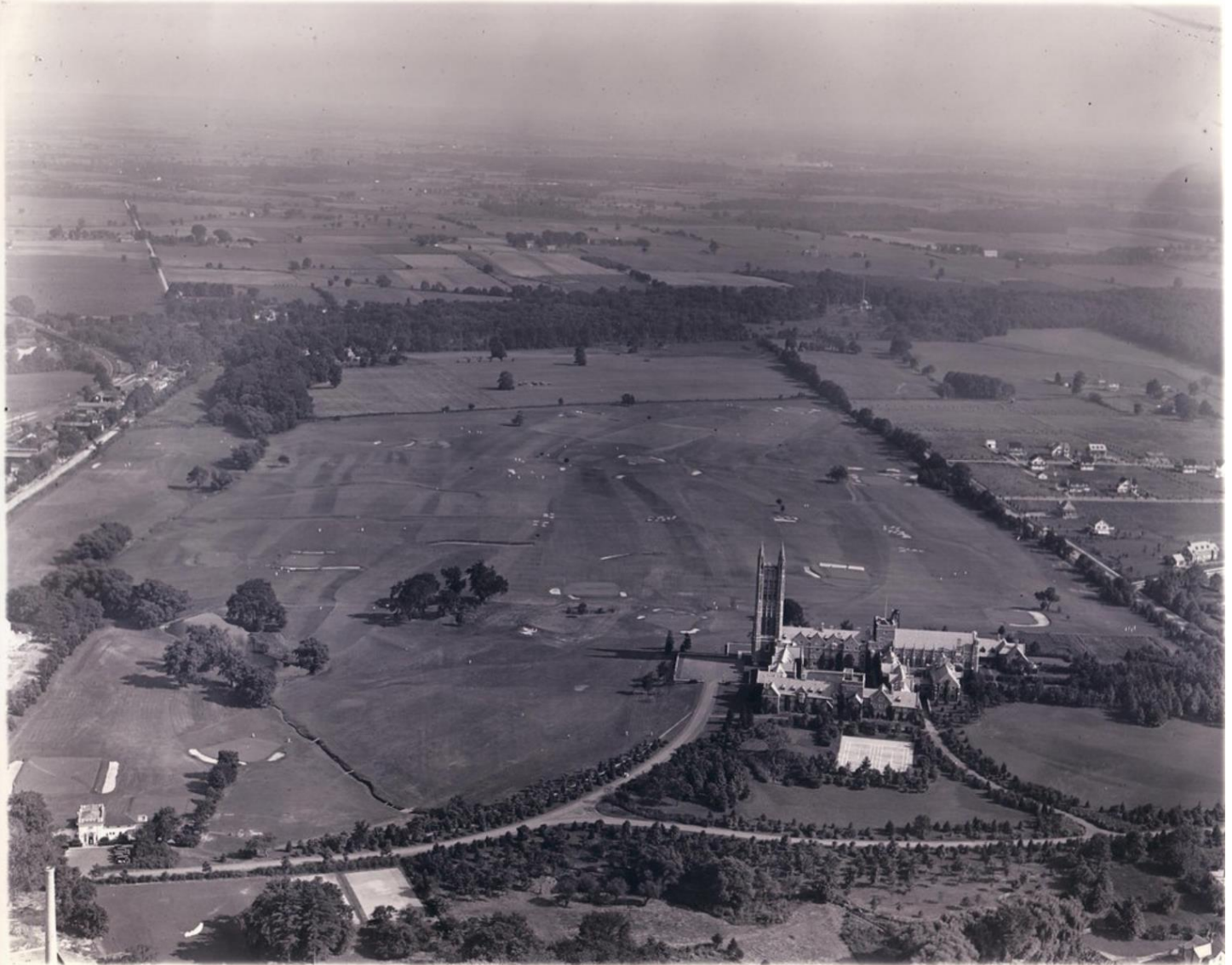


History of the Princeton University (Springdale Golf Club) Land and Architecture

- Researched and compiled by Robert Waldemar Koehn '94 and his son Christian Koehn, grandson and great-grandson of inaugural (1927) Springdale Club Champion Herbert Waldemar Koehn '30.
- Tremendous credit to all of the contributors to this [historical thread on GolfClubAtlas.com](#) (including, but not limited to, Mike Cirba, Malcolm McKinnon, William Crane, and David Moriarty) for their research and commentary.
- In aggregating this historical data for the Princetoniana Committee in December 2019, the compiler has sought to eliminate all subjectivity and commentary, simply posting relevant source information. The expectation is that this is not an exhaustive document, and should be expanded over time as more relevant information is discovered.

Early aerial view of Springdale Golf Club (undated)



Athletics at Princeton, A History, p. 571 ([link](#)) – “In the fall of 1895, the Princeton Golf Club was formed by the faculty, alumni, and undergraduates with the following officers: M. Taylor Pyne, '77, President; A. Marquand, '74, Vice President; P. A. V. Van Doren, '79, Secretary and Treasurer. A nine-hole course was laid out in the large field to the northwest of Princeton, known as ‘Stockton Woods.’ After a year’s practice, an intercollegiate association was formed and the first tournament was held in May, 1897 in which L. P. Bayard, Jr., '98, won the Individual Championship... The golf club purchased the old Stockton farm of 240 acres that extends from the Theological Seminary to Stony Brook, and from the water tower to the canal. An eighteen-hole course has been laid out and the class of 1886 will erect a commodious club house as a class memorial. This gives Princeton the finest golf college course in the United States. In

the spring of 1900, C. C. Cuyler, '79, gave the club a beautiful trophy cup to be contested for each year at commencement by representatives of the graduates and undergraduates."

GOLF.

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A nine-hole course was laid out in the large field to the northwest of Princeton, known as "Stockton Woods." After a year's practice, an intercollegiate association was formed and the first tournament was held in May, 1897, in which L. P. Bayard, Jr., '98, won the Individual Championship. In the fall of 1897, Mrs. M. Taylor Pyne gave the club a handsome silver loving cup which is contested for each year, but remains in the possession of the club. In addition, Mrs. Pyne gave two pewter cups for first and second prizes in the Pyne Cup Tournament of 1897. They were won by W. D. Vanderpool, '98, and A. D. Childs, '01. In the fall of 1899, P. R. Pyne, '03, won the Individual Intercollegiate Championship, defeating Averill of Harvard. The golf club purchased the old Stockton farm of 240 acres that extends from the Theological

Seminary to Stony Brook, and from the water tower to the canal. An eighteen-hole course has been laid out and the class of 1886 will erect a commodious club house as a class memorial. This gives Princeton the finest golf college course in the United States.

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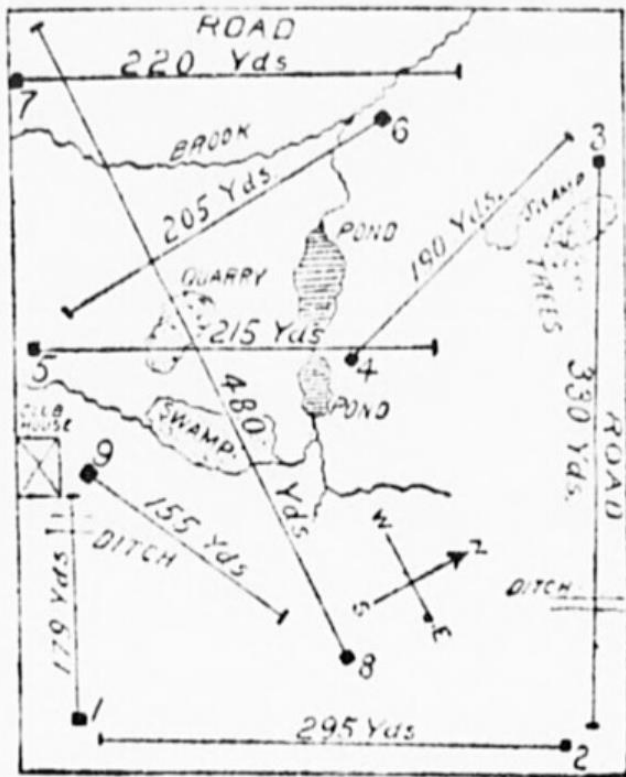
The following matches have been played:

November 12, 1897.	Princeton vs.	Lawrenceville,	34 to 6
April 2, 1898.	" "	Baltusrol,	5 to 24
" 15, "	" "	Ardsley,	17 to 11
" 10, "	" "	Baltusrol,	
" 27, "	" "	New Brunswick,	30 to 1
" 30, "	" "	Richmond County,	10 to 12
May 10, "	" "	Yale,	8 to 12

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[Unconfirmed publication, unconfirmed date thought to be April 1, 1897] – "The total length of the [9-hole Princeton Golf Links] course is 2,269 yards..."

PRINCETON, April 1.—The Princeton golf team has gone to Old Point Comfort to take part in a three-day tournament which began to-day. The rest of the schedule arranged thus far by Capt. Griswold for the spring season is as follows: April 22, Baltusrol Golf Club; April 29, Ardsley Club; May 6, Richmond County Club. The Princeton Golf Club is in a very prosperous condition, finishing last season with a surplus of \$1,180. This year the membership is larger than ever before, which shows that the game is growing very popular among Princeton undergraduates.



PRINCETON GOLF LINKS.

At present the team is playing with the same make-up as in the intercollegiate championship tournament last fall. Chester Griswold, who won the University cup last fall, is captain, and the other members are John Stuart, 399; James G. Wilson, 399; O. D. Kellogg, 40; A. D. Childs, 1901, and D. E. Bonner, 1902. Besides these players Capt. Griswold has at least thirty other promising golfers who are candidates for the team, and who will get a chance to show their ability. James Swan, late at the Lawrenceville School, has been engaged as professional. The total length of the course is 2,269 yards, the measurements being 179, 295, 330, 190, 215, 205, 220, 480, 155. The links have been thoroughly overhauled for the season. New sand boxes have been placed at each green and tee, with windmill disks, and the greens have been rolled. Plans for a new clubhouse are under consideration.

Daily Princetonian, September 25, 1899 — "Mr. C. C. Cuyler is in Princeton to negotiate for the purchase of a considerable tract of land, to be used by the golfers of the University and vicinity."

Daily Princetonian

VOL. XXIV. NO. 53.

PRINCETON, N. J., MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1899.

PRICE 5 CENTS.

POLICY OF THE FOOTBALL TEAM.

System of Play and Coaching Decided Upon.

Captain Edwards of the football team has given out the following system regulating the season's play and coaching:—"Men have been chosen, as far as possible, whose knowledge of the game has been gained in recent years. Former players such as Smith, Balliet, Barnard, Brown, Brokaw and Baird will coach the team from time to time. Balliet will take the center men, Smith the quarters and Barnard the backs. Kelly will remain with the team until Sept. 30 when he will leave for California to assist Cochran in coaching the University of California. Langdon Lea, captain of the '95 team will act as head coach, and will be with the team during the entire season giving it his careful attention.

Professor Fine, of the Preparatory School, will act in the capacity of general adviser with the head coach and the captain. He will also act as chairman of the coaches' meetings, his long experience as a football strategist making his advice and suggestions of great value. Mr. Fine will not do any active coaching, but will be on the field from day to day, and will follow closely the development of the team, offering suggestions in regard to the various details, such as the improvement or falling off of team play, the time played by each man,

NEW GOLF LINKS.

Mr. C. C. Cuyler is in Princeton to negotiate for the purchase of a considerable tract of land, to be used by the golfers of the University and vicinity. A number of gentlemen, of whom Mr. Cuyler and Mr. Pyne are the representatives, have decided upon establishing golf links in or near the town. No definite arrangement with regard to the exact location of the links have been made, but it is thought that the old Stockton place, Springdale, would admirably answer every requirement.

Springdale contains about two hundred and forty acres and stretches from the Theological Seminary to Stony Brook, and from the Olden farm to Canal street. If this property is selected, it will bring the links within easy reach of the members of the University as well as the townspeople. The old Stockton farm house would be altered in such a way as to render it suitable for a club house, and the promoters of the scheme are confident that with a few changes both the house and the grounds can be made eminently servicable and attractive.

While the movement is, of course, a private enterprise, representatives of the interests of the University have been assured that the students will be afforded every convenience and all possible inducements to use the links. The grounds will be but little further from the campus than the Brokaw Athletic Field.

PEARY RELIEF EXHIBITION.

Professor Libbey Returns to Princeton.

Professor Libbey, who returned last Friday night, is the last of men connected with the University to return to Princeton from the Peary Relief Expedition. Professor Libbey not only brings news of Lieutenant Peary and his work, but also obtained the largest collection of specimens ever brought from the Arctic regions.

His report of Peary's accomplishments is such as to justify confidence in his ultimate complete success. He has spent twelve months in the frozen north, with but little danger. He has overcome numerous difficulties, and gained much in experience. By careful planning, he has successfully established a winter base at Stah, the most northern habitation of man. Among the important lasting results of the explorer's work are the opening of a road from Cape Sabine to Fort Conger, and the surveying of Princess Marie Bay and Buchanan Strait. The crossing of Grinnell Land should also open that region.

The relief party which brings this news, left Sydney, C. B., Friday, July 21, on the Diana.

On board were Professor Libbey, Professor McClure, Professor Wyckoff, Dr. Ortmann, and Mr. Sylvester. The object of the expedition as a whole was to relieve Peary, and, of the Princeton party in particular, to collect specimens for the University Museum. The Princetonian

UNIVERSITY NOTICES.

JUNIOR BEGINNER'S FRENCH.

Juniors who elected Beginner's French will please meet in Room 6, Dickinson Hall, at 3 o'clock to-day. W. U. Vreeland.

CHESS CLUB.

There will be a meeting of the Chess Club, in 2 Blair Hall, at 8 o'clock to-night. All men who are interested in chess are invited to attend.

SOPHOMORE CONICS.

The conditional examinations in Academic Sophomore Conics and Freshman Algebra will be held at 2 p. m., on Saturday, Sept. 30, in Room 129, Dickinson Hall.

N. Gillespie.

PRINCETONIAN BOARD.

There will be a meeting of the PRINCETONIAN Board, at 7:30, this evening.

HEBREW ELECTIVE.

Seniors and graduate students intending to elect Hebrew are requested to meet Mr. Martin at 3 p. m. on Monday, September 25, in Room 5, Dickinson Hall. They will please provide themselves with note books and copies of Green's Elementary Hebrew Grammar and come prepared on paragraph 1.

ROMAN ELEGY.

Juniors who have elected the course in the Roman Elegy will

[Unconfirmed publication, said to be the New York Ledger, unconfirmed date, said to be November 16, 1899] — "Willie Dunn, the well-known professional, has been engaged by the Princeton Golf Club to aid James Swann, the resident professional, in laying out the new course on the recently acquired property south of Princeton... There are many natural hazards which can be taken advantage of and by next spring Princeton should have the best college course in the country. The old Stockton house will be used as a clubhouse for the present..."

Phil_the_Author

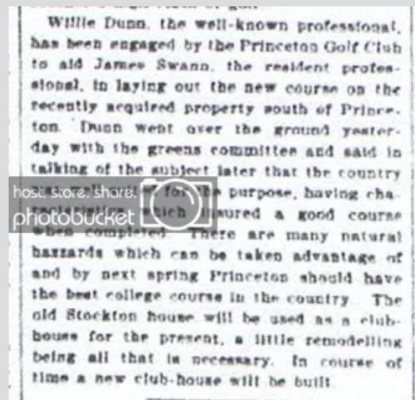
Guest

Re: Princeton/Springdale Early Golf course evolution

Quote

« Reply #69 on: February 22, 2011, 06:08:04 PM »

This is from the New York Ledger of 11.16.1899:



There are a number of other articles that I've come across that describe this land as being "along the canal" which would more than explain the flooding in the tournament, the gift of the property to the University in 1904 and others detailing tournament results and much more. I have yet to find anything that details what happened to the original course...

Report to moderator  Logged

[Unconfirmed publication, unconfirmed date, thought to be December 7, 1899] – “Distances of the Links to be Laid Out at Princeton” also notes that “James B. Swan, the professional in charge of the laying out of the links, has made some changes in the rough table of distances made out by Willie Dunn...” and the “advantages of having a good nine hole course, as well as one of eighteen.”

GOLF.

Distances of the Links to be Laid Out at Princeton.



PRINCETON, N. J., Dec. 7.--[Special.]

The signing of the deeds for the new golf links took place Tuesday, and Messrs. M. Taylor Pyne, '77; C. C. Cuyler, '79, and Stephen S. Palmer are now in possession of the

land, which they hold in trust for the Golf Club. Over \$1000 have been already expended in laying out the course, and the committee estimates that \$2000 more will be spent during the winter. If the weather permits a great deal will be done toward the completion of the links during the present year. James B. Swan, the professional in charge of the laying out of the links, has made some changes in the rough table of distances made out by Willie Dunn, and the following is the corrected list:

First hole, 310 yards; second, 354; third, 233; fourth, 566; fifth, 280; sixth, 300; seventh, 295; eighth, 210; ninth, 340; tenth, 489; eleventh, 367; twelfth, 150; thirteenth, 391; fourteenth, 400; fifteenth, 274; sixteenth, 308; seventeenth, 290; eighteenth, 214, making a total of 5771 yards playing distances. In changing the location of some of the holes the advantages of having a good nine hole course, as well as one of eighteen, have been kept in view.

Daily Princetonian, March 1, 1901 -- "A meeting of the Greens Committee was held yesterday to consider ways and means for finishing the course without delay. The committee decided to ask the trustees of the Springdale Association to increase the mortgage, by a small amount, in order to pay off the present debt of the association, and to push the work of completion in order that play may be commenced by June 1st."

Daily Princetonian, Volume 26, Number 1, 1 March 1901

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PLANS OF THE UNIVERSITY GOLF ASSOCIATION.

The University Golf Team will begin regular practice in a couple of weeks on the old golf course. A meeting of the Greens Committee was held yesterday to consider ways and means for finishing the course without delay. The committee decided to ask the trustees of the Springdale Association to increase the mortgage, by a small additional amount, in order to pay off the present debt of the association, and to push the work of completion in order that play may be commenced by June 1st.

The funds necessary for the building of the new Lamar Club House have been raised. The plans have been accepted and the work contracted for. Ground will be broken for the building in the near future.

Golf New York – Official Bulletin U.S.G.A., January 1902 ([link](#))



THE PRINCETON GOLF CLUB

By the Editor

THE Princeton students have a great advantage over the golfers of the other big universities, in that they enjoy the use of a full eighteen-hole course, standard in every particular, and within easy walking distance of the campus. At Harvard, the students play at several of the near-by courses, and while there is a project now on foot to establish a university links, it will be at least a year before the ground now under consideration can be laid out and brought into playing condition.

At Yale, the college golf club uses the links of the New Haven Golf Club. The latter has an eighteen-hole course, measuring 5352 yards in playing distance, and is rather tricky in its nature as well as short. Moreover, it is about two miles away from the Yale campus, a serious disadvantage in the short autumn days. At Columbia, the players have a special arrangement with the St. Andrews Club, but that course is also comparatively inaccessible for the students, and the same is true of the Philadelphia Cricket Club course, which is used by

the golf club of the University of Pennsylvania.

At Princeton, while the golf club is universally a town affair, it is really made up and controlled by officers and students of the university. The land over which the course runs is owned by an association, whose members are all closely affiliated with the university, and the club-house now in process of erection is the gift of the class of 1886. To all intents and purposes the Princeton Golf Club is a university organization.

The class was originally formed in 1896, and for several years maintained a nine-hole course on ground lying back of ex-President Cleveland's residence on Bayard Avenue. The course was a fairly good test of golf, but part of the ground was inclined to be wet, and the presence of grazing cattle was a serious handicap in the maintenance of the putting-greens, while hoof-marks in the marshy parts of the fairway were not conducive to good through-the-green play. Some eighteen months ago several

parcels of land lying south of the seminary grounds were purchased, the entire tract embracing over a hundred acres. A full course was laid out, drainage pipes put in, putting-greens seeded, and the ground otherwise prepared for the purposes of the sport. Nine holes were opened for play last autumn, and the full course will be ready in the spring. It should then take rank with the best as a true test of golf.

In its general characteristics, the land is slightly rolling, a brook, dry ditches, and long grass being the principal natural hazards. There are no trees nor unfair traps, and the fair green is of generous width, encouraging a free style off the tee and in brasseley play. The soil is shaly in its nature, and the drainage is consequently excellent, while the turf is thick without being rank. The putting-greens, which, with one exception, have all been brought up from seed, are remarkable for their velvety smoothness. They are laid out upon the natural contour of the land, and are of the standard size, eighty feet square. Even now they are fully up to the standard for trueness, and should improve every year. The turf through the fair green is free from clover, and the ball sits up well for the brasseley. The few cop-bunkers that it was found necessary to construct are built upon approved models, and the pits

are filled with soft sand that will not pack. But the pride of the course is its putting-greens, an excellent feature in links hardly a year old. Nearly all of the land had to be broken up with the plough to bring it into shape, and the uniform excellence of the turf is consequently the more remarkable.

The situation—on the edge of the hill on which the village of Princeton is built—is aesthetically pleasing. In the background the tower and spires of the seminary and university buildings may be seen, rising out of a green wilderness of Academic groves, while in the foreground the land slopes gradually away to the beautiful champaign country through which winds the silver ribbon of the Delaware and Raritan Canal. It reminds one of a bit of English landscape, and there is an enticing suggestion of freedom and openness in its smiling expanse. Here, if ever, one should be able to let himself out and smite the gutta (or rubber) for all that is in him. There is no bushwhacking through chestnut wood and stone pastures, no “rifle galleries” and unplayable pits, and even “out of bounds” is a negligible quantity. The “Colonel” of the Princeton links is a fair and honest opponent, but for all that one must play sound golf to beat him out.

The length of the nine holes in use is



THE CLASS OF '86 MEMORIAL CLUB HOUSE.



THE SEVENTH TEE. MR. PERCY H. PYNE 2D DRIVING.



THE SECOND TEE.
THE PRINCETON GOLF CLUB.



THE SECOND GREEN. MR. L. B. GARRETSON PUTTING.



THE SIXTH GREEN.
THE PRINCETON GOLF CLUB.

something under 3000 yards, but one or two of the holes will be slightly altered when the second round of nine holes is brought in. The Bogey, as at present arranged, is 41. The play in detail:

No. 1 (270 yards).—The tee is directly in front of the club-house, and the ground slopes gradually to the green. There is a cop-bunker 125 yards from the tee, and a blind ditch 100 yards further on. Long grass guards the course on both sides. A good drive and full mashie-shot should reach the green. Bogey, 4.

No. 2 (320 yards).—There is nothing to punish the drive unless it is sliced or pulled, when long grass catches it. Guarding the green is a cop-bunker about sixty yards from the hole, which must be carried by a full iron-shot to get the green. Bogey, 4.

No. 3 (250 yards).—No trouble for a drive unless it is off the line, when long grass again catches it. A cop at about forty yards guards the green, which should be carried by a mashie-shot. A dry ditch punishes an over-approach. Bogey, 4.

No. 4 (566 yards).—The course stretches away slightly down hill in a lane about seventy-five yards wide which is bordered on either side by long grass. A cop-bunker is found ninety yards from the green, which can be carried in three long shots. Four on the green is good, which makes Bogey 6.

No. 5 (420 yards).—This hole may be played in two ways. There is swampy ground, with a stream running through it, which crosses the course at an angle, and 115 yards away. A good drive will carry this, and then a player can keep on up the course to the right, or can stay to the left, not crossing the swamp until his third, an iron-shot. In either case, he should be on the green in three, which makes Bogey, 5.

No. 6 (410 yards).—The drive is at an

angle across the same swamp crossed in going to No. 5, onto rolling ground, guarded on the right by long grass. A blind ditch catches a topped brassey-shot, and another will catch a fozzled mashie approach. The ground rises gradually to the green. Bogey, 5.

No. 7 (310 yards).—One hundred and twenty-five yards from the tee is a blind ditch, and the way to the hole is guarded on either side by long grass. Guarding the green is a cop-bunker, thirty yards from hole, which should be carried by a full iron-shot. Bogey, 4.

No. 8 (350 yards).—In front of the tee for seventy-five yards is long grass. A good drive should carry onto the top of the hill, but a slice is punished by rolling down the side of the hill into a swamp, and a pull by long grass. From the top of the hill a good iron-shot over swampy ground should put you on the green. Bogey, 4.

No. 9 (250 yards).—The drive is up hill over the swamp crossed in going to No. 8. A good drive and a mashie pitch will reach the green. There is a big sand-pit on the very edge of the green to catch a ball not played up. Bogey, 4.

The Bogey of 41 may be termed a very stiff one, owing to the number of long shots which have to be played to reach the green after the drive. The present record of 41 is held by Mr. Percy R. Pyne 2d., his card reading as follows: 4, 4, 4, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 4=41.

The Class of 1886 Memorial Club House is in process of erection, and will be opened in June. The dimensions are about 110 feet by 40 feet; it is built of white stucco, and will cost about \$13,500. The building will face the seminary grounds, and the sketch shows view from the rear, opening upon the "'86 Memorial Hall," which will be forty-two feet long and twenty-one feet wide, with a fireplace at each end. At one end of

the building, kitchen, butler's pantry, etc.; the other wing is to be devoted to an undergraduate locker-room and toilet-room. At the front of the building is a central entrance hall, with a ladies' room on one side and a graduates' locker-room on the other, with all the necessary accessories. The attic is to be left unfinished, but cots can be placed there for temporary accommodation if found desirable.

The present officers are: president, M. Taylor Pyne; vice-president, Professor Allan Marquand; secretary and treasurer, P. A. Vandoren.

The Board of Governors: M. Taylor Pyne, George A. Armour, C. F. W. McClure, C. H. Dodge, A. F. West, A. D. Russell, Allan Marquand, J. S. Morgan, H. D. Thompson, W. A. Wyckoff, Laurence Hutton, and C. C. Cuyler.

Professionals, James McPherson and James Glass.

The captain of the university team is Mr. Hugh V. Wilson, '02, and the college champion is Mr. F. O. Reinhardt, '05. The Sophomore Class hold the team championship of the university, and the present enrolled membership of the club is 150.



BUNKER ON FOURTH HOLE.

Daily Princetonian Extra, June 14, 1905 – “[President Wilson] announced to the gift to the University by the generosity of a number of alumni...the almost equally beautiful tract of 240 acres known as the Springdale property, which is in close proximity to the property of the University and which is now used as the playing course of the Princeton Golf Club.”

Daily Princetonian Extra, Volume 30, Number , 14 June 1905

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PRESIDENT'S COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS.

The following is a summary of President Wilson's address at the Commencement exercises in Alexander Hall this morning:

President Wilson in his address to-day made announcements which mark an extraordinary degree of progress and prosperity on the part of the University. In the first place, he announced the gift to the University by the generosity of a number of Alumni, of 336 acres of land, the beautiful tract known as the Olden farm of 96 acres, which lies beyond Washington Road immediately contiguous to the grounds of the University, and the almost equally beautiful tract of 240 acres known as the Springdale property, which is in close proximity to the property of the University and which is now used as the playing course of the Princeton Golf Club. These splendid additions to the extensive grounds already in the hands of the University more than double the amount of land available for building and other uses. The Olden farm in its lower portion lies along the course of the lake now being constructed through the generosity of Mr. Carnegie.

Catalogue of Princeton University, 1905-1906 – notes that the new golf course covers 225 acres and is now 18 holes.

THE PRINCETON GOLF CLUB

Students of the University are eligible to membership in the Princeton Golf Club, whose new eighteen-hole golf course covers 225 acres and is situated on University property.

Daily Princetonian, October 11, 1926, “Golf Club Institutes Plan to Change Course” ([link](#)) – “Expert facial reconstruction of the once pleasant but simple Princeton golf course will change this naive amateurs' links to a green worthy of even the most hard-boiled professionals. In 1913 the Club abandoned the old nine hole course and started on its new policy,

which has continued to date, by building an 18-hole links that have been used up to last fall. This course was built by funds taken from the gross revenue of \$2,300 per annum obtained from dues, and consequently was of a primitive sort. Last fall the new course was started by the building of three new holes of the most modern construction under the supervision of Toomey and Flynn, golf architects, and will continue to be built until next fall when it will be ready for play. The new course will be of championship length and up-to-date aspects, having at least four water holes, the usual sand traps, hazards and bunkers. A feature of the new links will be the greens which are to be creeping bent, a costly but advanced step in golf course construction. Later trees will be planted in such a way as to separate the fairways, this being done in co-operation with the University. The Greens Committee has deemed it wiser to complete the course in one year rather than have the links torn up for a period of years. The entire development is being financed by funds of the Club. During the last year new showers, increased locker space, and a more spacious professional shop has been built, and a "bull-pen" for the caddies has been installed. A practice group for driving will also be located near the club house. Inasmuch as about 80 per cent of the membership of the Club are undergraduates, the new course will help to develop champion golfers, and there will be no excuse for Princeton not having winning teams. It is unlikely that any other university has such an excellent course in such close proximity."

GOLF CLUB INSTITUTES PLAN TO CHANGE COURSE

Rebuilt Links Offers One of Finest
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Princeton Magazine, profile of Gerard Barnes Lambert 1908 ([link](#)) – “He is also credited with designing and adding the second nine-holes at Princeton’s Springdale Golf Club.”

New York Times, “Princeton’s Grande Dame Reminisces,” December 8, 1974 ([link](#)) – additional color on the life of Gerard B. Lambert, as told by his wife, notes that “one of six children of a Virginia banker, was orphaned at an early age and raised by aunts and uncles.”

Views of Springdale in 1930s, Princeton Magazine, “Springdale Golf Club - On Par for 125 Years”, February 2020 ([link](#)).



Aerial view of Princeton in 1937, with Springdale to the right.



Vintage clubhouse.



Planes on the golf course.