

Dr. Robert J. Smith Golfing Collection, circa 1898 – 1970 (bulk 1930s – 1960s)

A.K.A. Smith Golfing Collection

Administration Information

Creator

Dr. Robert J. Smith, M.D., 1914-1985

Call Number

RBR GV963 .S65 1888

Extent

7 manuscript boxes, 1 oversize manuscript box, 1 storage carton, 2 wrapped scrapbook volumes (4.38 linear feet)

Abstract

Collection of mostly Western New York golf course maps, blueprints, score cards, yearbooks, clippings, club records, notes, statistics, correspondence and various ephemera compiled by a local golf enthusiast.

Terms of Use

The Dr. Robert J. Smith Golfing Collection is open for research.

Reproduction of Materials

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Acquisition

The Dr. Robert J. Smith Golfing Collection was donated to the Rare Book Room of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library by Mrs. Robert J. [Margery Imhoff] Smith via John Weekly of Mahoney & Weekly Booksellers in July 1986.

Biographical/Historical Note/Chronology

Dr. Robert J. Smith, a radiologist and avid golfer for most of his adult life, lived in Eggertsville for many years before moving to Clarence Center. He played in and won many local golf tournaments and compiled this collection of Western New York golf history.

Scope and Content

Some of the material in this collection is from as early as 1898 and as late as 1970 but most was compiled in the 1930s to 1960. Dr. Smith organized much of his material by golf course name in notebooks. This content was removed and foldered for preservation.

Arrangement / Container List

Item 1 of 26

Large maps, blueprints, sketches of 25 WNY golf courses:

1. Park Country Club of Buffalo, Orchard Park Course, 1935
2. Cherry Hill, n.d.
3. Niagara Frontier Country Club, Inc. 1930
4. Lancaster Country Club, 1934(?)
5. Plan for Golf Course of the Lancaster Country Club, 1925
6. Sketch of the Proposed Nine Hole Golf Course in Sheridan Park, n.d.
7. Second Nine Holes Sheridan Park, n.d.
8. Addition to Sheridan Park, n.d.
9. Orchard Park Golf Club
10. Proposed Subdivision Layout (Park Club), n.d.
11. See Item 1, #1.
12. Park Club Course, 7 Hole, n.d.
13. Park Club Course, 8 Hole, n.d.
14. Park Club Course, 9 Hole, n.d.
15. Park Club Course, 6 Green, n.d.
16. Park Club Course, 7 Green, n.d.
17. Park Club Course, 8 Green, n.d.
18. Park Club Course, 9 Green, n.d.
19. Park Club Course, 6 Hole, n.d.
20. Golf Course, n.d.
21. Map of Lake Shore Buffalo, n.d.
22. Audubon Village—Golf Course No. 1, 1928
23. Moonbrook Golf Course, 1929
24. Map of Grover Cleveland Park, 1923
25. Proposed New Water Line, Grover Cleveland Park, 1934
26. Map of the Village of Pinehurst, N. C., 1940
27. Meadowbrook traced from blueprint, n.d.

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Property survey of the Silver Lake Golf Club, Perry, NY by Cushing & Preble, Consulting Engineers, August 1921

Item 3 of 26

Country Club of Buffalo (envelope with additions for notebook)

Golf Courses of Buffalo (envelope with additions for notebook)

Misc. Correspondence, Clippings (Canadian Resorts, Advertisements, National/International)

Map of Golf Course in U.S.A., Town of Amherst, NY, Biennial Report 1966-67

Early layouts of Otowega Golf Course, Buffalo Country Club, Red Jacket Golf Course 1896-1900

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Golf score cards (U.S. some Canada, schedules, annual reports)

Niagara Parks, Canada (pamphlet)

Item 5 of 26

Country Club of Buffalo: Correspondence, score cards, yearbooks

*Includes journal listing golf courses throughout New York State, as well as several out-of-state courses

Item 6 of 26

Sketch of old East Aurora Golf Course

Item 7 of 26

Scrapbook #3: Buffalo District Golf Clippings – Courier Express, 1945-46; Buffalo Evening News, 1946; Golf & Social Notes Invitations

Item 8 of 26

*Unknown – removed from collection

*May have been RBR Print 65, which was originally in this collection.

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Notebook #14: Buffalo District only, Aug.1946-July 1947; Clippings, Aug.1946 - Various Private Clubs, Public Courses, Social Events; Redesign of Grover Cleveland Golf Course, 1947

Item 10 of 26

Notebook # 9:

- 10.1 Assorted clippings
- 10.2 Otowega G.C.: History, correspondence, interviews, notes from letters, list of members, constitution
- 10.3 Red Jacket G.C.: History, correspondence, excerpts from newspapers, notes, records of matches
- 10.4 Buffalo Golf Club I: History, correspondence, club house inventory, membership lists
- 10.5 Meadow Club: History, list of members
- 10.6 Buffalo Golf Club II: History, lists of club officers and champions, news clippings
- 10.7 Delaware G.C.: History, lists of presidents and champions, maps of course
- 10.8 Cazenovia: Correspondence, notes, clippings, maps of course
- 10.9 South Park: Course layouts, correspondence, notes, list of champions, newspaper clipping
- 10.10 South Shore: Correspondence, clippings, notes, lists of club officers, champions, and professionals
- 10.11 Women's WNY Golf Assn.: Champions, inter-club and event information

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A History of Golf in Buffalo and Vicinity

- 11.1 Delaware Park blue prints, notes of interviews, correspondence
- 11.2 District Tournaments: Newspaper clipping
- 11.3 Pros: List
- 11.4 C.C. of Buffalo, 1943-6: Event/tournament invitations, pamphlets, notices, course layouts, correspondence

- 11.5 The Park C.C.: Photographs, notes, letter from board, handicaps (1913), newspaper clipping
- 11.6 Transit Valley C.C.: List of members (c. 1930-5), score cards
- 11.7.1 Red Jacket G.C.: Handicaps (1897), list of Buffalo G.C./Park Club members, statement waiving rights to Buffalo Golf Club property, Delaware Park course layouts
- 11.7.2 Audubon: Blueprint of proposed Audubon Golf Course

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- E1 Aerial photographs of area golf courses (newspaper clippings)
- E2 Rare Buffalo Golf Items:
 - E2.1 “The 19th Hole”: newsletter of the Park Club, 1926-30
 - E2.2 **Buffalo Courier*, 07.14.1912: golf and polo at country club
**Sunday Times*, color gravure, n.d.: Park Club interior, officers
*Housed in 24x36” map folder
- E3 *Buffalo Courier*, 09.04.1910: Park Club photos – club championship, Lake Shore League
- E4 *The Western New York Sportsman*, four issues (1936, 1938)
- E5 National Championship official program (1934)
- E6 League of the Iroquois: Five programs (1931, 1935, 1940, 1941, 1942), print titled “Facing 1945,” *illustrated map titled “Romance Map of Oak Hill: Historic Background of Oak Hill Country Club and Vicinity” (1929)
*Housed with E2.2
- E7 Miscellaneous golf photographs
*Unnumbered item:
Map of Pleasant View Golf Course: Lancaster, NY (5/12/1958)

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- E8 Assorted cards, interview, 46th Open Championship admission tickets, newspaper clippings, Buffalo C.C. notices, correspondence, *Buffalo Golfer’s Guide*
- E9 Newspaper clippings, National golf items:

Articles and pictures (1920s-1940s)

Canadian newspaper clippings – international stories

Local stories of golfers – personal interest

E10 The C.C. of Buffalo: Annual reports, membership lists, constitution for 1933

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Notebook # 8:

14.1 Lancaster C.C.: Newspaper clippings, course layouts, notes, list of champions, correspondence

14.2 Assorted Clippings

New Golf Courses:

14.3.1 Niagara Parks G.C.: Newspaper clipping

14.3.2 Creekside G.C.: Score cards, course layouts, newspaper clippings

14.3.3 Pleasant View G.C.: Score cards, newspaper clippings, course layout, notes

14.3.4 Elma Meadows: Newspaper clippings, course layouts, notes, ticket stub

14.3.5 Brighton Park Municipal G.C. (North Lincoln): Newspaper clippings, course layouts, notes

14.3.6 Bethlehem G.C: Newspaper clippings, course layouts, notes

14.3.7 Assorted Clippings: Includes newspaper clippings, course layouts, correspondence, notes

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Notebook # 10:

15.1 Record of Golf Periodicals: Includes notes, correspondence

15.2 Record of Golf Periodicals, cont.

Item 16 of 26 (Box)

16.1 Photographs

16.1.1 Small photographs

- 16.1.2 Framed photograph
- 16.2 R.J. Smith Personal Golf Cards, Scores, Schedules
- 16.3 Local Golf Clubs, WNY: Newspaper clippings, prospective member cards, score card, admission tickets, booklets for Brookfield and Niagara Falls C.C.s, Transit Valley C.C. annual reports (1947, 1950), Amherst NY 1964-65 biennial report, University of Buffalo G.C. constitution and by-laws
 - 16.3.1 W.G.A. tags
 - 16.3.2 Photos from M.W. Cole, Albion, NY: Albion G.C.
- 16.4 NY State Golf Clubs: Golf course admission tickets/tags, score card, Dunwoodie G.C. dinner invitation, *Golf Courses in New York State* booklet, Brook-Lea C.C. invitation tournament booklet (1936), U.S.G.A. list of NY active member clubs
- 16.5 National Golf Clubs & Misc.: Golf club pamphlets, golf course admission tags
- 16.6 Miscellaneous
- *16 Unnumbered items:
 - Red Jacket G.C.: Photographs & negatives
 - Park Club of Buffalo – City Course: Photographs & negatives
 - Park Club of Buffalo: Yearbooks, 1910 & 1912
 - Buffalo G.C.: Constitution, etc., 1903
 - Park Club of Buffalo: Schedules, score cards
 - Buffalo C.C.: Tournament & sweepstakes records, 1929-1945

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Notebook # 1: The Park Club of Buffalo

- 17.1 Newspaper articles (with treasurer's report), history, notes, memorandum of proposed agreement w/ Buffalo G.C., interviews/correspondence, partial index to notebook, list of original directors and members, course layout sketches
 - 17.1.1 Miscellaneous newspaper clippings
- 17.2 1905-1911 Details, Reports
- 17.3 Course Records & Events
- 17.4 Lakeshore League

- 17.5 Lease Agreement
- 17.6 Orchard Park Course: Correspondence, notes, records, course layout sketches, newspaper clippings
- 17.7 Park Club in Delaware: Course layout sketches, correspondence, match scores, clubhouse plan/information, interviews, layouts/information regarding street construction
- 17.8 Matches
- 17.9 Pros 1904-46; Champions 1906-39: Includes course layout sketch of Williamsville course

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Notebook # 4: East Aurora & Vicinity

- 18.1 East Aurora C.C.: Lists of club officers, members, and champions, notes on Quadrangular League, course layout sketch, Nelson-McSpaden Exhibition correspondence, newspaper clippings
- 18.2 East Aurora G.C.: Correspondence, information about Club establishment in E.A. Advertiser (April 1900), lists of club officers/champions, match scores with Lancaster from Buffalo Morning Express articles (1900)
- 18.3 Baker (John) Farm: Information from William Harris and Richard S. Persons about 3-hole course
- 18.4 Valley C.C. of Elma: Correspondence with former members
- 18.5 Howard Family: Notes from interviews/correspondence about private course

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Notebook # 3: Canada, LeRoy, Batavia, Niagara Falls, Lockport

- 19.1 Niagara Parks G.C.: Newspaper clippings, layout of course, photographs, correspondence
- 19.2 Rose Hill G.C.: History, correspondence
- 19.3 Niagara-on-the-Lake: Scores (Sept. 4 1901), pamphlet, newspaper clippings, miscellaneous data, notes/facts about area and course, interview, C.B. MacDonald story (1928), tournament information/scores, list of pros, club officers, map
- 19.4 Niagara Tennis & G.C.: Club establishment and tournament information

- 19.5 Royal Niagara G.C.: Correspondence
- 19.6 Erie(down) Beach: Club correspondence, newspaper clippings, notes from newspapers and interviews about club and officers, match records (1929, 1935, 1936, 1942), list of champions
- 19.7 Harry Oaks Golf Course: Correspondence, notes, map, newspaper clipping (photograph of Nia. Falls)
- 19.8 Lookout Point C.C.: Correspondence, lists of club officers, greenkeepers, professionals, sketch of course layout, course scores and notes
- 19.9 Cherry Hill Club: Notes about club, lists of club officers and champions, scores for 1944, newspaper clippings, map
- 19.10 St. David's G.C.: Correspondence, notes
- 19.11 St. Catharines G.C.: Notes, correspondence, list of club officers/pros
- 19.12 Queen Victoria Park G.C.: Notes
- 19.13 Rio Vista, Ft. Erie: Layout of course, newspaper clipping, notes
- 19.14 Port Colborne C.C.: Correspondence, notes, list of club officers/pros
- 19.15 Holland Purchase G.C.: Correspondence, Batavia golfers list/info, notes from newspapers about club and tournament/match results
- 19.16 Park G.C., Batavia: Correspondence, notes
- 19.17 Terry Hills G.C.: Newspaper clipping, notes, match scores
- 19.18 Stafford C.C.: Score cards, correspondence, notes, list of club officers/pros, newspaper clippings, club newsletter
- 19.19 LeRoy G.C.: List of 1944 title-holders and club officers, correspondence, notes, newspaper clippings
- 19.20 Albion G.C.: Correspondence, notes, maps, data on golf courses near Albion from newspapers/magazines
- 19.21 Orleans County G.C.: Notes
- 19.22 Butler Farm G.C.: History, notes, interview, correspondence
- 19.23 Circular Hill Links: History, topographic map, notes, correspondence
- 19.24 Niagara Falls C.C.: History, notes regarding members, correspondence, lists of club officers/pros, scorebook info. (1909?), match scores with Simcoe G.C. (1904), excerpt from Tillinghast article, list of champions, Nia. F. invitational info., newspaper clippings

- 19.25 Middleport: Notes
- 19.26 Lockport Town & C.C.: Correspondence, notes regarding members, notes from newspapers, list of club officers/pros, newspaper clippings, list of champions
- 19.27 Tuscarora: Notes, correspondence, sketch of course layout, quip about Tuscarora G.C. attributed to William Harris
- 19.28 Varsity Golf Course (Niagara University): Notes, newspaper clippings, correspondence, course layout data, blueprint of course
- 19.29 Niagara Frontier Golf Course: Correspondence, notes, sketch of course layout
- 19.30 Hyde Park: Sketch of proposed course layout, correspondence, notes, list of champions
- 19.31 Parker Golf & C.C.: Correspondence (including postcard), map, notes
- 19.32 Tonawanda: Correspondence, notes from newspaper

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Notebook # 2: Grand Island

- 20.1 Grand Island: Newspaper clippings, directory, notes
- 20.2 Map & Plans: Newspaper clipping, notes, maps, sketch of course layouts (Oakfield and Falconwood),
- 20.3 Falconwood Club: Newspaper clippings, history, notes, information from newspapers/publications/interviews
- 20.4 Oakfield Club: Newspaper clippings, information from newspapers/interviews, correspondence, unfinished family genealogy (John J. McWilliams)
- 20.5 Correspondence: Correspondence, sketch and notes of course layout
- 20.6 Additional Items: History of Grand Island booklet, G.I. directory, (1969-70), newspaper clippings, maps

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Notebook # 7: Wanakah G.C.: Index, chronology (mostly blank), course records, notes, lists of pros/champions/club officers, newspaper clippings, interview, correspondence, course descriptions, layouts/maps of course, match scores with Park Club, League of the Iroquois data

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Notebook # 6: Lakeshore

- 22.1 Willowbrook: Correspondence, sketches of course layouts, notes, lists of club officers/champions, match information
- 22.2 Shorewood: Notes, information from newspapers/golf publications
- 22.3 Chautauqua G.C.: Notes from golf publications, sketch of course layout
- 22.4 Moonbrook C.C.: List of early club officers, correspondence, sketches of course layout, map, club info./officer and pro lists, 1944 score card data
- 22.5 Point Chautauqua G.C.: Club info./officer lists
- 22.6 Bemus Point: Club info./officer lists
- 22.7 Hillview Golf Course: Score card data, notes, correspondence
- 22.8 Tri-County C.C.: Information from newspaper article/golf publications, correspondence, sketch of course layout, list of champions
- 22.9 Grand View Golf Course (Sisson Farm): Score card data, club information from golf guide, notes
- 22.10 Springville C.C.: Newspaper clippings, correspondence, notes
- 22.11 Avery Farm: Notes, information from interviews, correspondence
- 22.12 Silver Lake Golf & C.C.: Newspaper clipping, correspondence, sketch of course layout, club/course creation from interviews, list of club officers/pros
- 22.13 Wellsville C.C.: Lists of club officers, notes
- 22.14 Grand View Bay G.C.: Correspondence, list of people contacted, notes, sketch of course layout, newspaper clipping
- 22.15 Pinehurst Golf Course: Correspondence, course information/data, notes, interview, newspaper clippings, map of subdivision and golf course
- 22.16 Silver Creek: Notes

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Notebook # 5: Sheridan Drive

- 23.1 Audubon G.C.: C.C. of Buffalo membership list booklet (1960-61), notes, correspondence, map of subdivision and golf courses, sketch of course layout, newspaper clippings, list of champions

- 23.2 Sheridan Park G.C.: Newspaper clippings, notes, sketches of course layout, list of champions
- 23.3 Transit Valley C.C.: Sketch of course layout, article, notes, course progress, lists of pros/champions, miscellaneous data, newspaper clippings, financial statements (1944-45), 1946 constitutional amendments
- 23.4 Meadowbrook Golf & C.C.: Notes, information from 1935 and 1936 yearbooks, correspondence, lists of club officers/pros, list of champions, sketches of course layouts (incl. women's course), women's course data, article regarding Japanese pro tour (1935), data from 1935 exhibition
- 23.5 Brookfield C.C.: Score card, notes, newspaper clippings, membership application, correspondence
- 23.6 University of Buffalo: Notes, tournament information
- 23.7 Dunlop Golf Course: Sketch of course layout, correspondence, notes

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Notebook # 11: Buffalo District Golf Association

- 24.1 List of Champions/Tournament Score Clippings
- 24.2 City Championship
- 24.3 National Tournament in Buffalo (includes newspaper clippings)
- 24.4 High Schools: Correspondence, golf results from Buffalo Evening News almanacs, notes
- 24.5 Courier Express Hole-in-One: Notes/scores from CE Hole-in-One tournaments
- 24.6 Professionals: Notes and newspaper clippings about various pros
- 24.7 Various Leagues: Notes, exhibition match scores
- 24.8 Miscellaneous: Notes, correspondence, club timeline chart

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Notebook # 12: Country Club of Buffalo

- 25.1 News Clippings/Annual Reports: Includes plans for Williamsville location, announcements/notices, tournament form, constitutional amendments

- 25.2 Golfing History of C.C. of Buffalo: Club notices, correspondence, relocation to Williamsville, golf course plan, interviews, notebook index, Buffalo Polo Club history, notes, newspaper clipping, copies of newspaper articles, sketches of course layout, course layout data, Pan-American Exposition information/maps/newspaper clippings, sketches of club grounds and clubhouse
- 25.3 Course at Main & Bailey: Summary of courses, notes, score card data, landscape architect report of proposed improvements, excerpts from letters, copy of aerial photograph, sketches of course layouts, maps, newspaper clippings (aerial map), tournament scores
- 25.4 Anecdotal Data: Notes (recorded chronologically), newspaper clipping
- 25.5 Annual Reports 1943-60: Missing reports for 1949 and 1959
- 25.6 Club Championships: Includes scores, championship brackets, lists of champions
- 25.7 Annual Invitational & Other Tournaments: Includes scores, championship brackets, lists of champions, newspaper clippings
- 25.8 Women's National & Invitation Tournaments: Notes
- 25.9 Cup Awards: Includes notes, scores, cup tournament brackets, lists of cup winners
- 25.10 Intercity Matches: Photostat article, notes, correspondence, match scores
- 25.11 Course Records
- 25.12 Professionals: Notes, correspondence
- 25.13 Buffalo – Rochester Matches: Includes scores, correspondence
- 25.14 Correspondence: Charles M. Ransom; Bronson Rumsey: Includes sketch of clubhouse (1891), sketch of course layout, associated notes, articles copied from newspapers and golf publications
- 25.15 Clippings: Various newspaper clippings, including obituaries of C.C. members
- 25.16 (sic.) Information from Lucian Tyng: Correspondence, sketch of course layout, associated notes
- 25.17 League of the Lower Lakes: Notes, schedule/winners, match scores
- 25.18 Correspondence Robert J. Smith & Various Members: Includes interviews, copy of article from *Illustrated Buffalo Express* (1898)
- 25.19 Country Club Golfers – Whereabouts Unknown: Notes regarding various members, newspaper clipping (obit. for Alfred W. Thorn)

Notebook # 13

- 26.1 Golf Clippings Scrapbook
- 26.2 Park Club – Williamsville Specs.: Clifford C. Wendehack, architect
- 26.3 Park Club – Board Meeting Minutes, etc.: Includes annual reports of the club president, constitutional amendments

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