



Tel. 023 - 24 01 69

9th August 1982

30, Saxenrodeweg  
2116 VA Bentveld  
Holland

Dr.E.V.K.Brill  
Middlesshade Road  
St Andrews, Fife KY16  
Scotland

Dear Dr Brill,

From correspondence with Mr.Nick Halpin in your city I learned of your name and address and also of your expertise on medieal maritime trade between Scotland and the Continent of Europe.In this connection I would,if I may, prevail on your help.

For many years I have been engaged in the tracing of the earliest golf and its ramifications.From 1486 onwards there is evidence of shipments of balls from the Easter Fair and the Cold Fair(around All Saints Day) from Bergen op Zoom to Scotland purchased by Scottish visitors to these fairs. They can be found in Dr.Ungers book on the registers of the Great Zeeland Toll(De Tol van Iersekeroord) with which you are no doubt familiar.

I would not be surprised at all if earlier shipments of balls had taken place and such balls had been sold at the Senzie Fair at St Andrews by merchants and ships from the Low Countries sailing there.I wonder if you know of any such shipments or if you could suggest sources where they might be found.

I would thank you in advance for any help which you may be able to give me.

With kind regards I am,

yours faithfully,

Steven J.H.van Hengel

10 September 1982

30, Saxenrodeweg  
2116 VA Bentveld  
Holland

Dr.E.V.K.Brill  
Lisheen  
Middlesshade Road  
St.ANDREWS,Fife KY16 9NA

Dear Dr.Brill,

This is to thank you for your letter of the 14th August which I am only answering now since I have been away for some time. It was very kind to send my letter to Keith Mackenzie but since I am a member of the R. & A. for some years you may take it that I have exhausted such sources of information as the R. & A. have to offer on the early golf in Scotland. In fact these are disappointingly few! Coming to your question about your clan relative Aneas Mackay who was 'Burgemeester' of a small town somewhere between Eindhoven and Maastricht during World War II: With such tricks as I could devise I have tried to find out about your clan-relative but I have failed. The area you describe covers too much ground and it is too long ago for the systems I tried unsuccessfully to apply. I would suggest that you write to the:

Centraal Bureau voor Genealogie  
Prins Willem Alexanderhof 22  
's Gravenhage (The Hague)  
phone 070-814651

who are, in my experience, absolute wizards in answering questions such as yours. I was in touch with them. They think you must be mixed up about it. The only Aeneas who fits your pattern was:

Aeneas Alexander Baron Mackay, Lord of Ophemert and Zennewijnen and Member of the House of Lords in London, born Arnhem 25th Dec. 1905 who died in Nairobi 10th March 1963. He was a Lieutenant of Reserve of the Mounted Artillery of the Royal Netherlands Army. He was in England during the war but had a residence in Ophemert which is N.E. of 's Hertogenbosch and N. of Eindhoven. He was not the burgemeester of Ophemert but he was the lord of the manor there. He was not involved with the Germans.

Then there was:

Daniel Baron Mackay, was burgemeester of Meppel much further to the North in Overijssel province, at the beginning of the war. He was deposed by the Germans but was never abducted to Germany. He died shortly after the War.

The brother of the above Aeneas: Alexander Baron Mackay, who was a member of the Board of the National Bank and lives quite nearby could not think of any other relatives who would fit your description.

With kind regards I am

*Sincerely yours*  
*van Hengel*  
Steven J.H. van Hengel

Lisheen  
6 Middlesshade Road  
St. Andrews  
Fife KY16 9NA

14 Aug 82

Dear Mr van Hengel,

Thank you for your letter dated 9 Aug. I'm afraid my own 'expertise', such as it is, relates to Scotland and the Houseates and I have found no reference to golf in Shetland.

But I will gladly help as far as I can. I am off to Germany on 17 Aug and shall not be returning until 10 Sep.

Meanwhile I have sent your letter to Keith Mackenzie, Secretary of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club. With his extensive contacts it is just possible that he might unearth something to help solve your problem.



Could you perhaps do something  
for me? During the Second  
World War we liberated a  
Dutch village or small township  
whose Burgomeister had been taken  
away by the Gestapo the previous  
day. His name was Aeneas  
Mackay (sic). I don't  
remember where the place was,  
but it might have been - probably  
was - between Eindhoven and  
Nassacht. Is anything known  
about him? Did he survive  
or did the Officers liquidate  
him? I have a personal interest  
because I belong to the clan  
Mackay through my mother.

Yours sincerely,

Bill

Lisheen  
6 Middlesshade Road  
St. Andrews  
Fife KY16 9NA

29 Sep 84.

Mr Steven J. H. van Hengel  
30 Saxenrodenweg, 2116 VA Bentveld

Dear Mr van Hengel,

The enclosed recent  
cutting from The Scotsman may  
be of interest to you, though  
I dare say you know all  
about the Kennermerland  
already.

I am sorry that I  
was unable to discover anything  
early about the import of golf

balls to Scotland. Among  
other lines of inquiry I  
sent a letter to the former  
secretary of the R. & A. -  
Keith Mackenzie - but  
received no reply.

Your Early Golf is an  
aesthetic experience every time  
I look at it.

Yours sincerely,  
Bill

10 Oct 82

Mr Steven J.H. van Hengel  
30 Saxenrode weg  
2116 V.A Bentfeld

Dear Mr van Hengel,

Thank you for your letter  
of 10 Sep with its interesting information  
about my mother's clan in Holland.

I was with 51 (H) Div at 'Iltentogenbosch',  
so it looks as though we got a garbled  
and inaccurate report relating partly  
to Aeneas Mackay and partly to  
Daniel Mackay.

I realise now that it  
was a little naïf of me to send  
your original letter to Keith  
MacKenzie, who has not, in any case,  
reacted to it so far. I have been  
reading Ian Henderson and David Stirk,

Golf in the making and have noted the many appreciative references to your work.

I have ordered your Early Golf:

History and Development (1972) through the University Library and trust they can obtain it in spite of its being privately published.

I have continued inquiries relating to your first letter, and can only suggest the following so far: write to Dr A. Grant, Department of History, University of Lancaster.

Our archivist here, Bob Smart, tells me that he knows a great deal about Medieval Scottish trade and heard him give an excellent paper in Dundee.

This opinion of Dr Grant, a young man, is supported by Dr Ronald Cant, former Reader in Scottish History here.

Meanwhile I shall endeavour to acquire some general background knowledge and hold a watching brief re your specific questions. Kind regards, Bob Bell.



12th October 1984

30, Saxenrodeweg  
2116 VA Bentveld  
Holland

E.V.K.Brill Esq  
Lisheen  
6,Middlesshade Road  
St.ANDREWS,Fife KY16 9NA

Dear Mr.Brill,

This is to thank you for your letter of the 29th September and the enclosed cutting from 'The Scotsman'.

Though I did not have the cutting I knew all about the clubhead since Mr.Christopher Dobbs, the diver who found them, contacted me on the subject.

Sadly, like all the other 17th century and earlier clubs that have been found, the shaft had broken from the heads. I hope to get some photographs of the clubheads to see if there is anything special about them.

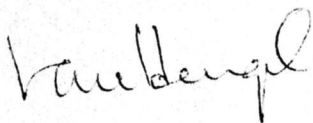
I do appreciate your efforts about the imports of golfballs into Scotland, even if they did not produce results. This is often the case.

Although one would expect the R. & A. to be a fountain of knowledge about ancient golf this is not the case.

Having been a member of the R. & A. for quite some years I know all about that one! They possess a fine library and a remarkable collection of clubs and that is all.

With kind regards and best wishes I am,

sincerely yours



Steven J.H. van Hengel