

Crinan Girls' Softball Team  
(1922)



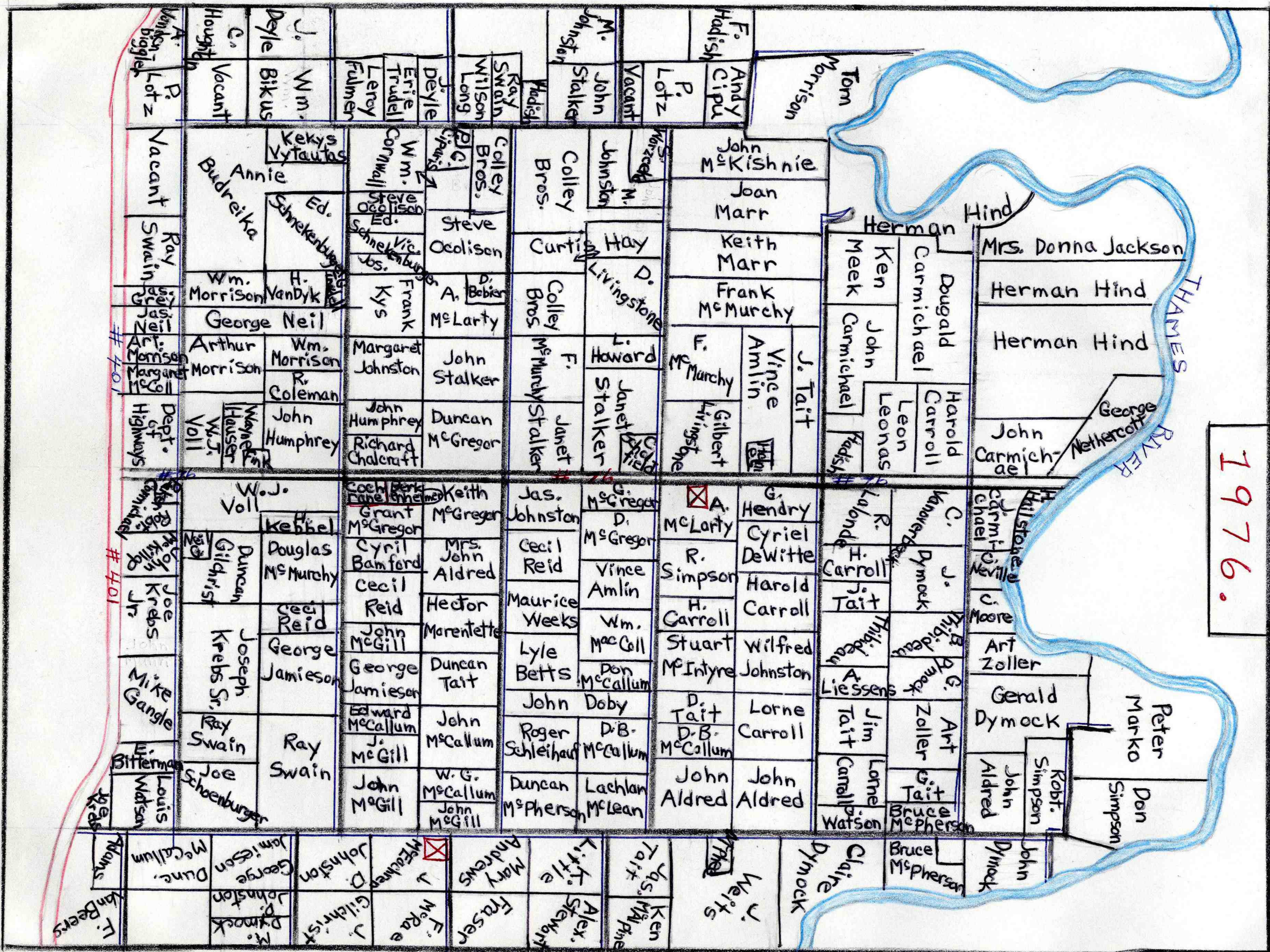
Front Row - Mac MacColl, Roderick  
Finlayson, J. J. Stalker (Coaches)

Second Row - Marion M<sup>c</sup>Eachren,  
Enabelle Watson, Florence M<sup>c</sup>Eachren,  
Emma Watson, Jean Campbell.

Back Row - Grace MacColl (shaded),  
Mildred Campbell, Edna Burroughs,  
Margaret Watson.



1976.



VII  
IV  
III  
II  
I  
A  
B



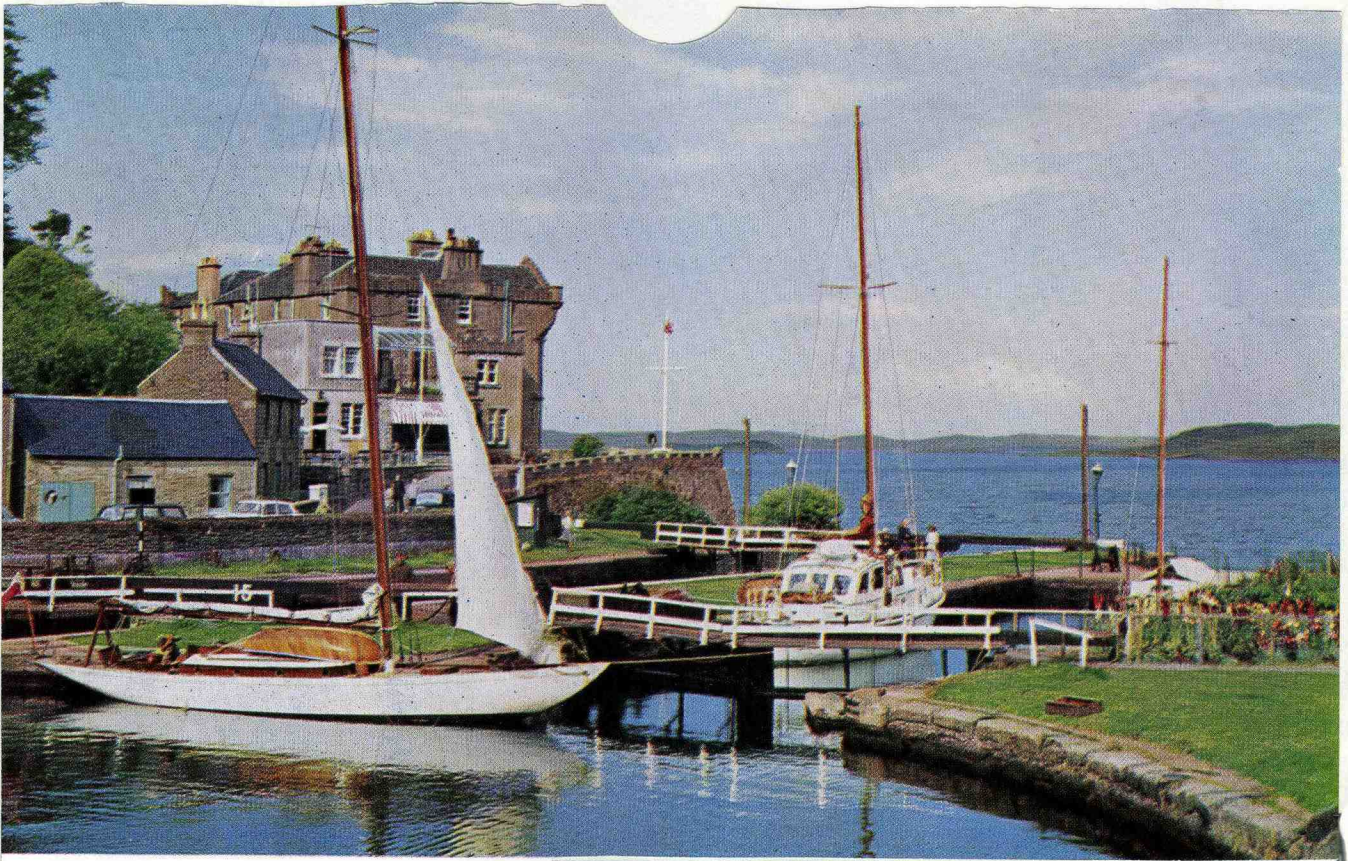
CRINAN, Argyllshire, Scotland  
Home of Our Fore Fathers

(from a travelogue by Dr. Archie Campbell of Argyllshire,  
Scotland)

Our forefathers came to Crinan from the peninsula of Kintyre in Argyllshire. These settlers were descended from the original Scots who had emigrated from Northern Island to settle in Argyle in 563. The village of Crinan in Scotland, is located at one end of the Crinan canal, an 8 mile waterway containing 15 locks, which crosses a narrow point in the Kintyre peninsula. In the present village of Crinan there are few buildings. Nearby is Duntoon Castle, once owned by a Campbell but which later came into the possession of Malcolm McCallum. There are still some old stone houses in the area and some inhabitants still harvest peat for fuel.

In the heart of Argyll is Loch Clyde, surrounded by hills. Watch-towers are located at the top of the hills built as lookouts for Glen Inverary Castle, the home of Clan Campbell.

Our forefathers left Argyll to emigrate to Canada because of the rocky soil, which made it difficult to grow enough food to survive. Also the inclement weather caused many people to suffer from TB and other chest problems. These Scotsmen came to our area, hoping to find better living conditions—and so our community was founded!



CRINAN CANAL, Argyll and Bute  
Yachts negotiating a lock on the Crinan Canal  
which links Loch Fyne with the Sound of Jura.



## THE CAMPBELL BRICKYARD

(from information received from Mrs. Margaret Campbell Dollar)

The brick and tile yard was situated on the north west corner of the Graham Road (now Hwy 76) and the seventh concession of Aldborough township.

In 1911 Mr. Neil Campbell and family moved from their Eagle home to the house on this farm which he had bought a year or so before. It seems, the machinery mill, as it was called, was moved previously from the McPhee brickyard, Crinan, (which was just north of the creek on the Graham Rd-Hwy 76)

This new farm had a good clay deposit suitable for the making of tile and brick-red clay and white clay. Many red brick buildings as well as white ones made of this brick are still standing in the Crinan, West Lorne, Dutton, St. Thomas and surrounding community. Tile was also made.

The work of making the tile and the brick started early in the spring. Usually seven men were at work. There were three kilns at first. Later a larger kiln with huge smoke stack was built. One man used a horse-drawn dump cart to carry the clay up to the bin or box where it was unloaded. It was then taken by conveyer belts to a large mixer that went round and round to mix the clay which had enough water added to make a suitable texture. It was then forced into the moulds for either the tile or the brick whichever was being made at that time. These were cut the proper lengths as they left the machine. These "green" tile or brick (as they were called) had to be handled carefully so they would retain their perfect shape. These were put on large ~~drying~~ wheel-barrows and wheeled into large drying sheds, unloaded and left some days to dry. Then a kiln was filled with all sizes of tile from 3" diameter to 16" or else with the brick. These were arranged in the kiln so no space was lost. Then the tile must be burnt. There were many "furnaces" which burned wood around the kiln. The heat had to be increased gradually, so the thermometer must be watched carefully. The glow of the fire from each of the furnaces could be seen for some distance. The burning took a week or more then the cooling took another week. The space in the kiln that was large enough for the men to go in to take the brick or tile out, was opened up, brick by brick with care, as these were fire brick and were used again and again.

Wood was used in the furnaces at first then in later years soft coal and when that became more expensive gas was used.

During the war of 1914-18 nearly all the making of brick and tile ceased as it was impossible to get help. After the war there was a kind of depression and men were glad to get back to work. About 1928 Mr. Campbell moved to another farm on Concession 8. His son George and family took over. He used the sheds at the brickyard for storing feed, hay and straw for his cattle.



THE POND 1911-1962  
(Mrs. G. H. Dollar)

At first, it was just a small Pond as the earth had to be dug out so enough water could be had to run the steam engine and for other uses, such as water for the horses and cows. There was the other area being dug out for the clay for brick and tile. About a rod of land was between the two. As that pit, as it was called, got larger and deeper, a much larger one was being created near it. They were to the north of the house. The water was used for the mill. In winter when the water froze over to a foot or more, usually it was 9 to 10", there was the cutting of the ice and it was stored in the ice house to the west side of the Pond. Neighbours came and helped to take the ice off and they had ice all summer. Donald and George Campbell took ice to West Lorne for the homes that had ice boxes before the (nice new) Electric Refrigerators were invented. They also filled an ice house for Dr. Webster in West Lorne. The butcher shop also had a smaller ice house and that was filled for them. Sometimes they got ice from the lake.

In the Spring and Fall, during migration, large flocks of birds would land at the pond and drink, have a bath and eat the grain that was scattered nearby for their nourishment. It was a great sight to see when they were arriving and again when they would be leaving. Then there were the butterflies in early September. The garden and trees were covered with Monarch Butterflies. then they too just seemed to hear the command from their leader, " We must be on our way south to central America" As they took off, they just looked like a cloud.

During the summer it was a continual parade of Water tanks (like the threshing outfits used for their engine) all day and all night. The farmers came from distances for water from the pond for their cattle and horses, also to fill cisterns which hadn't been filled by a good rain. There were really dry weeks with-out rain. Jack Campbell installed a good pump and water was pumped into the house also to the farm to the North and across the Graham Road for the cattle. The pond, with Iris and other flowers growing on the bank, was a pretty sight. We could skate on the first old pond as it wasn't so deep, but not on the deeper one.

The large part (last to remain) full of water was at least 29 to 30 feet deep. And no swimming was allowed in summer. Some took a bath in the shallower part, but even that was very cold and could give the swimmer cramps. There had to be laws about the pond. One which was often broken, was that the gates were to be securely shut and fastened. One night I recall, before 1923, when it was a very dry summer one of our valuable cows wandered out on the Graham road. She was struck by a car and was killed. She was valuable as we had paid \$400 for her. She had a pedigree and papers and was called Victoria. Thus that gate was barred and only the gate on the seventh concession was used as we could watch and see that it was closed after the farmer left.



## HARVESTING THE ICE

(by Bill McCallum)

Men and boys hired to help with the harvest. As a boy Bill McCallum received 10¢ an hour in wages. Seven or eight men would work at one time. An ice-saw was used, similar to a cross-cut saw, employing two men on one end, one on either side of the saw. It was shoved down through the ice, after a hole had been chopped. There were no pauses in the sawing process, or the saw would freeze into the ice. Chunks approximately 2' X 1½' were cut. After the first strip was cut, blocks were floated along this channel to a chute. At the chute tongs were hooked into each cake of ice, and the cakes were pulled by a horse and ropes, up to the ice-house. Here the cakes of ice were packed in saw-dust. There was one hazard while directing cakes along the channel. The water, lapping over the top of the edge of the channel, melted the ice and a slope was developed. Unwary workmen, could slide down the edge into the chilly water.

As time went on, mechanization was developed to replace manpower. A Model-T Ford engine was used to operate the saw, but the horse was retained for operating the pulley.

In harvesting ice from the lake, there were some near tragedies. Teams and sleighs were driven out on the ice to get loads of blocks. On several occasions, ~~loads~~ teams returning to shore with their loads found open water near shore. Several teams had to enter the frigid water to haul the sleighs ashore.