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Cobourg World

Mar. 15, 1935

A-Grafton (22-2)

Service in  
o'clock; S. S.  
John's Church  
day School at

# Grafton Historical Notes

(18) By T. R. M.

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Dancing, sports and entertainment of various kinds helped to occupy the lighter hours of our bustling 19th. century ancestors. A search among old albums and newspapers would undoubtedly disclose further references to social events of past years, but the following random notes may be of some slight interest especially to the older generation.

The Lady's Ticket to the Grafton Assembly, reproduced in this issue, originally belonged to Miss Harriet Barnum, daughter of Elioakim Barnum and was used over a century ago when the name Grafton was but a year old. This Assembly or Dance was probably held in the upper part of the old Town Hall, and is the earliest to which any reference remains.

There is also extant a small printed programme of a Grafton Ball held on

sides was remarkably good. After the match, the Grafton eleven were invited to dinner at Mr. Clute's Hotel, to which ample justice was done." The Grafton players were Johnson, Rogers, Willoughby, Lawless, Patterson, Stanley, Page, Campbell, Simcox and Smith.

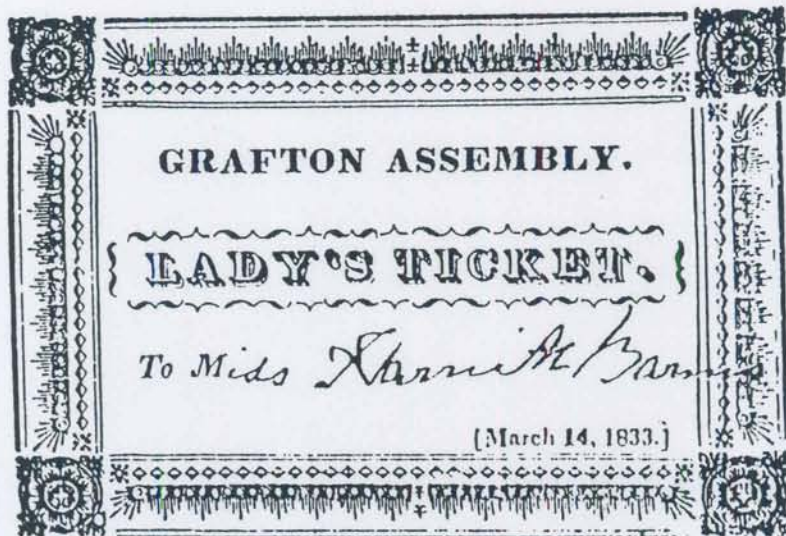
An early photograph of the Grafton Cricket Club in 1868 is in the possession of Mrs. R. Z. Rogers. The players pictured there are:—

- A. H. Godard—Score
- John Willoughby—Spare
- Dr. Wm. Willoughby—Short S.
- E. G. Tremaine
- J. Chas. Rogers—Long Sllp
- F. J. Bingley—Mid Field
- John Johnston—Point
- Robert Z. Rogers—Short Leg
- R. W. Standley—Long Stop

## Proclama

Proclamation  
ery Postoffice  
May 6, Jubilee  
It was announce  
The King's pi  
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The programme  
are still preser  
very few years  
last note.



Tuesday, Sept. 20, 1859, perhaps the first Ball held in the present Town Hall. The Stewards were:—W. F. Pym, Esq., H. Mackenzie, Esq., T. D. Belfield, Esq., J. E. Tremain, Esq., and G. H. J. Godard, Esq. There were over twenty dances including the Lancers, polkas, waltzes and a Sir Roger de Coverley. The note of formality and dignity implied by such tickets and programmes is rather pleasing, and might well be sounded once more in the ears of a generation to whom the dance is often neither formal nor dignified.

From the 1840's to 1870's the Soiree, or afternoon entertainment came into popularity in connection

- A. W. C. Bruce—Point Cover
- James Barnum—Umpire.
- F. Burnett—Long off
- S. W. Cummings—Long Leg
- Alex. Paterson—Bowler.

Such was the prowess of the Grafton Cricketers that in 1870 they played with a Toronto team. Although defeated on that occasion there is no doubt that they were district champions for a time. The old Cricket Field is now the Baseball Field on the Rogers' property.

The transplanted Englishman has always attempted to reproduce social conditions with which he was familiar at home. Hence we are not sur-

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From the 1840's to 1870's the Soiree, or afternoon entertainment came into popularity in connection with the churches. A printed invitation to such a gathering is now in the possession of the Rev. Andrew MacLaughlin, and reads as follows:--

**"Chapel Soiree"**

You are respectfully invited to attend a Soiree to be held on the Wesleyan Chapel Ground at Haldimand Four Corners on Friday, the 10th. Instant at 1 o'clock, P.M., the proceeds of which will be applied to completing the Chapel. You are also requested to invite any that you may think would be interested.

F. G. Rogers

Sec'y. of the Female Chapel Society." Haldimand, July 4, 1846.

References to soirees in aid of the Presbyterian and Methodist congregations of Grafton are to be found in the columns of the "Cobourg World."

The following advertisement appears in the Cobourg "Star" of Dec. 13, 1848:

"The Grafton Female Association intend, D. V., having a Sale of useful and Fancy Articles on Thursday, 21st. curt., the proceeds of which will be devoted to Missionary and Religious purposes.

The Sale will take place in the House of John Steele, Esq., and will commence at 11 o'clock, A.M.

Any contribution will be thankfully received, and may be sent to Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Reid.

Grafton, 4th. Dec. 1848."

This quaintly named Society was the ancestor of the modern Women's Missionary Society. The house in which the sale was held still stands.

Sports were held in high regard two and three generations ago. Cricket emigrated from England with the colonist from 1840's onward and appears to have been the most popular out-door sport until ousted by its American successor baseball by the beginning of the present century. There were teams in Cobourg, Port Hope in 1843 but one of the earliest newspaper references to the Grafton team occurs in the "Cobourg World" of July 12, 1867:—"A match was played between the elevens of the Grafton and Brighton Cricket Clubs, on the grounds of the latter, on Wed. June 16, last. The day was beautiful for the game and the playing on both

always attempted to reproduce social conditions with which he was familiar at home. Hence we are not surprised that in 1845-6 the Cobourg Hunt Club, among whom were numbered some of the Grafton 'elite, was in a flourishing state. A number of kennels were built and the Hunt met occasionally in Grafton. It is conjectured that its life was brief, as newspaper references cover a period of only four or five years.

A meeting of the Newcastle Turf Club was advertised in the "Star" of March 23, 1842 and horse races were held at Cobourg on July 12, 1843. The race-course was situated east of Cobourg, north of the highway, somewhere between the Kingston crossing and the limit of the present town.

In the "Star" of Aug. 23, 1848, a "Grand Provincial Steeple Chase" was loudly advertised. The Stewards were Sir Edward Poore, Jno. Geo. Vansittart, Henry Covert and S. E. MacKechnie. On Friday, Oct. 6, on the last day of the Agricultural Exhibition the great race took place. There were seven entries:—Tom, Lady D'Arcy and Cyclops. The "Star" reporter states:—"In and about Cobourg Mr. Covert's Royal was the favourite, while the knowing ones from a distance freely offered money on Diana, not from any previous success that she had met with, for we are told she has been singularly unfortunate, but from the reputation of her rider, who was looked upon, and, as it turned out, justly, as a first rate hand. The ground selected for the chase lies between the line dividing the Township of Hamilton from Haldimand, and the old Race Course immediately in the rear of Northumberland Hall." Sir Edward Poore and Diana won the race and his riding "was much admired". A local wag observed "that it was no wonder Royal lost the race in these Republican times, or that Diana was, as ever, beautifully chased."

As last week's "Notes" intimated, Grafton possessed a Brass Band in 1859. It is not known when the Band was organized or how long it flourished but it is probable that the group had alternating periods of success and failure. After a time of quiescence it revived again in 1877-78 under the leadership of Mr. J. L. Barnum and two concerts in aid of the Band were held in the Town Hall.

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**BRAN  
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 MIDDLE  
 TRIPLE**

**CHOICE  
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**RAI  
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**Dr. Wood'**



**Norway  
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