



Alexandria Times

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Out of the Attic

Alexandria Golf Club

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Image: Alexandria Golf Club, 1907. Photo, Collection of The Lyceum.

During the early 20th century, Alexandria had its own golf course on Shuter's Hill. In 1900, a group of Alexandrians organized the Alexandria Golf Club, adopting bylaws and a constitution, and selling memberships. Club officials hired Robert White, a course designer living in Cincinnati, to set up their course.

In the fall of 1900, White, who would later become the first president of the PGA, laid out the nine-hole links at Shuter's Hill after considering other possible sites. That November, the Alexandria Golf Club hosted its first tournament.



The course was open from April through January and according to *Harper's Official Golf Guide* published in 1901, the course had natural hazards and was in good condition. That year the Alexandria Golf Club had 150 members, and annual dues were \$6 for men and \$3 for women.

An old tollhouse on Duke Street served as the first clubhouse and a new one, seen in this image from 1907, was built for about \$1,000. The clubhouse became a popular place for social events, like teas and card game parties. Dances became regular occurrences and were held as often as every other week. Guests danced to music performed by orchestras, and light from festive lanterns could be seen from the roads below.

The site of the golf course was very desirable and around 1908, the property was sold so it could be developed into George Washington Park. Children were permitted to have an Easter egg roll on the links before the property was graded, and the clubhouse was still used for social functions until it burned down in 1911. The park property later became home to the George Washington Masonic Memorial.



**Office of Historic Alexandria
City of Alexandria, Virginia**

“Out of the Attic” is published each week in the Alexandria Times newspaper. The column began in September 2007 as “Marking Time” and explored Alexandria’s history through collection items, historical images and architectural representations. Within the first year, it evolved into “Out of the Attic” and featured historical photographs of Alexandria.

These articles appear with the permission of the Alexandria Times and were authored by Amy Bertsch, former Public Information Officer, and Lance Mallamo, Director, on behalf of the Office of Historic Alexandria.