

# TOMMY'S HONOR

THE STORY OF GOLF'S  
FOUNDING FATHER AND SON



PLAN OF  
THE GOLFING CO  
OVER THE LINKS  
ST ANDRE  
1854

FEET 0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000

SCALE OF FEET

YARDS 0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000

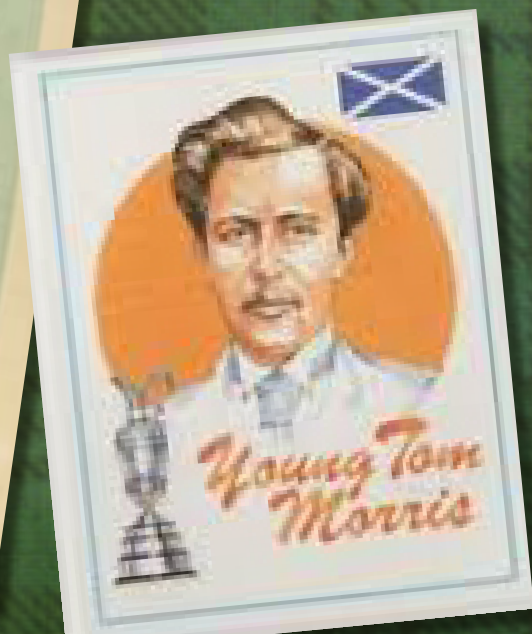
SCALE OF CHAINS

CHAINS 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

**TOM MORRIS,**  
Wholesale & Retail Golf Club Manufacturer,  
ST. ANDREWS.



REPAIRS EXECUTED BY EXPERTS  
GOLF COVERS AND  
FOR THE GAME OF  
Morris' Machine



The Talk of St. Andrews.  
THE  
**"MORRIS"**  
GOLF BALL.  
Made to the instructions and under the  
supervision of TOM MORRIS.  
**2/- each, or 24 - doz.**  
ITS QUALITIES ARE MANY.  
A TRIAL WILL REVEAL THEM.  
Sole London Agents  
BENNETT & CO.



## Synopsis

*A father wants only the best for his son, but struggles to guide him in a world that's changing as fast as the boy himself.*

*A son blessed with talent, fueled by ambition, chafes at his father's commands as he hurtles toward adulthood with all the moxie of untarnished youth.*

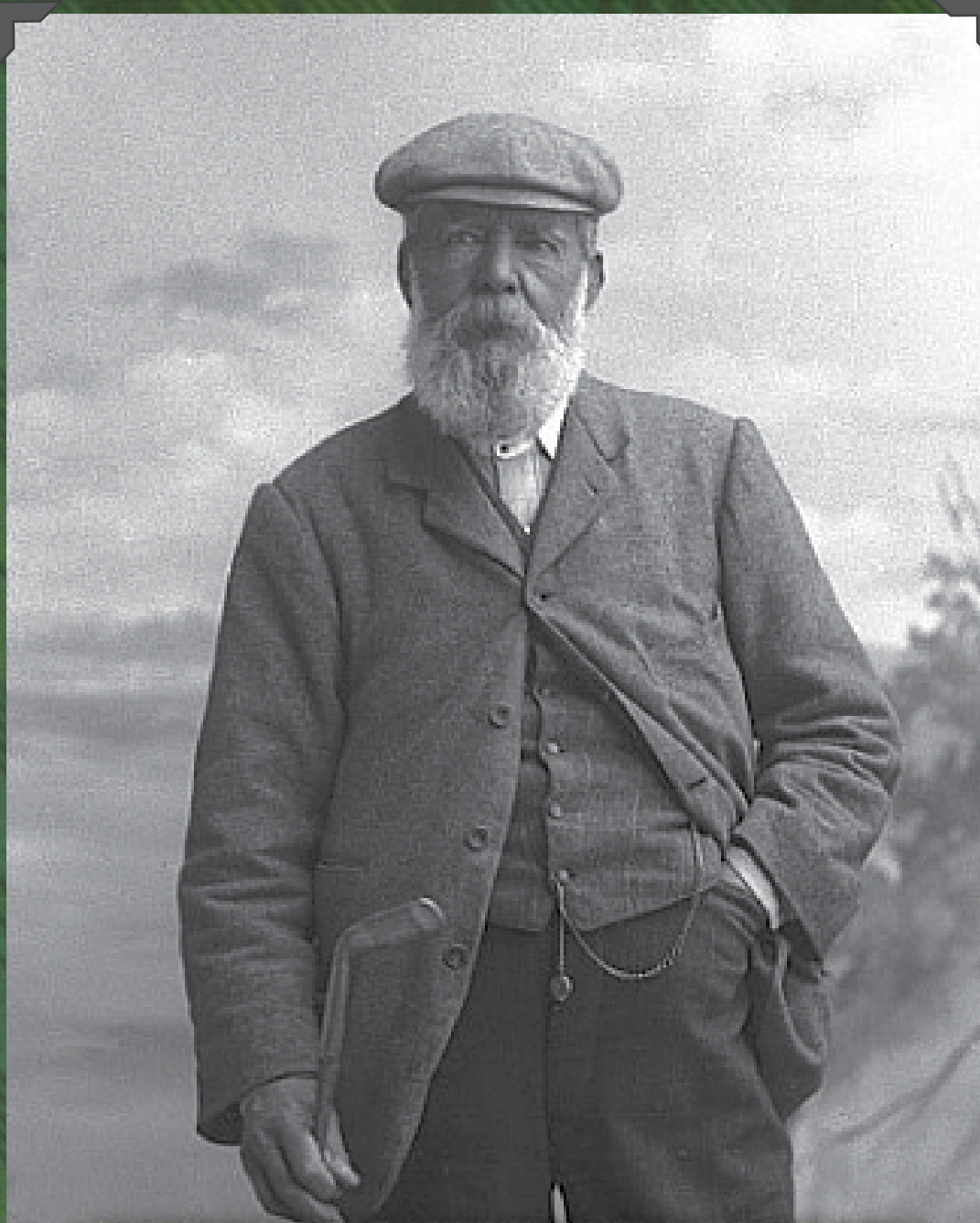
*In every generation, a torch passes from father to son. And that timeless dynamic is the beating heart of Tommy's Honor – an intimate, powerfully moving tale of the real-life founders of the modern game of golf.*

*Set in St. Andrews, Scotland during the hidebound Victorian era, the story opens in 1866 as 15-year-old Tommy Morris heads to the links with his father. Already a legend, "Old Tom" is greenskeeper for the Royal & Ancient golf club, where he established the standard of 18 holes per round; as well as the town's club- and ball-maker; and thrice winner of the first major golf tournament, the Open Championship – which he founded in 1860.*

*Tom Morris has secured his place in the history of the ancient game. But Tommy will soon outshine him, retiring the Open's prize Championship Belt while still in his teens (by winning it three times in a row), and, as the "dashing young man of golf," drawing flocks of spectators to the sport and becoming its first touring pro.*

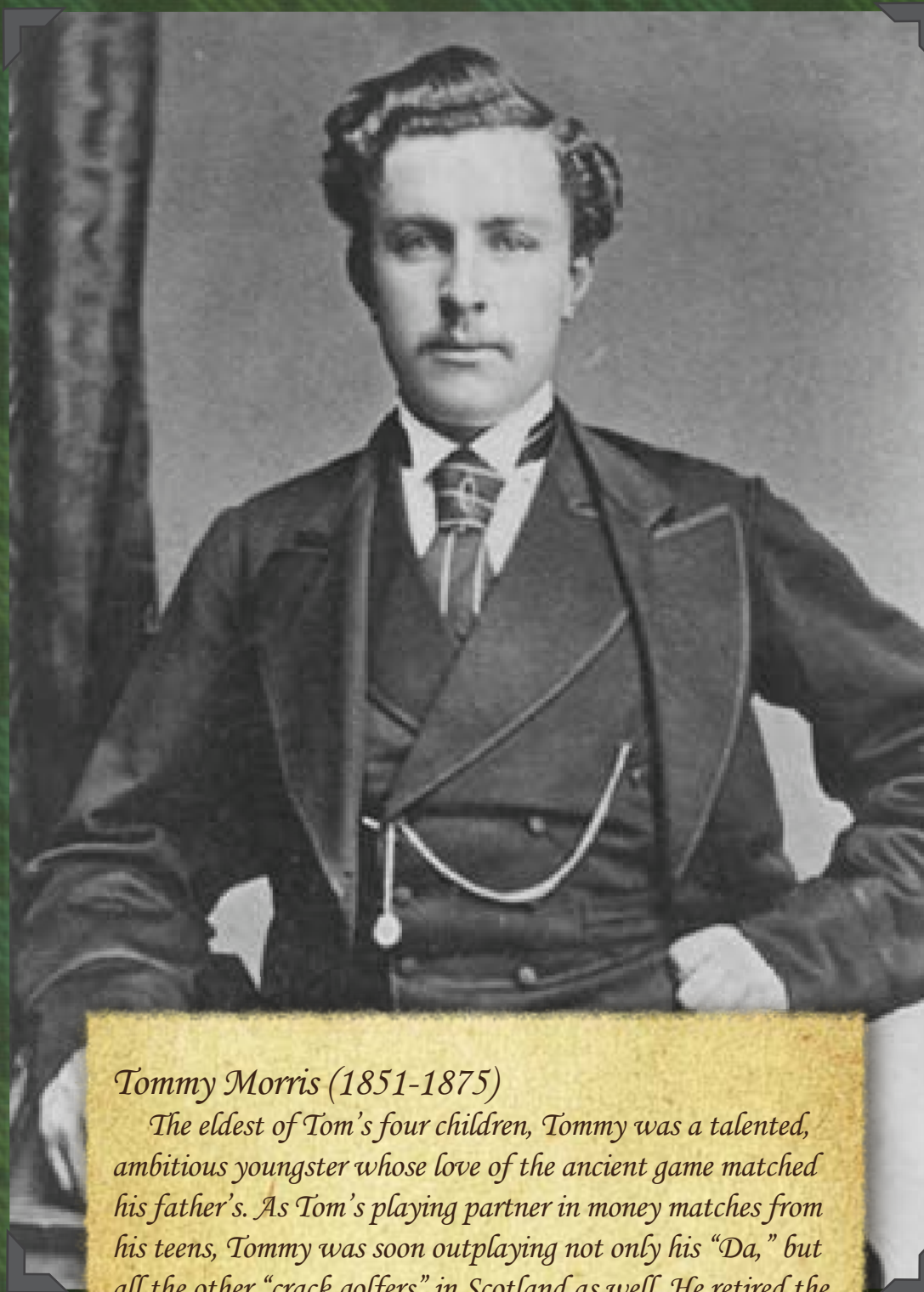
*Despite their shared passion, father and son repeatedly clash over the unwritten rules of social class, culminating in Tommy's marriage to a woman of lower standing with a shameful secret in her past. Tommy's beloved wife Margaret figures in this true story's climax, as Tom makes a fatal misjudgment that strips Tommy of everything he holds dear. From the ashes of that fateful choice, Old Tom rises to a mission that carries him through the final decades of his life: Honoring Tommy.*





*Tom Morris (1821-1908)*

*Born in St. Andrews, the son of a hand-loom weaver, Tom rose from his modest beginnings to become the most important figure in the formation of modern golf. He standardized the 18-hole round. He founded the game's first major tournament, the Open Championship. Besides his work as greenkeeper, club- and ball-maker, and course designer, he was among golf's top players for two decades. A modest, devout man, "Old Tom" is the game's founding father.*



*Tommy Morris (1851-1875)*

*The eldest of Tom's four children, Tommy was a talented, ambitious youngster whose love of the ancient game matched his father's. As Tom's playing partner in money matches from his teens, Tommy was soon outplaying not only his "Da," but all the other "crack golfers" in Scotland as well. He retired the Open's prize Championship Belt at age 19 by winning it three times in a row; traveled throughout Scotland and England as the game's first touring pro; and, at age 23, married a woman against his parents' wishes – a beauty who was older than he and from a lower social class. Then tragedy struck, and, ill and heartbroken, Tommy Morris was gone.*



### *Margaret Drinnen*

*Tommy's real-life love. A former maid who'd fled the coal-mining town where she was raised to start a new life in St. Andrews. Beautiful, spirited Margaret (whom everyone but Tommy called "Meg"), had left behind a secret she hoped would stay buried in a slag heap. After she caught the eye of her new hometown's golf prodigy, Tommy's mother went digging for dirt. And found it. And tried to force Tommy to end the romance. But her son followed his heart, married his Margaret – and tragically followed her to an early grave.*



### *Nancy Morris*

*The devoted, church-going wife of Tom, Nancy was often in ill health. Though initially – and vehemently – against Tommy’s marriage, Nancy grew to love her daughter-in-law Margaret, too.*



### *Tommy’s Siblings*

*Firstborn Tommy was followed by a sister, Lizzie, and two brothers, Jamie and Jack. Lizzie went on to marry Tommy’s friend James Hunter; Jamie followed his big brother into tournament play; and Jack, who was crippled, helped his father in his golf shop.*



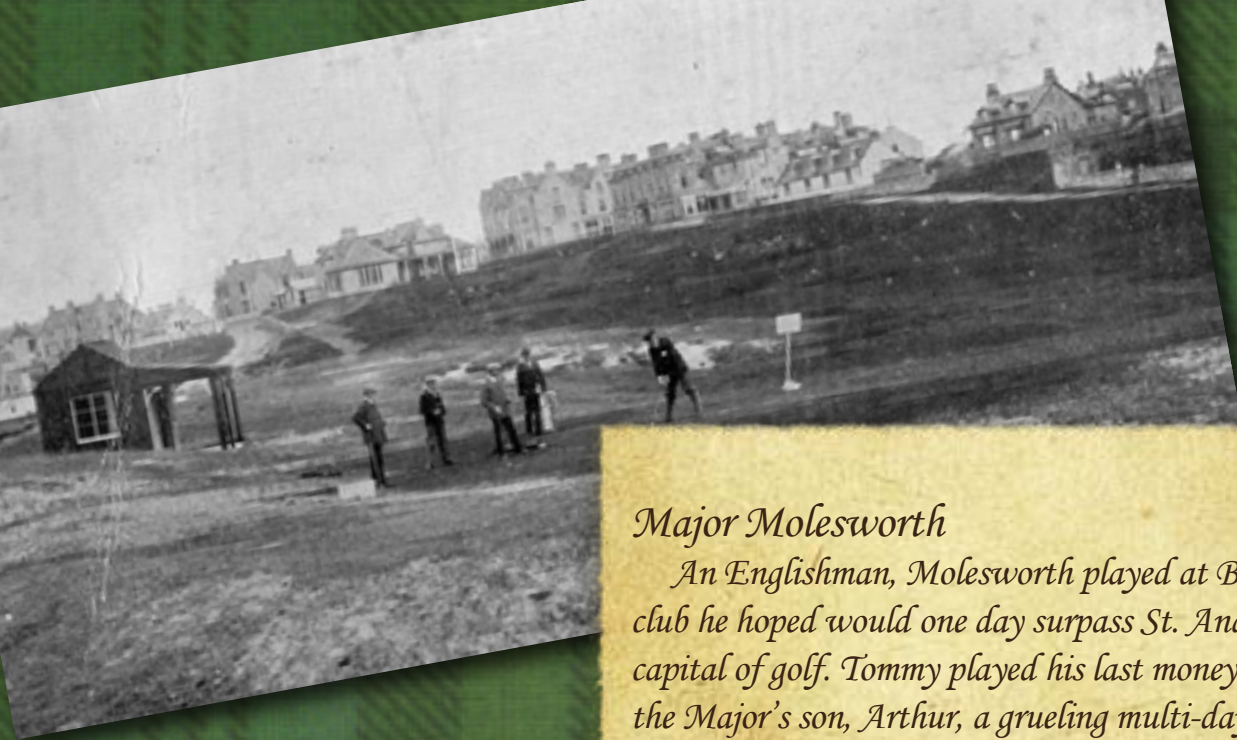
### *Davie Strath*

*The mischievous Davie was Tommy’s closest friend and sometime caddie. One of the top players in Scotland, Davie, along with fellow St. Andrian James Hunter, was Tommy’s loyal companion for all of his short life.*



### *Willie Park*

*Tom Morris’ greatest rival, the hero of neighboring Musselburgh, the gruff, irascible Willie won the first Open Championship. Often paired in money matches with his brother, Mungo, Willie was renowned as the longest hitter in the game – until teenaged Tommy Morris stepped into the game.*



### *Major Molesworth*

*An Englishman, Molesworth played at Blackheath, the club he hoped would one day surpass St. Andrews as the capital of golf. Tommy played his last money match against the Major's son, Arthur, a grueling multi-day competition that may have contributed to Tommy's death.*

### *The Gentlemen*

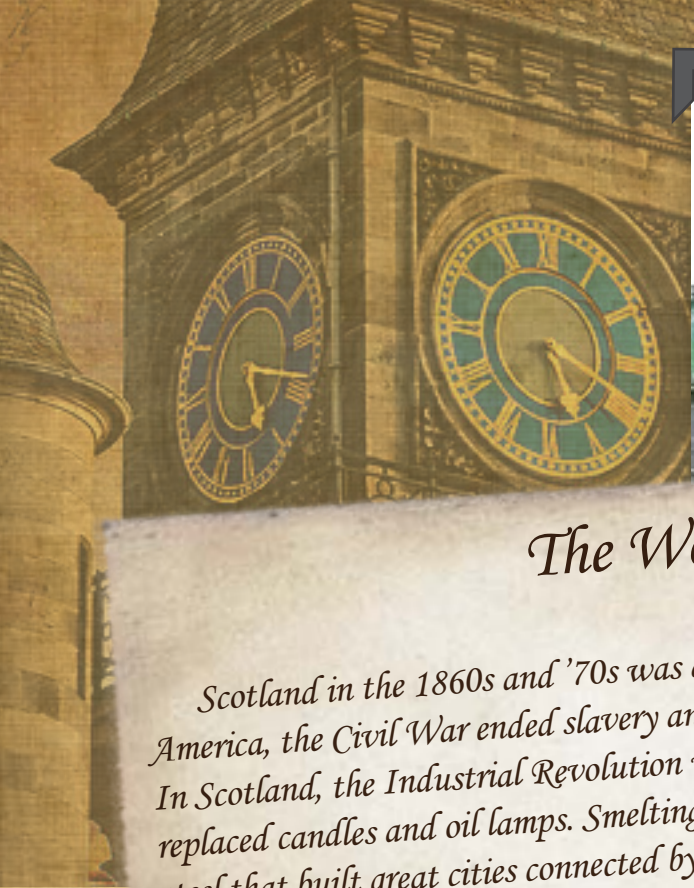
*Local landowners, men of wealth and leisure, the gentlemen of St. Andrews were Tom Morris' employers at the R&LA, patrons of his shop, and his backers in money matches. They include: Captain Boothby, Mr. Kinloch, Mr. Durie and Mr. Campbell. By the 1870s, they were still clinging to a rigid class system that allowed them to exercise feelings of superiority that often bled to contempt.*



### *The Caddies*

*The boisterous, often drunken club-carriers who lived in shacks and scraped a living from the gentlemen's tips. To a man, the caddies adored their supervisor, Tom.*





## The World

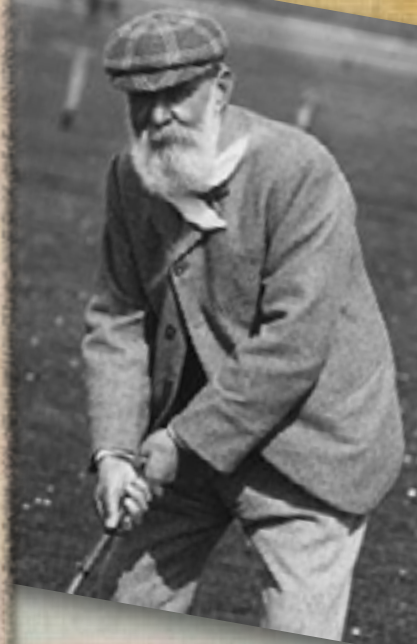
Scotland in the 1860s and '70s was a world in transition. In far-off America, the Civil War ended slavery and ushered in a new industrial age. In Scotland, the Industrial Revolution was further along. Gaslight replaced candles and oil lamps. Smelting plants turned iron to gleaming steel that built great cities connected by railroads. Trains revolutionized travel, commerce and even time: Before the railroads, each town kept its own time. Now they synchronized their schedules, joining a new age made to run like clockwork.





*It was also the dawn of professional golf. Local heroes representing St. Andrews, Edinburgh and other Scottish town played rowdy “money matches” that gave birth to the modern game. At first their social superiors, the wealthy gentlemen of clubs like the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, saw themselves as the only players who mattered. The gentlemen employed the first golf professionals – men like “Old Tom” Morris, founder of the Open Championship, and two-fisted Willie Park, winner of the first Open – as their caddies. But soon the caddies (“crack golfers” in the term of the day) proved themselves the true experts at golf. By 1870, spectators crowded the links to see them vie for the title of “Champion Golfer of Scotland.” It was golf’s version of the Wild West, with spectators jeering the other town’s champions, sometimes bumping them mid-swing or kicking a ball into a bunker.*

*Then came Tommy Morris, the original “golf celebrity,” who made the first hole-in-one in tournament history, and made headlines from London to Calcutta. Rejecting his “proper place” as the gentlemen’s servant, Tommy got rich playing golf, inventing the role of “touring pro.”*





# The Look

*Tommy's Honor is a classic drama set in the epicenter of the golf world, St. Andrews, Scotland – but it's also a story of the bond between a father and son. The contrast in the story will be mirrored in the way it is shot. Sweeping jib arm and crane shots will capture the large vistas of green links land, the expansive coast, and open locations. Steadicam and the camera on sticks will record the intimacies of close relationships, and smooth movement and transitions.*



PLAN OF  
**THE GOLFING COURSE.**  
OVER THE LINKS OF  
**ST ANDREWS.**  
1864



NEWS BAY

*Unlike today, there was no separation between golfers and fans in the Morris' time. Life on the links was raucous, with cursing and drinking, shoving and brawling, and gambling was a central part of the game. The judicious use of hand held will get into the thick of the game, showing faces in intimate close-up as tempers flare between locals and visitors, and money changes hands as bets are lost and won.*





*Although this is a period drama, the camera will visually complement the tale much in the same way that Old Tom's voice-over recounts his life story. The lower classes will be dressed in earthy and black tones, and the blacks will be crushed, making what color there is appear all the more vivid in contrast, and pointing out class distinctions (for example, only the wealthy could sport the vibrant colors of French haute couture).*

*The camera will be very much directed by the characters, never having a mind of its own. We will be "in" this world rather than outside peering in, for an increased intimacy that departs from the traditional way period drama is shot.*



# Articles & Laws in playing the Golf

1. You must Tee your Ball within a Club length of the Hole
2. Your Tee must be upon the Ground
3. You are not to change the Ball which you strike off the Tee
4. You are not to remove Stones, Bones or any Break Club for the sake of playing your Ball, Except upon the fair Green, and that only within a Club length of your Ball.
5. If your Ball come among Water, or any Watery filth, You are at Liberty to take out your Ball, and ~~bring~~<sup>bring</sup> it behind the Hazard ~~and~~<sup>at least</sup> You may play it with any Club, and allow your Adversary a Stroke, for so getting out your Ball.
6. If your Balls be found any where touching one another, You are to lift the first Ball, till You play the last.
7. At holing, You are to play your Ball honestly for the Hole, and not to play upon your Adversary's Ball, not lying in your way to the Hole.
8. If You should lose your Ball, by its being taken up, or any other way You are to go back to the Spot, where you struck last, and drop another Ball, and allow your Adversary a Stroke for the Misfortune.
9. No Man at Holing his Ball, is to be Allowed to Mark his Way to the Hole with his Club or any thing else.
10. If a Ball be Stop'd by any person, Horse, Dog, or any thing else, the Ball so Stop'd must be played where it lyes.
11. If You draw your Club, in order to Strike, and proceed so far in the Stroke as to be bringing down your Club; if then your Club shall break, in any way, it is to be accounted a Stroke.
12. He, whose Ball lyes furthest from the Hole is Obliged to play first
13. Neither Trench, Ditch, or Dyke made for the preservation of the Links, Nor the Scholars Holes or the Soldiers Lines, shall be accounted a Hazard, But the Ball is to be taken out, Tied and played with any Iron Club.

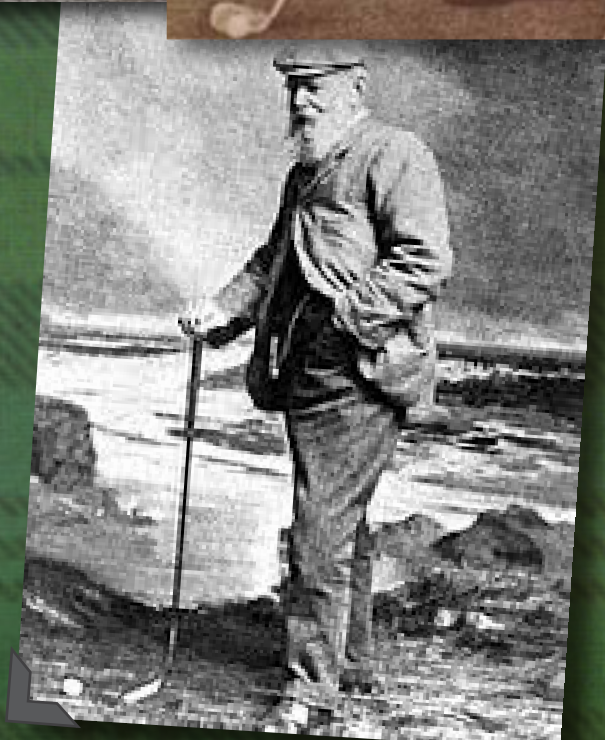


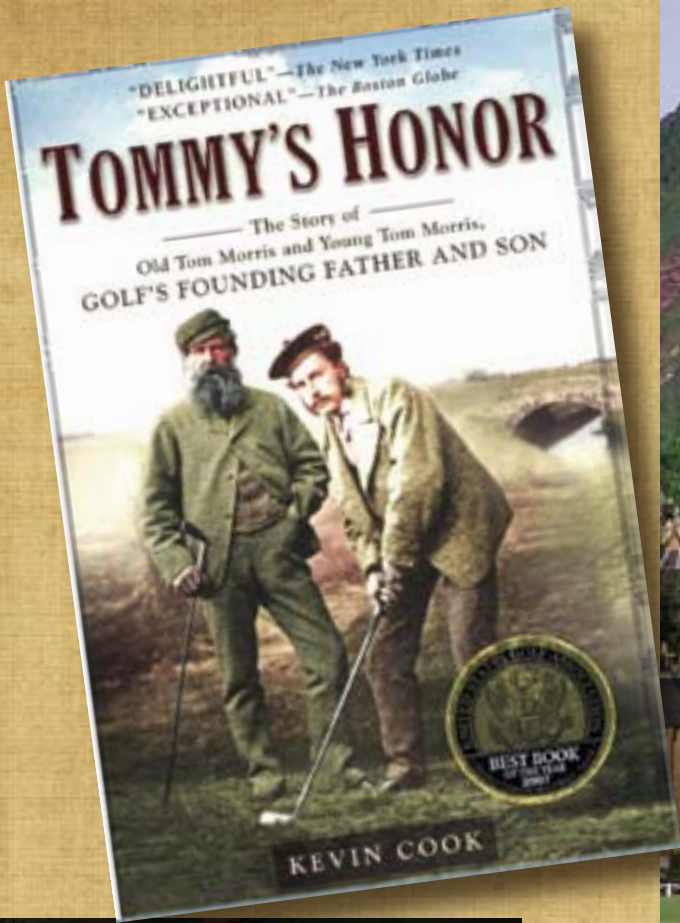
1875-1876 History of the Club  
 and a list of the names of the members  
 of the FREDRICK GOLF CLUB.

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100	...	100	...
Total	174	Total	166



In my firm's!  
 1852 →  
 Studio  
 Portrait  
 Fredrick.







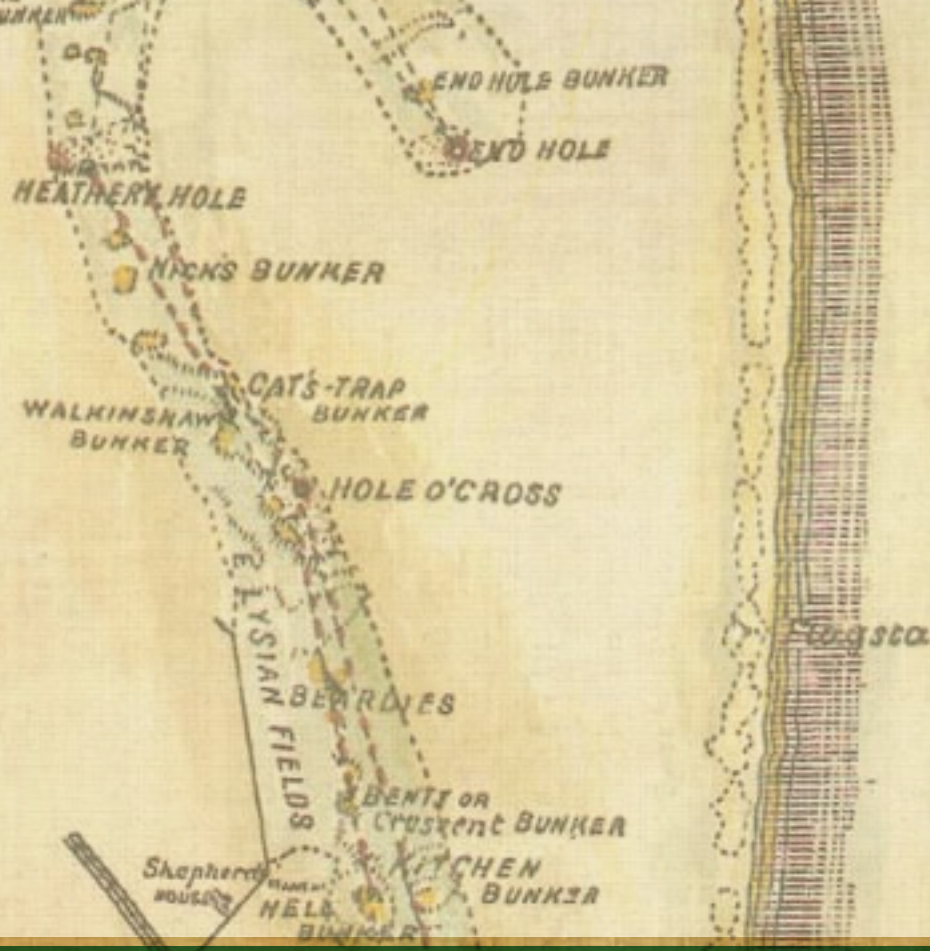


*Beneath the sod poor Tommy's laid,  
Now bunkered fast for good and all;  
A better golfer never played  
A further or a surer ball.*

*A triple laurel round his brow,  
The light of triumph in his eye;  
He stands before us even now  
As in the hour of victory.*

*Thrice belted knight of peerless skill,  
Again we see him head the fray;  
And memory loves to reckon still  
The feats of Tommy in his day.*

*"Elegy of Tom Morris Jr."*



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THE STORY OF GOLF'S FOUNDING FATHER AND SON

PLAN OF  
THE GOLFING COURSE.

OVER THE LINKS OF  
ST ANDREWS.

1854

