

The golf architect was Stanley Thompson and his straw boss on the job was Charlie Gossage, a medical student. I should like to have a complete list of the Union and district men who worked on the job of building the course but it was fifty years ago and some will nodoubt be missed. As nearly as I can find out they were, Ken Russ, Bob Whalley, Francis Olde, Gran Steel, Jack Chapman and his two sons, Frank and Stan. Lorne Whalley, Frank Montgomery, Carl Burgess, Charlie and Roy Ingram, Bill and Ross Hepburn, Alf. Millman and Frank Hazel.

The contract to build the club house was let at this time to the Green Lumber Company for \$15,800. They had paid \$9,500 for the farm but there is no record of what it cost to build the course. I believe the wages in those days were 35¢ for labourers and 70¢ for a man and team so it couldn't have been too much.

The front nine holes, that is between the club house and the road were built first but it wasn't until a couple of years later that work began on the back nine.

I must say that the Scotts were quite happy when the golf club was located across the street. We immediately had acres of beautiful lawn to look at, and while the Whalleys were good neighbours and delightful people, they did keep a lot of pigs and when the south-west breeze wafted across the aroma was sometimes a bit heady.

It was at this time that they got in touch with Finlay McDermid, who was the member of the Legislature, and arranged to get 500 seedlings from the Department of Lands and Forests. They were planted in a nursery behind the club house until they were big enough to set out. Mr. Currier, who was greenskeeper at the time, and Ken Russ set out most of them and it is these little seedlings which are now the magnificent spruces, pines, white ash, maples etc which are the glory of the golf course.

Golf grew in popularity and the membership of the club increased, constant improvements were made to the course, more ground was bought, new holes were added, the club house was added to and renovated until now the St. Thomas Golf & Country Club has one of the most beautiful and challenging courses one will find anywhere.

All kinds of important tournaments attended by top flight golfers are held each year. The club house has become a very popular spot in which to hold dances, dinner parties, wedding receptions, cocktail parties, card parties, luncheons etc.

There are a dozen Union families I can call to mind who are playing members and quite a number of Union women find employment at the club helping with various parties and Edith Dufty has been making mouth-watering confections there for some years.

One way or another the club has meant a good deal to Union and has added one more beauty spot to this charming little community.

J. B. Scott

The History of Union. 1974.

By. Marie Goodwin.

*Who's
Marie
Goodwin*

Union is a small post-village in Township of Yarmouth on the stage road from St. Thomas to Port Stanley. It is 5 miles from St. Thomas, 6 miles from Sparta and 3 miles from Port Stanley. Union was once a very thriving little village, mostly of the Quaker religion

In 1837, James Thompson started a woolen mill, and it was installed by Mr. Pfeffer. In 1845 Mr. Thompson sold it to Mr. James Haight. By this time they had special machines for reducing bulk wool into serviceable tweeds. In 1866, Mr. Haight added a partner, Mr. Solomon Willson. The building was a frame 125' by 36' and it was 3 storeys high. It used water power and employed about 10, people. They manufactured all fabrics in their lines and custom work. Mr. Haight and Mr. Willson sold their mill to two brothers, Thomas and Benjamin Green.

The Green Brothers for many years carried on a very lucrative and extensive, business exporting 2,000 yards of heavy Canadian tweed cloth to ready buyers in all parts of Canada. It was one of the oldest buildings of its type in the county. Later on Mr. George Doughty took over the factory.

In 1865, Union Pork Packing Establishment was owned by Mr. Enos Scott, who employed 10, to 12, hands and cured 500, to 600, tons of pork and bacon annually. Jehiel York later owned it but it is now scarcely more than a memory.

A busy blacksmith shop stood on the southeast corner, while James and Angus McKenzie kept for several years a well stocked general store, opposite the old hotel. The Union Hotel was kept by Mr. Albert Clark in good style and was worthy of public patronage.

The harness shop of Isaac Hannan and the tailor shop of William Norman, remained some time after other enterprises had

removed to other centres and the large Pork Factory remained quite awhile also.

Not far from Union on the Hindley Farm is an ancient barn with heavy hand-sewn timbers and pine lap-siding a landmark of the community. Surmounting it are the remains of the landmark today.

The cheese factory of Messieurs Sinclair and Co. owned the cheese factory where 40, to 50, tons of cheese were made in one season. Today nothing remains to show where once these busy industries stood.

Following is a list of important citizens of Union who owned businesses.

1. Albert Clark- proprietor of Union Hotel
2. peter Connor - shoemaker
3. James Davidson - wagon maker, blacksmith
4. George Doughty - last owner of woolen mill
5. Samuel Goodwin - cabinet maker
6. Isaac Hannan - owner of harness shop
7. Green Walker - spinner
8. Haight & Willson - first owner of woolen mill
9. Jason W. Haight - from Haight & Willson
10. Samuel Hawkins - mechanic, wagon-maker
11. Frances Jones - from Mac. Kenzie & Jones
12. John Lanning - gardener
13. Timothy McAniff - blacksmith
14. Mac Kenzie & Jones - M. P. & general merchants
15. Jason Mac Kenzie - from Mac Kenzie & Jones
16. J. K. Moore - retired engineer
17. Robert Montgomery - retired engineer
18. William Norman - tailor
19. Ezekial Ogilvie - laborer
20. Richard Phillpott - mason
21. Mrs. Savage - seamatress

22. Enos Scott - pork packer factory
23. Conrad Seabord - blacksmith
24. John Sinclair - cheese factory
25. Frederick Sweedland - blackamith
26. Solomon Willson - from Haight & Willson
27. F. F. Jones - owner of post-office on Port Stanley Road

Largely due to the Quaker Settlers in and near Union, this little village has an atmosphere of gentle courtesy and placidity at once pleasing and alas all too rare.

Later History of Union, and People.

Mr. MacKenzie was one of the wealthiest men in Union. He was the storekeeper, local judge and the postmaster. He held court behind the dressmakers shop which was on the second floor of his store. He had three children and one died of appendicitis at an early age. His home is now owned by the Goodwin family. His store is where Hindley's General Store is today.

Mrs. Littlejohn and Mrs. Jackson were the local school teachers. Here were many teachers but each didnot teach long. They uaed the strap and also the cane. The Sports Club was ^{the} used ~~as a~~ school until Union Public School was built. The holidays were six weeks and the hours were from 9.00 - 4.00. Everyone had to buy their own texts book. Today the Sports Club is about 100yrs, old.

Mr. Jim Haight owned the third largest store in Union. He ran a very good business. Mrs. Doane owned a hotel, Mrs. Owen bought the hotel and turned it into a grocery store. Dr. George Henry Jackson was the doctor and lived in the house owned by Burrill's today. Dr. Marriott was the veterinarian and his son was one of the first to find tuberculosis in cows. Of all the families today in Union, the Pearce family still live here.

Ed. Chapman was the wood-worker. George Doolittle was

also wealthy. He was an evaporator and produced dry, apples. He employed 9 hand run apple peelers and 18, working girls. He had four children and lived across from the golf-course. Rev. Aylesworth was considered the most important citizen. He was the oldest minister remembered in Union, Clara Whaley and Bertha Cavanaugh were the dress makers and their shop was in the back of McKenzie's Store. Solomon Willson lived where Roberts live today. He had a tobogan slide made of wood that went down the hill behind his house.

Businesses.

James McKenzie had one of the general store. He had a small post office in his store, at 8:30, a.m, the mail was picked up in St. Thomas and taken to McKenzie's where he sorted it. James Haight had the largest store in Union.

Church Groups & Entertainment.

There was a Methodist Church and a graveyard. They were where the Church and graveyard are today. The frame of the church and the insides were made from wood. It birned down and the Union United Church was built. There was one main ladies group called the Ladies Aide. The town hall was called the Royal Temples of Temperance. People were given the idea of a bundle of sticks giving strength to their resolved promise of not to drink. One stick by itself could be broken but a bundle could not.

In the summer time they'd swim and in the winter time they'd skate on the pond. They'd light some huge bon-fires and skated in the moonlight. Mr. Millen built a change-house for them.

There were Irish picnics that lasted all day at Port Stanley, at night there would be a big dance in the pavillion which was up on the hill. The pavillion was the local dance hall for the area. Many people from all over would attend.

In St. Thomas some people would go see the Silent Movies at the St. Thomas Opera House which was then on Talbot Street.

Following is a list of the citizens who owned businesses or lived here a long time -

1. James McKenzie - general store, judge, post-master
2. Mrs. Littlejohn - teacher
3. James Haight - general store
4. Mrs. Doane - hotel
5. Mrs. Owen - grocery store
6. Dr. George Henry Jackson - doctor
7. Dr. Marriott - veterinarian
8. Pearce Family - citizens
9. Ed Chapman - woodworker
10. Rev. Aylesworth - minister
11. Clara Whaley - dress maker
12. Bertha Cavanaugh - dress maker
13. George Doolittle - evaporator
14. Solomon Willson - citizen

Here is the history of a small village then, but it has developed well in businesses and population. Today there is a post office owned by McCallum's, a public school, a Sunoco Station owned by Ken Hindley, a United Church, a grave yard, a Sports Club, a Golf Course and W. I. Hall and a Fire Hall.

The later history of Union was given to me by Mrs. Nel Dufty who has lived in Union all her life.

Marie Goodwin

Mitchell Hepburn, 1843 - 1922 - 1975.

Yarmouth's Oldest Pioneer, Died Sunday.

Mitchell H.
Came here from Scotland 79 Years ago; Was the last of the old Hepburn Clan; One of East Elgin's Most Successful Farmers. One of the very last of Yarmouth Township's grand old pioneers was removed Sunday in the death of Mitchell Hepburn, after a short illness, in his ninetieth year.

In Mr. Hepburn death the district not only loses one of its earliest settlers and most prominent citizens but the history of the old Hepburn family, who came here from Scotland nearly eighty years ago, is closed for Mitchell Hepburn was the last survivor of that splendid body of men and women. He was the patriarch of his clan, respected as a man of sterling character and a generous, sympathetic nature.

Mr. Hepburn was a man of commanding appearance and tireless energy, being six feet, three inches in height with broad shoulders and auerect carriage, and despite his advanced age, his faculties were good and his mind clear up until a few days before his death.

Born in Newburgh, Fifeshire, Scotland on July, 21, 1833, of Highland Scottish parentage and a descendant of the family to which Sir William Wallace belonged. Mr. Hepburn sailed from Dundee for Canada with fourteen relatives on July, 18, 1843, landing at Quebec, after a icing and hazardous journey. From Quebec the party of pioneers continued their journey by ^{portage} portage and boat on Lake Ontario and Erie, reaching Port Stanley in October, 1843. Port Stanley at that time was a thriving town of international importance. Mr. Hepburn often related, while St. Thomas was but a hamlet of half a dozen shacks, a general store and a tavern in the woods, - ?

A Progressive Farmer.

Soon after reaching this locality, the family purchased farm land on the gravel road and erected themselves homes. South Yarmouth owes much of its development to these sturdy Scotch people who married and settled there and increased their ^{number} ~~base~~ base. Robert Hepburn uncle of the deceased, and Randolph Johnson father of Mr. Hepburn's first wife, were among the township's earliest road builders, and at one time owned and operated the gravel road as a toll road. Mr. Hepburn's grandfather the late Andrew Hepburn was the second person to be buried in the St. Thomas Cemetery.

Mr. Hepburn himself was a successful agriculturist, farming a large acreage in South Yarmouth for many years. He was of the progressive type, taking great pride in the appearance of his buildings and fields and in the quality of his livestock.

Politically, Mr. Hepburn was a staunch supporter of the Liberal principles, and although he was never a candidate for honors, he took an active part in many strenuous campaigns. He was a public spirited man, always ready to assist a worthy cause. He was one of the first to respond with a \$1,000, subscription to the Elgin County Patriotic Fund.

Although not affiliated with any particular religious body. Mr. Hepburn lived a Christian life and gave liberally to the church.

He was twice married, his first wife, Eliza Johnson niece of F. C. Johnson, who gained fame by enlisting with William Lyon Mackenzie in the rebellion of 1827, predeceased him 28, years ago. He was again married about nine years ago to Elva Waite, a native of South Yarmouth, who survives. His son William F. Hepburn, of St. Paul, Minn. who reached the bedside about two hours before the death and two grandchildren, Mitchell F. Hepburn, 4th concession of Yarmouth and Mrs. Harley Copeland, Gravel Road, also survive.

The funeral will be held Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the family residence, 4th, concession of Yarmouth to the family plot in the St. Thomas cemetery. As a mark of respect to Mr. Hepburn's memory and in order to enable competitors to attend the funeral Mr. Alex A. Anderson president of the Elgin County Plowmen's Assotiation was announced that the events in connection with the first annual match, Tuesday afternoon will be postponed from 2 to 3.30 o'clock.

Yarmouth Pioneer Passes. 1922.

Another among the very last of the pioneers of Yarmouth township passed beyond the veil on Sunday in the preson of Mitchell Hepburn in his ninetieth year. That is a patriarchal age and carries his story back to 1843, when as a boy of ten he accompanied his tarents from Newburgh, a town on the River Tay, in the kingdom of Fife, as the