

A GOOD WALK ENJOYED

*A Brief History of
Watertown Golf Club*



Written by
BILL STEVENS

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Dedication

*To Horace Taft and Harley Roberts for their efforts and foresight in
bringing the game of golf to Watertown*

and

*To The Taft School and Watertown Golf Club for 100 years,
and counting, of cooperation and fellowship in the name
of golf, sportsmanship and community spirit.*



Prologue

Mark Twain has been given credit for the phrase “golf is a good walk spoiled”. While doing the research for this book, I found that scholars can’t agree on whether Twain should really get credit for that famous phrase. What I did find, however, is that the game of golf, and a walk back in to the lifespan of Watertown Golf Club, is worth every step.

As will be seen as you read further, Watertown Golf Club, and our course, evolved over time, and in phases, since 1894. As is the case with most golf courses, modifications were made as time went on. That being said, leaving room for modifications, our current course is the most recent version of four significant Watertown Golf Club layouts.

With that brief introduction, I invite you to join me for a good walk enjoyed.



Where It All Began 1894-1915

The story of Watertown Golf Club cannot be told unless Taft School is included. The Taft School was formed in 1890 in Pelham Manor, NY, by Horace Taft. Horace's older brother, William Howard Taft, would eventually become President of the United States and, then, Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.



Horace circa 1890



Horace circa 1935

During his time in Pelham Manor, Horace met and married Winifred Thompson. When they took their vacation time, Horace and “Winnie” would leave the relative hustle and bustle of New York and retreat to the peace and tranquility of a friend's home in Litchfield, Connecticut. They were so enamored with the pastoral surroundings that they started making plans to move their school. In 1893, they found a suitable starting location in Watertown, Connecticut and began to renovate an old hotel, now razed, but then known as The Warren House. With its proximity to the town center, this location served Horace's needs.



The rest, as the saying goes, is history.

The driving force behind Horace Taft's golf plans for his students and the surrounding community was Harley Roberts, Taft's close friend and right hand man. With regard to golf, Roberts was so influential that he had a hand in course development and expansion, and served as the first president of Watertown Golf Club until shortly before his death in April 1930. As a civic minded citizen, Roberts was so influential and insightful that he even played a key role in the establishment of Black Rock State Forest.



Harley Roberts - 1915

The Taft School's official newspaper, *The Papyrus*, which still exists today, came in to being shortly after the school opened in Watertown in 1893.

The first real evidence of golf at Taft School was reported in *The Papyrus* as early as November 12, 1895. The article said that "The Watertown Golf Club's links were laid out during the summer of '94. They were little used, however, until the fall of '95 when...again laid the course out, changing it somewhat". The article did not give a hint as to the location of "the links". Later, on October 22, 1897, *The Papyrus* ran a short story about a "golf class" but bemoaned the fact that the school did not yet have "links" of its own.

The next significant evidence of golf at Taft School was reported in *The Papyrus* edition of May 2, 1898:

The golf committee chosen a short time before the Easter vacation has succeeded in obtaining permission to use the land just this side of the French road and bordering on the road to Lake Winnemaug. The course will consist of nine holes...The chief difficulty now is that the farmer who owns the land will not consent to having it burned off... A meeting of the fellows who are interested in golf was held... Mr. Taft presided and Mr. Roberts explained the purpose of the club.

Since no drawings or maps could be located for the "links" and "course" described in *The Papyrus* articles of November 12, 1895 and May 2, 1898, and since the later article reported "difficulty" with the farm owner, it is likely that the "French road" course never came in to existence or was very short lived. In all likelihood, the early courses were basically rough hewn, temporary facilities that were cut in any open space. This point is reinforced by another *Papyrus* article just a few weeks later. On June 15, 1898, the newspaper reported that "the golf links have been laid out...the course is on Nova Scotia hill". This different location for the golf course seems logical since Horace Taft purchased about 100 acres of land, on October 14, 1897, on Nova Scotia Hill. It appears that the land of Horace Taft was in the general vicinity of the intersection of today's Buckingham Street and Nova Scotia Hill Road,

and was the site of the first real or “permanent” course.

As further evidence that the first “real” course was located on Nova Scotia Hill, *Harper’s Official Golf Guide for 1900*, reported that the course for Watertown Golf Club was located only one mile from the railroad depot in the center of town. Interestingly, Harper’s reported that it was a nine hole course that measured 1,924 yards. Typical of golf courses of that time, the nine holes had individual names: Uplands, Lowlands, Distance, Waterloo, Lone Tree, Barn, Dismal Swamp, Chestnut Grove and Home. The hole names seem to be consistent with the nature of the rolling farm land of Horace’s Nova Scotia Hill property. Coupled with the one mile proximity to the rail depot, the hole names make the Nova Scotia Hill site more probable.

The Papyrus article of May 2, 1898 that mentioned the proposed course near Lake Winnemaug also made mention of the need to burn off the fields to make them suitable for golf. Likewise, another *Papyrus* article from April 26, 1900 noted that “some of the fellows were burning the grass on the golf links”.

It is obvious from these references to burning, and several other references to questionable course conditions, that Taft/Watertown golf construction and maintenance was simple and rudimentary.

The need for professional course help was noted in the April 19, 1899 edition of *The Papyrus*: “The greens are rather slow at present but the greens committee has engaged a professional from Waterbury to come up and put them in better order”. A few weeks later, on May 3, 1899, *The Papyrus* gave a follow up report indicating that \$120.00 was raised to improve the course with \$65.00 coming from the school and \$55.00 coming from “subscriptions”. The article went on to report: “Mr. Wolfe, who laid out the Waterbury Golf Club’s links, has been engaged to improve the course and has already begun his work”.

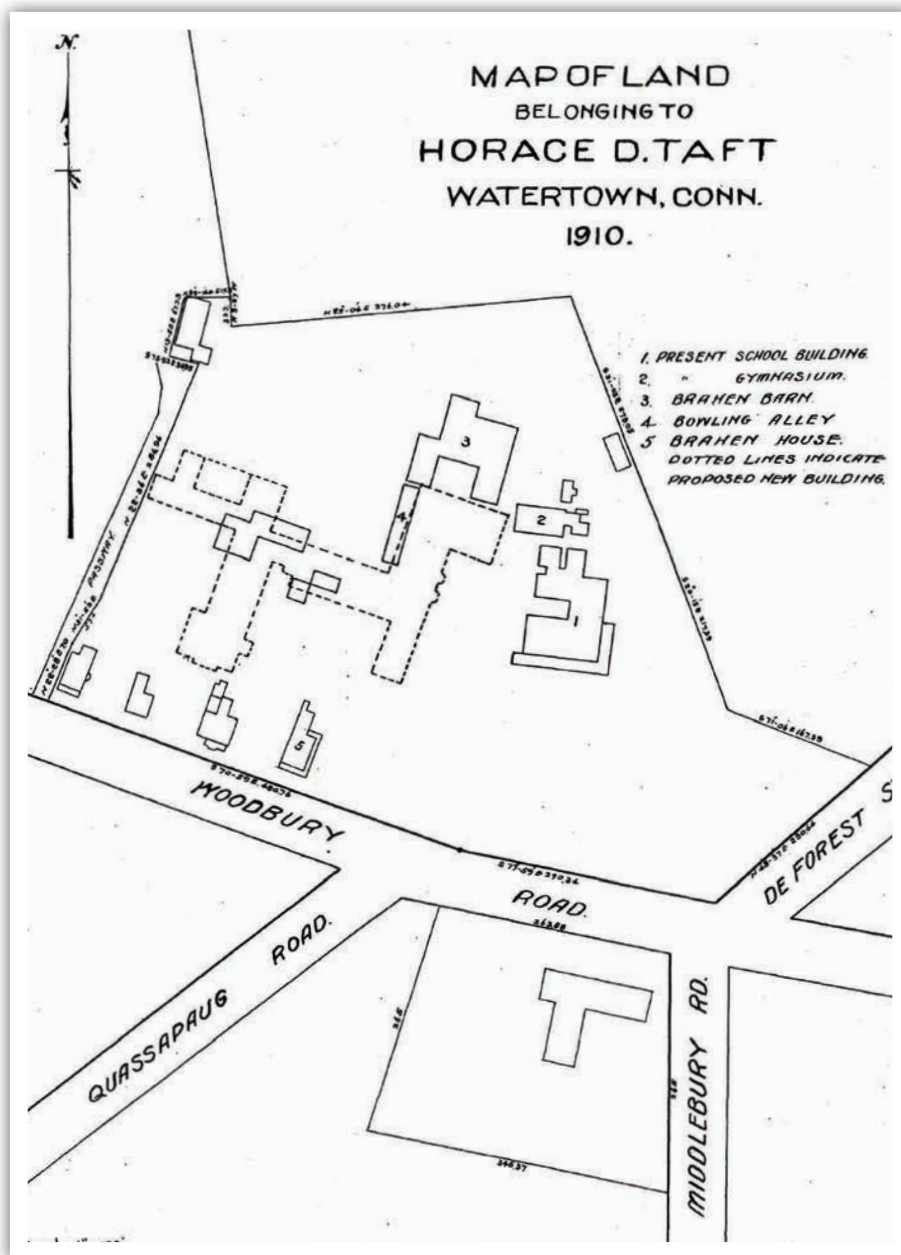
As a side note, what was then known as the Waterbury Golf Club played at a facility known as The West End Golf Links. That course was located on the east side of the Naugatuck River in the approximate location of today’s Colonial Plaza on Thomaston Avenue. The West End Golf Links and the Waterbury Golf Club evolved in to The Country Club of Waterbury.

In Watertown, professional course improvements were still needed and addressed early on. The *Papyrus* of April 12, 1900 reported that the course would get some “long needed improvements”. Chief among the improvements were “the entire changing of the greens by one who has experience in this line”. The article noted that the improvements were to be made by a “man who is employed on the New Haven Golf Club links” and that he would remain on the Watertown job for a month. That man was Robert D. Pryde.

In these early days, it appears that Watertown Golf Club was just that - an informal club associated with Taft School that had a loose affiliation with the surrounding community. *The Papyrus* of October 19, 1899 reported that the club had adopted a constitution and bylaws, set ground rules for the course, and set dues in the amount of \$5.00 per year for

an individual and \$10.00 per year for a family. Membership was open to “any person... on receiving the approval of the governing board and on payment of the annual dues”. The governing board was composed of a president and four others to be appointed by the president. Of the four appointees, at least one had to be a Taft student, at least one had to be a Taft faculty member and at least one had to be a member from “the town”. At this first formal meeting, the first elected president of Watertown Golf Club was none other than Harley Roberts.

With the golf course situated on Nova Scotia Hill, and with the Taft School located near the town center, consideration was given to building a new golf course on or closer to school grounds. By 1910, the Taft School footprint started to look like Taft of today.



On April 20, 1915, *The Papyrus* broke the story that “There is a plan underway for the golf lovers of the school and of the town to cooperate in the organization of a country club which is to have a nine hole course”. *The Papyrus* article noted that the course was to be laid out on ground adjacent to and in the rear of school property. The proposed course would become the second of four major variations of the Watertown Golf Club courses.

The new course was built by the fall of 1915. *The Papyrus* of October 5, 1915 ran an article describing ground rules for a nine hole course measuring 1,875 yards. This course was clearly on school property since one of the ground rules stated that “Beyond the boundary lines of school property is out of bounds”. Unfortunately, no drawings for this course could be located.

The 1917 edition of *The American Annual Golf Guide* noted that Watertown Golf Club was established in 1915 and had a 9 hole course that was just a five minute walk from the village green. And yes, Harley Roberts was listed as the president!

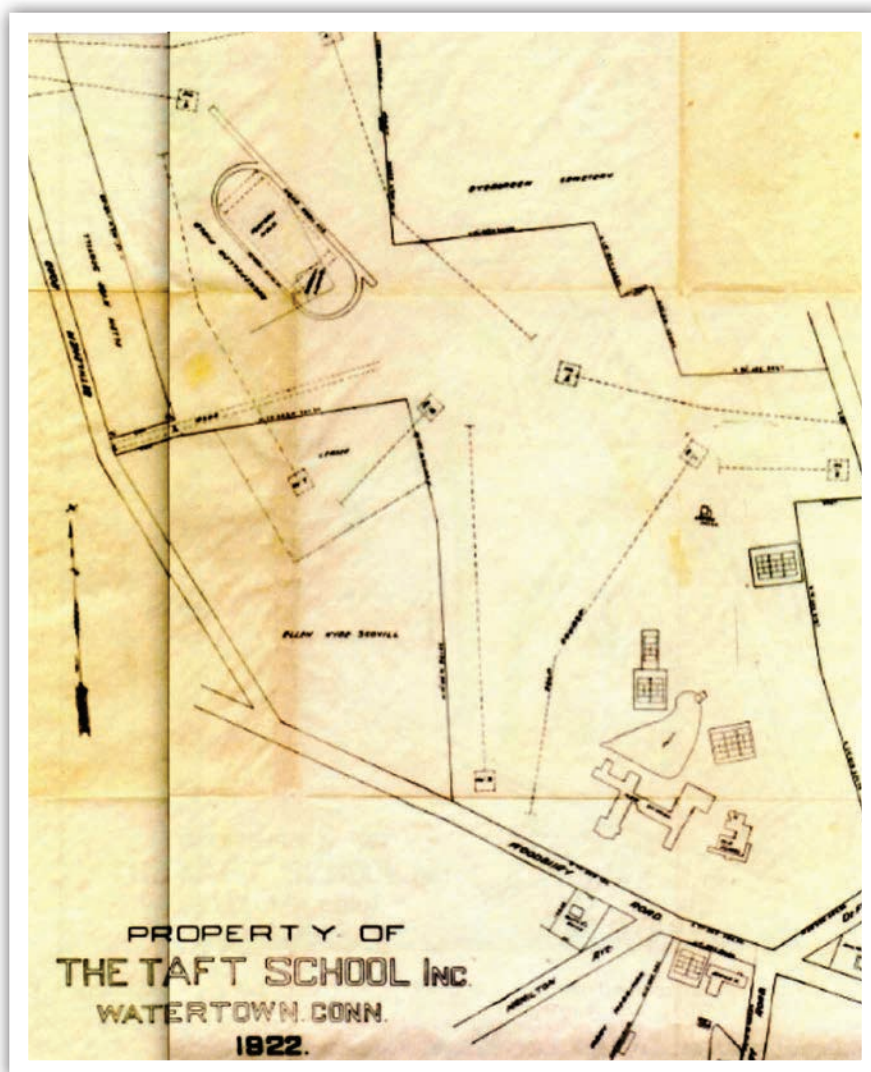
With a new nine hole course opening on Taft School property in the Fall of 1915, and with The American Golf Guide recognition of 1915 as the year of establishment, Watertown Golf Club was born.



Getting Settled, Getting Ready to Grow 1915-1931

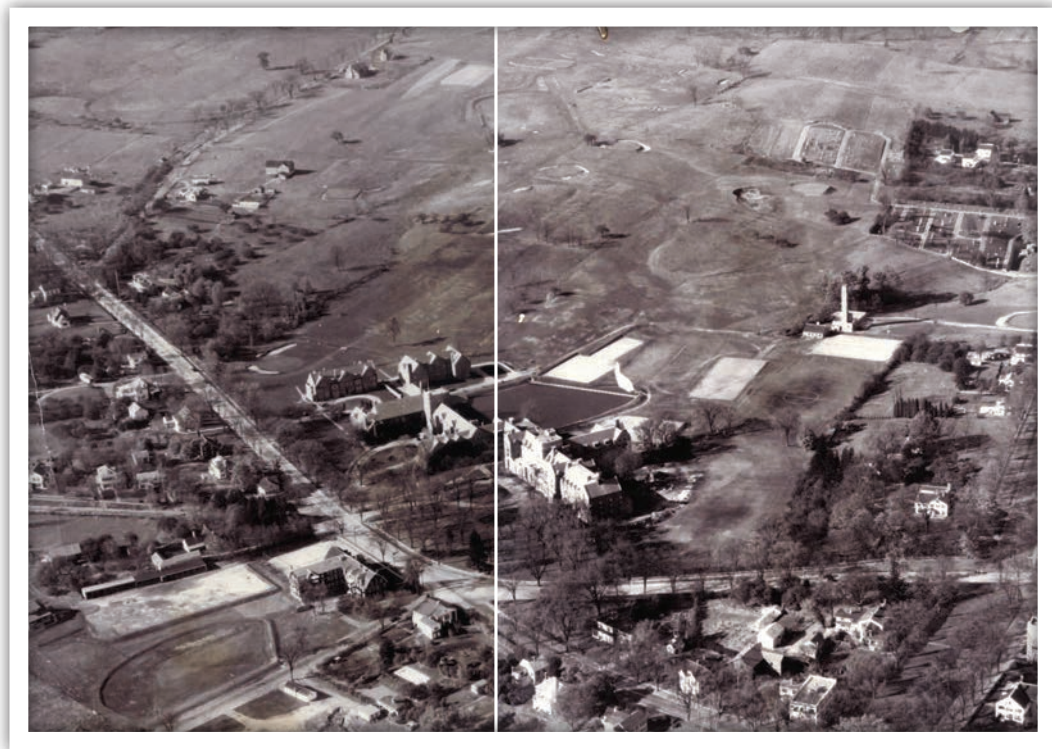
The Taft School's new, on site, nine hole course opened in 1915. Although no drawing could be found for that 1915 course, the first drawing found is from 1922, with anecdotal evidence telling us that the 1922 version was simply a lengthened version of the 1915 course. The Papyrus editions of October 4, 1922 and January 17, 1923 make it clear that famed golf course designer Seth Raynor was responsible for re-designing and improving the 1915 layout. With Raynor's re-design, the course stretched out to about 3,000 yards, and had a par of 36.

A copy of the 1922 course drawing is provided along with a matching aerial photograph from 1925.

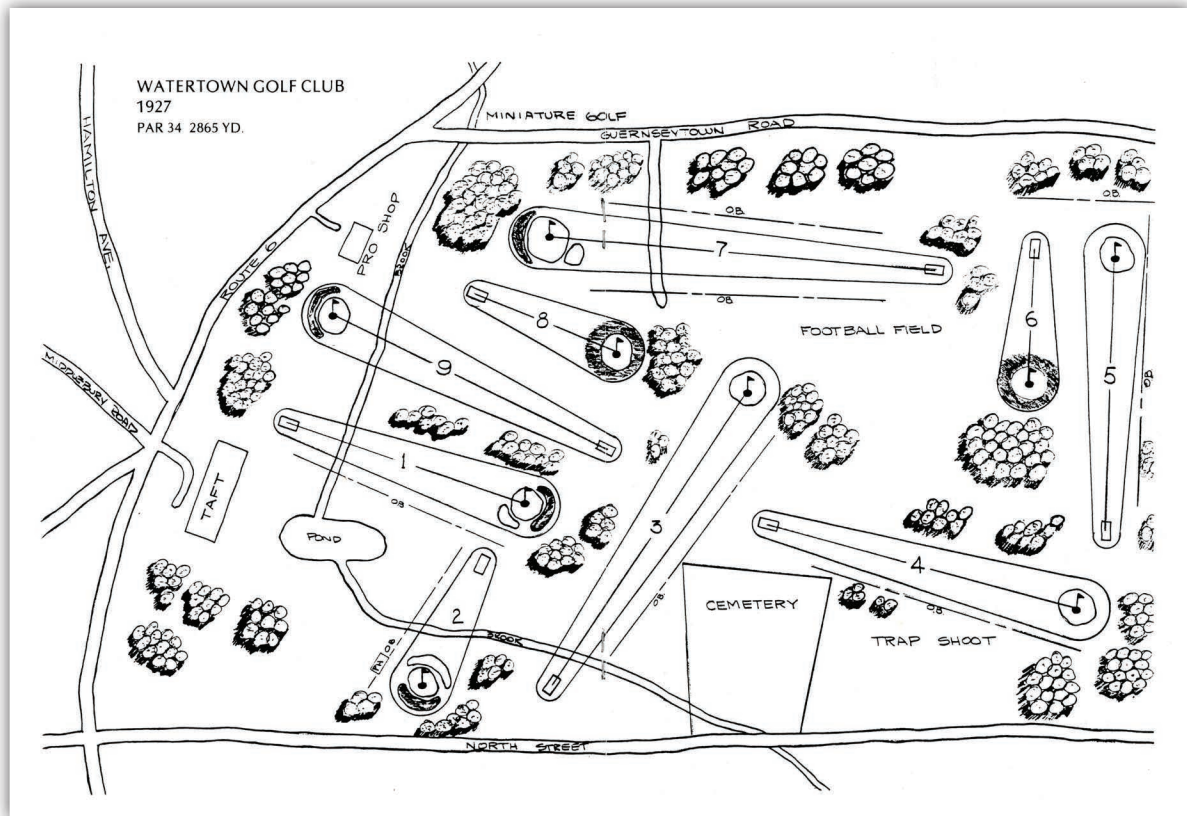




A round of golf on this course began with a tee shot on tee #1, near Middlebury Road, going north, wending through the course and finishing on green #9, right near the first tee. The layout was straightforward and can also be seen in another aerial photograph, from 1930.



By the mid 1920's, Watertown Golf Club was still in its infancy and had a very simple clubhouse on Woodbury Road which is not visible in any of the available photos. Harley Roberts was still in charge and plans were underway for a major expansion since Taft School began purchasing residential and farm land further up and along Guernseystown Road. These adjacent parcels were purchased from various families. In the end, these transactions created room for nine more holes.



By 1931, the golf course would expand to its third major variation with 18 holes, and a new clubhouse that would be built on Guernseystown Road.

Watertown Golf Club was again on the move and an organizational change was in the air.



A New Course, A New Clubhouse And A New Watertown Golf Club 1931-1969

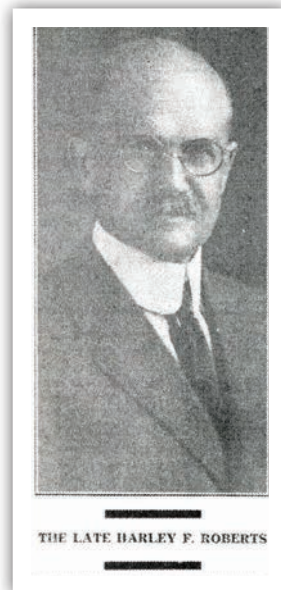
As Taft School grew, so did its need for additional land and buildings. For those reasons, the school purchased the land to its north and along Guernseytown Road, what we now know as “the inside nine”.

This was a busy period because the first version of our current clubhouse was erected, nine new holes were built resulting in an 18 hole course, and, Watertown Golf Club became a legal entity.

What made this expansion so remarkable is the fact that this early expansion from the late 1920's into the early 1930's took place in the midst of the Great Depression.

As noted in Chapter 1, Watertown Golf Club began as a simple and loosely structured group affiliated with Taft School, primarily for the benefit of the Taft School community. That loose structure, dating back to 1899, served the club well in the early years. Once the course was to expand, things would need to change. With an expanded course and membership, there was a need for a new clubhouse, locker room and grill room. Hence, Watertown Golf Club, Inc. came to be.

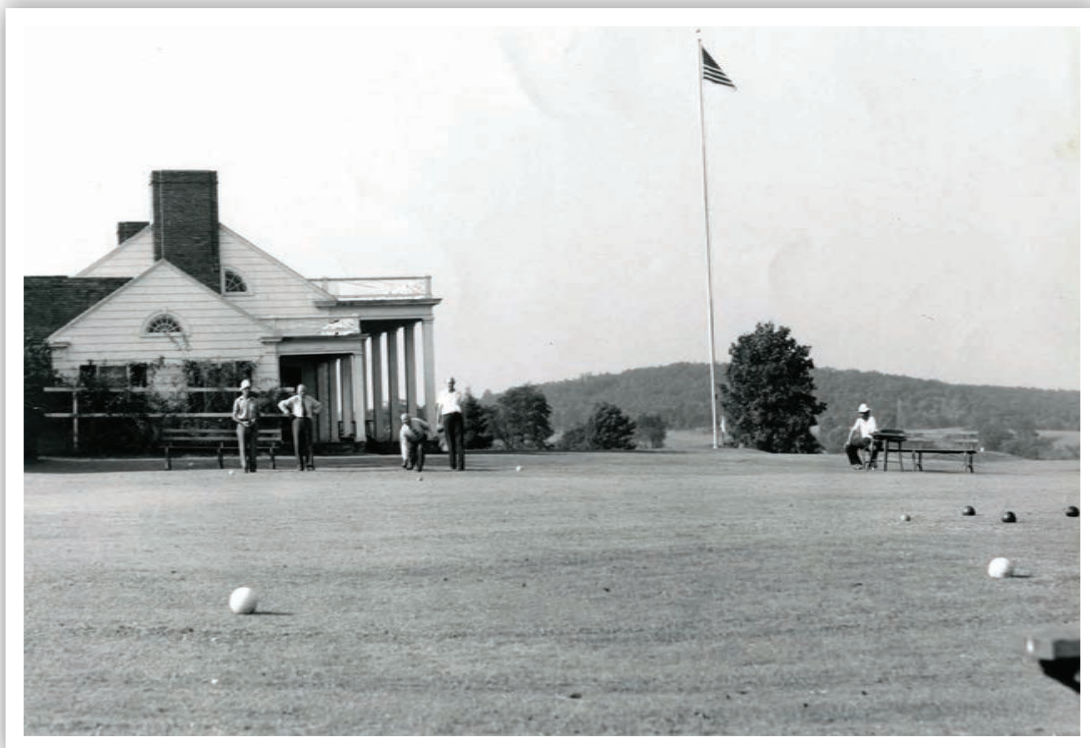
By this time, there was a leadership change because of the failing health of Harley Roberts. Control was passed to Arthur C. Thomas in mid 1929 and Harley Roberts died in 1930.



On May 27, 1932, Articles of Association and a Certificate of Incorporation were filed with the Connecticut Secretary of the State. The members who were the incorporators and the first Board of Governors were: Arthur C. Thomas, H.A. Sexton, W.A. Bartlett, A.D.

McIntosh and E.H. English with Arthur C. Thomas being named the first official president. The stated purpose of Watertown Golf Club, Inc. was simple: “to establish, maintain and conduct a golf course, a club and clubhouse in connection therewith, and provide all kinds of outdoor and indoor recreation for the health, comfort and entertainment of its members, guests and others”.

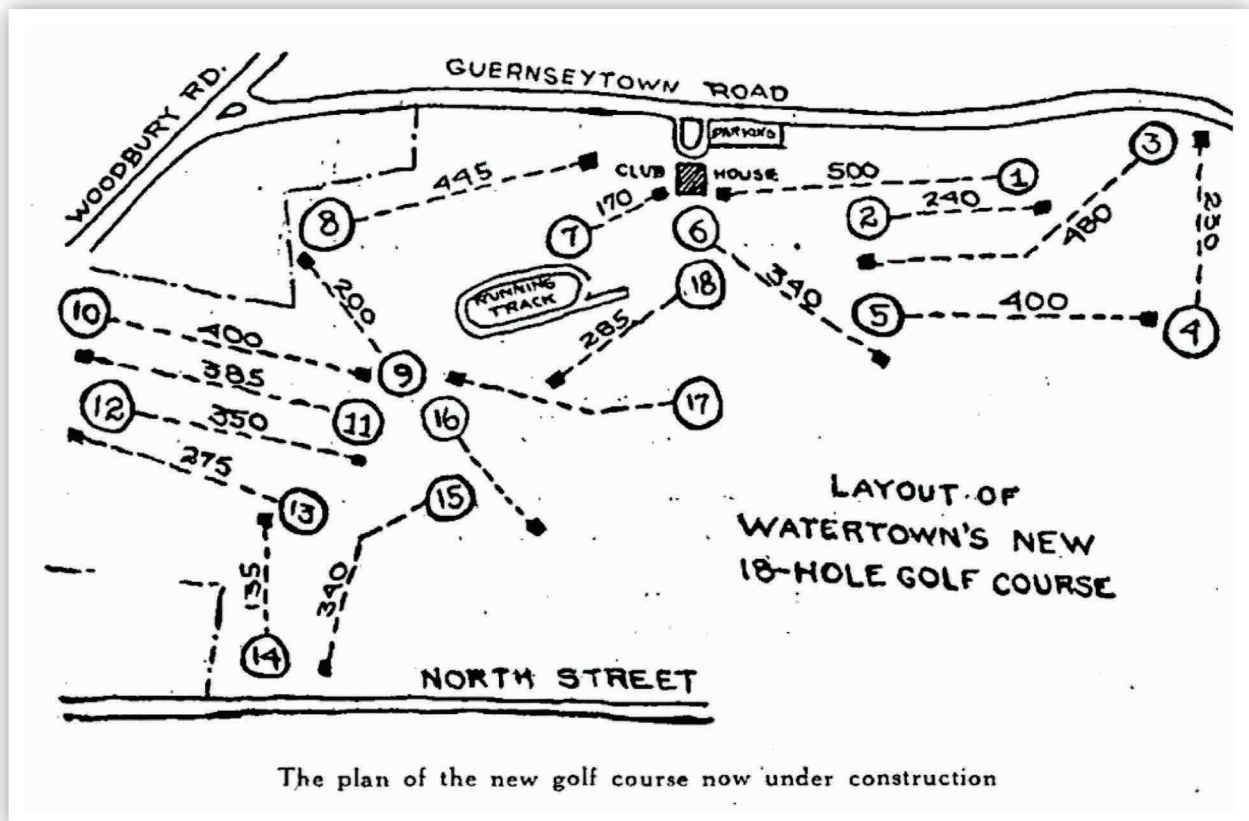
The clubhouse, although it has undergone several renovations, was built on the spot where it is today.



An early, distinctive feature, which eventually gave way to the parking needs of expanding membership was a lawn bowling facility where the present day south parking lot is located.

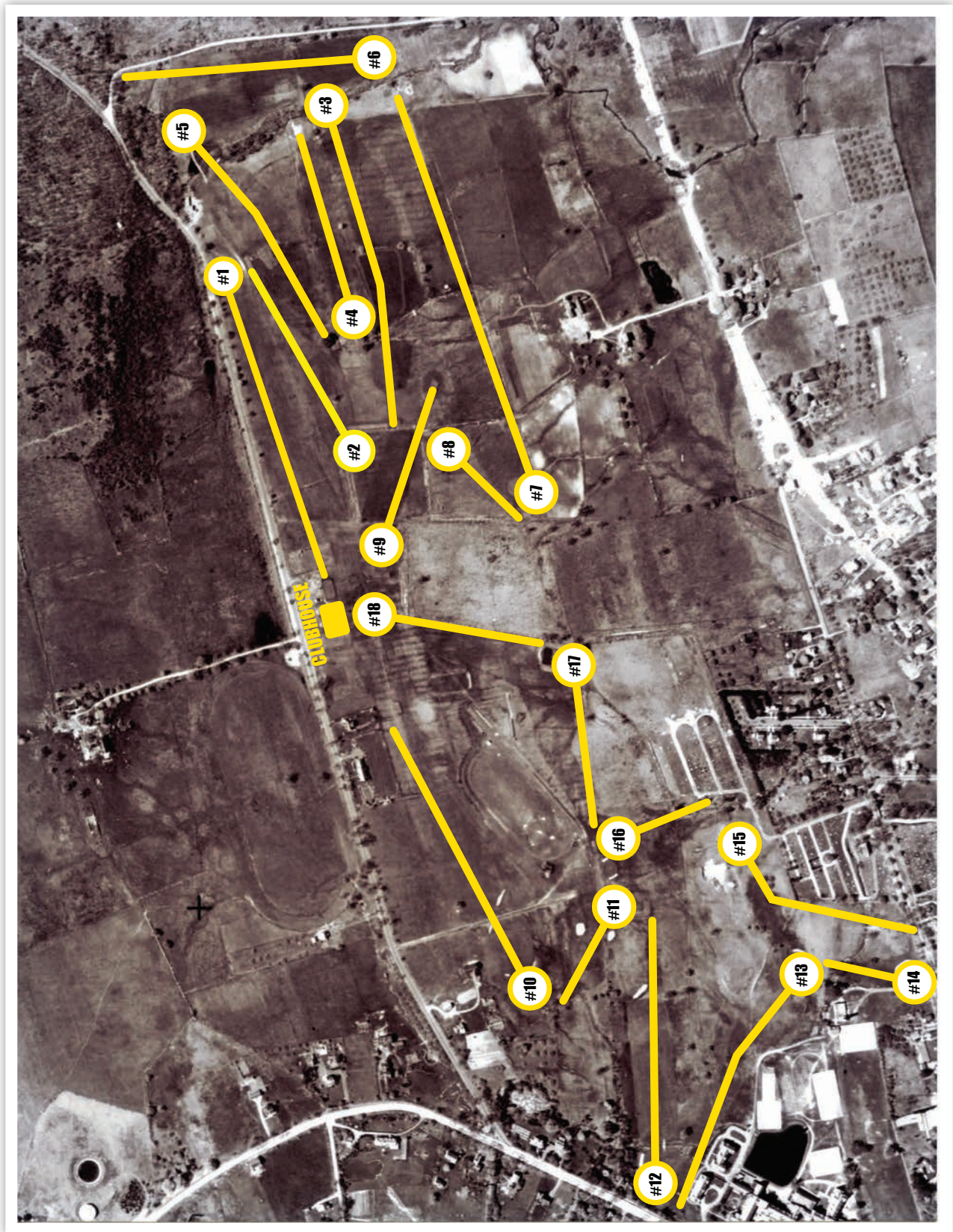
It should be noted that Taft School owned the land on which the golf course was built. The club bought the land on which the clubhouse was built.

Clearly, the major feature of this period of growth was seen in the golf course. In 1931, the course became an 18 hole facility for the first time. The 1922 Seth Raynor designed nine holes became the back nine. The new front nine was constructed on the land we now refer to as "the inside nine". The present layout of the inside nine, however, did not exist in 1931. A 1929 conceptual drawing is shown here, however, this rough layout was never built.



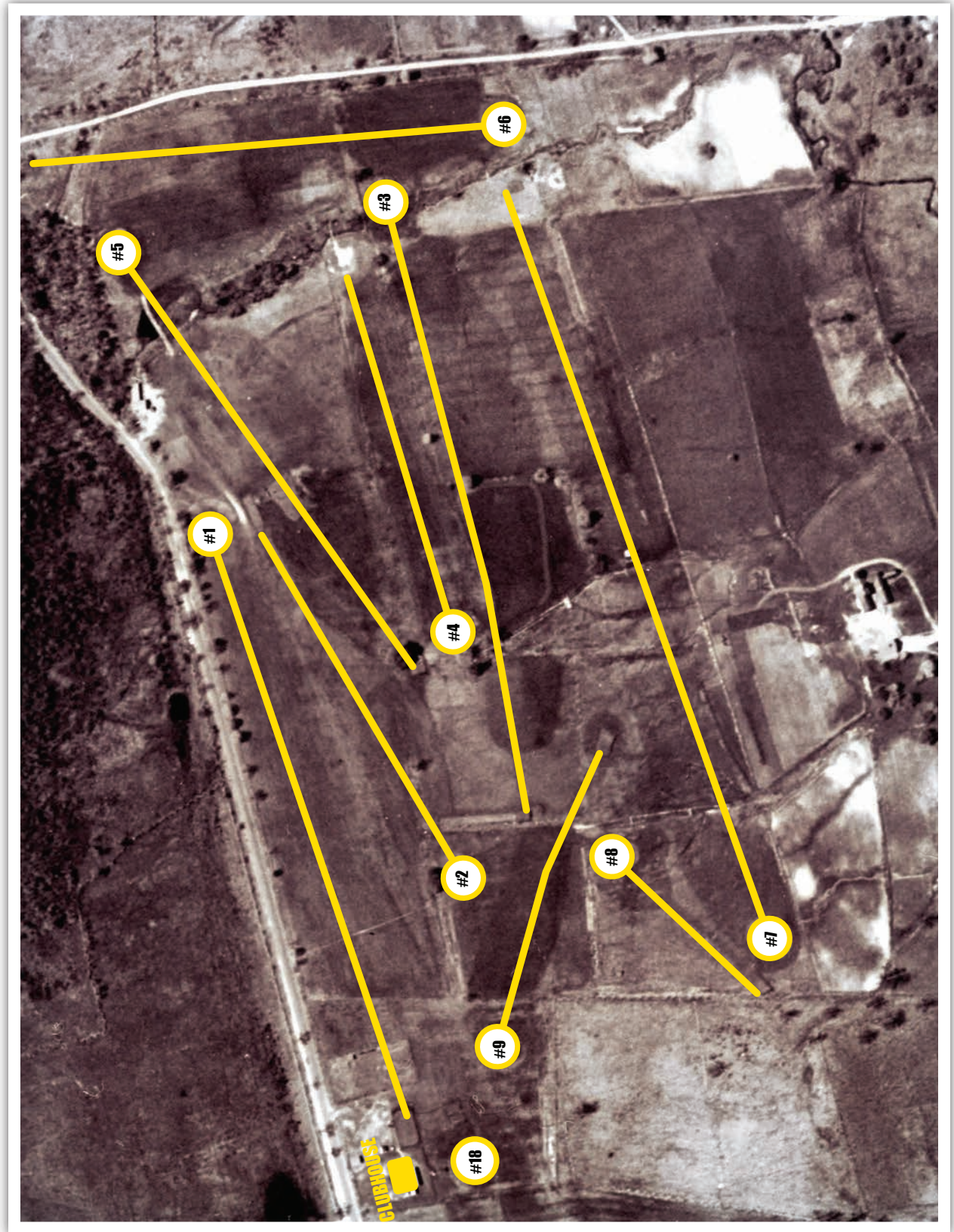
This aerial photo from 1934 shows the actual layout of the entire 18 holes. The 1922 Raynor holes are on the left side of the photo but those original Raynor designed holes would be reconfigured and re-routed during this period.





What is interesting is this close up aerial below focusing on the new front nine. I have superimposed notations to help you follow along as these nine holes do not follow the same route as our present day inside nine.





In the 1934 aerial, which shows the new nine holes, (pages 18 and 19) the starting point is the clubhouse in its present day location. The one constant factor is hole #1. It has always been the same as we now know it, teeing off and playing to the north.

After No. 1, things get interesting. The aerial shows that the No. 2 tee is just off the No. 1 green. Hole No.2 of 1931 played south, going back in the general direction of the clubhouse, and over what is now the 18th tee. The green structure for the 1931 version of No. 2 is still visible in the present day 18th fairway. At about 170 yards away from the present day blue tees, there is a large, raised flat spot on the right hand side of the fairway. That raised area was green No.2 in the 1931 version of the front nine.

Likewise, the 1931 No. 3 hole is different. From the No. 2 green, a player would walk east to a tee that was at the end of the overgrown stone wall that is on the left side of the present day 18th fairway. The third hole played to today's No. 16 green.

Hole No. 4 in 1931 is the hole that we now play as No. 17.

The fifth hole in the 1931 layout was a shortened version of what we now call No. 2. The fifth tee, as shown in the aerial, was just off of the 1931 version of green #4(today's 17th).

In 1931, the hole that we now know as No. 3 was hole No.6. Other than the numbering, hole No. 3 (then No. 6) has not changed much. In fact, some things never



change. The photo on page 20 from the mid 1930's shows the view from the tee - the rock to the right side, just off the tee, is still there today!

The 1931 version of hole No. 7 was a monster 615 yard par 5. The hole played from our present day ladies 13th tee to our present day 14th green.

The current par 3 15th hole was the eighth hole in 1931.

The 1931 ninth hole was played from a tee in the general vicinity of our present day 16th tee. The green for the 1931 version of number 9 was a green that many present day members will recall: before the present 18th green was built in 1991, the 18th green was at the same grade as the fairway and was about 35 yards short of the present green, framed on the right by the large pine tree that is still there today.



From No. 9, players would go to the re-routed nine holes from the Raynor 1922 design as laid out in the 1934 aerial on pages 16 and 17.

Of special note, this first eighteen hole course was visited by Hall of Fame golf legend Gene “The Squire” Sarazen in 1937. The photos on this page show him hitting a tee shot and playing into what was No. 15 green.



The nine holes from 1922 and the “new” nine holes from 1931 were reconfigured over time. The end result of that slow process was the course that is shown in a 1951 aerial (below) and a photo copy of a scorecard from club legend Bill Salvatore dated August 1, 1956. This is the course that our senior members fondly recall, with holes named “The Periscope Hole”, “The Road Hole” and “The Cemetery Hole”.



PLEASE REPLACE DIVOTS									
DATE 19 <i>Billy</i>									
HOLE	YARDS	HOOB	MENS PAR		WON +	LOST -	LADIES		
							YARDS	PAR	
1	475	7	5	5			475	5	
2	384	1	4	4			384	4	
3	375	11	4	3			290	4	
4	361	5	4	4			361	4	
5	235	9	3	3			235	4	
6	143	17	3	3			143	3	
7	486	3	5	5			450	5	
8	337	13	4	4			337	4	
9	307	15	4	4			307	4	
	3103	OUT	363				2982	37	

10	120	18	3	3			120	3	
11	510	2	5	4			447	5	
12	240	4	3	3			168	3	
13	289	12	4	3			235	4	
14	130	16	3	3			130	3	
15	337	8	4	4			308	4	
16	198	10	3	3			198	4	
17	379	6	4	4			379	4	
18	331	14	4	4			331	4	
	2534	IN	33	31			2316	34	
	5637	TOTAL	69	66			5298	71	
HANDICAP									
NET SCORE									
PLAYER <i>Aug 1, 1956</i>									
ATTESTED									

The 1950's version of the course had a par of 36-33-69 with a front nine that closely resembled our current inside nine. Hole Number 1 was the same as it is today. Hole Number 2 was a slightly shorter version of the present day Number 2. Hole Number 3 of today is what members played in the 50's. Number 4 was a slightly shorter version of the present day Number 13. Number 5 was a slightly longer version of today's Number 14 with the tee being closer to the present day 13th green (remember that in 1931, present date 13 and 14 were combined).



Today's view of what Number 5 looked like

Number 6 for the 1950's membership was our present day Number 15. Number 7 and Number 8 were the same as the present day 16 and 17. Finally, Number 9 was the shorter version of today's Number 18 with the green being even with the big pine tree that is just short and right of today's green.

It requires imagination to envision the layout of the back nine of the 1950's and 1960's.

Number 10 was a devilish 120 yard par 3 that went from the south end of our present day upper putting green and played to the existing practice/target green at the south end of our practice tee.



Number 10 Green from 1931 to 1972

Number 11 was a 510 yard par 5 that started just off of what was the 10th green, across what is now the Taft soccer field and ended on a green in the general vicinity of the Taft hockey rink.



Number 12 was an uphill par 3 of 240 yards, which in 1964 was lengthened to 300 yards in order to make it a par 4 and get the course par to a total of 70.



Site of "The Periscope Hole"

Number 13 was what the members called "The Periscope Hole". It was a downhill, drivable par 4, playing at 289 yards to a blind green, and, as the name suggests, had a periscope for members' use to be sure the way was clear to tee off.



Today's view of "The Road Hole"

No. 14 was a par 3, measuring 130 yards and was alternately called “The Powerhouse Hole” or “The Road Hole”. The hole played west to east with the tee being behind the present Taft School powerhouse/boiler room and the green being next to North Street, the present site of a Taft owned house located at 107 North Street.



The corner of "The Cemetery Hole"

No.15 was an uphill, dog leg right which was called “The Cemetery Hole”. The hole played east to west, with the tee on North Street near the No.14 green. The daring player was invited to cut the dogleg by going over the southwest corner of the Evergreen Cemetery. The tee was located at the present day site of another Taft owned house, this one being 123 North Street.



No.16 was an uphill par 3 of 198 yards that ended on a green near Taft's old field house.



The old 17th fairway. Today's 14th green and 15th tee are near the trees in the distant center of the photo

No. 17 is still partially visible today. The hole was a 379 yard par 4 that played south to north and ran along the far end of today's practice range with the green structure still existing.

No. 18 was an uphill dog leg right, playing 331 yards. The tee was located behind the present day 14th green and the target was what is now our very tricky, steeply sloped lower practice green.



Watertown Golf Club's first 18 hole layout from 1931, along with the subtle changes in the 50's and 60's made the club a great place to be. One of those "subtle" changes was in keeping with a national trend that made golf easier for some players – in 1962, Watertown Golf Club introduced Toro golf carts to the membership.

Club participation grew but so did Taft's student population. With Taft's growth, the need for more land and buildings was evident. Taft's growing land needs were such that the original 1915/1922 nine holes (the back nine of the 18 hole course) had to give way to Taft's progress. Watertown Golf Club would be on the move again.



Inside, Outside, A New Adventure To Today 1969-Present

Watertown Golf Club, from its inception, had a connection to Taft School. Knowing that the prep school would eventually need more space, Club leadership began planning for the day when more “course” land would be needed, especially since Taft School owned the golf course.

Should Watertown Golf Club continue to share land with Taft? Should Watertown Golf Club be completely independent of Taft and own 18 holes worth of land? These are questions that were asked repeatedly. Although the answers were not readily available, options were considered. To that end, life at Watertown Golf Club was very interesting and exciting in the 60’s and early 70’s. From 1969 to 1978, Watertown Golf Club purchased several huge tracts of land on the north side of West Road, and the “outside nine” was born.

The key real estate, which is the land that we all are familiar with, was purchased between 1969-1972. The Club enlisted the design talents of the famed duo of Geoffrey Cornish and William Robinson. With Robinson’s conceptual skills and Cornish’s talent in the field, the “outside nine” was built and phased in between 1970 and 1973. The construction started in 1970 and was supervised under the watchful eye and with the steady hand of Superintendent Bob Viera. As a result of this expansion, the basic course layout of today has been with us since the start of the 1973 season.

In 1971, players started out on the present day holes 1, 2, and 3. Going across West Road, players got to experience No. 4 for the first time.

Because the “outside” was purchased and developed in phases, the 1971 player left the fourth green and came down to the present day seventh tee. At that time, the tee that we now call No. 7 was the fifth tee and was the first step in a very long par 5 that played about 602 yards to the present day 8th green. (The land that became today’s fifth and sixth holes, along with the present day seventh green and eighth tee, was not ready for play until 1973).



View from today's 7th tee



Today's 8th green was number 5 in 1971 and 1972

From the 1971 version of the No. 5 green (today's eight), players went to the present day No. 9 and called it No. 6. Our current 10th hole was No. 7. What we now call No. 11 was No. 8 in 1971. The original version of today's No. 12 (with the tees behind the present day 10th tee) was the ninth hole for the player in 1971.

Once again, things got interesting because the "inside nine" had to be reconfigured to accommodate Taft land needs. For that reason, players crossing back over West Road in 1971 played their 10th and 11th holes on the present day 13th and 14th respectively. To play their 12th hole, players next went to what was the 18th hole in the original 18 hole design from 1931, putting out on today's lower practice green.

No. 13 may be the most intriguing part of the story as it was specifically built to last for just two years. Taft needed land, including what is now the school's soccer field. For that reason, the team of Viera and Cornish got creative and built a new hole for the sake of the 1971 and 1972 seasons. The 13th hole of the 1971 course was a dogleg right par 4. The tee for this temporary, two year hole was built in area that is now the southeast corner of the south parking lot. The 13th tee shot was hit in the same direction as practice shots of today. The second shot was played to the 17th tee from 1931, which was converted to a green for this temporary hole. To separate the old 17th fairway from this new, but temporary, 13th fairway, a row of evergreen trees was planted and those trees are still there today.



View from the "Two Year" 13th tee

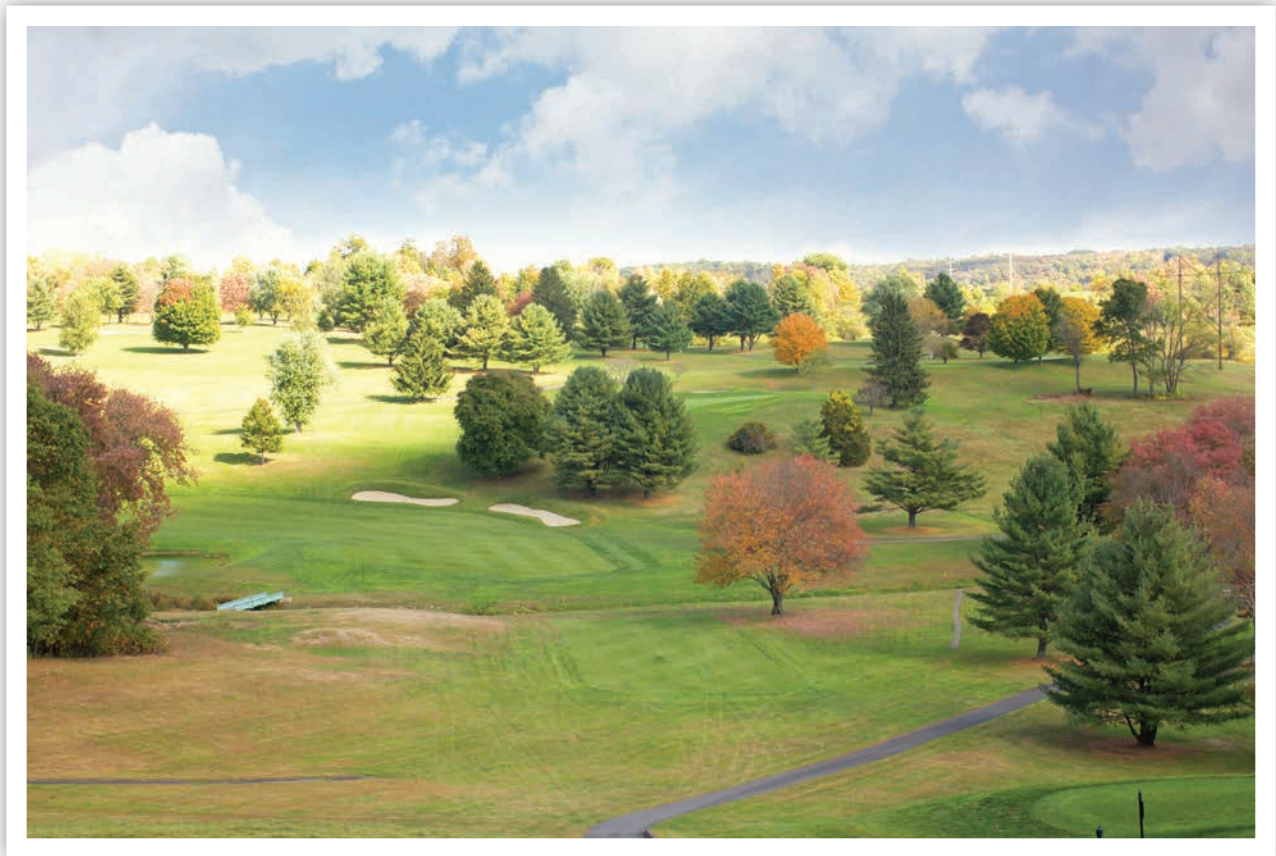


View from the "Two Year" 13th green looking back to the dog leg

The hole that was No. 17 in 1931 became No. 14 in 1971. Because the No. 17 tee of 1931 became the 13th green in 1971, Bob Viera built a new tee for the 1971 and 1972 seasons. The end result was that the 1971 version of No. 14, just like No. 17 of 1931, played south to north, along the far end of today's practice range.

From there, the present day holes 15 through 18 served as holes 15 to 18 for the 1971 course; the only difference was that No. 18 was 35 yards shorter, not getting to its present day length until 1991.

By the 1973 season, the golf course layout of today was in operation. The only substantial differences between the 1973 layout and the course of today are: No. 8 was originally a par 5 and was played from the upper tees but became a par 4 in 2001; No. 12 was redesigned to its present, shorter form in the late 1990's, and; No. 18 was made longer and more difficult with a tricky, elevated green in 1991.



Today's number 8 from the original par 5 tee



The golf course as of 2015

As time went by, and with the major improvement to the golf course, there was a need for similar expansion and improvement to the clubhouse. In 1988 and 1989, the clubhouse went through a major facelift and expansion, eventually resulting in the clubhouse, grill room, locker rooms, dining room and pro shop of today.

A little known fact is that Watertown Golf Club owns much more than nine holes worth of land on the north side of West Road. The “outside nine” comprises slightly less than 50 percent of the land actually owned by the Club. In the late 70’s, in anticipation of the possibility that Taft would need the land containing the “inside nine”, Watertown Golf Club bought all of the wooded area that surrounds the “outside nine” holes. In effect, Watertown Golf Club owns several adjacent parcels that are bounded roughly by West Road on the south, Route 63 on the east, Hollow Road on the north and Guernseytown Road to the west.

As a contingency for the possibility that Taft School would eventually need the “inside nine”, two conceptual drawings were prepared for a full 18 hole course on all of the Club land across West Road, one with a new clubhouse and entrance on Hollow Road, the other with a clubhouse and entrance on the far end of Guernseytown Road.

At this point, it does not appear that further expansion, or movement will be necessary.

Epilogue

I hope this brief history of Watertown Golf Club has been enjoyable and informative for anyone who has read it. I had an amazing time researching and writing about a place that has been a big part of my life since 1988.

What the future holds for Watertown Golf Club, and what improvements and expansions we will see, only time will tell. What is clear is that, after 100 years, Watertown Golf Club is a venerable institution with a rich history and a wonderful membership.

I hope you agree that this written walk through the last 100 years was a “good walk enjoyed” and that the next 100 years will be the same.

Acknowledgments

Several people have been of assistance in pulling together information for this short book and I thank them all, but a few deserve special recognition.

Because I joined Watertown Golf Club in 1988, I did not know much about the layout that was one of the first 18 hole versions of our course. Longtime members Mike Murphy and Lou Finnegan showed me the site of the old course and regaled me with stories about the Periscope Hole and the Cemetery Hole.

Very special thanks also go out to our long time friend Bob Viera. Bob was our superintendent from 1958 until 2000 and had a huge hand in the layout and construction of the course as we now know it. I got to know Bob shortly after becoming a member and admired his work ethic. I had the pleasure of spending a day with Bob in the Fall of 2014. Bob, Paul Bonini and I drove around the Taft School property and then played a round of golf with Bob educating me about some course history. At 82 years young, Bob's total recall of the most minute detail of the evolution of our golf course was astounding.

Our PGA professional, Ian Marshall shared his insight in helping to make sense out of some old drawings, photos and aerials.

Last, and most important, very special credit and thanks go to a new friend that I made while working on this project. As a result of sheer coincidence and luck, I met Bret Lawrence who was doing research on Watertown Golf Club as part of his own research project regarding renowned golf course designer Seth Raynor. Bret and I crossed paths; he very graciously shared his research and gave his time to help me understand the mountains of information. Bret is not a member of Watertown Golf Club, but he gave his time out of love of the game and his own interest in course architecture. This book would not have been possible without Bret's efforts.

CLUB PRESIDENTS

1915-1929	Harley Roberts
1930-1935	Arthur Thomas
1936-1938	Alex Campbell
1939-1942	Henry Campbell
1942-1969	John Reardon
1970-1972	Joseph Corcoran
1973-1977	Frank Nardelli
1978-1985	Edward Wheeler
1986-1988	Nicholas Masi
1989-1990	Alan Gustafson
1991-1992	Ronald Edmonds
1993	Francis McCormack
1994-1996	Thomas Murphy
1997-1999	Robert LaPerriere
2000-2003	Anthony Pelosi
2004-2009	Robert LaPerriere
2010-2012	Joseph Commendatore
2013 to present	Thomas Pettinicchi

CLUB MANAGERS

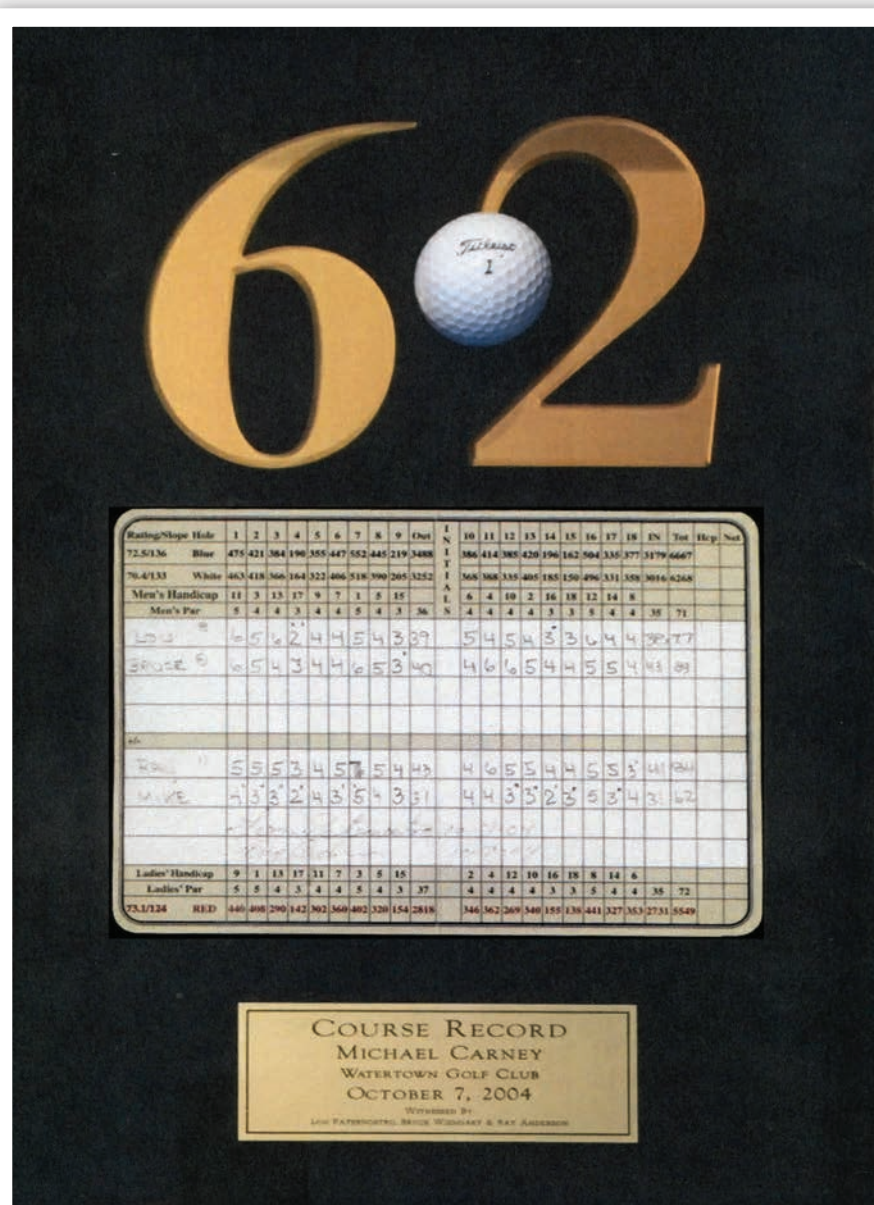
1932-1966	John MacDonald
1966-1988	Francis Fenn
1989-1990	David Ricci
1990-1999	John Dominello
2000	Mark Possidento
2001-2004	Peter Barber
2005-2007	John Dominello
2008-2010	David Camilleri
2011 to present	Erik Parks

COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

1920's	George Garner, Greenskeeper
1938-1939	Maurice Kearney, Manager
1940-1944	Louis Stemm, Superintendent
1945-1957	John Wysocki, Superintendent
1957-2000	Robert Viera, Superintendent
2000-Present	Paul Bonini, Superintendent

Watertown Golf Club Head Professionals

1922-1932	William Tansey
1933-1941	Maurice Kearney
1942-1944	Paul Puzak
1945-1952	John Wysocki
1953-1986	John Galeski
1987-2007	Michael Carney
2008-Present	Ian Marshall



CLUB CHAMPIONS-MENS DIVISION

YEAR	CHAMPION	RUNNER-UP
1933	M. Heminway Merriman	NOT AVAILABLE
1934	NOT AVAILABLE	NOT AVAILABLE
1935	NOT AVAILABLE	NOT AVAILABLE
1936	NOT AVAILABLE	NOT AVAILABLE
1937	NOT AVAILABLE	NOT AVAILABLE
1938	J.R. Coe	J.F. Reutter
1939	H.S. Beebe	R.W. Harvey
1940	H. Merriman	W. Murphy
1941	H.S. Beebe	R.W. Harvey
1942	R.A. Ziello	J. Famiglietti
1943	WAR YEARS	
1944		
1945	R.A. Ziello	J. Morse
1946	J. Morse	A.J. Wilson Jr.
1947	J. Famiglietti	A.J. Wilson Jr.
1948	C. Wojack	R.A. Ziello
1949	C. Wojack	U.C. Fleming Jr.
1950	C. Wojack	E.R. Farley
1951	R.A. Ziello	T.P. Ineson
1952	C. Wojack	E.J. Holcomb
1953	J. Famiglietti	C. Wojack
1954	T.P. Ineson	M. Dowling
1955	W. Salvatore	E.J. Holcomb
1956	F.A. Hlavna	J. Famiglietti
1957	E.J. Holcomb	R.A. Ziello
1958	E.J. Holcomb	J. Famiglietti
1959	J. Famiglietti	C. Wojack
1960	C. Wojack	J. Famiglietti
1961	L. Corrado	R.A. Ziello
1962	R.A. Ziello	L. Corrado
1963	R.A. Ziello	J. Hall
1964	R.A. Ziello	E. Bennett
1965	P. Zailckas	W. Creddo
1966	R. Fenn	E. Bennett
1967	R. Fenn	P. Zailckas
1968	D. Tartaglia Jr.	R. Fenn
1969	R.A. Ziello	J. Diggetts
1970	J. Belfiore	E. Bennett
1971	E. Bennett	M. Smith

CLUB CHAMPIONS-MENS DIVISION-(CONTINUED)

YEAR	CHAMPION	RUNNER-UP
1972	R. Fenn	E. Bennett
1973	L. Corrado	J. Belfiore
1974	R. Fenn	R. Shea
1975	F. Marrello	P. Whiston
1976	R. Shea	P. Zailckas
1977	R. Shea	M. Carney
1978	D. Koshier	J. Belfiore
1979	R. Shea	R. Fenn
1980	R. Shea	R. Orr
1981	D. Koshier	D. Corrao
1982	M. Carney	F. Judson
1983	J. Dennis	R. Wilczewski
1984	R. Wilczewski	J. Dennis
1985	J. Dennis	R. Wilczewski
1986	J. Dennis	P. Cooney
1987	J. Dennis	R. Fenn
1988	J. Dennis	M. Walsh
1989	J. Dennis	R. Wilczewski
1990	J. Dennis	J. Parrillo
1991	J. Dennis	M. Walsh
1992	J. Dennis	J. Vitale
1993	J. Dennis	R. Wilczewski
1994	J. Dennis	R. Wilczewski
1995	J. Dennis	J. Vitale
1996	J. Vitale	J. Dennis
1997	J. Vitale	T. Krayeske
1998	J. Parrillo	F. Judson
1999	J. Dennis	J. Rimkus
2000	J. Dennis	V. Capece Jr.
2001	J. Dennis	F. Judson
2002	J. Dennis	V. Capece Jr.
2003	V. Capece Jr.	J. Parrillo
2004	V. Capece Jr.	J. Donato
2005	J. Malagutti	M. Walsh
2006	T. Krayeske	G. Hazen
2007	G. Hazen	V. Capece Jr.
2008	M. Bordiere	T. Krayeske
2009	V. Capece Jr.	C. Prezioso
2010	C. Prezioso	V. Capece Jr.
2011	C. Prezioso	V. Capece Jr.
2012	C. Behney	C. Prezioso
2013	V. Capece Jr.	J. Carusillo
2014	C. Prezioso	J. LaMadeleine
2015	V. Capece Jr.	C. Prezioso

CLUB CHAMPIONS-WOMEN'S DIVISION

YEAR	CHAMPION	RUNNER-UP
1936	Mrs. E.L. Beebe	NOT AVAILABLE
1937	Mrs. George Swentor	NOT AVAILABLE
1938	Mrs. E.H. Hompkins	NOT AVAILABLE
1939	Mrs. E.H. Hompkins	NOT AVAILABLE
1940	Mrs. William J. Gazey	NOT AVAILABLE
1941	Mrs. William J. Gazey	NOT AVAILABLE
1942	WAR YEARS	
1943	WAR YEARS	
1944	WAR YEARS	
1945	WAR YEARS	
1946	WAR YEARS	
1947	E. Huoppi	NOT AVAILABLE
1948	E. Huoppi	NOT AVAILABLE
1949	E. Huoppi	NOT AVAILABLE
1950	E. Huoppi	Pidge
1951	T. Sullivan	R.W. Tyler
1952	A. Canfield	Magner
1953	T. Sullivan	C. Beardlsey
1954	C. Beardsley	R.W. Tyler
1955	R.W. Tyler	Skipp
1956	F. Zailckas	Skipp
1957	E. Huoppi	F. Zailckas
1958	A. Corrado	E. Huoppi
1959	E. Huoppi	A. Corrado
1960	E. Huoppi	F. Zailckas
1961	A. Corrado	Duba
1962	S. Brown	S. Anderson
1963	A. Corrado	Adams
1964	S. Brown	Adams
1965	F. Zailckas	S. Anderson
1966	S. Brown	A. Corrado
1967	A. Corrado	S. Brown
1968	S. Brown	McMahon
1969	S. Brown	A. Corrado
1970	S. Brown	A. Corrado
1971	Z. Diggets	F. Zailckas
1972	S. Brown	Z. Diggets
1973	S. Brown	A. Corrado
1974	S. Brown	F. Zailckas

CLUB CHAMPIONS-WOMEN'S DIVISION-(CONTINUED)

YEAR	CHAMPION	RUNNER-UP
1975	F. Zailckas	S. Brown
1976	S. Brown	F. Zailckas
1977	S. Brown	Z. Diggetts
1978	S. Brown	E. Blacker
1979	S. Brown	E. Blacker
1980	S. Brown	F. Zailckas
1981	S. Brown	F. Zailckas
1982	S. Brown	F. Zailckas
1983	S. Brown	E. Blacker
1984	S. Brown	E. Blacker
1985	S. Brown	E. Blacker
1986	D. Seabourne	J. Descoteaux
1987	S. Brown	C. Ventura
1988	C. Ventura	S. Brown
1989	S. Brown	C. Ventura
1990	C. Ventura	S. Brown
1991	C. Ventura	S. Brown
1992	S. Brown	J. Gemino
1993	S. Brown	S. Hansen
1994	S. Brown	S. Hansen
1995	S. Hansen	F. Zailckas
1996	J. Gemino	S. Hansen
1997	D. Ohotnicky	J. Gemino
1998	C. Hazen	M. Carozza
1999	C. Hazen	S. Hansen
2000	L. McKenna	S. Hansen
2001	L. McKenna	S. Hansen
2002	J. Gemino	L. McKenna
2003	L. McKenna	S. Hansen
2004	L. McKenna	P. Juliano
2005	L. McKenna	J. Gemino
2006	L. McKenna	K. Demsey
2007	L. McKenna	J. Gemino
2008	C. Ventura	K. Demsey
2009	C. Ventura	L. McKenna
2010	C. Ventura	L. McKenna
2011	C. Ventura	K. Demsey
2012	C. Ventura	K. Demsey
2013	C. Ventura	K. Demsey
2014	C. Ventura	K. Demsey
2015	L. McKenna	C. Ventura

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- Page 13:** The Papyrus
- Page 14:** Watertown Golf Club
- Page 15:** The Papyrus
- Pages 16 – 19:** Connecticut State Library
- Page 20:** Watertown Golf Club
- Page 21:** Katie Pugliese
- Page 22:** Taft School Library and Archives
- Page 23:** Connecticut State Library (Top Photo)
Bill Salvatore (Scorecard)
- Page 24-31:** Katie Pugliese
- Page 32:** Katie Pugliese
- Page 33:** Google Earth
- Inside Cover:** Watertown Golf Club
- Back Cover,**
Starting top right,
clockwise: Bob and Betty Viera
Vincent Curtis and Taft Library
Taft Library
Taft Library
Taft Library
William Rittase and Taft Library
Taft Library

Clubhouse Renovation 1988 - 1989

