

Magill and Dunscomb

Catherine Dunscomb Colt, 1907

This is all I know of my Grandmother's family.....

Grandfather John Dunscomb came from Bermuda about the year 1790 in his own sailing vessel to visit his brother who was studying at Yale College. Knowing Captain Magill, who also owned vessels and had been to Bermuda, he sailed up the Connecticut River and was invited to stay with Capt. Magill, who came from Middleton, Conn. Capt. Magill's wife was a Miss Denny of Middletown. Her father came to this country when she was a child and she did not remember much about the family as both she and her sister, Miss Denny (who never married) were brought up in Belgium (or the Low Countries, as they were then called) so that they spoke only French. Mr. Denny was a morose man and judging from incidents which occurred must have left England probably for political reasons. Mr. Samuel Collins, my brother-in-law, told me when a child he lived in Middletown with his parents and remembers Mr. Denny who never had much to say to any one and whom was feared by the children, as the nurses when they wished to frighten them, told them Mr. Denny was coming for them.

When I went to Middletown as a child about 1840-1843, we sometimes stayed at the Hotel for the summer, sometimes at the Magill house which was near the River. At that time, my Great Grandfather, Mr. Denny, was dead, but my Great Grandmother, Mrs. Magill, née Denny, was still living. She had been for 10 years a cripple from rheumatism and my only recollection of her is being called into her bedroom to put the foot bench under her feet after she had been taken from her bed and put in a large armchair.

Besides my father, Grandmother Dunscomb, née Magill, had two daughters, whom I saw (there were sons also, but they left Middletown and I knew nothing of them). One married Capt. Goodwin and had one daughter. He went in his ship to the West Indies and was never heard of again. His widow, my Aunt Goodwin, with her daughter, lived in the Magill house as also did the other daughter of my Great Grandmother, Miss Magill, who did not marry. She told me about her Grandfather Denny as she remembered him – a passionate, morose man. One day in the attic she did find a book that had a pretty picture as she supposed in the front of it. She was showing it to her mother when Mr. Denny came in and snatched it out of her hand and threw it in the fire. The aunt, Miss Denny, told her it was their coat of arms.

My Great Grandfather Magill had another brother who also lived in Middletown. One of his daughters married Captain Kinzie, U.S. Army, who was ordered to the frontier, afterwards the City of Chicago. She always lived there and has written a book

of the beginnings of Chicago*. Another sister of hers married Judge Skinner and some of their children still live in Chicago.

Grandmother Dunscomb, as I said, went to Bermuda. After the birth of my father, Grandfather Dunscomb moved to S. Johns, New-Foundland, where he had the position of Lieutenant Governor and, as the Governor was away for some time, he had to take his place. All the rest of his children were born there and when father was 15 years old, Grandmother came to New York to have the children educated. The gentlemen to whom she had letters of introduction advised her to go to Newark where there was at that time a famous school for boys. It was there that my Aunt [Eliza Dunscomb] met [her future husband] Mr. Cammann. After some time, Grandmother returned to New-Foundland, but my Father decided to remain here and entered Columbia College and was in the same class with Hamilton Fish [Class of 1827]. After graduating he studied medicine and took his degree, but never practiced, going into business instead. It was at this time that he made long journeys, both to Central and South America as well as Bermuda, where he met my Mother.

Dunscomb and Seon

My father, Edward Dunscomb, married Ann Mary Seon. She was the only child of Daniel Seon of Bermuda. Daniel Seon married Miss Catharine Manley – all in Bermuda. Daniel Seon's brother married the other Miss Manley, Ann Frances. [Her husband] died when my Great Aunt Seon had only been married six months. It is out of the silver coin Aunt Seon found in her husband's trunk that the silver waiter is made. After her husband's death, she was just 18, she came to live with her sister, my Grandmother Seon. Grandmother Seon died when my mother was ten years old and Aunt Seon kept house for her brother-in-law and brought up my mother.

When Mother married Edward Dunscomb, they came shortly afterwards to live in New York and when I was born May 28, 1834, Aunt Seon came to make her home with father and mother, and always lived with us after that. She went with us to Europe and when Mother died in Nuremberg, Bavaria, and was buried there in 1851, she took all charge of us and returning with us to live in Bloomfield, New Jersey, till Father married again in 1858 [to Cecile Grosschoppf]. Aunt Seon died in Flushing at Mr. Joseph F. Darling's, and is buried in the Darling Lot there.

* *Wau-Bun: The "Early Day" In The North-West*, Juliette Magill Kinzie 1856

CHILDREN OF JOHN DUNSCOMB AND ELIZA MCGILL DUNSCOMB:

1. **Eliza Dunscomb**, eldest daughter, married Mr. Henry Cammann of New York. Their only child died and they were both buried in Trinity Cemetery.
2. **Edward Dunscomb**, their next child, was my father.
3. **John Dunscomb** is Mrs. Mosle's father.
4. **Margaret Dunscomb**, married a Mr. Vallence, several children were born and grew up, but I have lost sight of them
5. **Caroline Dunscomb**, married Mr. Crowdy.....[illegible]..
6. **Sarah Dunscomb**, married Arch Deacon Bridge and had several children, but not all living. Cyprian Bridge, the Admiral, is one and the youngest, a girl, married an officer whose only child married Mr. Talbot of Boston.
7. **George Dunscomb**, was in business in New York, but retired early on account of his health. Had a home in Florida and a shooting box in Canada, and thus, as he maintained by keeping always in the open air, cured his gout. When over 50 years old, he married a young girl, whose father was a retired British Army officer. They went to Florida and he died after being married four months. His widow returned to Canada, where her child was born, being named George Dunscomb. He now lives in Chicago and was married some time ago.

MARRIED:

Edward Dunscomb and Ann Mary Seon [1832]

“ and Cecile Grosschopff, 1858

Catherine Seon Dunscomb and Harris Colt, April 9th, 1857

Frances Manley Dunscomb and Joseph F. Darling, October 2nd, 1861

Mary W. Dunscomb and Joseph V. Ibbotson, November 17th, 1868

John Dunscomb and Katharine Stuart, September 29th, 1894

Katharine Sophie Marian Colt and Samuel Sloan, Jr. , November 27th, 1888

Ann Frances Manley (Seon) (“Aunt Seon”): Born at Warwick Parish, Bermuda June 26, 1789

Married William Seon, November 1808

Died at Flushing, NY October 21, 1876 at 8:10 [age 87]

BIRTHS:

Edward Dunscomb - Son of Eliza Magill of Middletown, Conn. and John Dunscomb of St. John's Hill, Pembroke Parish, Bermuda - born 9th July, 1806, St. John's Hill (now known as Clarence Hill), Pembroke Parish, Island of Bermuda.

Ann Mary Seon - Wife of Edward Dunscomb, daughter and only child of Daniel Seon and Sarah Catharine Manly - born St. Georges, Bermuda, Tuesday, between eleven and twelve o'clock, 10th November, 1812

Sarah Catharine Manly – born 10th May, 1788, Bermuda; died St. George's, Bermuda, 1834, May 28th, Wednesday.

Eliza Catherine Seon Massachusetts Dunscomb – eldest child of Edward Dunscomb, born eight o'clock, Wednesday, 1834, May 28th; No. 108 Leonard Street, New York.

Ann Frances Manly Missouri Dunscomb – born seven o'clock A.M., 1836, January 25th, Pearl Street, New York. (See New York directory 1825, near White Hall Street; Richard C. Tucker born in his old house.) [Married Joseph F. Darling]

Edward Mississippi Dunscomb – third child of Edward and Ann Mary Dunscomb, born 9:00 p.m., 1838, October 12th, Thursday, No. 355 Houston Street, New York.

Apalachicola Ann Mary Dunscomb – fourth child of Edward and Ann Mary Dunscomb, born ¼ hour before eight o'clock a.m. 1841, April 12th, Monday; State St., corner Henry Street, old Marquand house, Brooklyn, Long Island, New York; Died Monday, eight o'clock, 20th March 1848, Halle on the Seale, Prussia

Alabama Ann Mary Seon Dunscomb – fifth child of Edward and Mary Ann Dunscomb; 1845, February 23rd, Sunday, Bloomfield, New Jersey; Israel Ward's house. ["Mary W." who married Ibbotson above?]

Hans von Deutchland Dunscomb – sixth child of Edward and Ann Mary Dunscomb; born 12 o'clock noon in pouring rain, 1847, September 30th; Kleine Stein Strasse, old Wagner's house, Halle a/n Salle, Prussia.

Daniel von Bayern Dunscomb – seventh child of Edward and Ann Mary Dunscomb; 1850, March 5th, Tuesday at 10:00 p.m.; Vorstadt Street, Johannes, Nuremberg, Bayern [Bavaria].

Children of Harris and Catharine D. Colt:

Francis Seon Colt – child of Catharine D. Colt, Kleinischergarten; 1858, October 8th

Harris Dunscomb Colt – 1861, March 19th, at noon.

Richard Collins Colt – 1863, December 30th, at 3:30 p.m.

Katharine Sophie Marian Colt – April 24th, 1868, at 5:30 or 6:00 p.m.

DEATHS:

Apalachicola Ann Mary Dunscomb – age 6 years, 11 months, and 23 days, the most clever and loveliest child I ever saw. 1848, March 20th Monday at 8:00 at Kleine Stein Strasse, (old Wagner’s house) Halle on the Seale, Prussia.

Ann Mary Dunscomb – sweetly fell asleep grasping the hands of her children, saying in broken words, “Children, love Jesus.” 1851, March (Lord’s Day) 9:30 p.m. at Vorstadt in Johannes, Nuremberg, Bayern, Kleinischergarten; aged, 38 years and 4 months.

Ann Frances Manley Seon (“Aunt Seon”) 1876, October 26th, at Flushing, Long Island.

Thanksgiving Day, 1907

(Copied from a typescript, February 2013, with a few clarifications, by Stephen W. Lindsay)

Notes:

“Magill” is spelled “McGill” in much of the original typescript. Middletown gravestones say “Magill”

“Manley” is sometimes spelled “Manly”

“Catharine” is used consistently for Sarah Catharine Manley

Eliza Catherine Seon Massachusetts Dunscomb Colt may have had Asperger’s Syndrome. Her account includes incredible recall of dates, times, days of the week, and addresses.

The Dunscombs moved a lot. Each of the seven children was born in a different house. The father, Dr. Edward Dunscomb, died in 1895 in Nashville, Tennessee. No explanation is given of why the family moved to Germany, or why the children were given Indian place names as part of their names.

