

WHAT'S YOUR CLAIM TO FAME?

DAVID SARGENT and GEORGE SARGENT

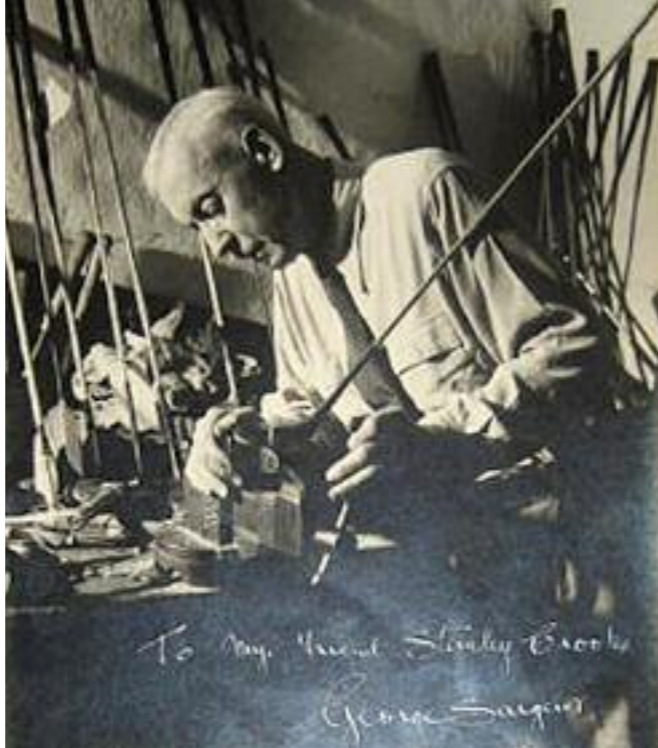
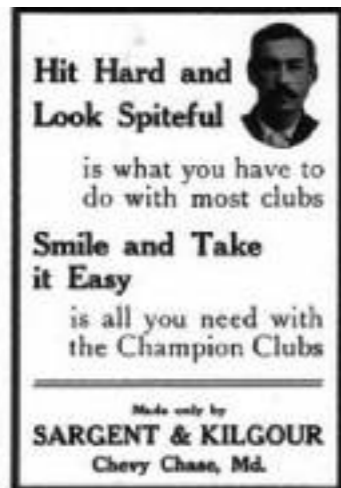
DAVID SARGENT COMES FROM a long line of notable golfers. His grandfather's brother (or grand uncle), George Sargent was one of 12. Several of his siblings had outstanding careers in golf and other sports.

The Sargent name looms large in early 20th Century United States golf history. George Sargent (1882-1962) was born on the outskirts of London and at the age of 12 was apprenticed to Head Pro Tom McWhit. By the time he was 17 he became assistant at the Ganton Golf Club in Yorkshire under Harry Vardon, one of the early great English players. Under Vardon, Sargent learned to make golf clubs, design and manage golf courses (including Campbell's Scottish Highlands Golf Course), as well as how to play and teach the game.

George moved to Canada, where he served as a professional at Royal Ottawa Golf Club and finished second in the 1908 Canadian Open. Sargent won the 1909 U.S. Open at Englewood Golf Club in New Jersey. He set a new 72 hole scoring record for the tournament of 290. He played in sixteen U.S. Opens in total, and finished in the top-10 six times. He also won the 1912 Canadian Open and the 1918 Minnesota State Open.

Sargent became a member of the Professional Golfers' Association of America at its inception in 1916, and served as president for five years. He was head professional at Scioto Country Club in Columbus, Ohio from 1912 to 1924, at Interlachen Country Club in Minneapolis, Minnesota from 1924 to 1928, at the Chevy Chase Club from 1928 to 1932, and at East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta, Georgia, from 1932 until his retirement fifteen years later. He is a member of the PGA Hall of Fame and was inducted into the Georgia Golf Hall of Fame on January 7, 1995, as are his sons Harold and Jack.

Sargent further enhanced his reputation as a top golfer by introducing several innovations into the golf world including his 1926 radio golf lesson broadcasts and the introduction of golf lessons in silent movies particularly to study the golf swing. He also sold his range of golf clubs through the Chevy Chase Golf Club promoted by a series of quirky advertisements.



GEORGE AT WORK CRAFTING HIS GOLF CLUBS. (BELOW LEFT) HIT HARD AND LOOK SPITEFUL: GEORGE'S PROMOTIONS DISPLAYED HUMOUR AND CLEVER ADVERTISING. (BELOW RIGHT) MICHAEL NELSEN, DAVE SARGENT, CONRAD KINDRACHUK, AND WILLIAM VERDON ON THE COURSE WITH NELSON SARGENT HITCHING A RIDE.

David became aware of the 100th anniversary of the 1909 US Open Tournament with the story of George published in various magazines. David likes the game and has a natural talent but keeps it on a strictly social basis at the moment, although he once entered in the Braidwood competition only to, controversially, finish in second place. David has a few other things going on in his life ... restoring cars, working at the school, being a parent, gardening, pig farming, riding motorbikes, playing ping pong, performing the odd tractor repair and adding to his 'collectorama'. One day (very soon) he wants to design and create his own 9-hole golf course on his property just out of town for social bush games.

David was introduced to golf by his father (also called George, named after the George — the subject of this story) when he was twelve. David's father is still a keen golfer at the age of 80. Now Nelson, David's son and George's great grand-nephew, is seven and already displaying a natural ease with golf. Left-handed, he has been a regular and completely at home on the Braidwood Golf Course since he was in nappies. David's next claim to fame on this page could be DAVID SARGENT and NELSON SARGENT.



A life well illuminated

Mandy Thane strikes up a conversation with Braidwood lamp meester, Robert Aernout

IHAVE TO ADMIT THAT in my nine months in Braidwood I have never ventured into Robert's 'Original Lamp Shop'. But the other day I did ... I spent two hours listening to his life story and afterwards he showed me around his collection of hundreds of antique oil and kerosene lamps from around the world, dating back to the 1850s, including wall lamps, hanging lamps, banquet lamps and table lamps. I have to say I was really impressed with the shop and the man.

Robert was born in 1940 to Dutch parents on a tea plantation in East Java. His father was a tea planter.

"It was a great life growing up in the country where my father's family had lived since 1850. 'Kertasari' plantation had about 2000 people living there. Then the war broke out and father was interned by the Japanese and soon after my mother, grandmother, sister and myself were taken from our home to one of the worst POW camps in Batavia (Jakarta), Tjidang. I was two years old. We spent the next

three years there. Grandmother was taken away in the last year of the war by the Japanese. Even though she was only 50, she was arthritic and in a wheelchair and I suppose she was considered useless. We never saw her again.

"When the war ended, we met up with my father again but we were not able to go back to the plantation because it had been taken over by the Indonesian government. Father had to enlist in the KNIL (Royal Dutch Indies Army) but in early 1948 he was murdered because he knew too much about corruption within the military force. So, our life was finished in Indonesia and we returned to my mother's home country on an evacuation ship.

"Life was difficult in the Netherlands for the next 15 years — consumed by lengthy court cases and investigations into the mafia practices within the KNIL that were responsible for my father's death. We were constantly in the headlines. Two books have been written about the assassination.

"There was a lot of sensationalism and political protocol

