

RAMSEY COUNTY

History

A Publication of the Ramsey County Historical Society

Robert Foulis—Minnesota's
First Golf Professional

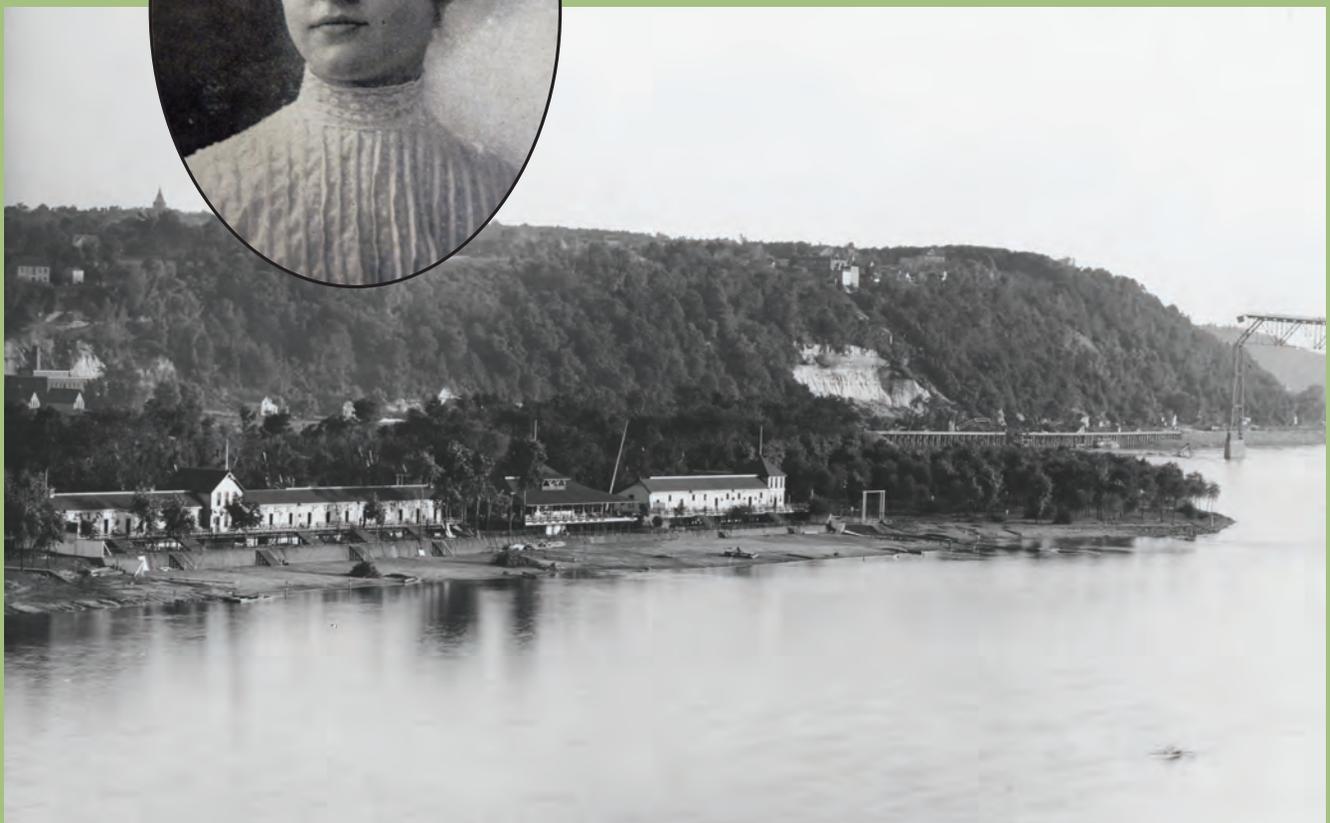
Joseph Gladke
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Summer 2016

Volume 51, Number 2

What Does the Queen Say?:
Helen Marks, Dressmaker,
the 1903 Summer Carnival, and the Unions

David Riehle, page 3



Helen A. Marks, member of the Dressmakers Union Local 1, was elected Queen of the St. Paul Summer Carnival in 1903 by an overwhelming popular vote, including thousands of labor union supporters. Voters paid 10¢ per vote and could vote as many times as they wanted because the money raised went to help pay for the Free Public Baths on Harriet Island, seen here in the background looking southwest from Wabasha Bridge. The portrait of Helen Marks is courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society. Photo of Harriet Island and the Free Public Baths about 1905 by the Detroit Photographic Co., courtesy of the Library of Congress.

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RAMSEY COUNTY History

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THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON JANUARY 25, 2016:

Preserving our past, informing our present, inspiring our future

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Marc J Manderscheid

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A Message from the Editorial Board

About one hundred years ago, Ramsey County was changing with the times. In this issue, you will read about some of those changes. In 1903, for one brief shining year, St. Paul had a SUMMER carnival, which Dave Riehle describes for us. The carnival, whose proceeds went to Dr. Justus Ohage's public bathhouse along the Mississippi, had its own queen, who was a dressmaker and union activist, elected by union members. Other activities held the attention of Ramsey County residents too. Joseph Gladke shares the story of how, a few years earlier, the newly organized Town and Country Club recruited Robert Foulis, a native of St. Andrews, Scotland, to help design its nine-hole course and act as its first golf pro. And the City of St. Paul was growing. Marc Manderscheid details the city of Saint Paul's zoning changes that allowed the transformation of farms and fields in south Highland Park, based on the eagerness of business leaders to develop the area for a major automobile factory. Henry Ford's astute negotiation for his assembly plant changed the character of that neighborhood, which supported the Ford factory for nearly one hundred years. With proposed new development, we will see what happens in the next chapter of Highland Park history!

Anne Cowie
Chair, Editorial Board

Robert Foulis—Minnesota's First Golf Professional

Joseph Gladke

An explosion of interest in the game of golf occurred in America at the end of the nineteenth century. According to Geoffrey Cornish and Ron Whitten in their book *The Golf Course*, there were over 80 golf courses in the United States by 1896. By 1900, there were over 982 courses with at least one in each of forty-five states.¹ With the rapid expansion of golf came the need for individuals who could lay out a golf course, had knowledge of the correct seed to use for fairways and greens, could supply those who could afford to play golf with clubs and balls, could play the game of golf, and could teach others how to play golf. Very few individuals had all of these skills and those who did were in high demand. One of the most talented individuals with these skills was Robert Foulis, Minnesota's first golf professional.

Robert Foulis was born on September 26, 1873 in what many people refer to as the home of golf, St. Andrews, Scotland. Robert was the fourth of seven children born to James and Helen Foulis. The Foulis family lived at 166 South Street in St. Andrews, just three short blocks from the Old Course. James Foulis was foreman at the Tom Morris shop which overlooked the 18th green and 1st tee at the Old Course. The Tom Morris shop produced high quality golf clubs and balls.

Old Tom Morris was the most prolific golf figure of the nineteenth century. He was the runner-up in the first Open Championship in 1860 and went on to compete in a total of thirty-six Open Championships. Between 1861 and 1867, Old Tom Morris won the Open Championship four times. In 1868, he was runner-up to his seventeen-year-old son, young Tom Morris, who went on to win four consecutive Open Championships, a feat that has never been equaled. In addition to being one of the top golfers of his day, Old Tom Morris was also the Keeper of the Greens at the Old Course in St. Andrews from 1865 to 1904. In addition to his work at the Old Course, Morris also designed or remodeled numerous other courses across the United Kingdom.

As a young schoolboy, Robert followed in the footsteps of his two older

brothers, David and James. While on summer break from classes, the boys learned to play golf and caddied as well. As Robert grew older, so did his interest in the business of golf. After completing his schooling, Robert began working as an apprentice at the Tom Morris shop. Over the next four-and-a-half years, he learned the arts of club and ball making, teaching, and greenskeeping. Old Tom took a liking

to young Robert and during his last year, Robert assisted the master with laying out several courses. Robert was incredibly fortunate as he could not have a better mentor in the entire golf profession. In September of 1893, Robert left his home town of St. Andrews and became the professional of the Ranfurly Castle Golf Club in Bridge-of-Weir, Scotland.

Meanwhile in the United States, Charles Blair Macdonald started work on the layout of the Chicago Golf Club in 1894. As he was developing the course, Charles contacted his friend Old Tom Morris in St. Andrews to secure the services of a golf professional for the club. Old Tom Morris recommended Robert Foulis, but he turned down the offer to go to America. His brother James, decided to take the job. Word spread quickly of James's golf abilities and his skills related to golf course design and construction. He realized that America was a land of opportunity for



This photo of the Old Tom Morris golf shop in St. Andrews, Scotland, shows Old Tom Morris without an apron in the front row next to his right-hand employee, James Foulis Senior (shop foreman), in the first row, third from the left. Young Robert Foulis is shown in the back row at the far right. Photo from the Foulis family collection.



Robert Foulis, probably in his late 20s or early 30s. Photo from the Foulis family collection.

those in the golf business, but he was committed to the Chicago Golf Club. On June 27, 1895 James Foulis sent the following Western Union telegraph: "To Robert Foulis, Links St Andrews Scotland, Come immediately Lakeforest same position as myself expenses paid. Answer," signed Foulis.² Robert would not pass on this second opportunity to go to America. On July 13, 1895 Robert arrived in New York via the American Line's SS *St. Louis* from Southampton, England.³ From there he went to Illinois, settling near his brother James in Wheaton.

Robert Foulis as Greenskeeper

Upon his arrival in Illinois, Robert began working at the Lake Forest Golf Club. This nine-hole course only lasted one year until the members wanted a larger clubhouse and room for eighteen holes. In 1896, work began on the Onwentsia Club, where Robert assisted with the design of the course and served as the professional for the next two years. In 1897, Robert was hired to design the Lake Geneva Country Club course in Wisconsin.

As a greenskeeper, Robert experimented with different imported grass seeds and fertilizer to determine what grass types were most adaptable to differing soil conditions. He knew that the grass surface

must be smoothly rolled and evenly growing to be satisfactory to the golfers. The Foulis brothers also worked with John Thorpe, who was the landscape artist for the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago, trying different grass combinations for both fairways and greens.

There are several differing accounts regarding who designed the original "golf course" at the Town and Country Club in St. Paul. In 1895 the *Pioneer Press* reported that an original Town and Country Club founding member, E.J. Frost, who had moved to Chicago and was a member of the Lake Forest Club, had laid out the original Town and Country Club Golf Course.⁴ In a 1930 letter from William F. Peet to the then club president, Dr. E.L. Kannary, Peet detailed how he and Scotsman George McCree created the original nine-hole "course."⁵

Regardless of who laid out the original course, it was not much to brag about. The Club's first course was laid out in a pasture used for cattle by using a lawn mower to create "greens" along with tomato cans (cups) and fishing poles with red rags to mark the cups. The club didn't even own the property where the original course was laid out. One can only imagine how challenging it was to putt on the pasture "greens." While the conditions may not have been ideal, the "golfers" probably didn't realize how bad the conditions actually were as many of them had never played the game before or knew any better. The *St. Paul Daily Globe* from October 4, 1896 contains the earliest known graphic of the original course layout.⁶

As the popularity of "golf" slowly grew, a golf expert was invited to play at the Town and Country Club "course" to show the "golfers" exactly how the game is played. The May 9, 1896 *St. Paul Daily Globe* reported excitedly that golf expert John Harrison from the Ridgefield County Club in Connecticut would be visiting the club.

GOLF AS SHE IS PLAYED

Enthusiasts Will Be Shown the New Popular Game Today

Golf has never had a capable and enthusiastic component in Minneapolis or St. Paul.



An early Town and Country Club blazer crest with gold bullion thread. Photo courtesy of Joseph Gladke.

Last year some attempt was made to create an interest in this fashionable species of outdoor sport at the Town and Country Club, but it was only partially successful. Golf to be appreciated must be exemplified by a great artist of the links.

Mr. Harrison says there is no opportunity to play golf as it should be played at the Town and Country Club, for the reason that the ground is too irregular, but with some improvements, it is capable of being made into one of the best links in the country.⁷

As interest in the game increased, some of the leading golfers from the Town and Country Club took a trip to Chicago to see the 1897 U.S. Open Tournament. The September 12, 1897 *St. Paul Daily Globe* published the following:

The members of local golf club are much interested in the coming International tournament (the third U.S. Open) on the links at Wheaton, Ill. which opens tomorrow, and Misses Timberlake, Stevenson, and Taylor are going on to witness the thing.⁸

There they saw the Chicago Golf Club and the first eighteen-hole, modern, golf course in the United States (designed by Charles Blair Macdonald with refinements made by James Foulis). This was not a pasture with a few holes in the ground. After seeing what a real golf course looked like, the members of the Town and Country realized that they wanted a better course.

Less than a week later, the *St. Paul Daily Globe* carried another article on golf.

**INTEREST IN GOLF
Locally It Is Manifesting
a Marked Increase**

The game of golf has secured a firm hold on the good people of St. Paul and Minneapolis and almost any pleasant afternoon one can find enthusiasts of both sexes on the Town and Country Club's links, deep in the pursuit of this fascinating game. . . . The club hopes to have a visit from Whigham, the present amateur champion, and from McDonald [*sic*], who was champion in 1896. If these two gentlemen come up here, it will be for the sole purpose of aiding the golf committee of the club in improving and rearranging the club links, and in giving the members the benefit of their experience generally in the great game. The natural advantages of the club grounds are great and if they are properly supplied with bunkers, hazards, and the like, the course will be a first-class one in every respect.

Ironically, the newspaper goes on to announce,

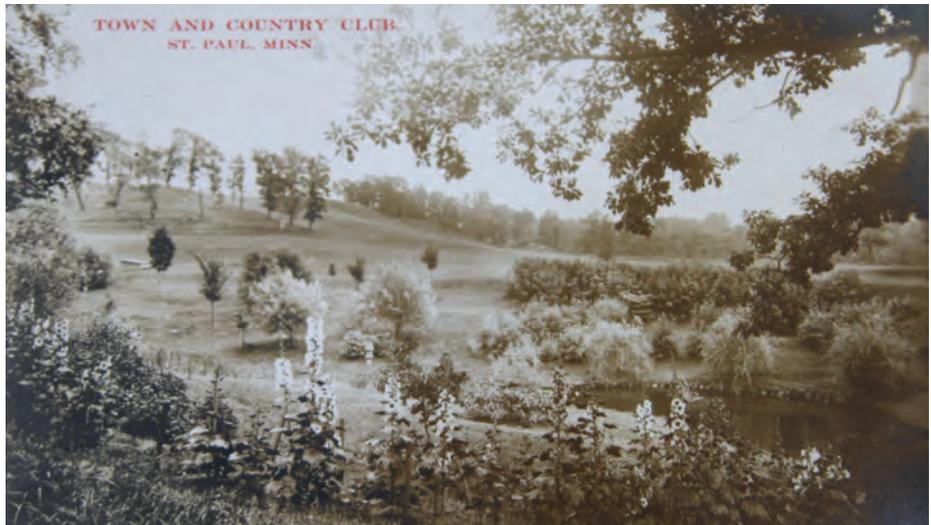
The golf committee has secured the services of Foulis, the professional golfer in the employ of the Chicago Golf Club, to teach the game to members of the Town and Country Club, who wish to avail themselves of his services. Foulis is said to be the best teacher of golf in this country. He will be at the club for a week. . . .⁹

While it appears that Charles Blair Macdonald was not interested in re-designing the Town and Country Club links, he did write the following letter of recommendation for Robert Foulis.

Christmas 1897 –
To whom it may concern:

I have known Robert Foulis, the greenkeeper of the Onwentsia course, since his arrival in America. His work at Lake Forest [at the Onwentsia Club] has proved his fitness for the position of greenkeeper on any first class links. He is an excellent teacher—thoroughly understanding the game of golf. He is also a good clubmaker—honest, civil, sober, and industrious.

Charles B. Macdonald¹⁰



An early postcard of the Town and Country Golf Course. This photo was taken near the existing 18th hole looking south. The trout pond is shown in the bottom right, the current first-hole fairway is shown near the middle left, and the hill coming down to the current ninth green is shown in the background. Photo courtesy of Joseph Gladke.

The recommendation letter from C.B. Macdonald must have been convincing to the members of the Town and Country Club because they hired Robert Foulis as the club's first professional.

Early the following spring, the *St. Paul Daily Globe* followed up with this report:

**PREPARING FOR GOLF
Town and Country Club Will Have
New Links and Robert Foulis
Will Teach the Game.**

The committee has secured the services of Robert Foulis, lately with the Onwentsia Club of Lake Forest, Ill., who will act as the professional club maker and teacher during the season of 1898. After April 1 he may be found at the caddy-house (at the east end of the bowling alley), where he will have all sorts of clubs, balls, and golf goods for sale. The committee believes that Mr. Foulis will be found both competent and obliging.

It is expected that the new links will be opened for play about June 1. Prior to that time six temporary holes will be provided just east of Cretin Avenue, which will include holes Nos. 5, 6, and 7 of last year's course.¹¹

On April 2nd, 1898 the newspaper told its readers,

GOLF EXPERT HERE

Robert Foulis, the famous golf expert, has arrived at the Town and Country Club, and is

prepared to teach the game to such as desire to learn it. As more than 200 members of the club have signified a wish to play this spring, he will probably soon have his hands full.

The temporary links of six holes will be ready for play in a few days.¹²

Foulis completely changed the layout of the original pasture "course" to take advantage of the natural hazards and topography of the land. He created real golf greens, bunkers and copses (ridges, mounds, or hillocks) to add visual appeal and additional challenges. A six-hole ladies putting course was also added in front of the clubhouse.

On May 28th, the *Daily Globe* provided an update,

Six holes of the new links at the Town and Country Club will be formally opened for play in about two weeks. The Contractors have been taking advantage of the soaking rains of the past week and have a large force of men at work tamping and rolling the new putting greens and getting the fair green in condition for play. The course for the first month will consist of six of the new holes and three of the holes of the temporary course, which are being used at the present time. It will require a little more time to get the ground, which was ploughed up, into condition for play, but the grass has a fine start and the efforts of the golf committee will be rewarded in a very short

time. St. Paul will have one of the best golf courses in the West.¹³

Then on June 18th the *Daily Globe* reported,

TO OPEN NEW GOLF LINKS.

Town and Country Club Will Have a Gay Time Today

The formal opening of the new golf course at the Town and Country Club will take place this afternoon at 2:45 o'clock. President D.A. Monfort will drive the first ball. The new course is in splendid condition, and there are no finer links in the West. The new arrangement of the course gives a total of 2,350 yards so that in covering the course twice the players will travel about two and three-quarter miles. This makes a full 18-hole game.¹⁴



An early twentieth-century golf medal from Town and Country Club. Photo courtesy of Joseph Gladke.

As the golf season drew to a close, the newspaper announced,

TOWN AND COUNTRY CLUB

Annual Meeting Will Be Held at the Club House Tonight

... The rapid strides the game of golf has made during the past year has been ably met by the club, and the golf links is the best in the state, and another year of effective work on the course will make it one of the best in the country.

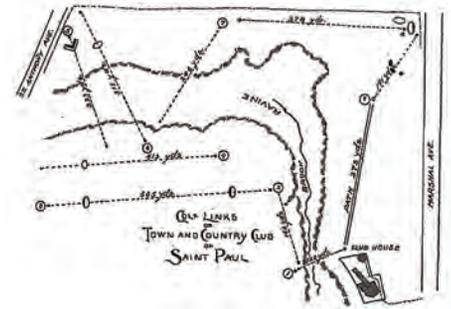
The interest taken in the game of golf is shown by the club membership. There is a waiting list, as the limit of members has been reached, and the club owes its present prosperous condition more to golf than any other one thing.¹⁵

Robert Foulis's fine work was not only recognized locally, it also gained national attention. The January 1899 edition of *Golf* (the official publication of the United States Golf Association) featured a five-page article on the newly reconstructed course at the Town and Country Club of St. Paul. The layout of each hole was described in great detail along with the following summary: "The lies throughout the course are good. The turf is excellent, and when the links have been played upon for a year, it is probable that there will be no better nine-hole course in the country."¹⁶

James Foulis Sr. moved the rest of his family from St. Andrews to Wheaton, Illinois in 1898 where he joined sons David and James at the Chicago Golf Club. In 1899, Robert returned from his family home in Wheaton, Illinois, with his younger brother, John, for his second season at the Town and Country Club. They lived at 6 St. Pierre Terrace in St. Paul, which was on the city's West Side off of South Robert Street.¹⁷

The *Daily Globe* reported to its readers on May 14, 1899,

Mr. Foulis deserves great credit for the work he has performed on the Town and Country Club links. Mr. Foulis says that topographically, the ground is an excellent one. . . . Golf has undoubtedly added a new zest to the pleasures of the Town and Country Club. More than 150 new members have been admitted this spring, and the



The January 1899 issue of *Golf* magazine, an official bulletin of the United States Golf Association, featured a five-page article on the new course at the Town and Country Club including photos, a detailed description of each hole, and this drawing of the course layout.

summer season bids fair to rival the winter months in daily attendance.¹⁸

In addition to his fine work at the Town and Country Club, Robert Foulis also laid out a redesign of the Roadside Golf Club in St. Paul (located near Summit Avenue and Hamline Avenue), the Minneapolis Golf Club (renamed the Bryn Mawr Club in 1899), and the Saint Cloud Golf Club. He also assisted William Watson in laying out the Minikahda course on the shore of Lake Calhoun.

During a 1927 interview with a St. Louis reporter, Foulis reflected on the evolution of golf courses:

In the early days when courses were laid out in America, the owners never thought of going to the expense of constructing hazards in the natural fashion now employed where such hazards are not found already existing. When he was first in the Western part of this country (Midwest) he held in contempt the style of grounds then maintained and himself referred to the game as "cow pasture pool." [This truly was the case with the original Town and Country Club course]. But nowadays trouble and expense are not too avidly avoided by golf clubs, because the average golfer in this country now has learned what a real sporty course is and now the greens must be just so and grass on greens and fairways has become a matter of research and experiment almost unending. Where a few thousands played in the old days, golfers number into the millions now.¹⁹

continued on page 17

R. FOULIS,
Club and Ball Maker to Their Majesties
The Golfers of
The Northwest
EVERYTHING IN GOLF GOODS
ADDRESS
TOWN & COUNTRY CLUB
ST. PAUL, MINN.

A Robert Foulis advertisement from the September 1899 issue of *Western Golfer* magazine.

Robert Foulis the Golfer

The August 1897 edition of *The Golfer* magazine featured an article on the Foulis brothers (Jim, David, and Robert). In the article it mentions that in September 1896 Robert took third place at the open competition of the Chicago Golf Club in Wheaton, and second place at the open tournament of the Onwentsia Club.²⁰ On September 1, 1898, the *Minneapolis Journal* carried this headline,

Beaten by Follis [*sic*]*—*The Record of the Bryn Mawr Golf Course Drops—THE T. AND C. MAN DID THE TRICK—Covering His Ground in 87 Strokes Which He Thinks Seven Too Many

and the following account of the golf that day,

An interesting event occurred over the links on the Bryn Mawr Golf Club yesterday afternoon. Robert Follis [*sic*], late of St. Andrews' Golf Club, St. Andrews Scotland, went out with several members of the Bryn Mawr Club to beat the record for the course, which was held by D.R. Forgan of Chicago. [David Forgan was one of the best amateur golfers in the U.S. at the time. He won the first Western Amateur Golf Tournament in 1899 at the Glen View Golf Club in Illinois.] That gentleman's score for the eighteen holes over very uneven country was 89 strokes. Mr. Forgan's score was not made under the best of conditions, and yesterday, when Mr. Follis took the links, it was under a scorching sun. The thermometer registered over 109 on the sunny side of the club verandah when the professional began his work. To make matters worse, a regular arocoe

[an archaic spelling of sirocco] wind blew across the grounds.

Follis went over the distance in eighty-seven strokes, a performance that is not at all satisfactory from his own point of view, but one which was well worthy of attention by a larger audience than that which turned out. The Bryn Mawr grounds have many points of excellence, but there is no gainsaying that they are terribly rough for fine work, a fact that demonstrated itself to Follis before he had gone a third of the distance. At the same time it was apparent that under more favorable conditions Mr. Follis could have covered the eighteen holes with ease in eighty.

Follis is at present instructor of the Town and Country Club. He is without doubt, one of the best exemplars of the game in this country, having played since he was a child without break. Long and continuous practice alone can give a man that suppleness and precision which forms so conspicuous an element in the play of a man like Follis. Few amateurs can hope to acquire the same skill in view of the limited practice they content themselves with.

... Mr Follis made the first hole in two strokes, and his score card from that time forward showed very consistent play, never exceeding six to a hole, and running all the way between four and six. This score gives

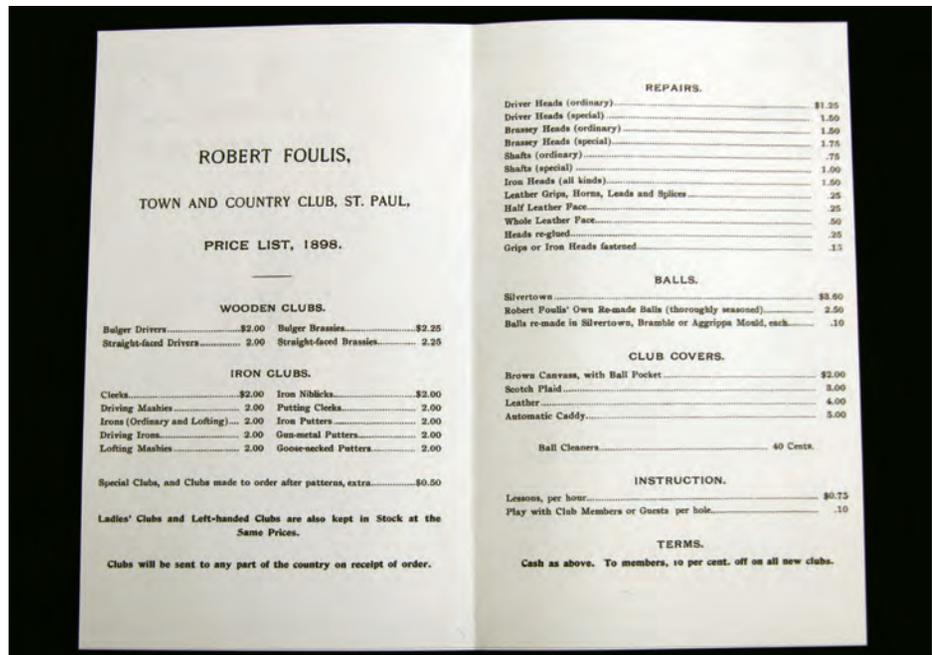
strong evidence of the player's steadiness. A number of good strokes were spoiled entirely by unfamiliarity with the grounds.²¹

The January 1899 edition of *Golf* magazine featured a five-page article on the Town and Country Club of St. Paul. The article detailed the layout of each hole and included this assessment of the course, "The Bogey [now referred to as par] score for the course is 39, but should probably be 40. The professional record, made by Robert Foulis, the club professional, is 40 for a single round."²²

Robert Foulis the Golf Instructor

Robert certainly had his hands full with trying to teach so many new students the game of golf. According to his 1898 price list, Robert charged 75 cents for an hour-long lesson or 10 cents per hole to play with a club member or guest. In an article from the Town and Country Club's member newsletter, *The Divot Digger* (August 6, 1935), one of the Club's earliest members, Nathaniel P. Langford, recalled his first golf game in 1896, with his brother George.

In 1896 my brother George went to England to row in the Yale crew as stroke at the Royal Henley regatta. One day, after his return, he



In 1898 Robert Foulis printed this Golf Club and Ball Maker Price List. Restored by Joseph Gladke.

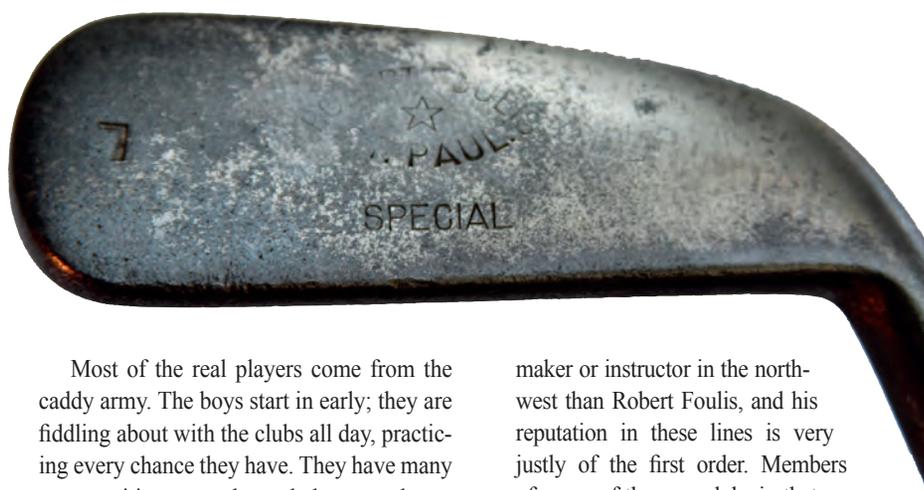
said to me, “Did you ever see a golf game?” I told him I had not, but Will Peet and Dick Steward had played some at a hill near the Town and Country Club, but I confided to him I felt too red-blooded to try that kind of game. To my utter surprise, George said, “It is really a pretty good game. I brought some clubs from England. Let’s go out and just hit a few.” I rather worshiped the boy, so I went out. We put a ball on quite a high mound of sand and my forty years of grief began. For twelve times I hit at that ball without knocking it off that pile of sand. It is no exaggeration to add that my 13th effort resulted in the ball sliding gently off the tee and moving six inches away. That summer we usually were out each Sunday playing eight rounds of the nine-hole course, or 72 holes in all.²³

Thanks to Foulis, many of the members quickly caught on to the game of golf. In 1899, shortly after the opening of the Minikahda Club in Minneapolis, teams from the two clubs began playing competitive matches. The Town and Country Club team won the majority of the matches in the early years of competition.

Word of Robert Foulis’s skill in golf instruction began to spread. The June 6, 1899 *Minneapolis Tribune* headline reads, “FOULIS WILL GO. Fargo, N.D. Local Golfers Have Secured the Promise of Robert Foulis of the Town and Country Club of the Twin Cities to Come to Fargo for a Week and Give the Beginners a Start in the Right Direction.”²⁴

During a 1927 interview with a St. Louis reporter, Foulis reflected on his career as a golf instructor,

Teaching sometimes is a task that can try the patience of the professional. The beginner may not be apt and natural about using his arms to swing clubs and pick up the game rapidly; but Foulis finds there are many others anxious to learn, who never thoroughly grasp the game and never become good players. As between men and women, Foulis declared that many women make most excellent players and pick up the nuances of swinging the clubs without too much time and trouble. He has in his time, taught and developed both men and women who attained championship titles; and he has found that the younger they start, the more efficiently they can attain if they put themselves really at it.



Most of the real players come from the caddy army. The boys start in early; they are fiddling about with the clubs all day, practicing every chance they have. They have many opportunities to watch good players and generally strive to imitate the men who make the best scores; and they get many illustrations of what not to do in a game of golf, so that they generally turn out to be masters when they actually take up the game.²⁵

Robert Foulis the Club and Ball Maker

When Robert first started learning the art of club making in the shop of Old Tom Morris, most of the golf clubs were made in small golf shops. Robert certainly had the skills to make clubs on his own and repair clubs as well. With the explosion in the game of golf, new companies like A.G. Spaulding and Brothers, the Crawford, McGregor, & Candby Company, the Bridgeport Gun Implement Company, and others started mass producing golf equipment in factories to meet the ever-growing demand. Over time, more and more factories replaced small shops in the making of golf clubs. Golf professionals began ordering clubs (sometimes club heads and shafts) from these companies and placing their own cleek mark (brand) on them prior to final sale, rather than making the entire club themselves.

The September 1899 issue of the *Western Golfer* contained the following note:

Robert Foulis, the well-known professional of the St. Paul Town and Country Club was in Chicago last week, on a combined business and pleasure trip. He reports his business in golf clubs and goods largely increased and in a most flourishing condition. There is no better or more thoroughly experienced club

maker or instructor in the north-west than Robert Foulis, and his reputation in these lines is very justly of the first order. Members of many of the new clubs in that section are wisely placing their orders with him.²⁶

Robert also witnessed great changes in the evolution of the golf ball. In the late 1800s golf balls were typically made in golf shops, but this business saw expansive growth with many new companies wanting a piece of the growing golf market. In those days, golf balls were made of gutta-percha, a tough, pliable substance from the latex found in several types of Malaysian trees. After being harvested from the East Asian trees, gutta-percha then had to be cleaned to remove impurities. The best golf balls were those made from pure gutta-percha. The purified material was placed in two half-circular molds that were then put together and placed in a press. When the molds were separated, out came a golf ball. Golf balls made in this way needed approximately six months to properly cure prior to painting and then ultimately being sold.

Some of the new companies that were getting into the golf business tried to mix other materials with the gutta-percha to save on costs while others did not know that the balls needed to cure prior to painting. This led to many inferior golf balls on the market. In 1898 Robert sold the Silvertown manufactured golf ball for \$3.60 per dozen or his own “thoroughly seasoned” balls for only \$2.50 per dozen. In the course of play, golfers found that gutta-percha balls often became scarred from club hits or hitting trees, which would make them out of round and difficult to putt. Because gutta-percha was a natural material, it could, however, be

placed in a golf ball mold and press, and remade into a round ball once again. The cost for this was 10 cents per ball. In the early 1900s, golf balls made of rubber, which gave golfers greater distance on their shots, quickly replaced the gutta-percha ball.

For reasons that are not known, Robert Foulis decided after the 1899 season to move on. Prior to his departure from the Town and Country Club, Foulis received the following recommendation letter from the club's president:

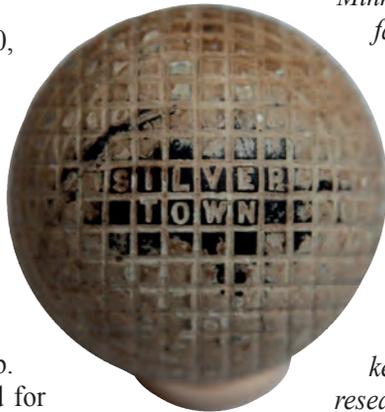
Nov. 18, 1899

To whom it may concern:

I take much pleasure in recommending Mr. Robert Foulis to your favorable notice. Mr. Foulis has been with our club (The St. Paul Town and Country) the past two years and has been acting in the capacity of Superintendent, teacher and club maker. He is an excellent golf player. The members have used his clubs to a large extent and find them most satisfactory. He is a man of excellent habits and integrity. He leaves of his own volition. Mr. Foulis has my best wishes in all his future undertakings.

Most truly,
T.L. Schurmeier²⁷

In the spring of 1900, Foulis moved onto the Sinissippi Golf Club in Janesville, Wisconsin. From there he moved on to St. Louis, Missouri, where he and his brother James completed the design and construction of the Glen Echo Country Club. This was the site selected for the 1904 Olympic Golf events—the only Olympic golf competition ever held in the United States. Robert remained in the St. Louis area the rest of his life. He laid-out or partnered in the design/redesign of over 25 courses across Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Missouri. In 1927, a St. Louis-based publication carried an article detailing Foulis's history and his twenty-five years as a golf professional in that city. This article ended with the following tribute.



The back of a smooth-face iron showing the cleek mark of Robert Foulis, circa 1898 or 1899. Photo courtesy of Joseph Gladke (above, left). An example of a line-cut, gutta percha Silvertown golf ball. According to his Price List, Foulis sold these balls for \$3.60 a dozen, or about \$88 in today's dollars. Photo courtesy of Joseph Gladke (above, right).

Foulis is highly regarded by all golfers in the country. He is especially honored in the Middle West and in the local region has been looked up to by all clubs and all players as the greatest authority hereabout on the game and on club-making and greens-construction. For that reason his opinion is continually being sought on all matters appertaining to the game and, in the esteem of many, he occupies as exalted "a place as Kenesaw Mountain Landis holds in baseball." But he is still the modest, friendly golf devotee who first came to this territory as instructor and greenskeeper; and his love for the game is as great today as when it sprang from the environment of the cradle of golf—St Andrews.²⁸

Robert Foulis died unexpectedly while on vacation in Orlando, Florida in 1945 at the age of 71. He is buried at the Wheaton Cemetery in Wheaton, Illinois, which is adjacent to the Chicago Golf Club.

Joseph Gladke grew up caddying at Hillcrest Country Club in St. Paul and received the Chick Evans Caddie Scholarship to attend the University of Minnesota. He has been collecting Minnesota golf-related artifacts for 27 years, and is a member of the Golf Collectors Society. This article was written to honor another Minnesota golf pioneer, Don Kunshier, founder of the Minnesota Golf Museum at Bunker Hills. Some of Don's research helped make this article possible. Joe Gladke also thanks Jim Healy and Alberta Adamson for their contributions as well.

Endnotes

1. Geoffrey Cornish and Ron Whitten, *The Golf Course* (New York: The Rutledge Press, 1984), 44.
2. Foulis Family Collection.
3. Ancestry.com, Year: 1895; Arrival: New York, New York; Microfilm Serial: M237, 1820-1897; Microfilm Roll: Roll 644; Line: 18; Page Number: 16.
4. "Golf," *Saint Paul Pioneer Press*, June 30, 1895. Robert Foulis is briefly discussed in John A. Pfaender, *The First Hundred Years at the Town and Country Club* (St. Paul: Town and Country Club, 1988), 19 and Rick Shefchik, *From Fields to Fairways: Classic Golf Clubs of Minnesota* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2012), 8–9.
5. Letter from William F. Peet to Dr. E.L. Kannary, October 22, 1930. This letter is reprinted in "Golf of Yester Year," published by the Town and Country Club, St. Paul, July 28, 1973, pp.5–14.
6. *Saint Paul Daily Globe*, October 4, 1896.
7. *Saint Paul Daily Globe*, May 9, 1896.
8. *Saint Paul Daily Globe*, September 12, 1897.
9. *Saint Paul Daily Globe*, September 17, 1897.



A turn-of-the-twentieth-century brass caddy badge from the Town and Country Club. Photo courtesy of Joseph Gladke.

10. Foulis Family Collection.
11. *Saint Paul Daily Globe*, March 6, 1898.
12. *Saint Paul Daily Globe*, April 2, 1898.
13. *Saint Paul Daily Globe*, May 28, 1898.
14. *Saint Paul Daily Globe*, June 18, 1898.
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20. "The Foulis Brothers," *The Golfer*, August 1897.
21. *Minneapolis Journal*, September 1, 1898.
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23. *The Divot Digger*, Town and Country Club newsletter, August 6, 1935.
24. *Minneapolis Tribune*, June 6, 1899.
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28. Chris L. Murphy, "Bob Foulis Has Brought St. Louis up from Golf Infancy," *St. Louis Globe-Democrat Magazine*, February 27, 1927.

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This colorized, airplane view depicts an architect's vision of future industrial development that Henry Ford and Colonel Lewis Brittin were selling to St. Paul on January 9, 1923. The bottom of the drawing shows the proposed intercity route of the St. Paul Road, crossing the Mississippi River on a new bridge, which was never built. North of the railroad bridge is the entrance to the proposed river terminal for water transportation, which will connect to the Ford factories through a horizontal tunnel. The drawing depicts five future Ford buildings; the smelter in the center is to be flanked by manufacturing and assembly buildings. The factories are to be framed on the south by an extension of Montreal Avenue and on the north by St. Catherine Street, which will be extended westward to Minneapolis over a new concrete bridge (the "Inter-City Bridge"). Note how the plant is to be located in an idyllic, landscaped part of St. Paul, that harmonized "the machine in the garden," while the area across the river in Minneapolis is already developed. Drawing by A. H. Stem. Postcard courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society. For more on South Highland Park, see Marc Manderscheid's article on page 20.