



The Golf Chronicles

The story of golf at Reading Country Club and in Berks County



Number 51 • May 15, 2017

A Fascinating Photo Find

Sometimes, historic gems turn up where you least expect them and when you aren't even searching. Take this photo essay, for example.

The pictures are from the February 1927 issue of *Golf Illustrated*, pages 8 and 10. The Golf Chronicles made this find during a recreational perusal of the United States Golf Association's on-line archives.

Although RCC can't claim that George Washington slept here, there is a connection that goes beyond the club's 1927 fete. In 1780, General Washington purchased 40 tons of flour from Bishop's Mill, which stood in the area of RCC's fourth hole. The mill was razed in 1926, 158 years after it was built. See The Golf Chronicles [number 2](#).

Golf Illustrated debuted as a monthly in 1914. It is still around. You can check it out at www.golfillustrated.com.

The pity is the individuals are not identified. Wouldn't you like to know the identity of these 1927 RCC members?

Perhaps we can find out who they are.

The GC searched the *Reading Eagle*, February 1927, hoping to discover an article about the gala. Nothing was found. This is surprising because in those years the paper covered events such as the RCC Colonial gala. Turns out, the *Golf Illustrated* report was accurate but not timely. Go to page 3 for the real story.

RCC Members Go Colonial



WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY AT A GOLF CLUB

Unique social events are proving popular mediums through which winter interest is maintained at many country clubs. A Colonial pageant proved a most successful social event at the Reading Country Club at Reading, Pa. Forty members rehearsed minuets and gavottes which the entire membership enjoyed, after which a Colonial dinner was served.

Washington's Birthday at Golf Club

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Byron Nelson
RCC Pro
1937-39



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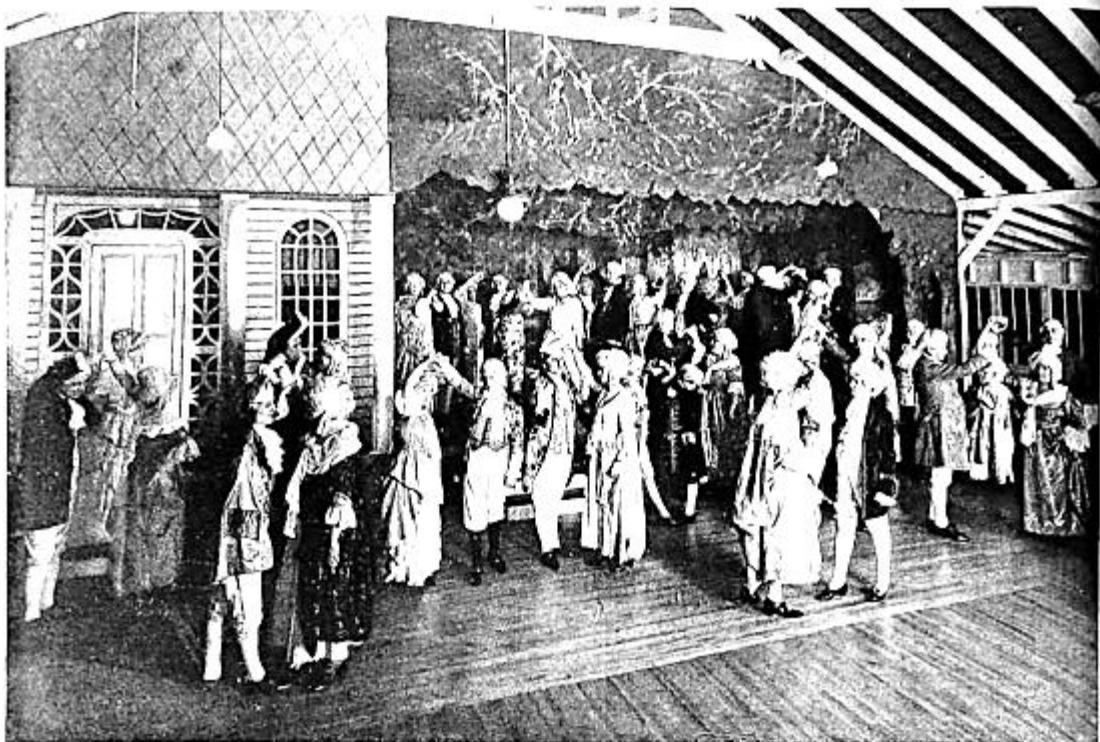


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GOLF ILLUSTRATED

A February Club Function



DANCING THE MINUET ON WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY AT THE READING COUNTRY CLUB

Pages were torn from Colonial history and the events relived for an evening in a way that greatly interested club members.

Dancing the Minuet on Washington's Birthday at the Reading Country Club

Pages were torn from Colonial history and the event relived for an evening in a way that greatly interested club members.



AS THE GUESTS ARRIVED

They were the recipients of gracious curtseys from the members of the Reception Committee.

As the Guests Arrived

They were the recipients of curtseys from the members of the reception committee.



HISTORICAL CHARACTERS

Of the period were portrayed by the members. Colonial setting added color to the scene.

Historical Characters

Of the period were portrayed by the members. Colonial getup added color to the scene.



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THE READING EAGLE, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1926.

Scenes at Reading Country Club's Colonial Pageant



Left—Miss Dorothy Gundry, in costume, at Reading Country Club's colonial pageant. Right—Pages, Masters Bruce Love and John Knoll, Jr., and Misses Elizabeth Sheeler, Patsy Frame, Jeanette Maurer and Emily Neubling.

The Real Story

Turns out the event was in 1926, as can be seen in the photos shown above from the *Reading Eagle*. The *Golf Illustrated* article heralded the RCC Colonial pageant as a February club function without specifying the year. The logical reader would infer a 1927 event. The logical reader was wrong.

The current clubhouse opened in 1931, so these photos were taken in the old clubhouse, a portion of which still stands at the club entrance. These are the only photos showing the inside of the old clubhouse the GC has found.

The photos show the offspring of RCC members. A search of the archives reveals their probable family connections.

John Knoll, Jr. and Patsy Frame: John J. Knoll and A. Lincoln Frame were charter RCC board members and both attended RCC's first annual banquet on March 15, 1923. Alex Findlay was the guest speaker and Fred Findlay attended.

Elizabeth Sheeler and Emily Neubling: Howard J. Sheeler and John Neubling were mentioned in an article of September 2, 1924, reporting on RCC's Labor Day tournament.

Patsy Frame: A. Lincoln Frame was an RCC founder who served as club president for a period of time. Mr. Frame founded the Gray Iron Foundry Company in 1903.

Jeanette Maurer: Harry Maurer, architect, designed RCC's clubhouse. Maurer won RCC's second club championship in 1925, the first played on the 18-hole golf course.

Alas, GC could find no references to connect Dorothy Gundry and Bruce Love to any RCC members.