

# GRANDFATHER GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB LINVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

## HISTORY BACKGROUNDER

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The history of Grandfather Golf and Country Club starts in 1885, when businessman Hugh MacRae first viewed the Linville River Valley and the rugged peaks of Grandfather Mountain. MacRae was so awestruck by the area's natural beauty that he immediately wrote his father, Donald MacRae of Wilmington, N.C., for support to purchase a tract of land. The tract, which stretched from Pineola past Linville Gap, encompassed all of Grandfather and Grandmother Mountains, Linville Ridge, Invershiel, part of Sugar Mountain, and what is now Grandfather Golf and Country Club.

Donald MacRae consented to the purchase, and along with a few other investors, including department store founder of Philadelphia John Wanamaker, Linville Improvement Company was formed. By 1889, Hugh MacRae had purchased a total of 15,570 acres, mostly from S.S. Lenoir, for whom the city of Lenoir is named.

The area quickly became a popular summer resort for golf and health and is a visual reminder of MacRae's native Scotland. By 1944, Linville Company sold 3,000 acres to the Linville Resorts Property Owners Association. Included in the sale were the golf course designed by Donald Ross (creator of the Pinehurst Golf Club), Eseeola Lodge, horseback riding facilities and the town site of Linville. In 1952, the Linville Company was dissolved, and the remaining 11,000 acres were divided between four family members including Mrs. Hugh MacRae, daughter Agnes "Aggie" MacRae Morton, as well as Agnes' children, Agnes Morton Cocke Woodruff and Hugh Morton.

Aggie's share of the lands included 1,958 acres in the Linville River Valley, two miles north of Linville. Having spent most of her summers growing up in Linville, her love of the High Country remained strong. Aggie invested her inheritance and with the help of highly-respected golf course designer Ellis Maples, her vision turned to reality with the opening of Grandfather Golf and Country Club in 1968, where friendly amenities surround some of the best mountain golf in the world.

Presently, Grandfather Golf and Country Club is a private club community, owned exclusively by 451 members with 259 single-family homes and 151 condominiums. Amenities include an exceptional art program, augmented by renowned artists-in-residence, two croquet courts, six outdoor tennis courts and three indoor courts, Fitness Center, trout and bass fishing in native streams, boating and fishing on Loch Dornie Lake, 2.5-acre all-sports field, and hiking and biking areas. The Club also boasts both championship and executive 18-hole golf courses and The Linville Championship Golf Course is consistently ranked as one of the finest mountain courses in the Carolinas.