Philip Granville: A Canadian Athlete Lost to History (until now!)

William Humber

Athletes can disappear from history; their lives resurrected only by a chance encounter with a later chronicler surprised at how persons so prominent in their day simply vanish from the historic record.

Few so thoroughly fit this characterization as Philip "Ponsonby" Granville of Hamilton Ontario. In a ten-year period of the 1920s through the early thirties he was a world class ultra-marathoner in three distinct long distance formats – walking, running, and snowshoeing – setting records, winning championships and earning top three finishes in each. By participating in a range of long distance competitions and sports he not only helped legitimize them particularly ultra-marathon running, but by virtue of his personal history he was a pioneer for under-represented minority athletes.

He showcased his ability to go long distances as a walking specialist competing for Canada in the Paris Olympic Games of 1924. Then he demonstrated his proficiency as a superior ultra-marathoner in the cross-America runs of 1928 and 1929. His combined performances would have ranked him, had such existed, as the number three competitor in the world. In doing so he enhanced the profile of ultra-marathon running as it gradually transitioned from its carnival-like, voyeuristic appeal to one with contemporary athletic legitimacy. Finally, this Jamaican born, and raised, track specialist

would compete in Quebec snowshoe races against the best long distance performers of the era and succeed in a manner possibly surprising for an athlete who likely never saw snow until he came to Canada in 1919.

I first heard of him over the Christmas holidays of 2015 when I finally read Mark Whitaker's book *Running for Their Lives* (Yellow Jersey, 2012) about two prominent British ultra-marathoners Arthur Newton and Peter Gavuzzi which I'd picked up in London a few years before. One of their chief rivals in the two cross-America runs of 1928 and 1929 (popularly, and somewhat sarcastically, dubbed The Bunion Derbies), was Philip Granville, a man of mixed racial background from Hamilton, Ontario.

What did I know about Philip Granville? Nothing! I wrote an entire book on African-Canadian athletes in 2004 (*A Sporting Chance*: Dundurn, 2004) with nary a mention (or even knowledge on my part) of Granville. I asked Canada's premier sport historian and academic Dr. Bruce Kidd what he knew of Granville. I received a similar response – "I don't know, or remember anything about Philip Granville." I combed Canada's sports history texts back to the 1920s, and did the obligatory on-line searches. The books had nothing and the on-line sources had only the barest of secondary details. I contacted Mark Whitaker. He couldn't help.

I followed up with two noted track historians who had particular interest in the Bunion Derbies and their principal athletes, Charles Kastner of Seattle and Rob Hadgraft in the United Kingdom, and while both were keen and curious they had only limited knowledge of what became of Granville. Finally, however Kastner found and sent along the email contact for Granville's grandson, who I now know as Keith living in Australia. Through enquiry and

continuing search a more complete story can now be told, though gaps remain and probably always will.

Just as Philip Granville's later life is shrouded in much uncertainty so are many details of his early life unreliable. His birth date in Jamaica is unknown and the year, while possibly 1894, is only listed as such in later documentation. His parentage presents a quandary though it was most likely that of a union between a woman of African West Indian background and a white European father. According to Granville's grandson Keith Granville, "My grandfather's nickname was 'Ponsonby' and a researcher who I employed thought there could be connection to a son of an Earl from St. Lucia named Granville Ponsonby."

According to on-line biographical information Granville Ponsonby was the son of Walter Ponsonby, 7th Earl of Bessborough and Louisa, Countess of Bessborough. The Ponsonby family were titled folks in the United Kingdom. Their sporting interests dated back to the early days of cricket in that country forming "I Zingari" (or 'The Gypsies' as translated from the Italian) in 1845. The squad had no home ground but awaited invitations from prominent country houses providing hospitality and entertainment in return for a match.

An on-line biography describes Granville Ponsonby as Chief of Police at St. Lucia, and says he died in 1924 "without issue". In the absence of DNA testing this may always remain a mystery. In 1931 his nephew became Governor-General of Canada. News reports suggested that the appointment recognized a long standing family connection between Canada and the West Indies. In more ways than one this may explain Philip Granville's comfort in moving to Canada years before.

With a complexion described as "the color of cinnamon" however his ancestry would have important consequences

for his sporting career. Some accounts later described him as Negro, others as a Jamaican, in one place he was called a Canadian Indian, while a Lancashire (England) newspaper said he was French Canadian. Fred Poynton a distinguished British walker applauded his "…real American spirit" and pictured him as a "big, powerful coloured man, with shoulders like a wrestler, as strong as a Hercules in appearance, but just short of that bit of polish that makes the difference between a good man and a champion." These were all attempts at distinction in an era when racial identity could shape a person's destiny.

It is certain however that Philip Granville received a superior education. He would later be described by Charles Kastner, borrowing from descriptions of the day, as being "… about 185 pounds and over six feet tall. Granville was handsome, blessed with endurance, and spoke the King's English with the clipped vowels of an Oxford don." What this suggests is that like one of Jamaica's greatest athletes, Gerald Claude (G.C.) Foster, born ten years before Granville in 1884, Philip most likely was educated at one of the country's better schools, possibly Wolmer's. It is described as one of the Caribbean's most prestigious schools, known for its traditional British-style uniform and strong Christian ethos. Foster himself was proud of the Latin and Greek he learned there so it seems reasonable to conclude Philip Granville had a similar "British education system" upbringing particularly if a noted, but anonymous, "father" made such arrangements. This however is speculation.

By the early twentieth century Jamaica was a hotbed of enthusiasm for athletics and cricket. Meets and matches ranged from Montego Bay to Kingston. G.C. Foster was simply one of an amazing collection of notable athletes whose sprinting prowess was curtailed by Jamaica not

being part of the International Olympic movement. Foster even went to London in 1908 with hopes of competing in the Games but his application was rejected due to his country's non-affiliation.

The teenage Granville was by this time beginning to exhibit the sporting talent that would allow him to lay claim to being one of Jamaica's and Canada's best all-round athletes. By the age of 15 his name was appearing in the Kingston Gleaner with a less than flattering portrayal of his running technique. "Granville runs peculiarly, he draws his shoulders right up to his ears, then keeps his fists clinched immediately under his chin. He did several laps but no pace was in them. If he has an idea of running he must run and not crouch like a pugilist as style helps a runner very much."

Perhaps the unorthodoxy of his style either led him to, or resulted from, even at this young age, a preference for walking races. In the rest of the scattered accounts of his athletic career in Jamaica we find him in a variety of distance races for the prescribed "heel and toe" motion of the walker. Walking, in track and field terms, requires that the competitor's back toe not leave the ground until the heel of the front foot has touched while the supporting leg must be straight until the body has passed over it. To the uninitiated it gives the appearance of a person keenly interested in, but debilitated from, breaking into a fully-fledged run.

By the time he leaves for Canada in 1919 he is being described as "the walking machine". Even in one-mile scratch races where he was often disadvantaged by another competitor getting a 100 yards' handicap head start he won.

Nor was he alone in this often under-appreciated era of Jamaican athletics (though fortunately this is being

corrected by Jamaican historians, Arnold Bertram and Diane Shaw, the latter being author of **Remembering G.C. Foster**: self-published, 2015). In 1909 Philip Granville competed in meets featuring Foster, now having returned from England where he'd been introduced to the latest running techniques, as well as a future Jamaican statesman Norman Manley, and the Scottish descended McCulloch brothers Albert and Geoffrey. Geoffrey had moved to Canada by 1911 where he continued to compete in middle distance races.[1]

For Granville this was heady company, no more so than at a late November 1909 meet at Sabina Park in Kingston featuring Granville along with Foster, Manley and the McCullochs. One can only wonder what he learned or shared with these extraordinary men and the role they may have played in his later career.

By 1911 (now likely 17 years old) the Gleaner effusively reported, "In the history of Jamaica's sport there is none like him and he has not even got a dangerous rival among his compeers today. In fact when it comes to walking Granville stands in a class by himself…. In any scratch event he is a sure winner, his tireless stride rapidly carrying him to the front and keeping him there. He has a beautiful action in walking, his stride being clean and perfect. Granville holds the Jamaican and West Indian record of 7 minutes 37 seconds for the mile."

By now his prominence in walking was becoming legendary. In 1913 against five other walkers, Granville mastered the 37-mile event from May Pen in Clarendon to Kingston. Starting in the morning he quickly left his rivals far behind and was joined by an escort of drays, carts, and men on horseback. Others including local women and children in the hundreds followed on foot. They cheered the 'walking machine' as he heel and toed it along the hot

dusty road to Old Harbour where the whole town turned out to see him pass. There was an even larger escorting party on the 14 miles between Old Harbour and Spanish Town, and here Granville, well in the lead, rested. Refreshed, he started out on the last stage of his long walk. Thousands of Kingston's citizens saw him arrive, as he finished strongly opposite Queen Victoria's statue at South Parade, at 5:30 in the afternoon.

The only grumbling voice may have been that of an unnamed patron who put a small want ad in the Gleaner in mid-September, requesting, "P.P. Granville the walker to return cloak which he borrowed from me at Chapeltown on the 1st August."

More track events followed through 1915 and then once again the story goes somewhat cold. We do know he married in 1916, had a daughter in 1918 and that his wife died in 1921, all in Jamaica. Following a series of local competitions in 1919, but now intent on competing at the Olympic Games, he left the country for Canada perhaps on the advice of G.C. Foster and in recognition of the necessity of changing his national allegiance to that of an Olympic associated country.

He arrived in Canada listing his occupation as tailor and took up residence at the Hamilton YMCA. For the better part of the next decade this would be home. He had one last hurrah however as a great Jamaican representative. Running in Cuba in 1921, he won the 26 mile, 285-yard marathon against runners from five countries but in the somewhat pedestrian time of three hours and 54 minutes. "The British element went away in glee over the victory of the famed Jamaican athlete," said the Gleaner.

His early days in his new country are those of a man eager to develop his athletic talent, and find work. It was not always easy but for a man of mixed race heritage

Hamilton was probably as benign a place as he could find in North America. There was a small black community in this region, descendants of escaped black slaves from the time before the American Civil War of the 1860s. Ray Lewis a son of Hamilton and a descendant of those freedom-seeking people would medal for Canada at the 1932 Los Angeles Olympic Games.

For a time it was also Phil Edwards' home as he pursued a medical career. As a black man from British Guiana, a country like Jamaica not part of the Olympic movement, he chose Canada as his home though the majority of his family had resettled in New York City. Edwards eventually won five track medals (all bronze) for Canada in the 1928, 1932 and 1936 Olympic games.

While life for black men even in Hamilton would have its moments of discomfort they all found it to be an accepting place for pursuing their athletic careers. For Granville however this included periods of unemployment and perhaps a reason he would eventually opt for a professional status.

By 1923 he was on his way to a spectacular decade-long run of multi-sport accomplishment, beginning with his prowess as an Olympic level walker after determining that marathon running wasn't his strength.

On the other hand, by the latter part of that year he was reflecting on several opportunities to go to the United States. He claimed his heart however was set on representing Canada at the Olympics, where he was given an equal chance of winning in the walking events, and so he turned a deaf ear to such proposals. The Globe and Mail called him, one of Canada's, "outstanding athletes and one of the few track men who are conceded to be of Olympic caliber…. Today he stands in the forefront of the exponents of the game which George Goulding made popular by his

Olympic win in 1912, and at which he was the king-pin for some years following."

Over the next few years Granville eclipsed a 10-mile standard set in Guelph by Goulding. He later broke the American 100-mile record on his way to covering the 107-mile trek from Buffalo to Toronto in 19 hours and 51 minutes. Amid this walking mastery he earned a spot on Canada's 1924 Summer Olympic team sailing to Paris under the leadership of Captain Cornelius of Hamilton. Listing his nationality on travel papers as Canadian, he fell victim to illness but still managed an eighth place finish in heat two of the 10,000 metre walk.

It was also on this trip, his family says, he met Grace, a British woman likely living in Brighton on the English south coast. They married and had two sons, a namesake, Philip, in 1926 and Stanley in 1928. As their father, Philip continued to travel back and forth across the Atlantic on multiple occasions. While it's not always clear where the family was living, a 1925 certificate awarded Granville by the Surrey Walking Club[2] for his participation in the London Brighton walk lists his membership as that of the Hamilton (Ontario) YMCA. In that same year he won the Manchester to Blackpool walk in the north of England.

Between Olympic Games, Philip Granville needed to make a living and support his family. While originally described as a tailor, later documentation mentions his work as a painter, and it's also very likely he was a participant in track events for which under the table payments were common. Notably in 1925 he travelled throughout the United States with the great Finnish distance runner Paavo Nurmi, and Nurmi's countryman Ville Ritola. All were accused of taking money, a definite no-no in the simon-pure era of amateur athletics, and

Granville was even threatened with losing his amateur card.

He didn't, but while Nurmi and Ritola were able to prosper as "well-supported" amateurs and competed in the 1928 Olympic games in Amsterdam, the resources as such for a long distance walker were always uncertain. As well it was becoming increasingly clear there would be no walking event in the 1928 games, something confirmed for potential Olympians near the time they were to depart Canada.

Sensing this would be the case Granville had already begun to look elsewhere for opportunity. The turning point was the blandishments of a flamboyant American sports promoter Charles, "Cash and Carry", Pyle. In tandem with the famous footballer Red Grange he put together an ambitious plan for a run of several months across the United States from Los Angeles to New York in the late winter and spring of 1928. The idea seemed preposterous but it attracted the best and brightest ultra-marathoners of the era including Englishmen Arthur Newton and Peter Gavuzzi, but also the motliest and least prepared. All were staking their time and talent on a first prize of $25,000.

Pyle's sporting extravagance had been demonstrated in late 1926 when his apparently serious intent to buy the Toronto St. Pats hockey team (today's Maple Leafs) and possibly move them to Philadelphia was eventually thwarted by the intervention of Conn Smythe and some wealthy local financiers, without whom the history of sports in Canada and Toronto might have been very different. In the case of the cross-America run however a number of Canadian runners including Philip Granville were enthusiastic supporters of Pyle's idea.

For his part Pyle was certain that towns across America would pay him royally for the honour of welcoming the

weary runners each night, and he surrounded the run with a troupe of performers and big top hullabaloo in an attempt to shake down the locals for even more money. Despite their early enthusiasm however the runners soon realized they were almost a second thought for Pyle. Their food rations were limited and of low quality, the management of their various ills and physical needs was non-existent, and the sleeping arrangements were a mélange of dirty tents and even sleeping rough.

Only those athletes able to attract support from a team of backers (Granville's was a noted Hamilton sportsman W.J. "Bill" Westcott) could survive an ordeal of what were often runs of 50 to 75 miles a day. One competitor however noted his preference for such challenges finding the traditional 26-mile marathon to be sufficiently short so that just as one really got warmed up in such an event, it ended.

Each competitor adopted their own approach. Some built significant leads based on their long distance marathon running prowess, only to drop out from the daily grind. Others went slow and easy, realizing, as in Aesop's fable of the tortoise versus the hare, victory would go to those who survived the rigours of daily runs. Granville started the race as a walker but at some point realized he'd have to pick up the pace and he too became a runner.

What distinguished the run however was the sporting engagement of both white and black athletes, in an era when such matchups were rare. Organized baseball was strictly segregationist. Boxing had a black champion Jack Johnson until he lost the title in 1915 and the sport's organizers vowed that such likelihood would never again be permitted. American football had brief integration but soon put a stop to that.

If Canadians seemed smug in the face of this racism it should be noted that in April, while the runners like

Granville were plodding across America, the "Afro-American" newspaper reported that the YMCA had pulled their international conference out of Toronto. The Prince Edward (later King Edward) Hotel had refused accommodation to black members of the Y's administrative team, supposedly because other unrelated and "likkered" (sic) up white American visitors demanded such apartheid as the basis of their continuing to come to Toronto.

When the runners crossed into Texas and later Oklahoma, black competitors like Eddie Gardner of Seattle, and of course Philip Granville were pursued by members of the Ku Klux Klan, who threatened to kill one of them if they passed a white runner. The Klan then imposed strict segregation on the run demanding that white and black entrants have separate tents. It got so bad that Granville, perplexed by a racism which he had never really experienced at this level of ferocity, began calling himself a Jamaican of Indian descent, and the worst of the harassment declined. Arriving in Chicago however he was welcomed as a member of the black community which turned out to cheer him on.

The race ended in New York, 84 days after it started with Granville finishing third. Plans were immediately announced for a 26 hours team running race in Madison Square Gardens (which Granville would win along with teammate Frank Von Flue). Before then however he was able to return to Hamilton briefly where he was toasted with a parade through town, a civic reception and received accolades from the city's Mayor, as well as being the topic of congratulatory headlines in the Hamilton Spectator. Of his accomplishment the always confident Granville said, "Lindbergh only sat down and drove an engine for 36 hours. I ran for 84 days, on my feet!"

On top of this, according to Spectator sports editor Walter McMullen, Philip would meet his new born son Stanley [Keith Granville's father], suggesting he had recently been born in Hamilton though Ancestry records are unclear. Many years later Stanley would play on the wing for the London (UK) Wasps rugby union football club.

Despite the acclaim for competitors like Granville and others, Pyle's races had their share of bad publicity. This was partly due to Pyle's clumsy management of the race itself but it also owed something to the contempt shown by contemporary sports reporters many of whom treated the ultra-marathoners more like freaks of nature than superbly committed and conditioned athletes. This and the fact the top finishers received handsome financial rewards (Granville's $5000 was split with his manager after a bitter disagreement), disturbed many commentators of the day for whom amateurism was pure and professionalism tainted, and ne'er that twain should ever meet! This may go a long way to explaining why Granville has to some degree been written out of Canadian sports history. Though as we will soon see a darker stain on Granville's reputation may have been a more serious factor.

Granville returned for the 1929 run with an even more sophisticated support team backed by the wealthy Toronto-based mining entrepreneur Teddy Oke. Supposedly their brandy, worth $400, was confiscated at the border by American officials enforcing their country's rigid prohibition regulations. The "Afro American" newspaper then spoke unkindly of Granville's mixed racial identity, claiming the lighter skinned runner was prepared to stay in all white neighbourhoods in Baltimore, with his support team, so long as he kept his black heritage quiet.

The 1929 run from New York to Los Angeles was

marked by further controversy. Pyle's fortunes declined along with his ability to attract financial support. When the runners reached LA he was essentially bankrupt. Promissory notes were issued to competitors including Granville who finished sixth despite a broken foot. These "IOU"s were never paid out. Granville's two finishes in 1928 and 1929 (third and sixth) were surpassed only by an American, Johnny Salo (second and first), and an Italian, Guisto Umek (fifth and third). Of the era's ultra-marathoners, the Hamiltonian is amongst the elite.

Then his story turned ugly. In December Philip Granville appeared in a Hamilton Police Court charged with "an aggravated assault on his wife" Grace as reported in the Toronto Star (28 December 1929). While the charge was suspended he was warned that any future incident would result in a three-year penitentiary term along "with lashes".[3]

For her part Grace was reluctant to bring charges but asked that he be shown he must not harm her. The mother of their two young children, stated, "It is the third time he has beaten me." Granville's defense through his lawyer was distress over not receiving payment from Pyle's 1929 Bunion Derby (of which he is incorrectly described in the news account as having won), but one cannot accept this excuse for a continuing pattern of physical abuse. It quite likely explains the future break in their relationship and perhaps is the reason for his disappearance from sporting remembrance.

The end of Pyle's ventures did lead to some brief attempts at indoor long distance races, one notable event being in Hamilton but they were generally financial failures. Fortunately, a new possibility was opening in Quebec where the Bronfman brothers, owners of one of Canada's largest distilleries, put up money for a 200-mile

snowshoe race wandering between Quebec City and Montreal in the depths of the Province of Quebec's winter.

Once again Granville shone, finishing second in the inaugural Usher's Green Stripe snowshoe marathon behind one-time Boston marathon winner and grizzled veteran (at least according to the Montreal Gazette of 7 February 1930) Edouard Fabre. In the summertime ultra-marathoners like Granville tackled the 500-mile Peter Dawson International Relay for teams of two. But even these new sources of opportunity had dried up by 1933. In that same year a rival accused Granville of stealing his watch, but Philip was completely exonerated by a judge when it was revealed that he had borrowed the watch to time himself and then, when he realized it was broken, had arranged for it to be repaired.

Might this have caused Philip Granville and his wife Grace to question their future in Canada? More likely she was keen to return home hopeful of better times with her husband.

With their two young sons they left for the United Kingdom in November 1933. A year later Granville applied for the return of his amateur status in Canada but by then his best days of athletic accomplishment were behind him.

As even his grandson admits the trail goes somewhat cold from this time on. News accounts about Philip Granville cease. Stories have been told of him competing in events such as the Strasbourg to Paris walk and London-Brighton walk into his late 50s but no mention of these can be found in the newspapers stored in the on-line British Newspaper Archive. Rob Hadgraft's book, **Tea With Mr. Newton**(Desert Island, 2009), covers all aspects of Arthur Newton's life right through his last years only a few miles from where Granville lived, but as he says, "…although he

(Newton) obviously got to know Philip Granville well, I can find no mention [in Newton's records or elsewhere] of what ultimately happened to Granville, or what he got up to when living close to Newton in England."

Presumably, Granville worked as a masseur for other athletes, his grandson says, as wreaths from some of these people appeared at his funeral. No one even seemed to know when he died, and his grandson says Philip and Grace had separated from each other by that time. My research suggests the break was possibly with hope for a future reuniting. They are listed for instance as jointly living at 43 Fairview Crescent off Rayners Lane in Harrow, west of London from 1938 until his death. Their two sons are listed as well once they turned 21 since the information on their residence comes from electoral lists.

Philip died on 16 August 1954 at St. George's Hospital in London likely of pleurisy. Though his age is listed as 61 this was at best a guess. His worldly wealth of just over 200 pounds was left to Grace and so at least he saw fit to ensure, as best he could, that his wife and two sons were looked after. Grace and the sons continued living at the same address for a few years after Philip Granville's death before moving to another part of Harrow. She died in 1973.

In April 2016 Rob Hadgraft was in Harrow, where, he writes, "…. I took a photo of Philip Granville's former residence (43 Fairview Crescent, Harrow). It's a 3-bedroom semi-detached house, typical of this part of suburban London, currently valued at just under £400,000. I wonder what Granville paid for it – or maybe he rented it? It is a very similar property to that of Arthur Newton (9 Cottingham Chase, Ruislip) which is just 2 miles away. Newton lived there from 1935 until his death in 1959 – and maybe had a hand in Granville settling in this district? If not, it would be an amazing coincidence!"

Sadly, while Granville and Newton were close in their competitive days, with the latter man moving to Hamilton for a time after the last Bunion Derby to plan future events with the Canadian, the mystery of their relationship (or lack thereof) back in England may be explained by Newton's post-war comments about the skulls and brains of white versus black athletes and, by implication, their ability in long and short distance races. It was racist drivel at odds with the performance of men like Granville and Seattle's Eddie Gardner who had matched and surpassed Newton's Bunion Derby results. It would have been deeply offensive to a man of Granville's intellect and life experiences. Like many aspects of his life story however it remains a matter for speculation.

Image 1 from the archives of John Wallace III (He identifies Granville as wearing the robe but other sources

are less certain, and his apparent size seems too small based on his description elsewhere)

PHILLIP GRANVILLE

Hamilton walker who is now in sixth place in C. C. Pyle's cross-continent race. This picture was taken in California, shortly after the start of the race, and shows Granville resting by the roadside and using the sponge to cool off.

Image 2 from the Hamilton Spectator – 14 March 1928

11 G: From London.

THE BLACKPOOL WALK.

CANADIAN WINS IN FAST TIME.

The annual Manchester to Blackpool walk was won, on Saturday, by Philip Granville, a French Canadian, who was second in the recent London to Brighton walk.

Granville was out to beat the record of eight hours five minutes, put up by F. E. Roberts in 1913, but he failed, after a great effort, by 1min. 55sec. The second man home, F. Holt, the Yorkshire champion, who the race last year.

Yorkshire won the team championship with 13 points. Final placings:—

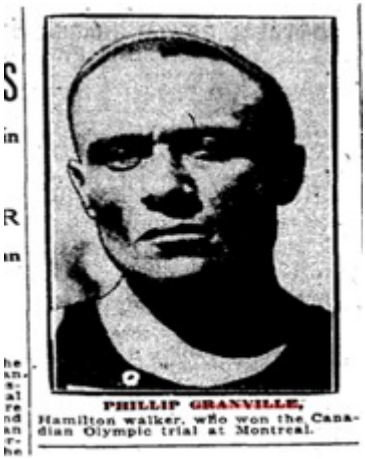
J. Granville, Canada, 8hr. 6min. 39sec.; F. Holt, Yorkshire, 8hr. 32min. 10sec.; A. Hignett, Lancashire, 8hr. 45min. 58sec.; J. S. Kershaw, Yorkshire, 9hr. 2min. 25sec.; T. Duckett, Yorkshire, 9hr. 8min. 5sec.; H. V. Lloyd, Brighton, 9hr. 13min. 50sec.; R. D. Beattie, Yorkshire, 9hr. 20min. 25sec.; J. W. Otley, Rotherham, 9hr. 25min. 12sec.; G. Cornall, Blackpool, 9hr. 29min. 10sec.; W. Harding, Lancashire, 9hr. 32min. 58sec.; G. H. Angel, Yorkshire, 9hr. 35min. 36sec.; F. Brown, Lancashire, 9hr. 35min. 38sec.

The boys' race from Lytham to Blackpool Town Hall, a distance of eight miles, was won by Noel Read, Devonshire-road School, in 1hr. 19min. 57sec. E. Thorne, Devonshire-road, was second; W. Green, Devonshire-road, third; J. Lake, St. Kentigern's, fourth; C. Parry, Devonshire-road, fifth; W. Bird, Devonshire-road, sixth; E. A. Shoesmith, Devonshire-road, seventh; L. Worthington, Devonshire-road, eighth; R. Haines, South Shore, ninth; G. T. Cheghorn, South Shore, tenth.

MOTOR CLUB'S GYMKHANA

Image 3 from the Lancashire Evening Post – 5 October 1925 (see below for presentation details)

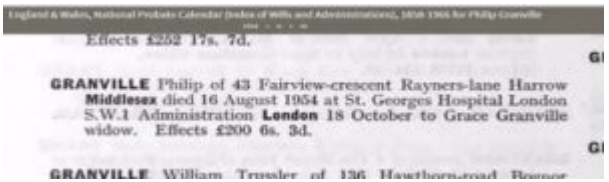
Image 4 from the British *Pathé* newsreel – Granville wins the Manchester/Blackpool Walking Race 1925



PHILLIP GRANVILLE,
Hamilton walker, who won the Canadian Olympic trial at Montreal.

Image 5 from the Toronto Daily Star – 18 June 1924

Image 6 from the Afro-American newspaper – 13 April 1929



England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1966 for Philip Granville

Effects £252 17s. 7d.

GRANVILLE Philip of 43 Fairview-crescent Rayners-lane Harrow **Middlesex** died 16 August 1954 at St. Georges Hospital London S.W.1 Administration **London** 18 October to Grace Granville widow. Effects £200 6s. 3d.

GRANVILLE William Trussler of 136 Hawthorn-road Bognor

Image 7 from the on-line National Probate Calendar, United Kingdom

Image 8 from the Afro-American newspaper – 21 April 1928

Image 9 from the Hamilton Spectator – 29 May 1928

Image 10 from Keith Granville's collection (woman pictured is Grace Granville)

Image 11 from the Montreal Gazette, 7 February 1930


THE LANCASHIRE DAILY POST. MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1925.

MANCHESTER TO BLACKPOOL WALK.

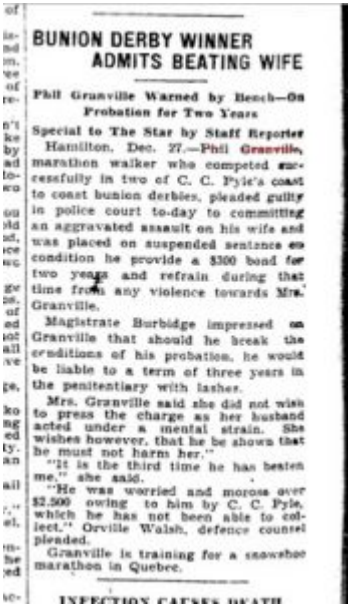
Image 12 from the Lancashire Daily Post, 5 October 1925

Image 13 The Granville residence in Harrow (United Kingdom) – Rob Hadgraft photo


THE TORONTO DAILY ST

PYLE SAYS THEY WILL GET THEIR PRIZE MONEY

Image 14 from the Toronto Star 29 May 1928



BUNION DERBY WINNER ADMITS BEATING WIFE

Phil Granville Warned by Bench—On Probation for Two Years

Special to The Star by Staff Reporter

Hamilton, Dec. 27.—Phil Granville, marathon walker who competed successfully in two of C. C. Pyle's coast to coast bunion derbies, pleaded guilty in police court to-day to committing an aggravated assault on his wife and was placed on suspended sentence on condition he provide a $300 bond for two years and refrain during that time from any violence towards Mrs. Granville.

Magistrate Burbidge impressed on Granville that should he break the conditions of his probation, he would be liable to a term of three years in the penitentiary with lashes.

Mrs. Granville said she did not wish to press the charge as her husband acted under a mental strain. She wishes however, that he be shown that he must not harm her.'"

"It is the third time he has beaten me," she said.

"He was worried and morose over $2,500 owing to him by C. C. Pyle, which he has not been able to collect," Orville Walsh, defence counsel pleaded.

Granville is training for a snowshoe marathon in Quebec.

Image 15 from the Toronto Star 28 December 1929

[1]McCulloch joined the Canadian Armed Forces in World War One and was recognized for bravery on the battlefield. He also competed in a 1917 armed forces track meet in the United Kingdom featuring amongst others the great Canadian marathoner Tom Longboat. Geoffrey McCulloch survived the war and lived to the ripe age of 103. He died in 1994 as a resident of the George Hees wing for veterans at the Sunnybrook Medical Centre in Toronto.

[2]Founded in 1899, the Surrey Walking Club originally used the Swastika, an ancient symbol of good fortune, as its logo but it was dropped in the 1930s for obvious reasons.

[3]The Correction Canada website indicates, "An amendment to the *Criminal Code* in 1954 removed

whipping as a penalty for "*acts of gross indecency*", "*assault on sovereign*" and "*assaults on wife or other female*".http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/text/pblct/rht-drt/05-eng.shtml