

George Finnick Walker

1870 - ????

There are three Walker Brothers; Robert born 1864, George born 1870, and John (q.v.). George was born in Earlsferry 2nd January 1870. The family lived at almost the last house at the west end of Earlsferry High Street.

George Finnick Walker	1870	Mr. William Walker	1870
2 nd January	January	Barman (Merchant)	January 20 th
Earlsferry	Earlsferry	Swire	At
		Janet Walker	High Street
		Mr. S. Finnick	Registrar
		1852 November	
		Earlsferry	

Thomas Linn Registrar.

ing bereavement.
EARLSFERRY.
DRUNKEN BRAWLS AT EARLSFERRY.—Before Sheriff Honeyman at Cupar on Monday, **George Walker** caddie; William Webster, fisherman; and John **Walker**, golf club maker, were charged with having conducted themselves in a riotous manner at Earlsferry on Saturday. **George Walker** was further charged with assaulting Police Constable Balsillie while taking him into custody, and the other two were charged with forcibly attempting to take him from the custody of the officer. They pleaded guilty. Mr J. E. Grosset, acting Procurator-Fiscal, said that for some time past the constable had been subject to a good deal of annoyance and obstruction at the instance of young men, and pointed out that obstructing the police was always a serious offence. The Sheriff said it seemed that these drunken brawls were pretty frequent at this season of the year at Earlsferry. He fined **George Walker** £2, or twenty-one days' imprisonment, and the other two £1 each, or ten days' imprisonment.

He suffered a similar fate to his brother by falling foul of the law in 1899 although on this occasion he is designed as a caddie.

He was clearly a good golfer hence in 1896:

E L I E.

ANOTHER GOLF CHALLENGE FOR KINNELL.—A correspondent, writing from Earlsferry on Wednesday, informs us that a second challenge has been issued from this nursery of golf to James Kinnell, who only last Saturday won the match with A. H. Scott for £10. This time the challenge is from Mr **George Walker**, for £15 a-side, and is to be played off within twenty-one days of this date. It is not likely there will be any hesitation on the part of Kinnell to accept. The match opens up the possibility of another splendid exhibition game. G. Walker has a record for steady play, and though seldom on strange greens can always be relied upon to give a good account of himself. The Ferry folk, like the Frenchman, are never beaten, it is only a reverse. The match will be welcomed at both Leven and the Ferry, though preferable a four-some, Kinnell and a partner say against Scott and Walker, would have been even better.

In 1900 he entered the Elie Games with a result

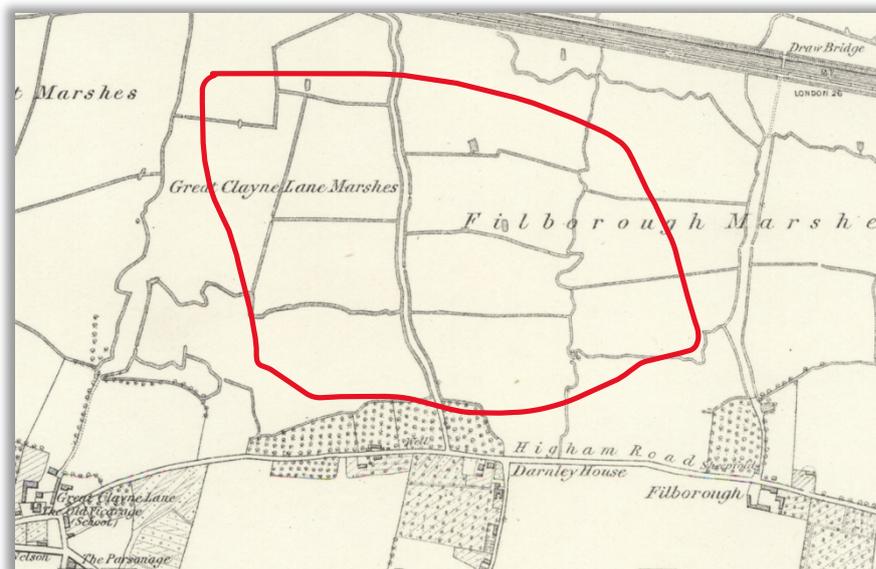
Driving golf ball (professionals)—1 Isaac Mackie, Earlsferry, 237 yards; 2 George Walker, Earlsferry.
Driving golf ball (amateurs)—1 G. Walker, Elie; 2 James Hunter, Earlsferry.
Putting the stone—A. Dempster, Dundee; 2 A. Shannon, Edinburgh, 3 P. Scott, Muircambus.

There would appear to have been two G Walkers one Earlsferry and one Elie and we assuming that our George was the professional. And this in 1901 although we note that this is George B Walker but we find no such Walker in Earlsferry in 1901 so we are assuming this is a misprint.

EARLSFERRY LAL BREAKS A RECORD.—Playing over Leith Links on Friday, George B. Walker went out in 38, and home in 34, his total of 72 knocking some strokes off the previous best return.

He is referred to in a newspaper article as going to *Chesterfield* “Jack Duncan is in Stirling, and George Walker goes to Chesterfield in the same line*.”

We have found reference also to him being professional and holding the record at a golf club in Gravesend. There certainly was a golf club at Chesterfield but he does not feature in any of the published information about it. We think that if he was at Chesterfield he cannot have been long before moving to Gravesend. From that article it would seem that he was at Gravesend at least in 1905. The course was located between Great Clane Marshes and Filborough Marshes, the clubhouse was near the junction of Higham Road and Castle Lane.



Although the information compiled to do a 1905 yearbook might well have been out of date.

The following is from the 1905 Nisbet's Golf Yearbook; Instituted 1903; Membership of 70; Hon. secretaries; F H Stevens, Milton Road, Gravesend; W C Fletcher, 180 Parrock Street, Gravesend; Captain, Robert C Fowle; Entrance Fee £1/1s and Subs, £2/2s; Nine-hole course; Professional, G Walker; Professional record G Walker, 71; Amateur record R C Fraser, 71; Terms for visitors – Temporary members who are members of any recognised Golf Club, or officers of the naval, military, and Civil Services of the Crown (this restriction is not applying to friends staying in a member's house) admitted to the club room and links on payment of 5s a week; £1/1s for six months; and £1/1s for a further six months. The course is situated on the Marsh Lands on the banks of the Thames between Gravesend and Higham. The turf is very good, and though not a difficult one, the course is very interesting. It at present consists of nine-hoes, but it is proposed in the near future to increase it to eighteen.

We think it is of some significance that his elder brother Robert Finnick Walker (q.v.) was nearby at Rochester (Oakleigh) golf club between 1896 and 1912. They are probably less than 2 miles apart.

Whilst we cannot find any reference to George living in the area at that time he may well have stayed with his brother in Lower Higham. However, after that we cannot trace him. Gravesend Golf Club went into demise after the First World War, but we cannot trace where George went.

The confusion is not helped by the fact that there is another George Walker born on exactly the same day as our George in Roxburgh. He went off to the States and became a gardener and we first thought that the quote above referred to the "line" as a greenkeeper/gardener rather than a professional golfer. But we consider that they are two different people.

George would have been 45 at the outbreak of World War 1 and it may be that he served in some capacity but strangely we cannot find him in any of the census thereafter. The 1939 census or register was most comprehensive but there seems to be no trace of him. We will continue our inquiries in the hope that we find something more. His brother who was 9 years older died in 1954.