

“Lest We Forget”

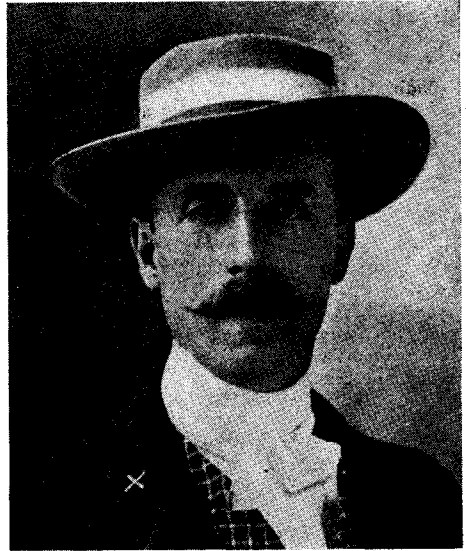
Henry O. Tallmadge and Edward S. Moore were sincere golf-lovers and generous contributors to the best interests of the game. Their passing in recent months recalls some of their services, which are living memorials to their sportsmanship.

Mr. Tallmadge produced the idea which led to the USGA's formation. He was the first Secretary, serving in 1894-95-96. In 1943 he wrote a brief account of the USGA's origin, and a framed copy signed by him hangs in the USGA Golf Museum. Mr. Tallmadge entitled it “Lest We Forget,” and wrote as follows:

“In the Autumn of 1894 the St. Andrews Golf Club, having completed its links at ‘Grey’ Oaks’ in Yonkers, N. Y., decided to give a tournament for the Amateur Championship of the United States, the dates selected being October 11-12-13, and invitations were sent to the various golf clubs throughout the country, the tournament to be played according to the rules of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, the prizes being diamond-and-gold, silver and bronze medals.

“Everything was going on as per schedule when the Newport Golf Club suddenly decided to hold a Championship Tournament on September 3-4, the prize to be a silver cup and the competition to be at 36 holes medal play, and as neither club would withdraw from its original position, there were two so-called championships of the United States held in 1894.

“The writer, who was then Secretary of the St. Andrews Golf Club, conceived the idea that this embarrassing condition could best be done away with by forming a National Association to establish uniform rules and to conduct future competitions for championships, and in this matter received much valuable assistance and advice from Mr. Laurence Curtis of The Country Club of Brookline, Mass., and at a dinner at which I presided at the Calumet Club in New York City on December 22, 1894, at which representatives of five of the leading golf clubs of the country were present, the Amateur Golf Association of the United



Henry O. Tallmadge

States was formed. Its name was soon changed successively to American Golf Association and to United States Golf Association.

“From this small beginning the Association has grown and prospered, largely by the untiring efforts of the men who have formed its governing body and who have spared neither time nor money to carry out their ideals for forwarding and guarding the interests of the ‘Royal and Ancient Game,’ and when I think of what this Association has accomplished since its organization in 1894, I often wonder if ‘We have builded better than we knew.’ ”

Edward Moore, a USGA official in the 20s, donated the handsome gold cup which symbolizes the USGA Amateur Championship.

The original Championship prize was the silver Havemeyer Trophy, presented in 1894 by Theodore Havemeyer, first President of the USGA. It was destroyed by fire in Atlanta in November, 1925, but, thanks to Mr. Moore's generosity, it was replaced by a beautiful gold trophy the next year. It is engraved “Havemeyer Trophy”; Mr. Moore did not have his own name put anywhere on it.