieves broke into the Picton golf club house the other day and stole all the balls. Entrance was gained by taking the pins out of the hinges and removing the windows.

Figure 21 Daily British Whig*, 1 June 1906, p. 8.*

GOLF BALLS!
GOLF BALLS!
GOLF BALLS!

Going! Going! Going!
For a Short Time Only

The Famous Kite Ball
The Famous Roc Ball
The Genuine Colonel
Ace
Professional Red Dot
Professional Yellow Dot

$6.00 per dozen Cash

The Eagle $5.50 per doz.
The Falcon $5.00 per doz.
The Hawk $4.00 per doz.
Recovered Balls $3.75 doz.
Or One Doz. Old Ones $2.75

Every ball guaranteed unsplitable. Special prices on gross lots.

Figure 22 Ottawa Citizen*, 21 June 1907, p. 8.*

Regarding the value of a golf ball at the time of this outrage, consider the following facts.

In Ottawa at this time, George Sargent, the golf professional of the only golf club in the area, the Ottawa Golf Club, was offering a relatively large assortment of golf balls. The top brands were selling for $6 per dozen, and even "Old Ones" or "Recovered Balls" were fairly expensive. A single golf ball would have cost about 50 cents.

At this time in Almonte, Ontario, a town about the same size then as Picton was, the annual membership fee of the Almonte Golf Club was $2, so in that town a golf ball cost the equivalent of 25% of a person's membership at the golf club!

Perhaps it is not surprising, then, that one of the most common prizes for winning a club tournament at the Ottawa Golf Club in those days was a single golf ball.

The Picton clubhouse is first mentioned in the *Daily British Whig* in 1904: "The golf club … intend erecting a small club house on their links this year" (27 May 1904). Perhaps its main function was simply to store clubs and balls, as was the case for one of the buildings at the Napanee Golf Club at this time.

Figure 23 The outbuilding for storing golf clubs at the Napanee Golf Club circa 1906. Club member Mary Vrooman stands in front of it. Photograph N-08790 courtesy of Lennox and Addington County Museum and Archives.

The newspaper indicates that the window pins of the Picton clubhouse were accessible to thieves from the outside, which suggests that the building was not designed with much concern for security.

It would have been quite understandable if in 1904 the Picton Golf Club had refrained from building a substantial clubhouse with kitchen, dining room, members' lounge, and changing rooms, for it does not seem to have had much control over the land on which its golf course was laid out.

Yet we recall that after the club's match against Napanee in May of 1904, "The ladies of the club served a delightful supper" (*Daily British Whig*, 26 May 1904, p. 8). Exactly one year later, the report after a similar match is the same: "The ladies of the club served a delicious supper after the game" (*Daily British Whig*, 27 May 1905, p. 4).

One supper was "delicious"; the other was "delightful." The question is where the meal was served and where the meal was made.

Was the meal served at the clubhouse? Did the clubhouse have a dining room?

Was the meal prepared at the clubhouse? Did the clubhouse have a kitchen?

Whatever the size and amenities of this clubhouse, however, to have had any sort of clubhouse on a permanent golf course was golf luxury from 1904 to 1906 compared to the homeless condition of the golf pioneers who accompanied Macphail just a decade earlier in search of any "suitable open ground" for playing the royal and ancient game.

“First Directors”…. Really?

In its 1930 discussion of the early history of the Picton Golf Club, the *Picton Gazette* mentions that “The first directors were: H.B. Bristol, D.J. Barker, J.R. Brown, S.B. Gearing, W.V. Pettet, J. de C. Hepburn and M.R. Allison” (cited *Canadian Golfer*, vol 16 no 9 [January 1931], p. 693).

There are three new figures here: David John Barker, Sidney Barker Gearing, and James de Congalton Hepburn. Gearing had replaced Bog as manager of the Standard Bank; Barker was owner of the thriving Picton Foundry and possessed a new patent on an innovative stove design; Hepburn was the son of shipping magnate A.W. Hepburn.

James de C. Hepburn was also general manager and passenger agent for the Ontario and Quebec Navigation Company, and he was later elected MLA for Prince Edward County, serving briefly as House Speaker. He was also an officer of the Bay of Quinte Yacht Club at Picton. Born in 1878, Hepburn would have been in his late teens when Macphail began playing golf on “suitable open ground” in Picton and may have been one of the “young men of the town” that the presbyter proselytized on behalf of golf.

In the *Picton Gazette* article of 1930, there is no mention of McLaren, Woodworth, McMullen, Bog – all members of the executive committee in 1903, the latter of whom was later described by the *Picton Gazette* as a co-founder of the county’s first golf club!

Furthermore, note that one of these so-called “first directors,” Gearing, did not even come to town until 1905, when he arrived from Brighton to become Bog’s replacement as manager of the Standard Bank, so he was not even around when the not-yet-incorporated Picton Golf Club was electing its first executive committee in 1902.

He cannot have been one of the “first directors” of the Picton Golf Club.

Of course he could have been one of the first directors of the newly incorporated golf club of 1907, which is probably what the *Picton Gazette*’s list represents.

A New Location and the Prodigal Macphails

Fred Rose says that "The land to establish the golf course was obtained from Louise A. Stafford in 1907" (*Picton Gazette* 1980). The *Picton Gazette* says that the land for the golf club's first nine-hole golf course was "purchased from John Laird and others in 1907" (cited in *Canadian Golfer*, vol 16 no 9 [January 1931], p. 693). Several parcels of land seem to have been put together at this time.

As we shall see, it turns out that two main parcels of land were bought at two separate times: first, a parcel on the south side of the highway; second, a year or two later, another parcel on the north side of the highway.

The clubhouse and the first nine-hole course were immediately built on the south side of the highway.

In a curious twist of fate, during the summer that the Picton Golf Club built its first nine-hole golf curse, D.J. Macphail returned to town. He was on another proselytizing mission:

> *Rev. D.J. Macphail, who is associated in the interests of the endowment fund of Queen's University, has been in town the past week, looking up possible students to enter the Kingston college this fall. It is likely that Picton High School will send down some six students to augment the Prince Edward contingent already studying there. (*Daily British Whig*, 30 July 1907, p. 4).*

Macphail had left town, but he had not been forgotten during the years he had been away, both because the friendships that he had made in town between 1892 and 1902 were strong and lasting, and because his name was in the news.

He had left Picton for Frank, Alberta (near Crow's Nest Past), in the summer of 1902. Louise Macphail and their children had remained behind in Ontario for a while with relatives, but they had joined him by the end of the year. In the spring of 1903, Macphail and his family survived one of the most extraordinary natural disasters in Canadian history:

> *Stirred by the call and lure of the West, he left Picton and for a time labored at Frank, southern Alberta – at the time an active mining centre. He was there when the great mountain slide took place in April of 1903, wiping out a wing of the town, sealing up a valuable coal mine, and burying some 70 people in the ruins. (*Perth Courier*, 28 August 1918)*

Amid the confusion of the breaking news published in Ontario after the catastrophe occurred, it was implied that friends and relatives of Macphail should prepare for the worst:

> *About 4 a.m. Wednesday morning the inhabitants of the small mining town of Frank, Alberta, were aroused from slumber by the tremblings of an earthquake which quickly became worse, the earth opened for about three-quarters of a mile, and Turtle Mountain nearby commenced to throw out vast quantities of rock, which buried the town and the mine entrances, causing … the almost complete demolition of the town…. The town was provided with a large school, Presbyterian and Methodist churches, and hospital. The school and Presbyterian church were situated beneath the main street and the river and were altogether likely destroyed. The Presbyterian clergyman is Rev. D.J. McPhail, formerly of Ontario, son-in-law of Judge Britton. (*Almonte Gazette*, 1 May 1903, p. 5)*

Figure 24 View in the background of the missing side of Turtle Mountain; in the foregound is the rocky debris covering the town of Frank, Alberta. Photograph NA-3011-4 Glenbow Archives.

But then prayers were answered when the *Ottawa Citizen* published the following:

> ***Rev. D.J. McPhail Is Safe***
>
> *Kingston, April 30. – Mrs. Britton, wife of Justice Britton of Toronto, and her daughter and son in this city, were notified last night of the safety of Rev. D.G. McPhail and family from the Frank disaster. Mrs. McPhail is a daughter of the judge, and her husband is the Presbyterian missionary in the Crow's Nest Pass district. Mr. McPhail was formerly of Perth and Picton. (*Ottawa Citizen*, 1 May 1903, p. 2).*

It turns out that both Reverend Macphail and Louise Macphail were heroes of the rescue effort.

The *Vancouver Province* says that "Macphail … headed the first rescue party of the slide" (1 May 1933, p. 6). According to the *Nelson Star*, "one of the first rescuers on the scene was … Macphail," who apparently "heard a baby crying, and found the infant daughter of the [Leitch] family lying in a pile of debris, partly sheltered by the angle of a broken roof" (1 May 2015).

As fate would have it, this baby grew up and changed her name to Macphail when she married a man of that name (not related to Reverend Macphail).

Figure 25 Rescue parties seen on top of the debris burying the town of Frank the morning after the landslide. Photograph NA-411-6 Glenbow Archives.

We know of Louise Macphail's experience during the disaster because a young schoolteacher named Ethel Rhynas, who had just arrived in Frank for her first job, happened to mention it in a letter she wrote to her mother. Without training as a nurse or having any hospital experience, Louise Macphail's was pressed into service attending to mangled bodies and assisting doctors in operations to close gaping wounds and remove crushed limbs:

Figure 26 Louise Macphail, 1918, posing with students of the newly opened Avonmore residence for women that she supervised at Queen's University.

*Being done out with nursing and working with the wounded and pacifying the surviving members of families, they brought me to Blairmore to sleep [two days ago] …. I am writing this beside Mrs. D.G. McPhail, who gave up [her work just] last night. I am not going to leave her for I fear she has gone through so much; she is very ill. As long as she could stand it at the hospital, it was she who aided the doctors in operations. She dressed the dead, washed the ugly wounds of the suffering, etc. Shall I tell you all?... I shall not leave her until she is better, for she is the best of friends to me, and I like her very much. (*Daily British Whig*, 6 June 1903, p. 3).*

Louise Macphail went on to serve as the supervisor of the Avonmore women's residence at Queen's University, where she evoked from students the same sort of love and loyalty seen in the example of the young teacher above:

> *One of the reasons for the popularity of The Avonmore was the personality of the first House Mother – Mrs. D.G. Macphail, or Mother Macphail as every girl came to know her. She was the most wonderful person imaginable. She had the warmest personality, the most outgoing type, with a keen sense of humour and every other good quality I can think of, including true unselfishness. "To know her was to love her." None of those who ever came under her sway could ever let her go again and kept in touch with her until her death. How much influence for good she was responsible for in our lives will never be known. (Lorraine Shortt, "The Avonmore," in Queen's University Alumnae Association 1900-1961 and Women's Residences at Queen's, ed. Mary MacPhail [1962], pp. 19-20).*

The Macphails served for several more years in Alberta, both at Frank and at Pincher Creek, but Macphail resigned his position at Pincher Creek in October of 1906 and the family returned to Ontario. One year later, "Rev. D.G. MacPhail … received and accepted a call from the Presbyterian church at Cayuga, Ont." (*Daily British Whig*, 7 October 1907, p. 8).

The Macphail family would stay at Cayuga for nine years. It came to rival Picton in terms of the place that the family most associated with "home."

Whether living in Cayuga or Alberta, however, the Macphails regularly visited Picton to see friends in the area. We read in 1904 that "The Reverend Donald G. McPhail, with Mrs. McPhail and their wee daughters, are staying in Picton, and are being entertained by various friends, who are delighted to find them looking so well" (Daily British Whig, 9 January 1904, p. 3). The Macphails were in Pincher Creek in the winter of 1905 when Louise McPhail's mother died and Louise came back to Toronto alone to be with her father. But the whole family came back to Picton for Christmas: "The Reverend D.G. and Mrs. McPhail are coming east shortly. They will visit both here [Kingston] and Picton" (*Daily British Whig*, 21 December 1905, p. 5). Reverend Macphail's father died on Christmas Eve, so the family prolonged their stay until February.

While in Picton on this "furlough" from the church at Pincher Creek, Reverend Macphail even baptized a baby in Picton!

As mentioned above, the family spent time in Picton again in 1907: "Rev. D.J. MacPhail is in town for a week, guest of Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Ross, 'The Gables'" (*Daily British Whig*, 25 July 1907, p. 7). This was the precise time when work was underway on the Picton Golf Club's new property.

During this time in Picton at the end of July and beginning of August, Louise Macphail also travelled to Glenora to visit friends there, so her husband spent at least part of the time fishing while she was socializing:

> *Rev. Mr. Macpahil reports the best fish story of the season. He spent a day or so … at Glenora and while there went fishing on the Lake-on-the-Mountain. While lazily waiting and watching, hoping to hook a few perch, he saw a dark object rise to the lake's surface. He rowed over and there quietly lay a fine 18-inch pike. It made no move at his approach and he seized the fish under the gills and threw it in his boat. Immediately from out the pike's mouth flopped a two-pound black bass. The larger fish had endeavored to swallow the bass but the meal had proved too much for it. A struggle between the two finnies ensued and it was when worn out with exertion that they were caught. To Mr. Macphail goes the unusual distinction of catching two fish with his hand. (*Daily British Whig*, 30 July 1907, p. 4)*

The story above was reported in the *Daily British Whig* on 30 July 1907. Below it was the following:

> *Work has commenced on the new club house being built on the property but recently acquired by the Picton Golf Club. The building, which is somewhat small, will, however, be thoroughly complete. It is to have four good-sized rooms, a kitchen, a general room, a ladies' sitting room, and gentlemen's smoking compartments. It is situated on the bay shore near historic Hallowell Mills. (p. 4)*

While he was living in the Picton area at the end of July and beginning of August in 1907, Macphail no doubt inspected the recently acquired property of the Picton Golf Club. The new clubhouse under construction would have been obvious from the road. Surely he would have taken some satisfaction in seeing what his introduction of golf to the town ten years before had come to.

And if the new nine-hole golf course had been laid out by then, he will no doubt have inspected it, too, and perhaps even have played a round of golf on it with old friends.

Figure 27 Clubhouse of the Picton Golf club, shortly after its completion in 1907.

The First Nine-Hole Layout

Could the club's new nine-hole golf course have been in operation by the beginning of August in 1907?

It seems so.

Figure 28 John D. Lipson. Picton Gazette*, 23 May 2007, p. 12.*

John D. Lipson writes that "The precise origins of the original nine are shrouded in the mists of time. We don't know who designed or built it" (*Picton Gazette*, 23 May 2007, p. 12).

Since he wrote this, however, the mist between the club's present and the club's past has dissipated just a little bit, for now accessible online are the old issues of Hazard Bristol's favorite golf magazine, *Canadian Golfer*, and in the January issue of 1931 we learn from Bristol himself the identity of the golf architect who laid out the original nine holes.

Bristol had become friendly with Ralph A. Reville, editor of *Canadian Golfer*. In 1924, he had written Reville a fan letter, which the editor liked so much that he published it:

> *You are to be congratulated on having made such an excellent magazine of the 'Canadian Golfer' in the ten years it has been published. I find I cannot do without it, as I get from it golf news of Great Britain and the United States, as well as our own, better and fuller than in any golf magazine I know of. (*Canadian Golfer*, vol 10 no 2 [June 1924], p. 166)*

Reville frequently reported on news of the Picton Golf Club, and he was very complimentary of Bristol: "Mr. Bristol … has done so much for golf in Picton …. Picton owes much, very much, to Mr. Bristol" (*Canadian Golfer*, vol 16 no 9 [January 1931], p. 693).

In fact, it seems likely that most of what Reville knew about the Picton Golf Club was told to him over the course of twenty years by Britsol. When he wrote in a 1920 issue of his magazine that the "Picton links … were laid out by George Cumming a dozen years ago," he was probably conveying information provided to him by Bristol (vol 6 no 4 [August 1920], p. 276). In connection with an article on the Picton Golf Club that Reville published in 1931, Bristol reminded Reville that "Our first links were laid out by

Geo. Cumming more than twenty years ago and were only 1,900 yards in length" (*Canadian Golfer*, vol 16 no 9 [January 1931], p. 694).

This first short nine-hole layout presumably fit within the land between the highway and the bay, looping in a semi-circle around the clubhouse in the centre.

A length of 1,900 yards seems short by contemporary standards, but it was not an unusual length for a nine-hole course in 1907. At Saint John, New Brunswick, for instance, "The original course was a five-hole layout with the longest hole being 200 yards." Note that even when "The course quickly became overcrowded and in 1901 was extended to a 9-hole layout of about 2,000 yards," the average length of holes was still less than 225 yards (https://www.riversidecountryclub.ca/news/a-brief-history-of-the-riverside-country-club). Note that golf holes of 200-225 yards were deemed appropriate four-shot holes in days of yore. In Almonte in 1902, James Black, the golf professional of the Royal Montreal Golf Club, laid out a nine-hole course of about 1,700 yards in length. In Almonte in 1907, Ottawa Golf Club golf professional George Sargent, who would win the 1909 U.S. Open, laid out a new nine-hole course of about 1,600 yards in length.

George Cumming

George Cumming was the most active golf course designer in Ontario in the early 1900s, and he was the most well-known in those days.

Observing that Cumming "was one of the earliest Canadian golf course architects," contemporary Canadian golf architect and historian Ian Andrew suggests that "he was likely selected initially to design courses because of his Scottish heritage and his place of prominence at Toronto Golf Club, but Cumming turned out to be an excellent architect in his own right" ("The Architectural Evolution of Stanley Thompson" [2007] https://golfclubatlas.com/in-my-opinion/ianandrew-architectural-evolution-of-stanley-thompson/).

Figure 29 George Cumming, early 1900s.

Cumming actually had the biggest name in Canadian golf at the beginning of the twentieth century. His hiring at the Toronto Golf Club in 1900 was news not just in Toronto, but all across Ontario, as we can see from a contemporary item in Kingston's *Daily Whig* that announces his coming: "The Toronto Golf Club has secured the services of George Cumming, Dumfries, Scotland, as professional coach. He is now on his way to Canada" (*Daily Whig*, 17 March 1900). A mere twenty years old, Cumming had just graduated from his seven-year apprenticeship to Glasgow's Andrew Forgan, a renowned Scottish golf professional and golf course architect. Forgan had taken Cumming along on the latter's first experience in golf course design in 1893, when Cumming had just turned thirteen. The Kingston newspaper announced young Cumming's hiring by the Toronto Golf Club because the latter was one of the oldest, and at the time certainly the most important and most prestigious, of the golf clubs in Ontario and so its head pro was implicitly Ontario's head pro.

Serving as the head pro at the Toronto Golf Club from 1900 to 1950, Cumming has been known ever since as the "doyen" of Canadian golf professionals, for he trained as apprentices a majority of the first

generation of golf professionals who would subsequently fan out across golf clubs from coast to coast in Canada during the first third of the twentieth century and become the primary agents in the establishment of golf as a popular game in Canada. In recognition of his role as progenitor of at least thirty golf professionals from his pro shop at the Toronto Golf Club, another name given to Cumming was "Daddy of them all" (*Canadian Golfer*, October 1919, vol 5 no 6, p. 341). When he won the Toronto and District Professional Championship in 1919 by five strokes, vanquishing very accomplished former apprentices while doing so, *Canadian Golfer* wrote: "George Cumming's victory was a particularly popular one. He has done much for golf in Canada, having trained Karl Keffer, C.R. Murray, A.H. Murray, Nicol Thompson, W.M. Freeman, Frank Freeman, and the majority of the younger pros in Canada. He and his pupils have won the Open Championship of Canada no fewer than seven times and been runner-up on six occasions – certainly a most unique record" (vol 5 no 6 [October 1919], pp. 341-42).

When the Picton Golf Club decided to hire a golf architect to lay out its fist nine-hole golf course, it went for the best. George Cumming was universally regarded as the most important golf professional in Canada in 1907, approached by all sorts of clubs not just for recommendations regarding young professionals available for hire, but also for advice on golf course location and construction. He went about Ontario all the while he was head pro at the Toronto Golf Club building dozens of golf courses, and he took his apprentices along with him to teach them this aspect of the golf professional's craft. He designed dozens of courses, from the Summit Club in Toronto, a number of courses in the Muskoka Lakes, the Couchiching Golf Club in Orillia, and the Rivermead Golf Club near Ottawa, all before 1915, to Gatineau's Chaudière Golf Club (now Chateau Cartier Golf Club) in 1922 and the Renfrew course in 1929. He built golf courses in Ontario, Quebec, and Alberta.

As a golf course architect, Cumming was the mentor of Stanley Thompson and his brother Nicol. As Andrew explains, when Stanley Thompson returned from service overseas with the Canadian Expeditionary Force after World War I, he

> *promptly joined his brother Nicol Thompson, the head professional at Hamilton Golf & Country Club, and George Cumming, the head professional at Toronto Golf Club, in their golf design business. Their company was named Thompson, Cumming and Thompson…. After a very short period both Nicol and George found they needed to make a decision between their jobs as golf professionals and club makers and their business as architects. Both retreated to the stability of their clubs, leaving Stanley with an incredible amount of work. He first reorganized the company as Lewis &*

Thompson, following an arrangement with an American construction firm, in 1921, but that was quickly dissolved. He then formed Stanley Thompson and Company the following year. ("The Architectural Evolution of Stanley Thompson").

Figure 30 The golfing Thompson brothers, circa 1923. Left to right:: Matthew, Frank, Nicol, Stanley, William.

Andrew further explains that "George would have been a mentor for both Nicol and Stanley Thompson":

When you take Cumming's experience and the close relationship he had with Stanley Thompson, it would be most likely that George Cumming was the first to teach the young man how to route and build a golf course. Their routing styles are remarkably similar, with both using short holes for drama and long holes to traverse lesser land. Both sought elevated tees, raised green sites and natural plateaus…. Neither designer minded a blind shot if the green site beyond was worth it. ("The Architectural Evolution of Stanley Thompson").

Cumming's Technique in 1906

In *A Century of Greenkeeping* (Michigan: Ann Arbor Press, 2001), Gordon Witteveen presents an account by early Canadian greenkeeper Fred Hawkins of George Cumming laying out a course in 1906, about a year before he arrived in Picton to lay out its first nine-hole course:

> *I would like to tell you of my first experience in seeing a golf course laid out. The club I am speaking of was a 9-hole course under the supervision of the professional [George Cumming], who had under him a head groundsman, as he was called in those days. This professional, who in later years was recognized as one of the leading golf architects, was about to lay out nine more holes and as he was trying to get me interested in golf, he invited me along.*
>
> *We started out with the groundsman carrying a bundle of stakes and a hammer until we came to a spot where they drove in four stakes 12 ft apart, which they called the 10th tee. After travelling further on, they drove in a stake, walked around it, then decided to take it a few yards further down into a hollow where they drove in four stakes 24 yards apart. This was the 10th green. I asked why they moved it from the first position and was told that the green would get more moisture down there. This was the procedure all around the course. The only difference being that they made one or two greens round instead of square.*
>
> *What bunkers were put in were across the fairway, pits of about one foot deep, eight feet wide and twenty-five feet long, with the soil thrown to the back about two feet high. Their method of making greens was simply to cut and roll and top-dress with some compost and a little bonemeal and work them up out of the old sod that was there. In six weeks we were playing on them. (pp 3-4)*

According to the timeline described above, Cumming's little 1,900-yard course on the Picton Golf Club's new grounds would have been in play shortly after he laid it out.

The Second Nine-Hole Layout

Fred Rose says that the purchase of land for the club's golf course was not completed until 1910: "The land to establish the golf course was obtained … in 1907 with final land registry taking place Oct. 1910" (*Picton Gazette*, 1980). He presumably elides here the two stages of the club's land purchases that Bristol explains: "Under Cumming's advice we bought additional land adjoining and for many years now the course has been nearly 3,000 yards long" (*Canadian Golfer*, vol 16 no 9 [January 1931], p. 694).

It was presumably this purchase of a second parcel of land that resulted in the routing of two golf holes across the highway. Cumming must have convinced the Picton Golf Club that such a routing was not just feasible, but also quite worthwhile in terms of the golf challenges that it would create.

Fortunately, we have a 1954 aerial photograph of this nine-hole golf course and John D. Lipson's diagram of its layout.

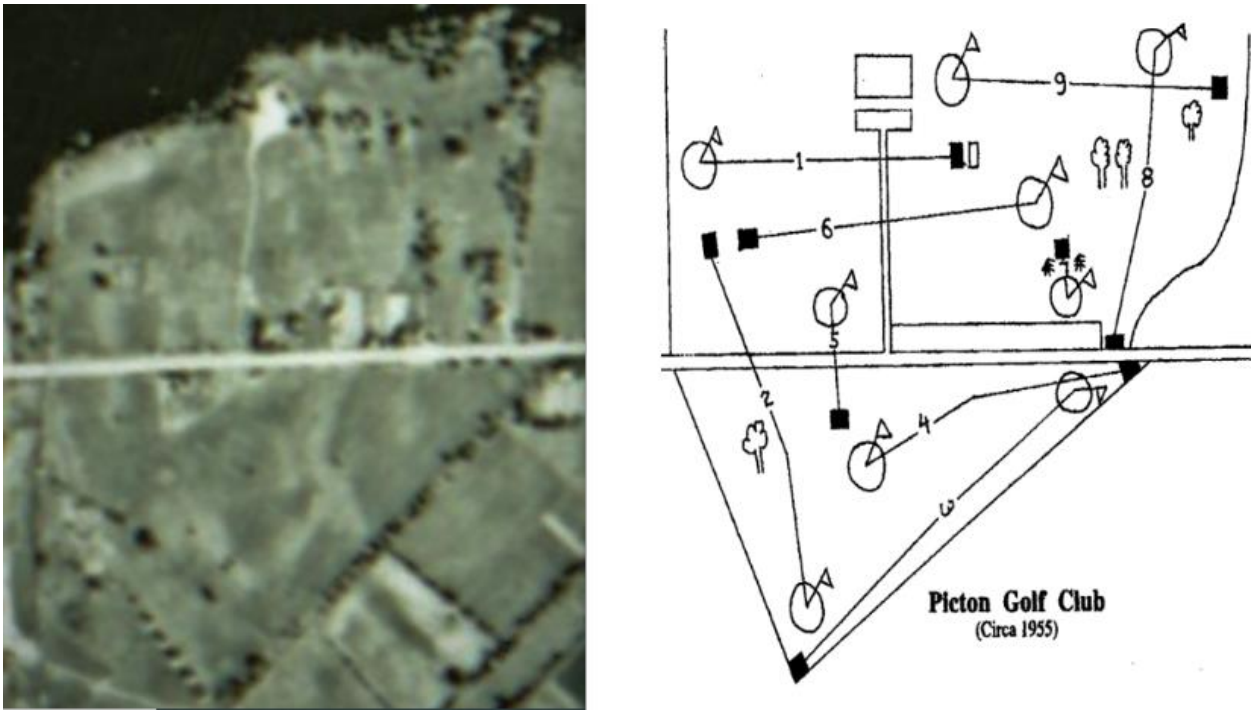


Figure 31 1954 aerial photograph of the second nine-hole course designed by George Cumming circa 1910 and diagram of that course drawn by John D. Lipson, The County Guide*, 3 September 1998, p. 7.*

Lipson first played this golf course in 1954. Perhaps he is one of the pixels in the aerial photograph of the golf course taken that year. In the image below, I transpose onto the aerial photograph the direction of the golf holes indicated on his diagram.

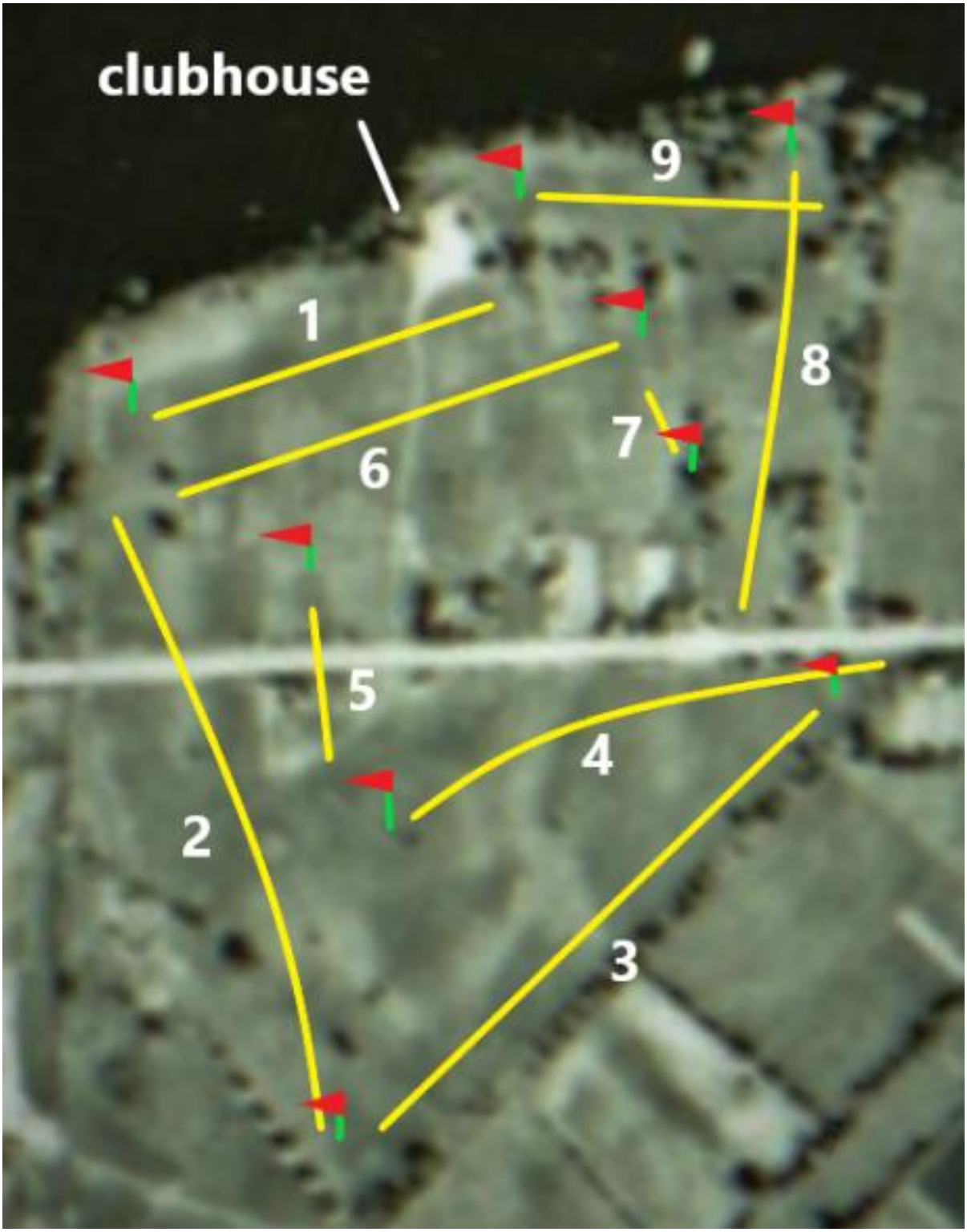


Figure 32 1954 aerial photograph with golf holes indicated on it.

The Calkins System for Determining Par

Canadian Golfer reported in 1918 that at the Picton Golf Club "the par for the course is 34 under the Calkins system" (*Canadian Golfer*, vol 4 no 6 [October 1918], pp. 329-30).

United States Golf Association director Leighton Calkins pioneered methods of developing an accurate and effective golf handicap system around 1910, a necessary element of which was establishing a standard for the proper number of strokes that it should take to complete a golf hole. Unless all golf courses applied the same standards, it would be impossible to compare scores made on one course with scores made on another. Perhaps the simplest explanation of this method for establishing the par score for a golf course is the following from mid-century: "The Calkins method … uses distance as the means of fixing par. Thus, a par three hole is 250 yards or less in length, a par four is between 251 and 445, a par five is from 44[6] to 600, and a par six … is anything above 600 yards" (*Honolulu Advertiser*, 13 May 1939, p. 12).

This method of establishing par was not universally accepted by golf clubs until well into the twentieth century.

For the first 500 years of golf history, there was no such thing as a par score for a golf hole or for a golf course. The goal of the golfer with regard to any particular hole was not to complete it in a particular number of strokes regarded as the theoretically ideal or normal number. One simply aimed to take as few strokes as possible.

So it was until the 1890s.

Then, as Robert Browning points out in *A History of Golf: The Royal and Ancient Game* (1955; reprinted Pampamoa Press, 2018), the concept of "ground score" was invented. At the golf club in Coventry, England, in 1890, the Club Secretary worked out a score for each hole, and thereby for a complete round of golf on the course, that first-rate golfers would achieve if they made no mistakes: he called it the "ground score." His purpose was to create an ideal score that club members could try to match in their individual rounds of golf: a form of competition for a single golfer.

Within a year, the idea of establishing a "ground score" was adopted by the Club Secretary at the golf club in Great Yarmouth, England. There, one of the Club Secretary's regular playing partners reacted in jocular frustration to his failure to match the "ground score" of the club's theoretically ideal player:

“This player of yours is a regular Bogey man!” He was alluding to a song popular in the early 1890s, “Hush! Hush! Hush! Here comes the Bogeyman!” whose lyrics about a mischievous, timorous, hard-to-catch goblin or bogey ran as follows:

Children, have you ever met the Bogeyman before?
No, of course you haven't for
You're much too good, I'm sure;
Don't you be afraid of him if he should visit you,
He's a great big coward, so I'll tell you what to do:

Hush, hush, hush, here comes the Bogeyman,
Don't let him come too close to you,
He'll catch you if he can.
Just pretend that you're a crocodile
And you will find that Bogeyman will run away a mile.

The popularity of the club member’s witticism meant that the “ground score” at Great Yarmouth immediately became known as the “Bogey” score, and the practise of establishing a ground score and naming it the Bogey score spread like wildfire as Great Yarmouth club members played other golf courses throughout southern England. Soon, golfers referred to the ideal player whose score they were trying to match as “Mr. Bogey.”

The Club Secretary at the military’s United Services Club in Gosport added one more wrinkle to this practice in 1892. Since all members of this club were required to have a military rank, their opponent could not be a civilian, so golfers at this club replaced “Mr. Bogey” with “Colonel Bogey.” The latter was made famous in the “Colonel Bogey March,” the British army bandmaster who wrote it having been inspired by a golfer who, rather than warning other golfers of a wayward ball with a shout of “fore,” instead loudly whistled two notes: the two notes of the descending musical phrase that begins each line of the “Colonel Bogey March” melody.

By the early 1900s, problems began to emerge regarding Bogey scores. Each club did as it liked in determining its Bogey score. Should there not be universal criteria used to determine Bogey?

In the United States, the Ladies Golf Association began searching in 1893 for a way of applying a standard in the determination of how many strokes it should take to complete a golf hole. This was to be a standard applicable no matter where the golf hole was found – regardless of the golf course,

regardless of the country, regardless of the golf club's traditions or wishes. The idea was to determine a proper score for every hole by means of its measured length. The United States Golf Association took up the idea and decided upon its standard in 1911: all holes up to 225 yards in length should take three strokes, all holes between 226 yards and 425 yards should take four strokes, all holes between 426 yards and 600 yards should take five strokes, and any hole longer than 601 yards should take 6 strokes.

For its universal standards scores, American golf associations borrowed a term that traders in the stock market used to name the proper or normal value for a stock between the extremes of its high and low prices over time: "par."

This term had been used in a similar context once before in golf, at the 1870 Open Championship at Prestwick.

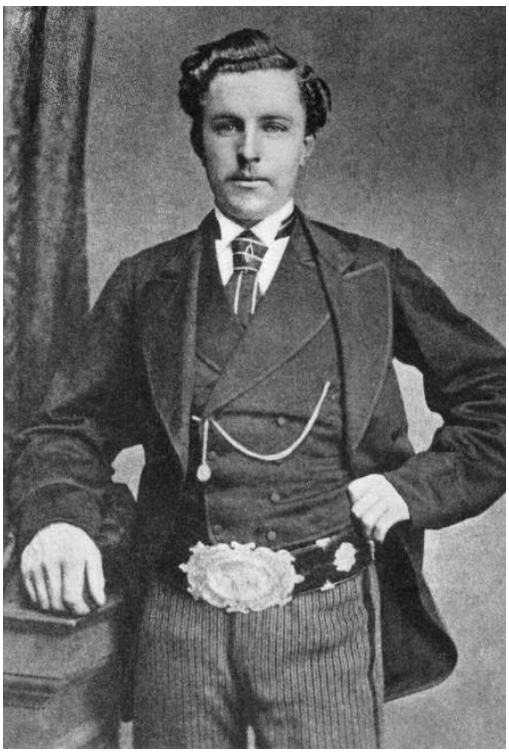


Figure 33 "Young" Tom Morris, 1851-75, wearing the Open "championship belt" that he was given to own after winning it four times in a row. The belt was replaced by today's Claret Jug.

A golf writer reporting on the tournament had asked two golf professionals familiar with the twelve-hole golf course what the winning score for the tournament might be. The golfers suggested that a perfect score for a golfer who made no mistakes would be forty-nine. The writer for the first time invoked the stock-exchange metaphor to inform readers that forty-nine strokes would be "par" for the course. In the event, with a score two under the "perfect score" that the writer called "par," twenty-year-old "Young" Tom Morris won the third of the four Open Championships he won in a row.

Latent here in 1870 was the concept of a "ground score" and the possibility of using the word "par" to indicate it, but nothing came of it.

Despite the American declaration in favour of standard par scores, golf clubs in Britain and Ireland maintained their use of the term Bogey, and individual golf clubs maintained their traditions of establishing their own Bogey scores according to the whims of the membership. Where club members found a 400-yard hole very difficult to play, for instance, they were free (perhaps

in service of nothing more than the vanity of influential club members) to declare its Bogey score to be five, rather than four (as according to the American standard).

Well, in the early 1900s, the scores of the best golfers in the game – both professionals and amateurs – were coming down dramatically. Golf swings were improving as tournament play increased at amateur and professional levels, allowing golfers to learn from each other better swing techniques in general and better swings for particular shots, to say nothing of better strategies for playing golf with the swings and shots that golfers now had in their arsenal. Furthermore, new golf balls were being hit further and more accurately by the best players.

In the United States, where the practices of golf clubs in converting from their old Bogey scores to the new standard par scores was in flux, reflected in score cards with both a bogey score and a par score listed for each hole, the best golfers regularly began to complete many of the golf holes graded with the old Bogey score in one stroke less than that score. So the terms "par" and "Bogey" began to diverge in American golf, as the best American golfers began to use the word "par" in reference to the perfect number of strokes for a hole and the word "Bogey" for one stroke more than the perfect number.

The American amateur champion Walter J. Travis explained his understanding of the two terms in 1902:

> *Par golf, it may be remarked, is perfect golf, determined according to the distance of the holes and with two strokes allowed on each green, while bogey simply represents the score of a good player who occasionally makes a mistake, not very glaring, but sufficient to make a difference in the round of four or five strokes. Bogey is an elastic quantity, however, so much so, indeed, on some courses, as to furnish no true criterion of the game of the player who now and then beats the Colonel! (*Practical Golf*, p. 173)*

British golfers were understandably upset to learn how the word Bogey was coming to be used: it seemed to mean a score one stroke more than it took an expert American player to complete a hole! By 1914, just before World War I broke out, many British golf writers began to agitate for adoption of the USGA standards for determining the proper number of strokes for golf holes, but the war deferred further work on this idea. So it was not until 1925 that British and Irish golf Unions (as their golf associations are called) agreed to establish Standard Scratch Scores for all golf holes and golf courses.

The Royal Canadian Golf Association recommended the Calkins system to Canadian golf clubs for the 1919 season, and in 1924 it was still sending letters to all golf clubs to urge compliance with the new

system, so we can see that the Picton Golf Club – having adopted the system by at least 1918 – was well ahead of the Canadian curve in this matter (see *Canadian Golfer*, vol 6 no 11 [March 1919], p. 580 and vol 10 no 1 [May 1924], p. 86).

Patriotic Day 1918

It may seem perverse to conclude a study of the early history of the Picton Golf Club down to 1907 with discussion of a club event in 1918.

But Donald George Macphail was no doubt present in spirit at the Picton Golf Club in October of 1918 when the club arranged a Patriotic Match to raise money for the Red Cross. Whether or not they had personally known Macphail, however, all club members knew that there was no way that Picton's golf pioneer could have returned to Picton in person that day.

Captain Macphail had been on the H.M. Hospital Ship Llandovery Castle when it had been torpedoed by a German submarine on June 27th, 1918. The ship sank with very few survivors. The disaster was the subject of national outrage for much of the summer.

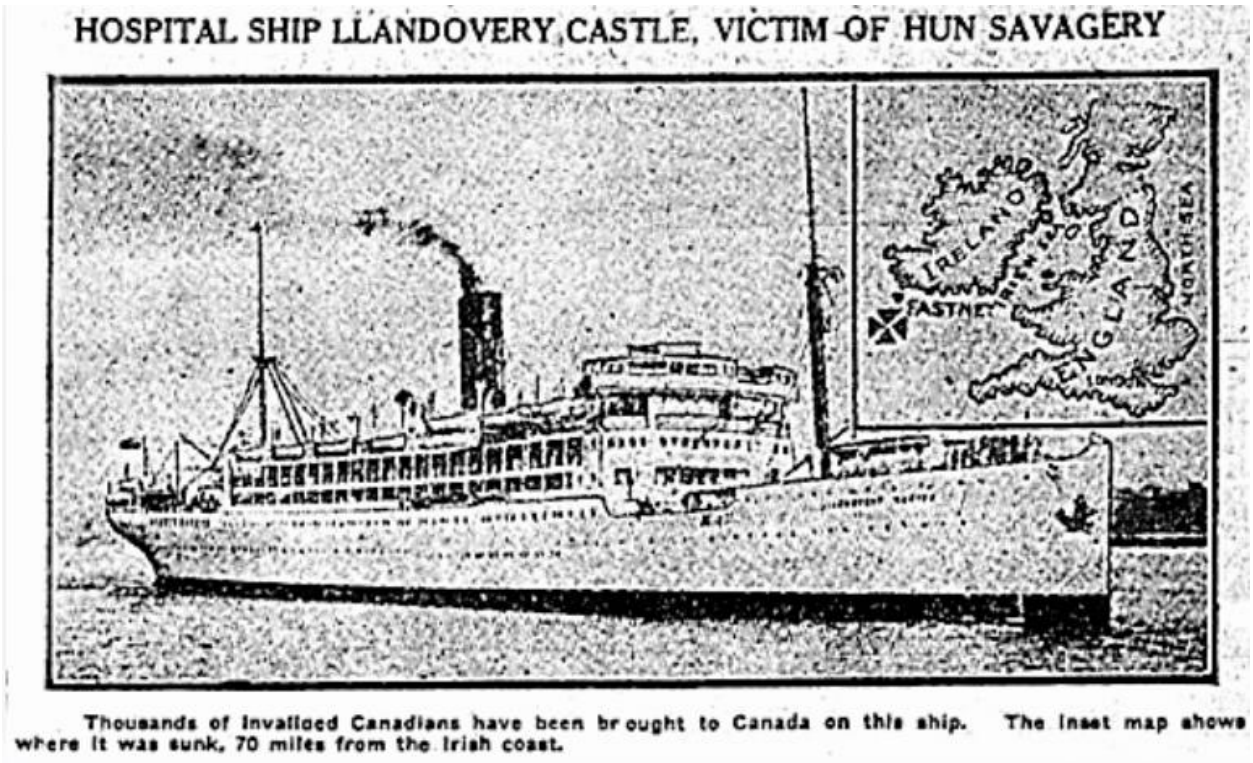


Figure 34 Toronto Telegram, 8 July 1918, p. 13.

Everyone in Picton knew that Macphail had been on that ship and that newspaper reports listed him as missing, but presumed drowned.

He was gone, but not forgotten.

Figure 35Honorary Captain Reverend Donald George Macphail, circa 1916.

In April of 1916, having served in the 37th Haldimand Rifle militia unit while living in Cayuga, Macphail had enlisted in the army.

Initially, continuing to live in Haldimand, he served as a recruiter for the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force (Duff Crerar, *Padres in No Man's Land: Canadian Chaplains and the Great War* [Montreal and Kingston: Queen's University Press, 1995], p. 317). It was not long, however, before he was sent to Hailfax to prepare for duty overseas in the trenches of France and Belgium.

Given the rank of Honorary Captain, Macphail subsequently served as an army chaplain at both the Battle of the Somme in 1916 and Vimy Ridge in 1917.

Service in the trenches took its toll, however, and he found himself hospitalized with severe bronchitis. This precipitated a period of recurrent ill health, so he was transferred from France back to England.

Figure 36 Captain Macphail in the uniform of the Seaforth Highlanders, 1918.

But Macphail could not sit still.

Soon, he managed to secure an appointment as chaplain of the hospital ship Llandovery Castle. It was a relatively new ship as far as World War I ships were concerned, having been built in Glasgow just four years before. It was one of five Canadian hospital ships to serve in the Great War, having been painted white from stem to stern, and marked with large red crosses, to declare that it was a hospital ship.

Captain Macphail made his first crossing of the North Atlantic Ocean with Llandovery Castle in June of 1918. The voyage was relatively uneventful. The ship dropped off its wounded soldiers and sailors in Halifax, Nova Scotia, but stayed in port for less than 24 hours before beginning its return crossing to England.

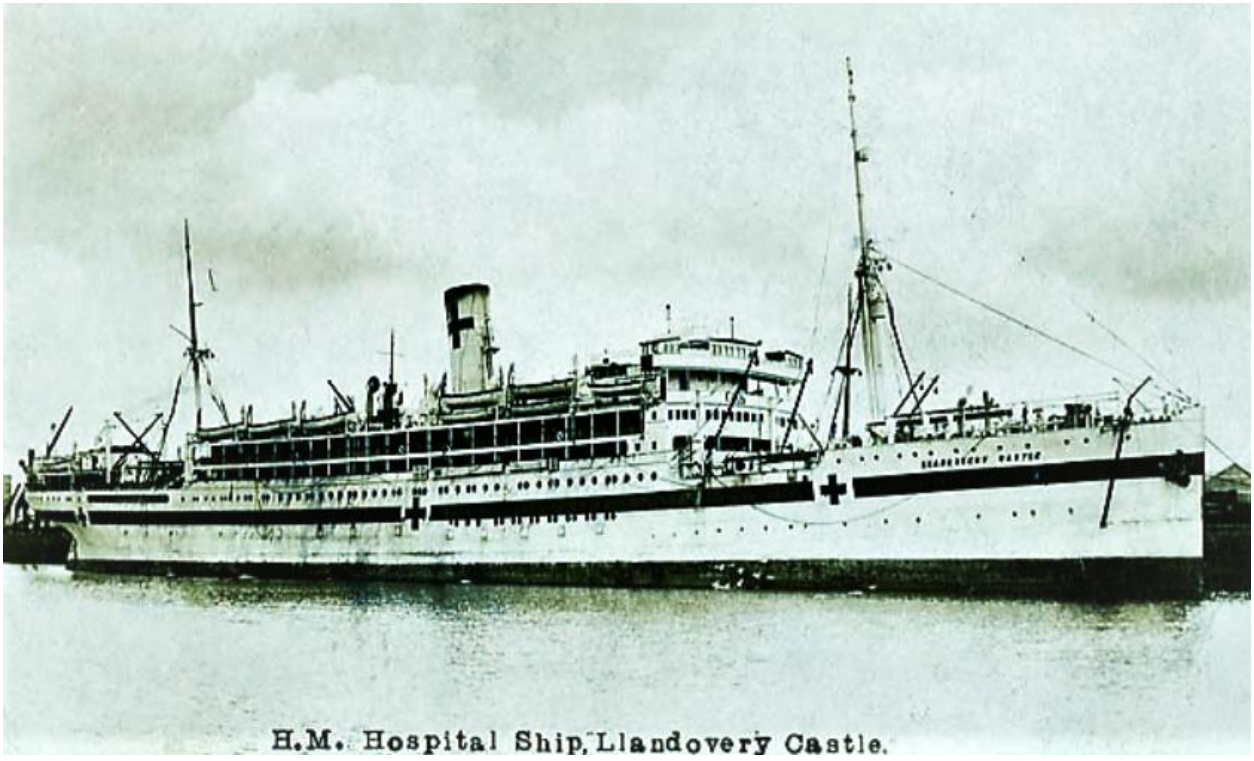


Figure 37 Llandovery Castle, painted white with red crosses to indicate that it was a hospital ship.

As it reached the coast of Ireland, Llandovery Castle was torpedoed on June 27th, 1918, by a German submarine. It sank quickly. The sinking of this ship was the worst Canadian naval disaster of World War I: 234 people died – sailors, soldiers, doctors, nurses, and one chaplain – D.G. Macphail.

Figure 38 Toronto Evening Telegram*, 5 July 1918.*

Captain Macphail "was last seen assisting … nurses into a lifeboat which was later sucked under the stern as the ship sank" (http://madpadre.blogspot.com/2018/07/). Just one of those nurses survived to tell her tale of Macphail's last moments.

As we have seen, the *Toronto Telegram* referred to this attack as "Hun savagery." Macphail's hometown newspaper the *Perth Courier* used similar language: "The German barbarians' latest activity is the sinking by a submarine of the Canadian Hospital Ship Llandovery Castle. The Rev. Donald G. McPhail, chaplain in the force, was on board and it is almost a certainty that he was lost along with most of the crew and passengers…. Ministers of the Presbytery, who are in session, were deeply shocked to hear of the barbarous act of the Huns" (5 July 1918).

Macphail's fellow Presbyterian minister, and friend from childhood days in Perth, Dr. Malcolm McGillivray, voiced the widespread outrage in even more unvarnished terms: "The sinking of the hospital ship Llandovery Castle on the 27th June by a German submarine was one of the darkest tragedies of the war – one of the foulest of the many foul blots lasting forever and unforgiveable in the execrated and accursed men of the Huns" (*The Presbyterian and Westminster*, 1 August 1918).

When the Picton Golf Club acceded to the Royal Canadian Golf Association's request that all Canadian golf clubs host a Patriotic Match on Thanksgiving weekend to raise funds for charities in support of the war effort, Macphail's fate was still on people's minds. Pictonian friends of the Macphails' no doubt felt sorrow for his widow and daughters, whose grief was prolonged by the fact that his body had still not been found.

The Picton match had been arranged by one of Stanley Thompson's brothers, William J. Thompson, who had served as the Picton Golf Club's teaching "pro" several years earlier (although he was not officially a professional and had all along actually retained his amateur status, and would win the Canadian Amateur Championship in 1923).

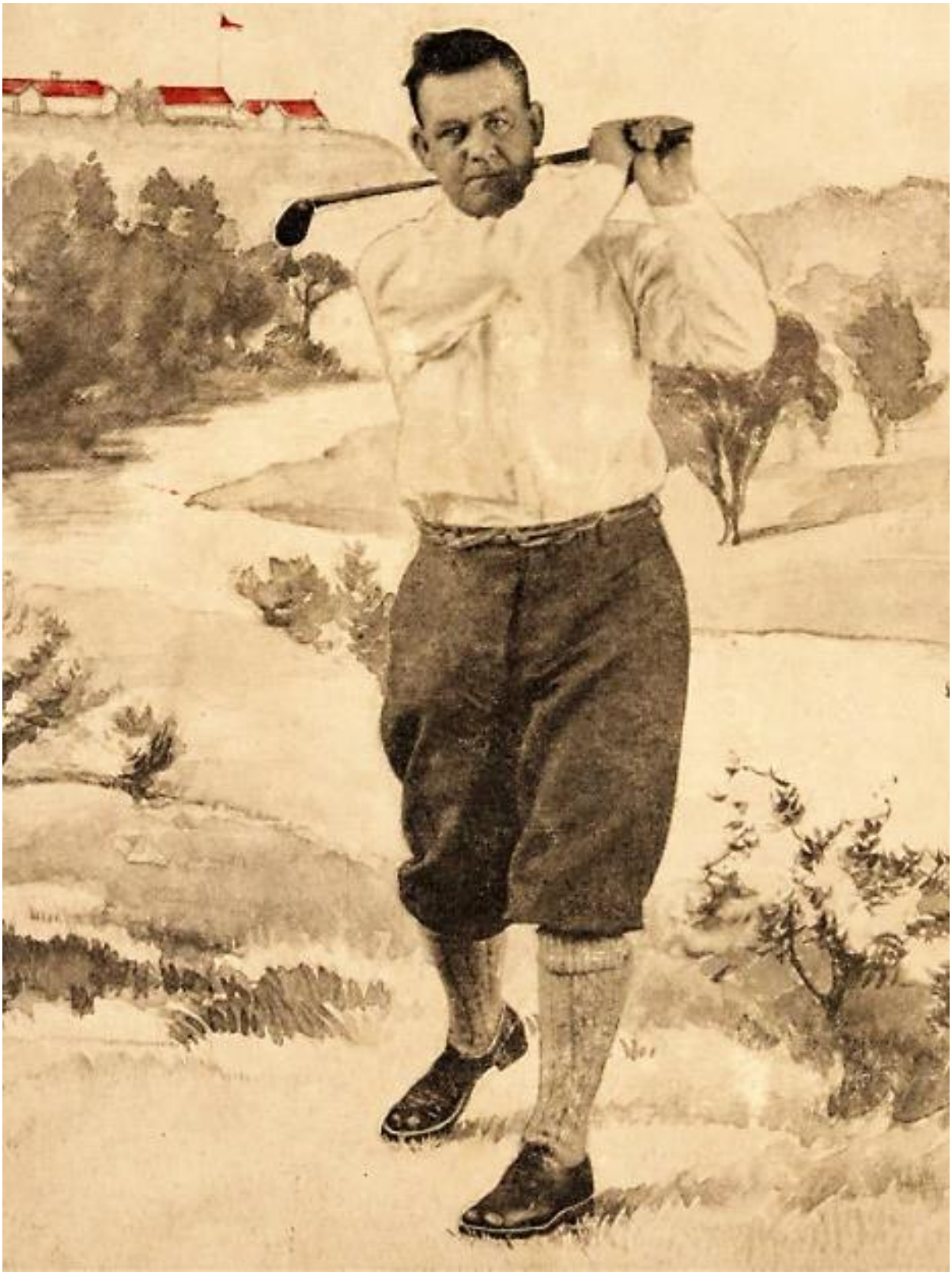


Figure 39 William J. Thompson, pictured on the cover of his 1923 book, Common Sense Golf *(Toronto: Thomas Allen, 1923).*

Patriotic golf matches between high-profile amateur and professional golfers, which spectators paid good money to watch, had become popular in both Canada and the United States during World War I. Since 1916, high profile golfers had been readily agreeing to play in these matches for free. Reigning Canadian Open champion Karl Keffer played in many of them. So did teenage Atlanta phenomenon Bobby Jones. William J. Thompson was himself a celebrated golfer who played in a number of these well-publicized matches in the Toronto area.

Of this Thompson brother, Hazard Bristol told *Canadian Golfer* that

> *Any article on golf in Picton would be incomplete without recognizing what the Picton Golf Club owes to Mr. W.J. Thompson, former Amateur Champion, who came to us for two summers while he was a student at college, and [his] excellent teaching and his knowledge of the game gave the club a start that has made it the success it has become. "W.J.'s" great success as an amateur golfer has always been of great interest to his many friends in Picton and they feel it an honour to have him as an honorary life member of the club. (*Canadian Golfer*, vol 16 no 9 [January 1931], p. 693).*

Canadian Golfer knew of the Thompson family's golfing prowess and of Picton's good fortune in having secured William Thompson's services during World War I long before Bristol wrote to the magazine in 1930. It commented on the situation in 1915: "Picton has a very sporting and quite difficult nine-hole course with a fine view of the Bay of Quinte. There are some excellent holes on the course and they have a good resident professional, a younger brother of Nicol Thompson of Hamilton" (vol 1 no 4 [August 1915], p. 256). Reville quoted "a Picton correspondent" (probably Bristol) who wrote in 1917 to tell *Canadian Golfer* that the course record for the Picton Golf Club's "2, 850 yard" course was W.J. Thompson and that "He still retains his membership with the Picton Club," so we have lots of evidence of the high regard in which William Thompson was held by all and sundry (vol 3 no 2 (June 1917], p. 118).

"Bill" Thompson used his extensive connections amongst the elite of the Canadian golfing world to bring to the Picton Golf Club none other than George S. Lyon, one of Canada's most famous golfers. He was revered as the eight-time Amateur Champion of Canada and winner of the gold medal at the 1904 Olympics.

Figure 40 George S. Lyon, circa 1914.

Lyon was an amateur, but people paid a lot of money to watch him play golf.

The Thanksgiving Day Red Cross Tournament held at Picton, Ont., on Oct. 14th, was a very pleasant and successful event, although weather conditions were not ideal. Messrs. George S. Lyon and his son, Seymour, were billed to play against the two amateur cracks of the Mississauga Club, Messrs. W.J. Thompson and F.W. Kennedy. At the last moment the latter two players were unable to fulfill the engagement as Mr. Thompson was taken ill with an attack of influenza …. This, however, did not affect the attendance materially as everyone was anxious to see the veteran golfer, Mr. George S. Lyon, hero of so many hard-fought matches and his brilliant opponent, Seymour Lyon, both of whom visited Picton for the first time. Quite a good-sized gallery … saw the morning match …. And a larger gallery was ready to follow the afternoon match …. Seymour … was very steady and at times brilliant, playing the last 9 in 36, which ties the previous record set by Mr. W.J. Thompson several years ago…. With muggy weather, wet grounds and heavy putting greens, this was splendid golf as the par for the course is 34 under the Calkins system, and as two of the holes counted as threes are practically impossible, being 246 and 215, each uphill drives …. The president, Mr. H.B. Bristol, presented Seymour

*Lyon with a weekend bag, as winner of the lowest score on a round, and to Mr. Geo. S. Lyon he presented a suit-case umbrella as a memento of a rainy-day golf event and for making a record score … of 75. (*Canadian Golfer*, vol 4 no 6 [October 1918], pp. 329-30)*

Reville was astonished by the amount of money the Picton Golf Club had raised for charity.

The "Honour Flag" of the R. C. G. A., won by London, Picton and Victoria

Figure 41 Canadian Golfer, vol 4 no 8 (December 1918), p.42s.

He drew the attention of *Canadian Golfer* readers to the golf club's generosity: "Such a handsome sum ($400) from Picton is certainly a splendid contribution to the Patriotic Funds. Many clubs three and four times as large have not raised such a substantial amount as this" (*Canadian Golfer*, vol 4 no 6 [October 1918], pp. 330).

Although not many clubs had yet reported to the R.C.G.A. the total of their Patriotic Day contributions, Reville predicted that the Picton Golf Club would be competitive in the contest for the three R.C.G.A. silk banners awarded to the golf clubs with the highest per-capita donation-rate.

In the event, Picton placed second, just behind London, Ontario, and just ahead of Victoria, B.C.

Its award was a silk banner to be hung in its clubhouse in recognition of the patriotism and generosity of the Picton Golf club's membership.

As fate would have it, news reached London the day before the Patriotic Match at Picton Golf Club that Macphail's body had been found. A message would be sent to Canada on Patriotic Day bearing the news.

Figure 42 D.G. Macphail's gravestone in the cemetery of Lampaul, Ouessant Island, France.

His body had drifted south from the coast of Ireland to the Île d'Ouessant (in English, Ouessant Island, or Ushant Island), which is the western-most part of France's European territory. There it had washed onto the rocky shore.

Ouessant's lighthouse marks the southern entrance to the English Channel.

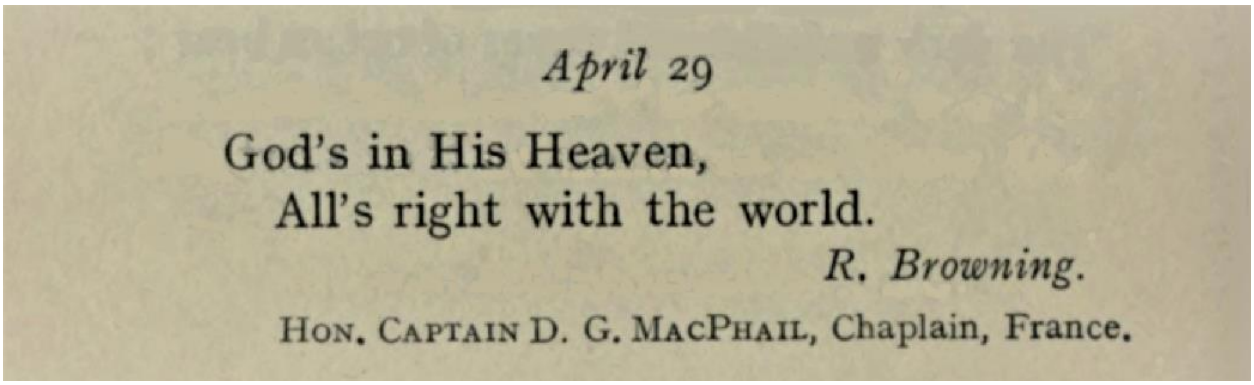
It is a small island, just five miles long and two miles wide, with more rock than fields.

But it has a cemetery.

Lying in this cemetery, near the island's town of Lampaul, buried as close to Canada as possible, are the mortal remains of Honorary Captain the Reverend Donald George Macphail.

Just before Macphail was sent back to England from France, he was approached by Alex Ketterson to contribute a quotation from a great work of literature to a volume called a *Book of Golden Thoughts from the Front* (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1918).

The quotations would be endorsed by Canadian army officers serving at the front in France and Belgium and presented in the book as inspiring thoughts, one for each day of the year. Macphail's quotation was chosen for April 29th:


April 29

God's in His Heaven,
All's right with the world.

R. Browning.

Hon. Captain D. G. MacPhail, Chaplain, France.

Figure 43 Book of Golden Thoughts from the Front *(London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1918), p. 68.*

The verse at the base of Macphail's grave marker on Ouessant Island is also from Macphail's favorite poet, Robert Browning (lines from "Epilogue"):

We fall to rise,

Are baffled to fight better,

Sleep to wake.

The Beginning's End

It seems to me that the year 1907 does not mark the beginning of the Picton Golf Club, but rather the end of its beginning.

1907 marks the chronological end of the period when golf was in its introductory phase in Picton. More than a decade after Macphail had first brought the game to town, it was here to stay.

Furthermore, although founded in 1902, the Picton Golf Club now enjoyed a legally reinforced corporate structure for the promotion and development of the game of golf in Picton.

The state that the game of golf had achieved in Picton by 1907 is surely the end towards which the early presbyters and proselytes had been driving from the very beginning, when it was first published in 1897 that "A golf club has been organized at Picton."

Donald J. Childs

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