

William Leishman Mackie

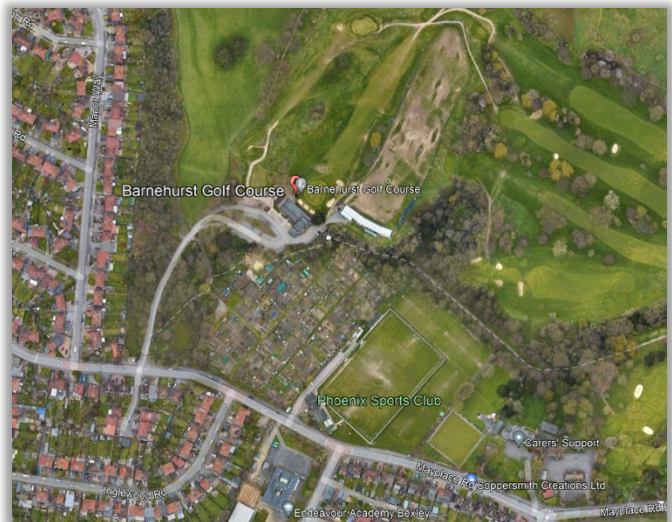
1876 – 1941

William was the eldest of the four Mackie brothers. He was actually born in Glasgow but his family moved to Waldeve in Earlsferry shortly after his birth so we are treating him as an Earlsferry son.

[illegible]

We are not too sure of where or if he served an apprenticeship with Forrester or Scott and indeed, he may have been a mason as was his father. He first emerges in 1898 when he seems to have been appointed professional at Banstead Park Golf club from which club he entered the 1899 open at Sandwich. He then moved to Barnehurst near Crayford in Kent.

And his address is shown as the Golf club Lodge at the club suggesting he was also a sort of caretaker/manager.



This is an interesting golf club and ties in with Earlsferry. It was one of the very early women's clubs and Alexa Glover (q.v.) played a couple of exhibition matches there so we assume that they connected in some way. He married Emma Sparrow who lived in Romford and they married in Romford which makes us think there might have been some connection with Braid, who by that time was in his prime at Romford before his move to Walton Heath. He may well have set off with the golfing skills acquired as usual on the Earlsferry tract with the reputation as being a good golfer and joined Braid. By that time Braid was very famous and would have attracted many young men from his former bailiwick.

English census in 1911 where he is shown as a golf club maker and living in Bexley Heath

Other scores:—Taylor, Richmond, 72; Causey, Ashford, and Jack White, Sunningdale, 76; Tom Vardon, Lanark; Wynne, Tooting; Bradbeer, Potter's Bar; and Mackie Barnehurst, 78; Reid, Paris, and Thomson, Romford, 77.

CHAMPIONS AT BARNEHURST.

Some interesting golf was witnessed at the Barnehurst course, Kent, yesterday. In the forenoon Arnaud Massy (La Boulie), partnered by Ben Sayers (North Berwick), opposed J. H. Taylor (Mid-Surrey) and W. L. Mackie (Barnehurst) in a four-ball foursome over 18 holes, which ended all square. Massy and Sayers were one up at the turn, and it was not until the sixteenth green that the opposition got level, and finally halved the match. The best ball scores were:—

MASSY AND SAYERS.

Out: 3 4 3 4 4 3 4 4 5—34. In: 5 4 4 3 4 3 5 3 4—35.
Total, 69.

TAYLOR AND MACKIE.

Out: 4 5 3 4 4 3 4 4 4—35. In: 5 4 4 3 4 3 4 3 4—34.
Total, 69.

In the afternoon Taylor and Massy were partnered by Miss Maitland (Elie) and Miss Glover (Elie), the Scottish lady champion of 1903, respectively, in an ordinary foursome. Miss Glover and Massy were one up at the turn, and they finally won by a single hole. Miss Glover and Massy were round in 74, and their opponents in 76.

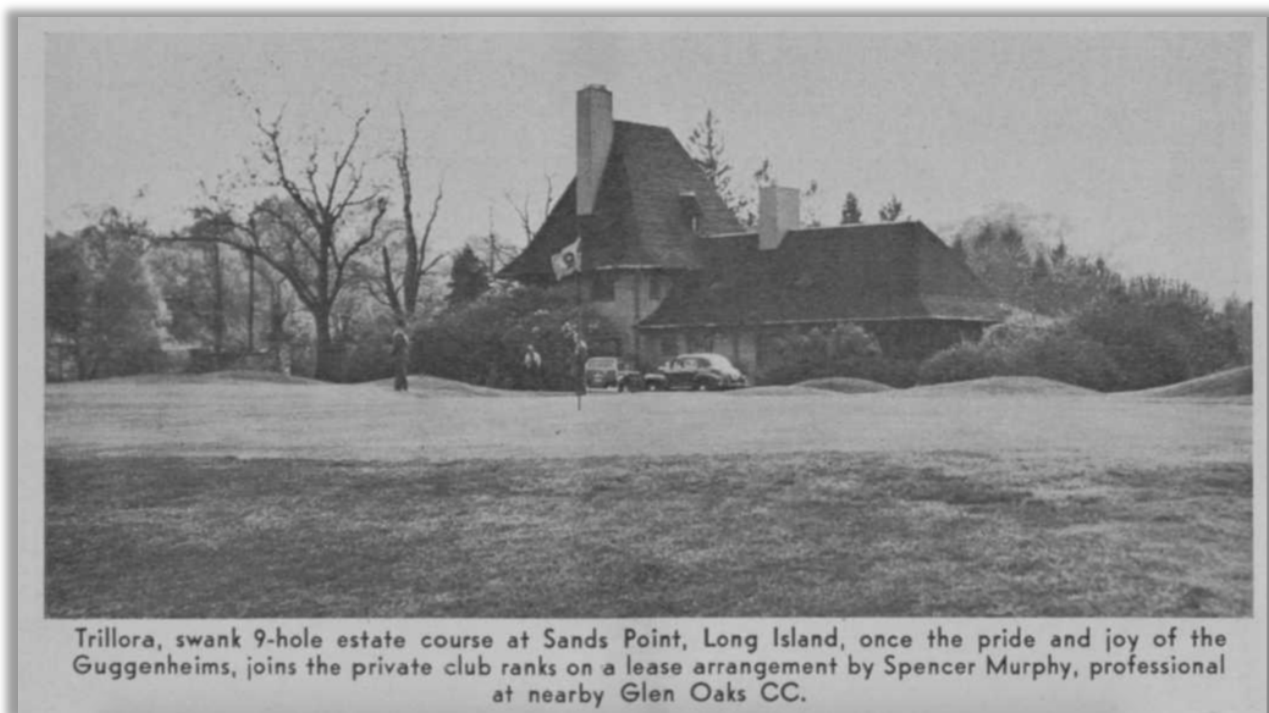
1908

By this time his brothers had all gone to America and it seems that he decided in 1915 to follow them.

There is a reference to him as being at Winged Foot and we suspect that he may have also been involved with some or all of his brothers who at that time were prominent in New York. In 1924 and he was employed by Guggenheim (Isaac) at his private estate both in laying out the private

course and to give them lessons. He stayed the rest of his career with the Guggenheims in a managerial capacity for the estate. This was Carola Farm which was very private but he obviously had earned a lot of respect since on the future occasions when he sailed back to Earlsferry he usually travelled first class.

William L. Mackie, golf professional who has been with the Wingfoot Golf Club for the past two years, and has been a resident of Union avenue with Mrs. Mackie for that time, has severed his relations with the Wingfoot Club, and has taken a position on a private course at Port Washington, L. I. Mr. and Mrs. Mackie and their son, William will start in a week or two for that town.



We stumbled across this thread looking for information on Isaac Guggenheim's Private Course on Long Island. The course is noted on a map of Metro Area Courses in the July 1917 edition of Golf Illustrated, but like many of the estate courses from back then there is little to no coverage of its design and construction in the various periodicals and guides.

Guggenheim built "Villa Carola" around 1916-17, a project that took several years to complete. At the same time work was started on a 9-hole course. The story is that Guggenheim was denied entry to the local club and decided to build his own course. Isaac would pass away in 1922, with the estate being taken over by his brother Edward who renamed it "Trillora". From what I can gather the estate and the course were maintained by Edward and later Solomon Guggenheim up until Solomon's death in 1950.

By all accounts, the Guggenheims had a passion for the game. They hired a slew of professionals, including Willie MacFarlane, Francis Gallet and one or two of the Mackies. The course itself was considered to be a good test, containing two par 3's and 3 par 5's and measuring out to around 3,600 yards.

By 1940 he was living in the estate with his family which by then consisted of William, born in 1908, Evelyn born in 1909 and Janet in 1913. During our research we made contact with Joseph Caserelli who is a "docent"* as he put it for the Guggenheim estate and we were able to get some sort of insight into WL's life and a report of what he said is above. He became both a professional golfer etc. to Guggenheim (both Isaac, Edward and probably Solomon) but he must have earned a lot of faith since he was in effect Guggenheim's personal asistant and manager of the estate. It is said that he played a game of golf almost every day with Guggenheim and they were obviously firm friends.

**According to the Merriam Webster this a term for a teacher/lecturer.*

He died in 1941.

PRO GOLFER DIES
MINEOLA, N. Y., April 19—The sports world today mourns the death of **William Leishman Mackie**, 64, professional golfer for 50 years, who died after a two weeks' illness. Native of Glasgow, Scotland, Mackie came to the United States in 1916. He designed and built the late Daniel Guggenheim's private course at Sands Point, L. I., and was professional there at the time of his death.

**Brother of
Isaac Mackie**
William L. Mackie, 64, of Port Washington, L. I., brother of Isaac Mackie who owns and operates the Netherwood Golf Club here, died Friday at Nassau Hospital, Port Washington after an operation performed a week ago. He had been in ill health for several months.
Born in Scotland, William Mackie became a golf professional as did his three brothers who all survive. He was professional for 20 years of Hempstead House, Sands Point, the estate of the late Daniel Guggenheim. There he was private instructor for Mr. Guggenheim and played with him almost daily. Also surviving are a widow, two daughters and a son, all of Port Washington.

His son William died on 7th January 1990 in California, where he was a physicist and apparently held a patent for rocket fins.

His elder daughter Evelyn married Egon Kornhaber in 1941. His younger daughter married Robert Rowlands in 1948 and both she and her husband died in 1988.

William Mackie, Golf Professional

Special to the Brooklyn Eagle

Port Washington, April 19—**William L. Mackie**, 64, golf professional for 20 years on the private links of Hempstead House, the estate of the late Daniel Guggenheim at Sands Point, died yesterday in the Nassau Hospital.

A native of Scotland, Mr. Mackie was first employed by Mr. Guggenheim as his personal instructor at the time when he had the private course laid out on his estate. Until his death, Mr. Guggenheim played a game of golf with Mr. Mackie almost daily.

He is survived by his widow, two daughters, a son and three brothers.