



## **Formation of Royal Colwood Golf Club**

The land on which the golf course stands was originally Esquimalt Farm, one of four established between 1850 and 1853 by the Hudson's Bay Company for the population of Victoria. In 1851 Captain Edward E. Langford became the first manager and named his property, on what is now Goldstream Road, "Colwood" after his family estate in Sussex, England. Subsequently the original farm was divided into smaller parcels. One of these surrounded Langford's old home and became known as Colwood Farm. Early settlers on the farm included Arthur Henry Peatt and William Wale, who leased the Colwood farm in 1892 for \$400 per year. Roads in the area now carry their names. In the last few years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the Hunt Club was formed and a racecourse was built where the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> fairways are now located. Steeplechase events were held on the property.

The first steps towards the creation of the golf course occurred in 1912. Joseph Sayward, James Dunsmuir, Senator Frank Barnard and A. C. Flumerfelt, all members of the Victoria Golf Club which they feared might not survive the burden of the growing population and increasing property taxes in Victoria, began preparations for another golf course. The following year A.V. Macan, along with his colleague Captain W. Chambers, a Scot, was engaged by Mr. Sayward to design the Colwood golf course. Mr. Macan, who had emigrated from Ireland and established himself as a lawyer in Victoria, won the British Columbia Amateur championship and the Victoria Club championship in 1912 and 1913 and the Pacific Northwest Amateur championship in 1913. Captain Chambers, a past British Army golf champion, came to Victoria in 1912. It appears that he played a small part in the design of the course.

Articles of Association were drawn up and on October 23, 1913 the Colwood Golf and Country Club legally came into being. The directors were listed as Dunsmuir, Sayward, the Honourable Thomas W. Paterson, Frank S. Barnard and Biggerstaff Wilson. Other shareholders were Frederick B. Pemberton, C.F. Todd, and Francis M. Rattenbury. On November 20 the Colwood Land Company was registered with the Provincial Government. Its purpose was to acquire land to construct the golf course. Three adjacent properties were purchased, one of 135 acres by Dunsmuir, and others of 58 and 47 acres by Sayward. These properties were then purchased by the Colwood Land Company for \$183,722. Additional financing was provided by Sayward and Dunsmuir for construction and building the golf course.

At a meeting held in Mr. Sayward's office on October 28, 1914, the following committee members of the Colwood Golf and Country Club were appointed: J. A. Sayward, President; I.A. Findlay, B. Wilson, A.C. Flumerfelt, P. Criddle, H. G. Wilson, F.S. Barnard (Sir Frank Barnard was Lieutenant Governor of BC during the Prince of Wales' visit to Victoria in 1919), T.W. Patterson, F.B. Pemberton, and Reginald Genn, Secretary. At noon on November 6<sup>th</sup> Joseph Sayward cut the hole

for the first of the permanent greens, number 9. The official opening took place on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Celebrations took place in the “glorified shack” that was the first Colwood clubhouse.

## Founders' Biographies

Royal Colwood Golf Course's founders were prominent Victoria businessmen, and three of them served as Lieutenant-Governors of BC.

### Joseph Austin Sayward



*“Sayward was the only son of William Parsons Sayward, a native of the State of Maine. The elder Sayward had lived in Florida and also in California at the time of the 1849 gold rush. He came to Victoria in 1857 and married a beautiful and wealthy widow, Mrs. Ann Chambers. His extensive lumber interests on Vancouver Island included a sawmill at Mill Bay and the Canadian Puget Sound Lumber Company. William and Ann Sayward were the parents of Joseph Austin Sayward, born in Victoria on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 1862.*

*Joseph married Margaret Livingstone Sayward in March, 1884, in Riverside, California. She was the adopted daughter of sea captain, J. W. Sayward of Temescal, California and apparently a cousin to Joseph by marriage. Joseph Sayward built a mansion, Oakmeade, in the upper class Rockland area at the southeast corner of Rockland and Moss. Joseph and Margaret had a son, William Parson, who died at age 10 months. A second child, Margaret, was born a year later. She became a champion golfer, married a Mr. Wilson, changed her name to Sayward-Wilson, and eventually lived in England. She was widowed and returned to Victoria where she married a Colonel Robert.*

*When his father retired in 1896 Joseph Sayward became head of the family's business interests and emerged as a prominent Victoria businessman in his own right. The best known landmark from his business career is the Sayward Building at the corner of View and Douglas Streets. He died in Victoria in his 72<sup>nd</sup> year on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 1934.*

*The first great era of Colwood came to an end in 1934 with the death of Joseph Sayward. He had conceived the course, financed it, and as president for its first 20 years, provided the leadership and determination to keep it thriving. There was no question about who was in charge at Colwood. He was well known for his brusque, impatient manner but was clearly a determined, committed individual whose talents and generosity helped create and develop the Club. Joseph Sayward was, without doubt, the key individual in bringing Colwood into being and nurturing it to maturity. He was, indeed “The Boss.””*

*“... Sayward had only taken up the game at age 49 when he joined the Victoria Golf Club in 1911.”*

Quoted from: Royal Colwood Golf Club: the first 90 years by John Ronald

## **James Dunsmuir**



*“James Dunsmuir was the eldest son of Robert Dunsmuir, the Vancouver island coal magnate. He was born at Fort Vancouver in the Washington Territory, now part of the United States, on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 1851, just nine days after his parents and two older sisters arrived there en route from Scotland. His father was on his way to Vancouver Island to work in the coalfields where he eventually made his fortune.*

*After his father’s death Dunsmuir managed the family’s businesses and later became Premier of British Columbia and, still later, Lieutenant-Governor. He was extravagantly wealthy and among his creations was Hatley Park, the large estate and home which still stands overlooking the Esquimalt Lagoon very close to the Colwood Golf Course. Hatley Park became, in turn, the Royal Roads Military College and, in 1995, Royal Roads University.”*

*“It is believed that James Dunsmuir never played golf...”*

Quoted from: Royal Colwood Golf Club: the first 90 years by John Ronald

Dunsmuir won a seat in the Legislature in 1898, was Premier from 1900-1902, and Lieutenant-Governor from 1906-1909. He sold his Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway to the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1905, and 5 years later sold his mining company. He died on June 6, 1920.

## **Francis Stillman Barnard**



Frank Barnard was born in Toronto on May 16, 1856. He succeeded his father, a Conservative MP, as General Manager and President of the British Columbia Express Company, which provided transportation and banking services to the interior of BC. Francis Barnard senior came to BC at the time of the gold rush and brought his family to the province in the early sixties.

Frank S. Barnard served briefly on Victoria City Council, and was Conservative MP for Cariboo, BC, from 1888 to 1896. He was Lieutenant-Governor from 1914-1919, and was knighted in 1918. He died on April 11, 1936.

## **Alfred Cornelius Flumerfelt**

A.C. Flumerfelt was born on September 29, 1856 in Markham, Ontario. He came to BC in 1886 as Branch Manager of Ames Holden and Company, which specialized in boots and shoes. Later he became interested in the mining sector, and owned the International Coal and Coke Company in Coleman, Alberta. The town, which grew up around the mine, was named for his daughter Florence Coleman Flumerfelt. The mine operated from 1906 until 1952.

Flumerfelt became involved in numerous enterprises, and was a director of 15 prominent BC companies. He was very involved in education and sports. He offered financial prizes in essay writing contests and acted as treasurer and financial supporter to the Royal Institute for the Advancement of Learning in BC. His interest in sports led to donation of trophies for the BC Ladies' Amateur Golf and the BC Ladies' Tennis Championships. He died on November 29, 1930.

### **Thomas Wilson Paterson**



Thomas Paterson was born in Darnley, Scotland, on December 6, 1851, immigrated to Canada with his parents, and was raised in Ontario. He moved to BC in 1885 and helped build the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Line. Later he became General Manager of the Victoria and Sidney Railway.

He served in the Provincial Legislative Assembly from 1902-1907, and was Lieutenant-Governor from 1909-1914. He died on August 28, 1921.

### **W. Biggerstaff Wilson**

Biggerstaff Wilson was born in Victoria in 1876 and died in 1925. He reputedly received a large inheritance from a family friend because he was named after him. His father was one of the founders of W & J Wilson Clothiers. In 1901 Wilson founded an ice and cold storage business.

According to his obituary in the Daily Colonist, Wilson was one of the finest golfers in the West. In 1921 he was one of 8 leading Western golfers to play in a special team match in St. Louis, Missouri, staged in connection with the USA Amateur Championship. For a number of years his 68 stood as the amateur record over the old course at Victoria Golf Club.

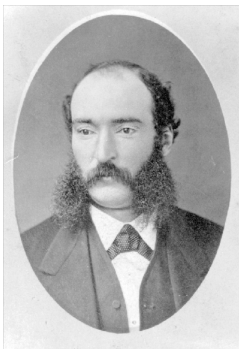
### **Frederick B. Pemberton**



Frederick Pemberton was born in Victoria on April 26, 1865. He was educated at University College of London, England, where he graduated in civil and mechanical engineering. His father Joseph was also a civil engineer, and after working in that profession in England, accepted a position as Surveyor General of BC. Joseph later entered the real estate business. He also achieved prominence by being elected to the first legislative assembly of Vancouver Island.

On returning to Victoria after his studies, Frederick worked for some time as a civil engineer. Later he joined his father's real estate company, where he was very successful. He died in 1947.

### **Charles Fox Todd**



C.F. Todd was born on October 17, 1856. He was the son of Jacob Hunter Todd, who established a wholesale grocery business in Victoria after moving from Ontario. He took his son into the business, renaming it as J. H. Todd and son.

They established a cannery business on the Fraser River in 1882. Charles enhanced the business and the company eventually owned 5 canneries, the largest being the Empire Cannery at Esquimalt, which processed the salmon trapped at Sooke. C. F. Todd died in 1941.

## **Francis Rattenbury**



Rattenbury's history is perhaps the best known of the founders of Colwood GC. He was born in 1867 in Leeds, England, and apprenticed to an architectural company. He came to Vancouver in 1891. He entered, anonymously and successfully, a competition to design the new legislative building, which was officially opened in 1898. This led to many other commissions. He also worked for the Canadian Pacific Railway as their Western Division Architect, which led to the design of the Empress Hotel and the CPR Steamship Terminal.

His business ventures waned after World War 1, and his personal life was also in difficulty. In 1923 he left his wife after 25 years of marriage for 27 year old, Alma Pakenham, whom he married in 1927. Two years later they moved to Bournemouth, England. His financial problems continued, and his relationship with Alma deteriorated.

She began an affair with their 18 year old chauffeur, George Stoner. In 1935 Rattenbury was murdered and Alma and Stoner were charged. Stoner was found guilty and initially sentenced to death, although the sentence was later commuted to a prison sentence. Alma was acquitted of murder and of being an accessory after the fact. She committed suicide a few days later. The case was the basis of the radio and stage play, Cause Célèbre, by Sir Terrence Rattigan.