Maxwell R. Marston already held a reputation as one of the country’s finest Amateur golfers in the early part of the 20th century. His season of 1923 moved him to legendary status. Marston, a member at Merion Cricket Club and Pine Valley Golf Club, towered over the Amateur golf scene from mid-May to early-October that year.

It began with the Walker Cup on the Old Course at St. Andrews. The British side built an early lead in foursomes, winning three of four matches. Only Marston and his partner, two-time U.S. Amateur Champion Robert Gardner, won for the American side. On day two, the Americans stormed back and won five of the eight singles matches to retain the Cup. Marston was in the middle of that rally, defeating William Hope, 5&4, despite trailing 1-down after the morning play.

Marston returned home to take the Patterson Cup a short time later, the Association’s stroke play championship, at Philadelphia Cricket Club by three strokes. A week later he defeated George Hoffner at Merion Cricket for his first and only Amateur Championship title. Having won the Patterson Cup and secured the medal in the Amateur, Marston was awarded his only Silver Cross, emblematic of the Association’s stroke-play champion. Marston headed to Huntingdon Valley Country Club in July for a win in the Pennsylvania Amateur Championship before finishing as the low amateur in the Philadelphia Open Championship at Pine Valley where he tied for seventh overall. Next he took the Merion club championship.

In September, Marston headed to Chicago and Flossmoor Country Club for the U.S. Amateur Championship. He posted a 157 qualifying score, finishing eight strokes back of Bob Jones and Chick Evans. In the second round, he faced Jones, who was widely considered the championship favorite. Marston played well in the morning round but was 4-down through 16 holes. He then played his next 19 holes in the equivalent of 5-under par and closed Jones out, 2&1. Jones later called it “one of the best matches I can remember.” Marston then defeated Francis Ouimet in the semifinals before defeating defending-champion Jess Sweetser in the final on the 38th hole.

After returning east, Marston headed to Pine Valley in early October and captured the Crump Cup. That’s 7 titles in six months.

Marston won the Patterson Cup on three other occasions as well. He won it in 1920 with a 148 total, at that point the lowest score in the history of the 21-year-old event, again in 1924 and for a final time in 1936.

Marston’s unbelievable year of 1923 came after years of previous heartaches, in particular when talking about the U.S. Amateur. In the 1915 Championship at Detroit, Marston drew nemesis Bob Gardner of Chicago in the semifinals. Marston was 1-up on the 36th hole but missed a six-inch putt to win the match before eventually falling. From that point, up until his win in 1923, Marston never advanced past the first round of the U.S. Amateur and, in 1922, failed to even qualify. It was later reported, the hole putted at was less than regulation size.

Quoting an Associated Press obituary, “Marston was not a sensational golfer in any sense. He had no extra-stong department. He was merely a good all-around competitive player who never gave up.”

Marston advanced to the U.S. Amateur semifinals in 1924 and made the final again in 1933, but fell to George Dunlap.

Born in Buffalo, N.Y., in 1892, Marston grew up in northern New Jersey. He served in the navy during World War I and then moved to Philadelphia to work as an investment banker after being made a general partner at Otis & Co. He represented the United States on the Walker Cup team from 1922-24 and again in 1934. He won the New Jersey Amateur in 1915 and 1919, and the Pennsylvania Amateur from 1921-23.

He was survived by wife Elinor Bean and son Maxwell R. Marston, Jr. In May of 1949 he died at age 56. No cause of death was given.