

# The Golf Chronicles

## Golf Stories from the Pennsylvania Heartland

Byron Nelson  
Reading CC Pro  
1937-39



Number 94 • March 22, 2021

### Berthelwyn Cup Winners

**1911:** Mrs. Dorothy Campbell Hurd defeated Mrs. Margaret Fox, 3 and 2

**1912:** Mrs Margaret Fox defeated Mrs. F.Z. Ozgood, 6 and 4

**1913:** Mrs. Ronald Barlow defeated Mrs. Clarence Vanderbeck, 3 and 2

**1914:** Mrs. Edwin Fidler defeated Mrs. Margaret Fox, 2 and 1

**1915:** Mrs. Clarence Vanderbeck defeated Mrs. Fox, 3 and 1

**1916:** Miss Alexa Stirling defeated Mrs. Clarence Vanderbeck, 3 and 1

**1917:** Mrs. Ronald Barlow defeated Mrs. George Munson, 4 and 2

**1918:** No tournament

**1919:** Mrs. Ronald Barlow defeated Mrs. Clarence Vanderbeck, 3 and 2

**1920:** Miss Alexa Stirling defeated Mrs. W.A. Gavin, 3 and 2

**1921:** Miss Glenna Collett defeated Mrs. W.A. Gavin, 5 and 3

**1922:** Mrs. Dorothy Campbell Hurd defeated Mrs. Margaret Fox, 5 and 3

**1923:** Mrs. Dorothy Campbell Hurd defeated Miss Louise Fordyce, 2 and 1

**1924:** Mrs. Clarence Vanderbeck defeated Miss Louise Fordyce, 1 up

**1925:** Miss Edith Quier defeated Miss Louise Fordyce, 2 and 1

**1926:** Miss Glenna Collett defeated Miss Virginia Wilson, 5 and 4

**1927:** Miss Helen Peyson defeated Miss Louise Fordyce, 7 and 6

**1928:** No tournament

**1929:** Miss Helen Hicks defeated Mrs. Arthur Harrison, 4 and 3



**Mrs. Margaret Fox, founder of the Berthelwyn Cup, in a photo from 1900.**

## Chasing Cups

The Golf Chronicles *continues a series on the golfing life of Edith Quier Flippin, Berks County's premier woman amateur golfer.*

**T**he early years of golf in the United States were a great era for cups. Or, perhaps, Cups is a better construction. Most courses awarded trophies for tournaments with Cup in the name: President's Cup, Founders' Cup, Chairman's Cup and cups named after a prominent member or local business sponsor. For years, Reading Country Club members played for the Tyack Cup, named for a jewelry store.

Most of these cup tournaments were club events aimed at local players but a few gained status by inviting golfers who had attained regional, national and international recognition. Two in particular that were contested in the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century attracted the best players and national media attention: the Berthelwyn Cup and the Griswold Cup.

In this chapter of *The Golf Chronicles*, we'll take a look at the Berthelwyn Cup. Our next chapter will feature the Griswold.

**First Philly win.** Edith Quier had a long association with the Berthelwyn Cup, which was only natural since she was a Huntingdon Valley Country Club member, where the event was played. She enjoyed great success in the competition. She won the cup in 1925, scoring one of her first significant victories and her first win at a Philadelphia-area club. She lost the championship match to Glenna Collett Vare, member of the World Golf Hall of Fame and namesake of the LPGA's Vare Trophy, in 1932 and '34, and was runner-up in 1939 and 1941.

The Berthelwyn Cup was first played in 1911. Mrs. Margaret Fox founded the tournament and named the Cup after the Ogontz estate she and her husband Caleb shared. Mr. Fox donated the trophy, which would become the permanent possession of any player who could win the title three times. The trophy would reside at the club the thrice-winner represented, with the player receiving a duplicate. As an added incentive, the tournament awarded a gold medal to the player with the lowest qualifying score.

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**1930:** Miss Louise Fordyce defeated Mrs. Helen Stetson, 5 and 4

**1931:** Miss Jane Brooks defeated Miss Gertrude Gottlieb, 3 and 2

**1932:** Mrs. Glenna Collett Vare defeated Miss Edith Quier, 8 and 6

**1933:** Mrs. Dorothy Campbell Hurd defeated Miss Jane McCullough, 3 and 1

**1934:** Mrs. Glenna Collett Vare defeated Miss Edith Quier, 7 and 5

**1935:** Mrs. Glenna Collett Vare defeated Miss Deborah Verry, 6 and 5

**1936:** Miss Dorothy Traung defeated Mrs. Opal Hill, 19 holes

**1937:** Mrs. Glenna Collett Vare defeated Miss Jean Bauer, 2 and 1

**1938:** Miss Berry Jameson defeated Miss Jane Kyer, 7 and 6

**1939:** Miss Dorothy Traung defeated Mrs. Edith Flippin, 4 and 3

**1940:** Mrs. William Hockenjos defeated Mrs. Glenna Collett Vare, 3 and 2

**1941:** Mrs. William Hamilton defeated Mrs. Edith Flippin, 2 and 1

Mrs. Fox personally invited the players. She who was an accomplished golfer herself, having participated in the first women's national amateur championship in 1895 and appeared consistently for more than 20 years. She played her way into the final match at Philadelphia Country Club's Bala course in 1899 only to fall to Ruth Underhill, 2 and 1. At Merion in 1909, she tied for medalist honors with Margaret Curtis and Anita Phipps. Mrs. Fox lost in the semi-final round to the eventual champion Miss Dorothy Campbell, 3 and 2. She was a five-time Philadelphia amateur champion: 1907, '08, '10, '11 and '17.

The point is, Mrs. Fox knew how to play and she knew all the top players, which is why the tournament attracted a stellar field. Miss Dorothy Campbell, U.S. amateur champion in 1909 and 1910, won the first Berthel-lynn Cup, defeating Mrs. Fox 3 and 2 in the championship match.

Mrs. Fox came back to win the Cup in 1912, defeating Mrs. F.Z. Ozgood of Boson, 6 and 4.

Mrs. Fox died August 10, 1928, at age 67. News of her death was carried on the front page of the Philadelphia Inquirer, the obituary hailing her as the "Grand Old Lady of Golf." The Berthel-lynn Cup, scheduled to begin October 1, was not played that year.

Here are Edith's Berthel-lynn Cup highlights.

**1925.** Edith Quier, representing Berkshire Country Club, won the event by defeating Miss Louise Fordyce, Youngstown, Ohio, 2 and 1, avenging her 6 and 5 defeat to Miss Fordyce in the national amateur championship at St. Louis earlier in the year. This was Miss Fordyce's third consecutive championship match loss.

Miss Quier advanced to the title match by defeating Dorothy Campbell Hurd, the defending champion, in the semi-final round. Mrs. Hurd battled back from three-down after eight holes, evening the match on seventeen, where Miss Quier broke her midiron, her favorite club. She was able to borrow a replacement, which she used to play her second from the rough on eighteen and onto the green. The players halved the hole. Edith then won the match with a par 4 on the first extra hole.

**Mid-iron misfortune.** Edith got off to a fast start in the championship match, winning the first hole with a birdie 3. Edith drove in the water on the second hole and the match was even. Mid-iron misfortune again struck Miss Quier as she broke the club for the second consecutive day, losing the third hole and going one down. Edith rallied back with a birdie on five and an eagle 3 on seven. After winning eight and nine, she was one-up at the turn. The *Philadelphia Inquirer* reported that Miss Quier's sand save for a half on the par 3 fourteenth hole that allowed her to maintain a two-up advantage was the shot of the tournament. Miss Quier was dor-



*The Berthel-lynn Cup.*

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mie three but Miss Fordyce won the 16<sup>th</sup> to extend the match. Edith won the Cup when the players halved the seventeenth hole with birdie 5s.

**1926.** Edith played well defending her title. She defeated Mrs. G. Henry Stetson in the quarter-final round, 3 and 2. The victory was considered an upset because Mrs. Stetson had won the national amateur championship the previous week at Merion Golf Club where Edith failed to qualify for the match play rounds. Edith never trailed against Mrs. Stetson. She took a three-up lead to the back nine on the wings of a two-under par front side. Edith closed out the match on sixteen when Mrs. Stetson played poorly and made double-bogey.

Her title defense came up short in the semi-final round. She lost to Virginia Wilson, Chicago, 3 and 2. Miss Quier started poorly, losing five of the first six holes. She battled back with wins on seven and nine to make the turn three down. Miss Wilson went four-up with a win on ten. Edith fought back to take twelve and fourteen but the Chicago girl won sixteen and accepted Miss Quier's congratulations.

**1927.** Edith faced off against Louise Fordyce for the fourth time in a Berthellyn Cup semi-final match. Each player had won two of the previous duels. Miss Fordyce came out on top of their fifth encounter with a 2 and 1 victory advancing to the championship match for the fourth time in five years. She came up short, however, losing to Miss Helen Peyson, 7 and 6.

**1934.** Edith and Glenna Collett Vare shared the qualifying medal at 78. Dorothy Campbell Hurd, the defending champion, qualified with an 84. Edith and Glenna played through to the championship match, with Mrs. Vare taking the Cup with a resounding 7 and 5 win.

**1939.** Two former champions met for the Berthellyn Cup: Mrs. Edith Quier Flippin, the 1925 winner, and Miss Dorothy Traung, San Francisco, the 1936 cup holder. Mrs. Flippin was favored because of her sharp play in qualifying and the preliminary rounds. Mrs. Flippin won the qualifying medal shooting 75, even par for the women, five strokes ahead of second-best. But good golf de-

serted her in the championship match. Her accuracy was poor. Her shots had a knack for finding the sand. Her putting was not up to standards. Mrs. Flippin trailed four-down at the turn then took the tenth and eleventh to close the margin. But her youthful competitor captured the twelfth, halved the next two and closed out the match with a birdie 4 on the fifteenth.

**1941.** Mrs. Flippin lost the final match to Mrs. William G. Hamilton, nee Jane McCullough, 2 and 1. Mrs. Hamilton returned the Cup to Huntingdon Valley for the first time since Mrs. Flippin won in 1925. Mrs. Hamilton advanced to the championship match by defeating Helen Segal, the national championship runner-up and reigning Philadelphia and Pennsylvania amateur title holder. Mrs. Flippin advanced by defeating Mrs. Sam Byrd in 21 holes. Mrs. Byrd's husband played major league baseball for the Yankees and the Reds. He left major league baseball for



*Louise Fordyce lost three consecutive Berthellyn Cup championship matches before winning the cup in 1930*

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professional golf and in 1941 was the head professional at Merion Golf Club.

The 1941 Berthellyn Cup was the last. Play was suspended during World War 2 and the tournament was not revived. In 1946, Huntingdon Valley established a women's invitational tournament that considered the Berthellyn Cup its forerunner.

**1946.** Edith Flippin and Miss Helen Sigel,

Whitemarsh Valley Country Club, tied for medalist honors at 80, five over par. Lurking in the background was Glenna Collett Vare, six-time national amateur champion playing out of Philadelphia Country Club, who struggled with an 86. Mrs. Flippin and Mrs. Vare faced second-round challenges, both going to 19 holes to advance to the semi-final round. Miss Sigel, meanwhile, advanced to the semi-finals with two easy wins.

Mrs. Flippin was again extended to 19 holes before advancing to the championship match with a win over Mrs. Talbot Shelton, Saucon Valley. Mrs. Vare led Miss Sigel by three-up after six holes. But the youthful challenger battled back to take a one-up lead only to fall by one-down.

The stage was set for a title match pitting two experienced competitors who had played against one another for two decades. Mrs. Flippin trailed early but squared the match after nine holes. Mrs. Vare asserted herself on the back nine, winning ten and eleven with pars. Good fortune played a role on eleven. She caromed her second shot off a tree. Thinking she had lost her ball, Mrs. Vare played a provisional, only to recover her original pellet. She halved the hole with a par. Glenna went three up on twelve when Edith drove into a water hazard. Mrs. Flippin's birdie 4 on thirteen pulled her back to two down. But she chipped poorly on fifteen and Mrs. Vare closed the match with two putts for a par 5.

**M**iss Quier played in a memorable match against Glenna Collett Vare in 1932 at Huntingdon Valley Country Club. Memorable for Mrs. Vare, that is. She shot a women's course record 69, one under the men's par, and swamped Miss Quier, 8 and 6, to win the Berthellyn Cup.

The highlight of the round was Mrs. Vare's hole-in-one, the first of her storied career, made with a 3-iron on the 144-yard fifth hole. Although she closed out her opponent on the twelfth hole, Mrs. Vare played on in the hope of breaking 70. That she did.

**1947.** Mrs. Flippin was upset in the first round, losing to Mrs. William Hockenjos, former New Jersey state amateur champion, in 19 holes. Edith led two-up after ten but her opponent evened the match on sixteen. Mrs. Flippin retook the lead with a birdie 2 on the penultimate hole but lost the final with a bogey 6. On the first extra hole, the challenger played three from a trap to 15 feet and made the par putt. Mrs. Flippin's try from 12 feet missed.

**1948.** Mrs. Flippin reached the final match in 1948 against the heavily favored Helen Sigel, Philadelphia Country Club, who had won 15 consecutive tournaments in local events. Win number 16 was not to be, as Edith won the trophy, 3 and 2. Mrs. Flippin got off to a fast start, leading 4 up after eight holes. She played the front nine in 38, even par.

**I won?** High drama ensued on the fifteenth hole. Trailing three-down, Miss Sigel's putt

from eight feet rolled two feet past the hole. She missed the two-footer, her ball settling in front of Mrs. Flippin's for a possible stymie. Miss Sigel measured the distance between the two balls with her six-inch-long scorecard and found that the ends of the card trounced each ball. Under the rules of match play, this was not a stymie and she had to mark her ball to allow Mrs. Flippin a clear path to the hole. Edith made her putt for a tie and the players walked to the sixteenth tee with Mrs. Flippin dormie 3. When Miss Sigel missed a 10-foot putt, she conceded the hole and the match. Edith apparently lost track of the score and was surprised when Miss Sigel congratulated her on the victory. "I was never so surprised," she said after the match.

Mrs. Flippin's previous win over Miss Sigel came in a playoff on May 11, 1939, for the Geist Cup at Overbrook Country Club, Edith winning 81 to 83. That September, Miss Sigel defeated Mrs. Flippin by a single stroke to win the Farnum Cup at Aronimink Golf club.