

I Wonder Why I Like this Job

Jim Pedersen, Hughes Creek Golf Club

It's a cold day in July; the low today was 50 degrees, a new record low. The spring was wet and cold also, and August promises to be drier than normal. So as I sit here in my office I have to ask myself why I like this profession. It's definitely not for the fame and fortune. Anybody who has seen me play golf knows it isn't for the "FREE GOLF."



Maybe I was born into it. My parents both worked in factories in Chicago, so I didn't get it from them. My grandfather worked outside for the Chicago Park District, but he was a painter – the kind that painted the old band shell in Grant Park every year.

So I guess I have to go further back.


There was a relative, James, who was the attorney general of Rhode Island. Let's go back further. My 8th great grandfather was a spy for General Washington during the Revolutionary War. I don't see him playing golf. I will need to go further back in my ancestry.

Let's go all the way back to the year 1619. A relative named Andrew Honeyman was born at St. Andrews University in Scotland. He was made Bishop by King Charles II and then was promoted to Archdeacon in the year 1662. So, let's see, I have a politician, a spy, a Bishop.....this sounds like the makings of either a bad joke or a made for TV movie.

I have traced my ancestry all the way back to the Honeyman clan in St. Andrews, Scotland. Bishop Andrew Honeyman of the Orkneys created the crest of the coat of arms he used as the Bishop's seal. The motto on the crest: I Rogredere Ne Reqrederc (I advance do not recede).

So let's advance up the left side of the tree where I find David Honeyman working at St. Andrews Golf Club as Tom Morris' assistant in the late 1870s. David Honeyman played a role in the evolution of the three golf courses that came to comprise St. Andrews during his tenure.

David Honeyman was also involved in the construction of the Jubilee Course in 1897 and is widely credited with suggesting in 1902 that it would be possible to extend the course from the original 12 to 18 holes.

I now know that David Honeyman and I can trace our ancestry back to St. Andrews University in Fifeshire, Scotland. "We all belong to Fife," has long been a phrase used by the Honeyman clan. Being a golf course superintendent is more than likely in my DNA. 

Works Cited:

Internet Archive: The Honeyman Family in Scotland & America (By Van Doren Honeyman) Library of Congress 3/9/1909.

The Spy and General Washington by William Wise. Library of Congress catalog #65-12187.

Have you heard of David Honeyman?, Golfdom July 2013 By Matt Neff, Assistant Superintendent.