

George Peebles Elder

1878 – 1956

There is much confusion with this guy because there seems to be two George Elders about the same time. The one we are interested in is George Peebles Elder since that was his mother's maiden name. His father is shown as being a joiner initially and living in **St Johns in Earlsferry High street**.

No.	Name and Surname.	When and Where Born.	Sex.	Name, Surname, & Rank or Profession of Father. Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother. Date and Place of Marriage.	Signature and Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if one of the parties is when the Birth occurred.	When and Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
1	George Peebles Elder	1878. December twenty second 9th 30th P.M.	M.	Mr. George Elder Joiner Margaret Elder M. S. Peebles	George Elder Father (present)	1879. January 4 th St. Andrews Thomas McNamee
		Earlsferry		1168 December 27 th Earlsferry		

George was born in 1879. He was born in 1878 although, being the 27th December, his birth was not registered until January 1879. His wife's maiden name was Cochrane and she came from Dennistoun. They were married in Dennistoun Glasgow in 1907 but his address there is shown as Fox Rock Dublin. He is designed as a golf club maker. Before 1900 that he was assistant to Jamie Braid at Walton Heath and may have come with him from Romford but he died in Australia in 1956 but we are at a loss for the intervening period. According to one report in 1903 he seems to have resigned from Hamburg and so took up somewhere else in 1903..... while it was only the other day George Elder resigned his post near Hamburg.....

We are assuming that this is the right George Elder

We have received information from Foxrock History society which accords with his presence at Dublin until 1908.

and obliging... We consider him fully competent to undertake Green keeping in all its branches, and his work done here reflects greatly to his credit".

£1 0s 0d PER WEEK

Clay having left "of his own request" in August 1906 the Club advertised for a successor, and on 23 August a letter was sent to Mr G P Elder, Earlsferry, Fife :-

"... your application for Professional and Club maker has been laid before the Committee, and out of a number of applications they have decided to appoint you."

then, to avoid raising his hopes too high,

"if on interview you are approved."

Elder arrived on 1 September for a week's mutual examination during which he could see "the links, accommodation, etc.", the Club magnanimously paying his expenses. It would seem from a letter of 29 August that no less than the great Harry Vardon had spoken on his behalf, and on 7 September Elder, presumably approved at interview, was appointed as :-

Professional and Greenkeeper at £1 0s 0d per week... subject to a week's notice.

"You will be expected to work on the Greens and Course ... and to keep the entire links in good order. You will also be expected to exercise supervision over the caddies."

then come the opportunities.

"You will be permitted to charge a shilling per round of nine holes for coaching, and to make, repair, and sell Clubs and balls".

however, lest dreams of potential wealth distract him, the letter ends with the stern reminder,

"it must be strictly understood that the proper care of the Greens and Course is your first duty and that it must not be interfered with by any other work".

He must have expressed some views about his accommodation as on 9 October the Committee accepted a tender of £1 19. 0s.0d. to build "a new Professional's workshop" and the contractor was requested "to put the matter in hand at once".

COURSE DESIGN

He was evidently well thought of as within a few months of his appointment he was taking the 10 o'clock train from Foxrock to Gorey, changing at Bray, in response to a request "to lay out the Golf Links" for the Gorey and District Golf Club. They were to pay him "his expenses and ten shillings for the day." (The Gorey club was instituted in October 1906, but survived on the original land only until around 1920.)

Mr Elder was still with the Foxrock Club in 1908, when with opening rounds of 84 and 88 in the IPGA Championship he failed to qualify for the quarter finals by 5 strokes - perhaps not surprising in view of his many demanding duties to the Club.

LATE OF BUNDORAN

It seems that Elder left the Club in 1908 and his place was taken by H J Magee who in a contemporary article is described only as "late of Bundoran". A more elaborate description appears in the 1911 edition of Porter's Office Guide :-

H J MAGEE

Professional Golfer and Golf Club Manufacturer

FOXROCK, CO. DUBLIN

25 Years' Practical experience. Special Irons. "Pipe"

Brand Drives (sic) and Brassey.

Telegrams LINKS, FOXROCK

No other reference to him has been found, but it is probable that he was the last professional employed by the Club before Pat Neill joined us soon after the end of the first World War.

FIFTY YEARS

In February 1959 a presentation was made by the Captain, M H Keogh, to Pat Neill, a photograph of the occasion bearing the caption "Fifty years is a long round at golf". It would seem that about forty of those years were spent as professional with Foxrock.

Thereafter it is a bit piecemeal. The 1900 census shows a George Elder as living in Walton Heath,

M 131	Edwards, William	Rooms over stables, Walton manor	Dwelling house	Rooms over stables
M 132	Elder, George	Oak's lodge, Walton heath	Dwelling house	Oak's lodge
M 133	Elliott, Henry	The lodge, Manor house	Dwelling house	The lodge

which might accord with his employment as a golf club maker. We think that he is the George Elder who won the Craigforth Challenge cup in Earlsferry Thistle in 1899. He beat Isaac Mackie who was a contemporary.

EARLSFERRY.

THISTLE GOLF CLUB.—The competition for the monthly medal took place on Saturday, when the trophy was won by Mr James Fullis, with a score of 78, Mr George Elder being 79 nett.

Earlsferry Thistle Club.—On Thursday evening **George Elder** and Isaac Mackie competed in the final for the Craigforth Challenge Cup, the gift of the late Lieutenant Outhwaite. Mackie ceded two strokes, and failed to make up the leeway, **Elder** winning by several strokes to the good.

Alex. Herd v. Tom Hutchinson.—The above players had another round of the old course at St

EARLSFERRY.

GOLF MATCH.—Interesting foursomes were played on two nights by Messrs James Nelson and **George Elder**, two of the Ferry cracks, against Professor Hele Shaw and Mr James Forrester, the local professional. After very closely contested rounds the latter couple finished two and one. A third round was arranged when undoubtedly the Ferry players came to the front, and squared matters. Ferry pluck still shows itself in the rising golfers.

EARLSFERRY.

GOLF COMPETITION.—On New Year's Day the Edinburgh medal and a few prizes were competed for. Owing to the previous night's frost the links were somewhat hard, resulting in high scoring. The following are the prize winners:—G. Elder, 78, less 2—76; J. Cameron, 82, less 4—78; and Isaac Mackie, scratch, 79.

A GOOD LET.—Mr Andrew, of Glasgow, has taken Mr Robert Simpson's house, Lyndhurst, for a year.

THISTLE GOLF CLUB.—The monthly medal was competed for on Saturday. Few players turned out. At the start a strong westerly wind came away, and interrupted the play. C. Sunter, 87 less 4—83 and **George Elder**, 85 less 2—83 tied. Other scores—D. Paterson, 84 (scratch), and A. Sunter, 91 less 4—87.

He is shown as having travelled across to Canada in 1904, but there is no record of what he did in Canada. He was still employed at Foxrock until 1908, so he must have come back from Canada.

Name	Age	Sex	Occupation	Destination
Anderson M. Thos	34	Male	Farmer	Winnipeg
McKendrick Andrew	25	Male	Farmer	Winnipeg
" James	30	Male	Farmer	Winnipeg
Douglas R.	24	Male	Farmer	Winnipeg
Rodds Geo. A.	17	Male	Farmer	Winnipeg
McLean William	19	Male	Farmer	Winnipeg
Elder Geo. D.	24	Male	Farmer	Winnipeg
Findlay Matthew	26	Male	Farmer	Winnipeg
" Wm	24	Male	Farmer	Winnipeg

In 1925 he went to Australia with his wife and we are pretty certain he is identifiable in that the ship's manifest as it shows his address as c/o Cochrane in Dennistoun.

His destination after 1908 when he left Ireland is impossible to find currently. We have come across a passage for himself and his wife from New Zealand in 1924, although what he was doing there we do not currently know however he then went to Australia in 1925 and that is where he stayed until his death in 1956.

Name	Age	Sex	Occupation	Destination
Victor	60	Male	Retired	1
Davis Walter Edwin	23	Male	Comm. Artist	1
Dean Charles C. W.	20	Male	Labourer	1
Dean Frederick Chas.	27	Male	Housewife	1
" Caroline	46	Female	Music Teacher	1
Dixon Minnie	43	Female	Partner	1
Dick James	25	Male	Independent	1
Doyle Florence M.	34	Female	Carpenter	1
Dunn Frank Herbert	34	Male	Joiner	1
Dunn John Williamson	45	Male	Architect	1
Sales William H.	45	Male	Painter	1
Elder George	44	Male	Housewife	1
Margaret	29	Female	Builder	1
Evans Mary	28	Female	Domestic	1
Joan Mary	23	Female	Domestic	1
Fisher Hilda A.	26	Female	Secretary	1
Franklin Stella	30	Female	Independent	1
Gillan Helen B.	21	Female	Clerk	1
Gibbon Edith W.	28	Female	Housewife	1
Gibbon Elizabeth	43	Female	Housewife	1

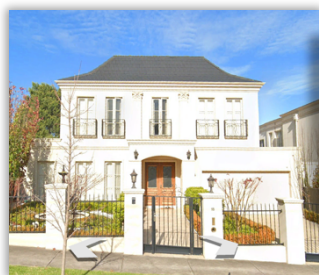
Name	Age	Sex	Occupation	Destination
ELDER George P.	45	Male	Painter	Melbourne
" Margaret	43	Female	wife	Melbourne

Name	Age	Sex	Occupation	Destination
James Murphy	24	Male	Grocer	"
Geo. P. Elder	24	Male	Butcher	"
Wm. F. Hodges	24	Male	Farmer	"
Fred. H. Best	24	Male	Painter	"
Joseph Hazell	24	Male	Cabinet Maker	"
Jack	24	Male	Carpenter	"
Eliza F. Reasons	24	Female	Nile	"
Wm. H.	24	Male	"	"

There is no record of him on the golf course when he went to Australia as he is designed as a painter and in subsequent electoral rolls he is shown as living in 18 Kerr Avenue, Camberwell in Victoria and as late as 1933 he is still living in Toorak and designed as a painter.

His wife also lived in that address except for one electoral roll when she seems to be at a different address from him but that have been some form of estrangement – they did not appear to have any children.

He died in Victoria Australia in 1956 though we do not have exact information about that. We have not been able to trace his wife subsequent to that but we still look.



3954 Elder, Eric Vincent, 3 Nepean rd., clerk, M
3955 Elder, George Peebles, 18 Kerr cres., painter, M
3956 Elder, Helen Evangeline, 13 Lurnea rd., home duties, F
3957 Elder, Kenneth William, 13 Lurnea rd. bank official, M
3958 Elder, Margaret, 18 Kerr cres., home duties, F
3959 Elder, Winifred Mary, 3 Nepean rd., home duties, F

1442 Elder, Catherine Isabella, 8 Motherwell st., Hawksburn, insurance agent, M
1443 Elder, David Turner, 93A Mathoura rd., Tk., stock and station agent, F
1444 Elder, George Peebles, 33 Mathoura pl., Toorak, painter, M
1445 Elder, Helen Olive, 93A Mathoura rd., Toorak, home duties, F
1446 Elder, James Alex. Mackenzie, "Tarnawa," Lansell rd., T., mercht., M
1447 Elder, Lucile, 10 Bruce st., Toorak, home duties, F
1448 Elder, Margaret, 33 Carter's av., Toorak, home duties, F
1449 Elder, Margaret Blith "Tarnawa," Lansell rd., T., mercht., M



1931