



Robert Brown Peebles

1882 – 1959



Robert Brown Peebles was born in Elie on 22nd September 1882, His father Robert Peebles was a fisherman and he was married to Elizabeth Thomson. She was of the Thomson stock of fishermen from the Toft. He had a younger brother, William, born two years later. Whilst

we have no evidence to the contrary it is reasonable to assume that Robert did an apprenticeship with George Forrester learning to make golf clubs and he was a proficient golfer himself as were many of his contemporaries in Elie and Earlsferry. He and his brother and two sisters actually lived with his maternal grandparents at the Toft Mount Pleasant. His father was drowned in Elie Bay in 1886 and before that they lived in Williamsburgh. There were three Peebles families and three Robert Peebles all born within 5 years of each other, but we are fairly certain that Robert Senior was the father of Robert Brown Peebles and William Thomson Peebles. (q.v.)

MELANCHOLY OCCURRENCE AT ELIE. TWO MEN DROWNED. *Elie Bay was the scene of a terrible affair on Saturday. The little Yarmouth smack, Friends, was descried making for the harbour about 1 p.m., when two boats were promptly manned race for the pilotage*. The smack was scudding before the breeze, but one of the boats, the Evelyn Emily, attempted to snatch the prize. The next moment the little craft was crashing under the bow of the smack, and sank like a stone. One of four men, Alexander Thomson, leaped to the deck of the vessel. second, John Thomson, a youth of fifteen, seized hold of spar, but the third and fourth were left struggling in the waves. Captain Stanard and his mate were no idle spectators, and the comrade threw a rope that one of the men seen clutch the other hung to his waist. But almost within an arm's length of help the strong hand relaxed its hold, and both rolled, as it were, into watery grave. Meanwhile the second boat was hastening to the spot, only in time, however, [to] save the youth floating on the spar. The two [who] perished are the Earlsferry fishermen, Robert Peebles, aged about 37, who leaves a widow and two children, and his half-brother, Henry Tullis, fine young man within month of twenty—the stay a widow mother, who, we believe, has lost three sons by the cruel sea. No time was lost by the neighbours in trying to recover the bodies, but the search was in vain till next forenoon, when both were discovered within a few yards of each other, about half a mile in the offing, the boat was likewise raised and brought to the pier. It is impossible to describe the agitation into which the villages of Elie and Earlsferry were plunged by the catastrophe especially on Sunday, when the procession passed with the melancholy burdens to the house of mourning. [Dundee Courier May 1886]*

When a ship was intending to reach harbour, it would invariably need someone with local knowledge to guide it though the sea to the harbour. It seems that local fishermen often offered their services to incoming ships and obviously would be entitled to demand a fee for safely guiding the boat in. From this article it seems that when a boat appeared to be making for Elie Harbour there would be a scramble of boats trying to get to the incoming vessel first to offer its pilotage service. However,

as time went on often these fishing boats were engaged in their trade and professional trained pilots were later used. In this case there would have been a scramble to pilot the boat in but in addition if the boat got into difficulties if any of the local boats manage to save the ship, cargo and crew they were entitled to a fee for salvage. A ship in trouble was often a magnet for these sort of bounty hunters.

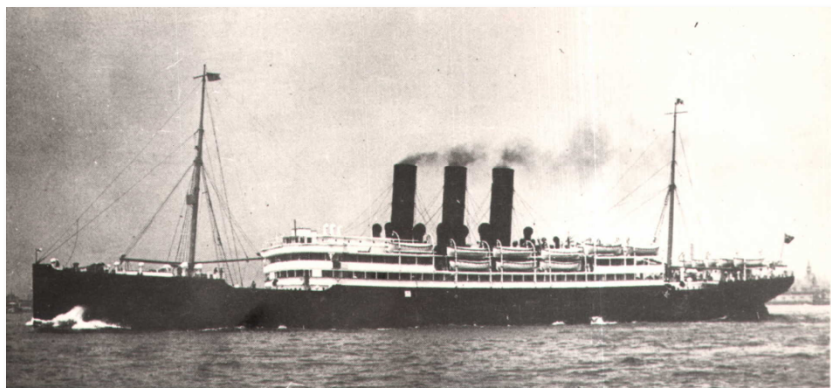
Robert was schooled in Elie; he had spent time at Mount Pleasant in the Toft where his grandparents had lived and left these shores to cross the Atlantic to America aged 19 where he initially was employed as a golf professional in Fox Hills NY:

Fox Hills Golf Course opened in 1900 in Clifton. The property consisted of a clubhouse on the Vanderbilt Avenue side, which at the time was considered the largest clubhouse in the country.

Many newsworthy tournaments were held there and many significant awards were presented.

The golf course closed in 1920 when the land was taken over by the government. It was later used for military barracks for American soldiers during World War II as well Italian prisoners of war.

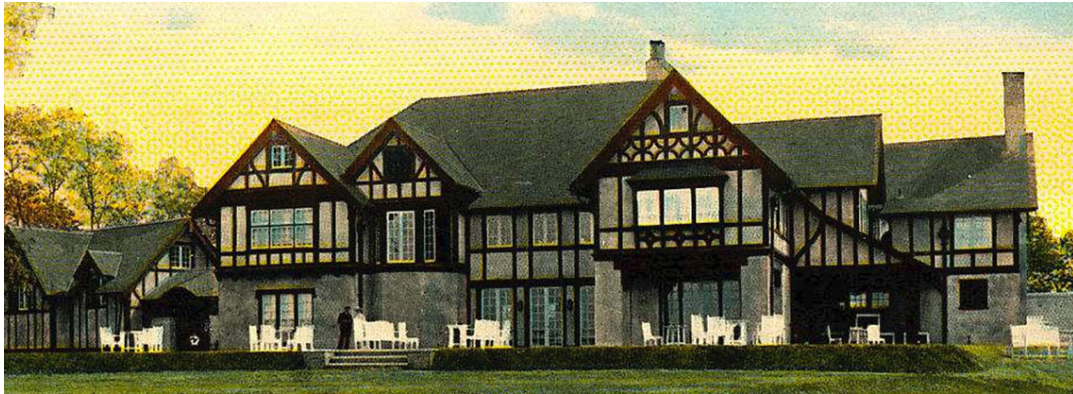
He travelled via Columbia (pictured below) and arrived on 28th April 1904 and from a look at the ship's manifest for that journey also on board were – James Mackie, George Pearson, James Crowley who was bound for Chestnut Hill in Pennsylvania but a few yards from Pennsylvania Cricket Club where he was employed as a golf professional. Another golf club maker was on board Henry Waters from St. Andrews so no doubt they had a lot to talk about. There he married Hannah Martha Graham who was originally from Glasgow by co-incidence she travelled on the same ship but a later sailing arriving in New York in October 1904 shortly after which she seems to have married RBP.



He was said to be a golf professional at South Orange County in New Jersey when he married in 1904 and there is evidence that he was professional/teacher at Tuckahoe. If there was a course at Tuckahoe it may have changed its name or location. However, New Jersey was in the forefront of the development of golf and golf courses at the turn of the century and many famous courses would have been within easy reach of Bob when he lived in New Jersey including Baltusrol where George Low was the professional for many years and it may be that Bob was employed by him as a clubmaker/teacher. In any event he played in a number of tournaments between then and 1910 when he is found in Dallas Texas. In addition, in these days golf professionals/teachers/clubmakers

were fairly peripatetic moving during the off season in the north to winter in the south to some of the other courses being set up and developed so it was not unusual to find a professional/teacher being attached to a number of golf clubs on a freelance basis. In 1908 for example he was shown as having competed in a tournament out of Fairview wherever that was. In 1909 he was shown to be playing in a tournament out of St. Josephs Valley which seems to be in Missouri.

Although we rather doubt it looked like this then:



In 1912 he and his wife were hired as club managers for Emporia Golf and Country club in Kentucky, but I venture to suggest that did not last long since he was shown in 1913 as being at Topeka. And he travelled around various clubs giving tuition and playing in exhibition and money games.

In 1914 winning a golf prize in Texas and in 1915 when completing his registration for call up card he said he was working at Idle Hour Golf Club Lexington Kentucky but by 1921 he was in Peoria Ill. And yet by 1922 he was said to be playing out of Louisville Kentucky. He was reported as being employed at Wichita and further that he had affiliations with Sound Beach (this may have been in NY), and with Shawnee Heights in Kansas where there are as number of golf clubs now. Latterly he was also teaching pro at Mexico City Golf Club.

There is no doubt that golf professionals/teachers in these days had to travel around to get the business and very often with the north USA clubs being winter bound the pros would often have affiliations to clubs further south with which they would spend the winter. As can be seen from a number of contemporaries this was very much the norm and it became rather difficult to settle in the one place. In the census of 1910, he is shown as living



with his wife, Hannah, two children and his mother Elizabeth Thomson in Dallas but ten years later his two children Barbara and Robert G were living in Illinois with his mother and they were at school and it seems likely that his wife was living there in 1916 when he completed the registration card for his call up for World War 1. In his registration card for World War 1 in 1916 he is shown as working as a golf professional at Idle House Country Club which is in Lexington (picture below).

REGISTRATION CARD	
SERIAL NUMBER 158	ORDER NUMBER 1255
1. Name Robert Brown Pebley	
2. Permanent Home Address R 7041 Moon Bell Ga	
Age in Years 36	Date of Birth Sep 23 1881
R A C E <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Negro <input type="checkbox"/> Oriental <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese <input type="checkbox"/> Indian <input type="checkbox"/> Japanese	
U. S. CITIZEN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native Born <input type="checkbox"/> Naturalized <input type="checkbox"/> Citizen by Father's Naturalization <input type="checkbox"/> Before Registration's Majority	
ALIEN <input type="checkbox"/> Declared <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not declared	
13. If not a citizen of the U. S., of what nation are you a citizen or subject? Scotland - Great Britain	
14. PRESENT OCCUPATION Professional Golfer	
15. EMPLOYER'S NAME Idle Hour Country Club	
16. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS R 7041 Moon Bell Ga	
17. Name Mrs Hannah G. Pebley	
18. Address 217 1/2 Court St Peoria Ill	
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE R. B. O. O. Robert Brown Pebley	



His next of kin is shown as his wife who is then living at 217 Court Street Pekin Tazewell Ill. The children were both at Pekin Community High School in Illinois and Barbara appears in a yearbook for 1921. But there is no sign of her living with her father and mother at that point only her grandmother. She married in 1937. In her marriage license she was designed as living at 1201 Ingraham Street Washington DC. She married George Slaby that year but her two children were born before marriage. There is a suggestion that they were actually married in 1925, but the Virginia marriage certificate says 1937 and she is shown as being divorced.

In 1931 his son is at University in Illinois. In 1940 census he is living in Pickaway Washington NJ with Edith Newbauer who eventually becomes his second wife. His first wife is shown as living with the Slabys in Washington, so it looks certain that they were separated at that time if not before. There was a disparity of age here - he was 54 and she was 20. His first wife Hannah died in 1945 and it seems from that census that he was separated from her and living with Edith Newbauer, who became his second wife after the death of his first wife.

His daughter's husband, George Slaby, died in 1941 and she remarried Clarence Gustafson. She is buried in Riverside California. What adds to the complication is that, in addition to the two children he had via Hannah his first wife, he seems to have fathered a son, William Franklin Peebles, who was born in Alabama in 1941. This gentleman eventually settled in Indiana and seems to have been involved in agriculture. Obviously in his later years he did not complete on the circuit but confined himself to a number of teaching jobs. Latterly he moved to Greenville in Ohio which was the home area of his second wife and he died there aged 76 in March 1959. His second wife went on to marry again and she eventually died in 2008.

	round.	round.	Total.
Isaac Mackie, Fox Hills.....	71	78	149
Jack Hutchinson, St. Andrews.....	78	73	149
Robert Peebles, Tuckahoe.....	73	77	150
Herbert Strong, Apawamis.....	77	74	151
Alec Smith, Nassau.....	75	77	152
Horace Rawlins, Wykagyl.....	77	73	150

1906 Tuckahoe



1916 Champagne
Illinois Champagne
Country Club

ROBERT PEEBLES LEAVES.
Robert Peebles, professional golf instructor for the local Country club, will leave tonight for Louisiana to spend the winter. He will return in the spring to resume his duties here.

Fred McLeod, Middletown.....	157	157
Donald Ball, Philadelphia....	156	160
Jack Mackie, Dunwoodie....	162	154
Robert Peebles, Fairview....	157	159
George Pearson, Yountakah....	159	158
George Starling, Brooklawn....	154	164
James Malden, Nassau.....	160	158
Peter Robertson, Oakmont....	162	158
Sam Robertson, Pittsburg....	165	155

1908 Fairview?



Golf Enthusiasts.

There has always been a golf club in Lawrence but there has never been the enthusiasm shown in golf as it is this summer.

Some one asks, how on earth do you play golf in this awful heat? and the answer given by the golf enthusiast is, "Oh, it isn't a bit warm on the golf links, and you get so interested in the game you even forget how warm it is."

Mr. **Robert Peebles** of the Topeka Golf club, was in Lawrence today and gave a number of people lessons. He is to be here every Wednesday to teach all that come to learn.

Some of the people in Lawrence who play are, Mr. John Newman, Mr. Lloyd Ware, Mr. Owen Carl, Mr. Clifford Carl, Mr. Tom Sweeney, Jr., Mr. Ben Williams, Mr. J. Gordon Gibb, Miss Isabel Gibb, Miss Margaret Brown, Mr. and Mrs.

1913 Lawrence Kansas

Fred McLeod Captures Professional Golf Title.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., June 25.—Freddie McLeod of St. Louis, with 290 for seventy-two holes, won the professional golf tournament on the Highland Club links to-day, turning in a score of 73 and 74 for the two final rounds. McLeod led the field on Friday, turning in a card of 143 for the opening rounds, but missed his previous mark by four strokes on the final. That he would win first place was practically conceded when the players started on the last round, but his margin was meagre.

Robert Peebles of Dallas, Tex., the South-western champion, counted 291 for the seventy-two holes.

Within three strokes of the champion came Jack McDermott, who turned in a card of 293 for the four rounds, and played the lowest score of the day, 141 for thirty-six holes.

1914

PEEBLES WINS GOLF PURSE

Topeka Professional, with 72, Wins from Field of Cracks.

SIMPSON WINS SECOND COIN

Omaha Pro with 73, Comes in Second, While Remainsder of Season-Long Stars Turn in Scores 74 and Up.

Robert Peebles of Topeka turned in the low score among the field of thirteen professional golfers who played at the Country club yesterday afternoon for a purse of \$300. **Peebles** turned in a score of 72.

Peebles played par golf for the course. He never faltered at any time, but played steadily, consistent golf of the brand that is almost always sure to win. His drives were accurate, nearly always in line and they were sufficiently long to make his approaches easy. None of his driving or approaching was sensational, but it was always pure. But it was in putting that **Peebles** excelled. He proved a master of the greens and not a golfer in the galaxy of nationally known stars was in his class in that line.

Peebles played the longer outside course in less strokes than the inside course, which is much shorter and easier. He turned in a 36 on the outside and a 36 on the inside. Thirty-five is considerably under par on the outside.

Harry Feltz followed **Peebles**, as they tied with 72 in the play yesterday morning. As a result the gallery of perhaps 200 followed these two around the course. **Barnes** wonderful driving made him a favorite with the crowd, but **Peebles** clever work on the green gave the Topeka man a six-stroke lead over his Philadelphia rival at the conclusion of the first nine holes. This so discouraged **Barnes** that he apparently did not put forth his best efforts on the second nine, but rather played a careless game.

Simpson played his usual game, missing here and there, but playing good golf as a rule. **Herbert Strong** of Long Island and **Ben Nicholas** of Wilmington tied for third money with 76 and **George Margaret** of A. 7664, **Conroy** **Shelley** **Conroy** of Washington, J. M. **Barnes** of Philadelphia and **Tom McNamara** of Boston tied for fourth money.

Peebles score was as follows:
Out 7 4 5 5 8 5 2 2—72
In 4 4 5 5 8 5 2 2—72

Peebles morning score was:
Out 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5—40
In 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5—40—80—145

Other scores were as follows:
Out In Total
George Simpson, Omaha, 73 35 108
Tom McNamara, Boston, 74 36 110



Topeka Country Club, Topeka, Kans.

1921 Topeka

SECOND DAY'S PLAY FOR WESTERN CHAMPIONSHIPS

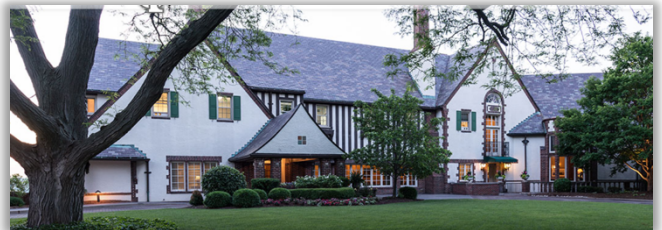
(By United Press Lensed Wire)
Oakland Country Club, Cleveland, O., Aug. 25.—Low scores featured the early half of the second day's play in the Western Open Golf championships today.

Robert Peebles, veteran pro of Peoria, Ill., who had second lowest score in the first day of 69, came right back with a 73 today, making his totals for the first 36 holes 142.

Scores of 73 were not uncommon and indications were that there would be numbers of scores under par, which is 71.

Scores for 36 holes included:

Robert Peebles, Peoria, Ill., 89-73-142; **Fred Ford**, Kansas City, 78-73-151; **Alex Ayton**, Evanston, Ill., 77-79-156; **John Long**, Peoria, Ill., 85-78-163.



Peoria 1922

Robert Peebles, professional of the Louisville Country Club, has returned from Hamilton, Ohio, where he took part in an exhibition game with Cy Baxter against the Brophy brothers in an 18-hole match Sunday over the Butler County Country Club links. This is a nine-hole course, extending 3,315 yards, par being 37. **Peebles** broke the course record with a score of 5-2-5-3-3-4-4-4-4—34.

1937

HEART ATTACK FATAL TO ROBERT PEEBLES

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1959

HEART ATTACK FATAL

Robert B. Peebles, 76, a retired golf professional, was found dead at 4:30 p. m. Wednesday by his wife, Edith, in a bedroom in their home at Rush's Station, three miles west of Greenville. Medical examiners report that death was due to a heart attack.

Mr. Peebles, whose career as a professional golfer and club manager spanned nearly 50 years, had lived retired since 1951. He moved to this area in 1936 and served as golf professional at Greenville Country club for the next four years. His last job was at the Bardstown, Ky., golf club.

A native of Elie, Scotland, Mr. Peebles came to this country in 1900 and for a number of years was associated with golf clubs in the eastern part of the United States, including the Congressional Country club in Washington, D. C. Later he

(Continued on Page Fourteen)

(Continued From Page One)
was professional at both the Louisville, Ky., and Mexico City, Mexico Country clubs.

One of the early members of the Professional Golfers Association (PGA), Mr. Peebles had participated in most of the leading golf tournaments, including the U. S. Open.

Surviving besides his wife are two daughters, Mrs. George Slaby of Silver Springs, Md., and Elizabeth, at home, and a son, William, also at home. Another son, Robert, Jr., died two months ago in Washington, D. C.

Services will be held Saturday at two p. m. at the Miller funeral home here with the Rev. Nevin Haines officiating. Burial will be in Greenville cemetery.

Friends may call at the funeral home from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 p. m. Friday and on Saturday until time of services.

Robert B. Peebles, 76, who came to US from Elie, Scotland, in 1900 died recently at his home near Greenville, O. . . . He had worked as teaching pro for L. E. Beavins at White Springs GC, Greenville, in 1951 and 1952, then went to the Bardstown (Ky.) CC for a brief period after which he retired . . . He was an excellent player and teacher and had an engaging personality . . . Mr. Peebles undoubtedly was in more good pro jobs than any other pro in the game . . . The USGA championship record book lists some of Bob's connections: South Orange, Fairview, Sound Beach, St. Joseph Valley, Dallas, Wichita, Topeka, Shawnee Heights, Louisville . . . He also served as pro at the Mexico City CC . . . He is survived by his widow, two daughters and a son.



Greenville Country Club, now Turtle Creek.

