SPORT HISTORY

Back When Grandpa Wore a Bowler Acton Was a Big Name in Field Lacrosse

Linders of the Back in 1899 Come to of the Free Press must have feet, suprised to learn that Acton wat a big name in the lacrosse world of fifty years ago when an account appeared in a recent usue Lacrosse in that era was the natieral game of Canada, barrowed from the Indians and adopted with rich enthusiasm it was never given Of course the lacrosse then was field lacrosse and not the modern box lacrosse as played to-

Crowds of 1500 to 2000 used to ja: pack the field at Acton Park to autch the Crescents, which was the cognomen the Acton club went to sally against powerful clubs like Fergus Thistles and Galt in twelve men exhibitions that often resulted in "rhuberts" that would make the hockey brawls of today. taudry by comparison Especially vicilerous were the battles fought with the pen, between rival newslujers in the respective towns and adjectives were want to flow like the proverbial buttermilk when the rentes of that day got warmed up

in this particular year, 1899 the Acton Crescents, after a fairly nectorre season in the Royal District Intermediate series turned out to be the dark horse club of the three team grouping composed of

Wall behaved and law abid by town and its worthy citizens", according to the Free Press of that day forn ing such choice ephitels at an At ton mob", "Acton crowd terguined the stature, "they carried clubs and bludgeons. Acton must be an Irish settlement every mothers son of them had a shillelah etc etc the Reformer accured the Crescents of winning the game by mob violence

The Acton club felt compelled to answer these charges in an open letter to the Gall Reformer published in the Free Press. The letter emphatically denies any such happenings in our fair burgh and advised the Reformer "to retire the fresh young man in charge of your aporting columns from a profession which he has beemirched and dir

Arten Club a Great One

Excitement over that game was not confined to Acton. In George. town of all places the Herald said the Acton clut was a great one

This town seemed shoul as much interested in Action's game with Galt last Saturday as the Acton people themselves. In addition the Herald said (get this). They were also jubilant over the result." The Milton Champion pontificated that

THE AQUATIC CLUB was organized in Acton in the last century and club rooms and boat house erected on the thores of Fairy Lake. Pictured above is the boat house with gentlemen enjoying the manly art of rowing, copul ter at the turn of the century

the powerful Gult team Fergus Thotics, always a threat and the remparatively recently formed Crescents. After breaking even steven at the conclusion of the scheduled play Galt and Fergus played off for the right to meet Acton in the fin-

Galt Confident

feating Fergus decisively. But it was evident from early despatches in the Galt Reformer of that day the Galt team was only do no while was Tapetted of them. The Letermer said early in the season " or 1500 spectators went out to Lickson Park this afternoon clubs 8 .199) and saw the prospective let champions of the CLA defeat their great rivals the Ferrus Thisties 2.0, in as afteresting and ex-TILLE a game as anyone world care

Apparently the Galt class was intested with professionals and virtamiy any notion that Acton could te a threat to the crown was laughed off with scorn by the evallacit sperts scribe of the Reformer

Paring the season, the Reformer st.rred up a tempest when Galt had teen defeated by Acton, 6-2. The Reformer published a report of the game "grossly misrepresenting Acton Lacrosse Club and libelled this

end the Changion was never a journal to get unduly excited about

From the foregoing account, you imagine the hulabaloo stirred up in this district when Galt and Acton faced off in the championship same. It was to be played on the · neutral grounds at Waterloo and Guit copped the first series de- even the burghers of the twin cities of Waterloo and Kitchener were all better of about it

Said the Free Press

A play his account of the episode occurred in the Free Press of that

The event of the day on Civic Heliday ast Thursday . was the classipponship factors, match between Acton and Galt at Waterloo-Between three and four hundred restizens accompanied the Crescents at a were rewarded for their loyalty is seeing them win the championship of the Royal District by overwhelmingly defeating Galt. 6-1, and thus punishing them as they deserved for their unseemly bruggadocio-ample evidence of which is given in the quotations below from the Galt Reformer, which throughout the season has most offensively championed their cause. The Reformer, no doubt inspired by members of the Galt team, has from time to time gone out of the

as to at use Action but new finds t tiecemany to est crew its large . .intitite .

ten the 2 th met a two colors to ethics in which their victory over herein on the previous faturday was intilately referred to in all passible gurb the Refermer said

It was a great game for at least one tram put up a faultless ex hibition of lactueer, Galt Then what was at stake" Everything the remard of a year thand work the championship of the Iteral District. It was true that the winner must meet Acton but both teams had exinced their superiority over Acton The latter therefore was but a miner factor If tergus tri umphed over Galt Fergus would be supreme Acton would fall and now that fialt leads there need be little anxiety Calt and Acton play in Water. lee on Thursday Now boys practice as you practiced for Saturday and on Thursday you will wear the laurel wreaths."

Well the practice went forward The Gall boys practiced hard very hard. They went to Waterloo on Thursday and so did the laurel wreaths, and beautiful silk sashes bearing Galt's gaudy colors But the practice did not avail They were braten badly braten, indeed, and they didn't wear the laurel wreaths nor the costly silken

The same number of the Re termer said.

Acton sent a contingency to

beg Fergus cheer. The Acton ter remained to weep How now Acton' Can't Galt Lav lacrosse

Acten a fond farewell get i if shrouts ready

At Goelph on Satur ery Aug 10 the Fergus Lacress Clut Dving The Acton Lecrosse Club which wins to thet with a mob atmed with Ladgeons Obseques The fortal will be simultaneous

Well all be at the death on Thursday-Acton's demise

Aha' who's dead and wearing shreads now friend Reformer Yes. ven were all in at the death on Thursday but it wasn't Acton's de-"... now was it" The false state tients about mobs with bludgeons con t avail, did it Reformer Try a more honorable course next season Try the truth for a change and you will win at least the respect of lovers of clean and honest sport even if you can't win the championship and the laurel wreaths and silken sashes.

The Acton tram

Fd Ryder Fred Ryder Frank McIntosh Wm Shields C Wilhams, R Scott, R Erwin C Erwin M Henderson, J Watson, F Watson F W Cornett, W Gurney, A Gurney C Henderson, J Barry and J Boyd Field Captain, W H Matthe se :

Repeat Championship

Unfortunately the Galt club of that year made a descent to the lewest unspertsmanlike conduct, pretesting Actions win on a technicallty What the technicality was the Free Press neglects to say, but the decidate match was to be playen at Churiph

Once again however, the Crescents exinced their superiority by hundbling Galt 7-0 The Free Press says The Crescents determined to punish Galt well for their unsportsmanlike tactics and unwarranted presumption and to this end put in full time in solid and careful practice up to the date of the game. They went to Guelph on Saturday afternoon accompanied by between 100 and 200 citizens. Their minds were made up not only to defeat Galt again but to give them such an overwhelming defeat that it would take them a long time to forget it. This they accomplished with an earnestness and so completely that even Galt and their friends were



BOWLER HATS AND VESTS were the rage when ! theto was taken of two skiffs on the then broad expanse of Larry Lake. Evidently the gentlemen are enjoying and eterricon's coling

willing to admit that Acton had really won the championship of the Reyal District

Ontario Champions

With the crown weighing lightly on their shoulders the Crescents went into the provincial playdowns. and eventually emerged as the Ont Intermediate Lacrosse Champions of the Canadian Lacrosse Association It was the first time in Acton's history that a lacrosse championship had been brought to the village and the last. They ousted St. Marys in two consecutive games and edged Beaverton 4-2 to gain the right to meet Wiarton in the Ont

Acton won the deciding game of the series 6-3 from Wiarton and the town went wild when the champs came back home on that Thanksgiving night in 1899. Although there had been other torchlight processions for the team that year, the one that memorable night excelled anything yet. The procession met the team and they paraded from the station, headed by Acton Cornet Band to the town hall where much merry making went on to the sma'

wer hours So ended the glorious sage of lacrosse in Acton Other teams followed the '99 team but they never reached the heights of the club of that year. As interest waned in the game it died a natural death in Acton and survives only in a few sections of Ontario today

April 13 1876 Six persons were haptized in the stream near Tol. ton's Mills on Saturday by Mr.

March 15 1877 The commodious premises on Main Street recently curied and occupied by Messer Kenney Bro has been purchased by Messrs John Kenney and Son beet and shor dealers, into which they will shortly remove

Golf Popular Here Course on Main St.

A time hole still course of the remounted through Onlare and on the property now occupied by Beurdmore & felter leds at ! adjut . ent land known as the Constery Hill The eighth hole was on a partly green tear the 1 ... east corner of the Wilds press to and the minth at the south west is cut ner. The willow swall in the hollow between the links formed . splendid hazard which always taxed the skill of the polices is avoid

Cricket Ceased At Turn of Century

From the earliest dass tarket was a popular game in Act. t. The Old Country residents at especsally the Englishmen bit .2.5 their love of this fine gentler as a game to Canada with them T - tenyplayed it at school and it. * . street enjoying it as much as on present boys enjoy bockey and ba shall. A cricket club was formed - Acton witht Teacher Moore as cartain and Ed McGarvin secretary when a crease was built inside a rice track up on Young St. For seve at vears the game thrived but andually gave way to baseball Tie last cricket played in Acton as is between the boys of the old school at the last reunion of Robb Littles pupils in June 1980. Recently an attempt was made to form a club but lack of interest soon c see iraged the exponents of the same and the club folded

July 2, 1875 - Free Press office on Mill St a few deers from the Post Office



THE COMMODIOUS GROUNDS of the tennis and bowling c'ub are shown in this picture. Neat and well looked after, the courts and greens have the distinction of being among the finest in Ontario. Both are artificially lighted and many a tournament has been held here. The grounds replaced the old commons that once stood there.