

The Dunn Family and their influence on Golf Club Architecture and Golf in America

Malcolm Mckinnon

Willie Dunn Jr. was the professional who guided the design of the first golf course on the grounds of the Stockton farm “Springdale” in Princeton, New Jersey in 1900



Willie Dunn Jr.

The story of the Dunn family and their influence on golf begins with Willie Dunn Sr. who was born in 1821 in Musselburgh, Scotland.



Willie Dunn Sr.

Born 1821 - Died 1878

Willie Dunn Senior was the patriarch of a distinguished line of professional golfers and architects. Along with his twin brother Jamie they played challenge matches all over Scotland, often against Old Tom Morris of St. Andrews.

After serving as greenskeeper and professional at Royal Blackheath in England he later performed similar duties at golf courses in Leith, Musselburgh and North Berwick, Scotland



Tom Dunn

Tom Dunn

Born 1849 - Died 1902

The son of Willie Dunn Sr., Tom Dunn served as the golf professional at London Scottish Golf Club at Wimbledon Common, London. There he extended its length from seven to eighteen holes. He also served as the golf professional at North Berwick GC in Scotland and Tooting Bec near London and also Meyrick Park near Bournemouth, England.

He became the most prolific golf course designer of his day, building courses all over the UK, France and the Netherlands.

Tom was married to the “greatest woman golfer of that day”, Isabel Gourlay, a descendent of the famous Gourlay family of Musselburgh, Scotland. They were renown as golf instructors to the Kings of Scotland and ball makers to the Royal Family of England.



Willie Dunn Jr.

Willie Dunn Jr.

Born 1865 - Died 1952

Sixteen years younger than his brother Tom, Willie Jr. studied greens keeping and course building alongside with him.. He served as golf professional at Westward Ho! in Devon, England and designed the Chingford course near London. He then spent years working with his brother at Golf de Biarritz on the Atlantic coast of France. It was there where he was discovered by William K. Vanderbilt who persuaded Willie Jr. to come to the USA and work on his golf course project at Shinnecock Hills on Long Island, New York.

He arrived in the USA and completed renovations at Shinnecock Hills in 1892. He stayed on as the Pro/Greenskeeper and even won an “unofficial” US Open there in 1894.

He remained in the USA and planned and routed numerous golf courses, primarily along the eastern United States seaboard.

He was employed as a club designer with the firm of Crawford MacGregor and Canby Co. of Dayton, OH.

He returned to the UK in 1940 where he died in 1952.

Besides the Shinnecock Hills remodel he also built...

Georgia:	Jekyll Island	1894
Iowa:	Algona CC	1920
Maryland:	Baltimore CC	1898
New Jersey	Springdale GC	1900
	Lakewood CC	1892
	Lawrence Harbour CC	
New York	Apawamis	1898
	Ardsley	1895
	Elmira CC	
	Rockaway Hunting	
	Cedarhurst	1894
	Scarsdale	1898
	Shinnecock Ladies	1894
	Westbrook CC	1893
Pennsylvania		
	Philadelphia CC	1893
Quebec	Royal Montreal (South)	1900
England	Chingford	1888
France	Golf de Biarritz	1888 (with Tom Dunn)



John Duncan Dunn


John Duncan Dunn

Born 1874 - Died 1951

Known as "J D". John was the son of Tom Dunn. He worked and trained under his father but eventually followed his Uncle Willie Jr. to the USA where he started off as golf professional at Ardsley-on-Hudson CC.

He eventually migrated to California where he served as the golf professional at Los Angeles CC. He resided in that State until his death. Besides Golf instruction and course design he was also an accomplished landscape artist and authored many articles and books on golf instruction.

Amongst his body of architectural credits, he collaborating with Walter Travis on the design of a few iconic northeast USA golf courses, Cape Arundel in Maine and Ekwanok in Vermont. J.D. also laid out the first 9 hole course at Quaker Ridge in New York.



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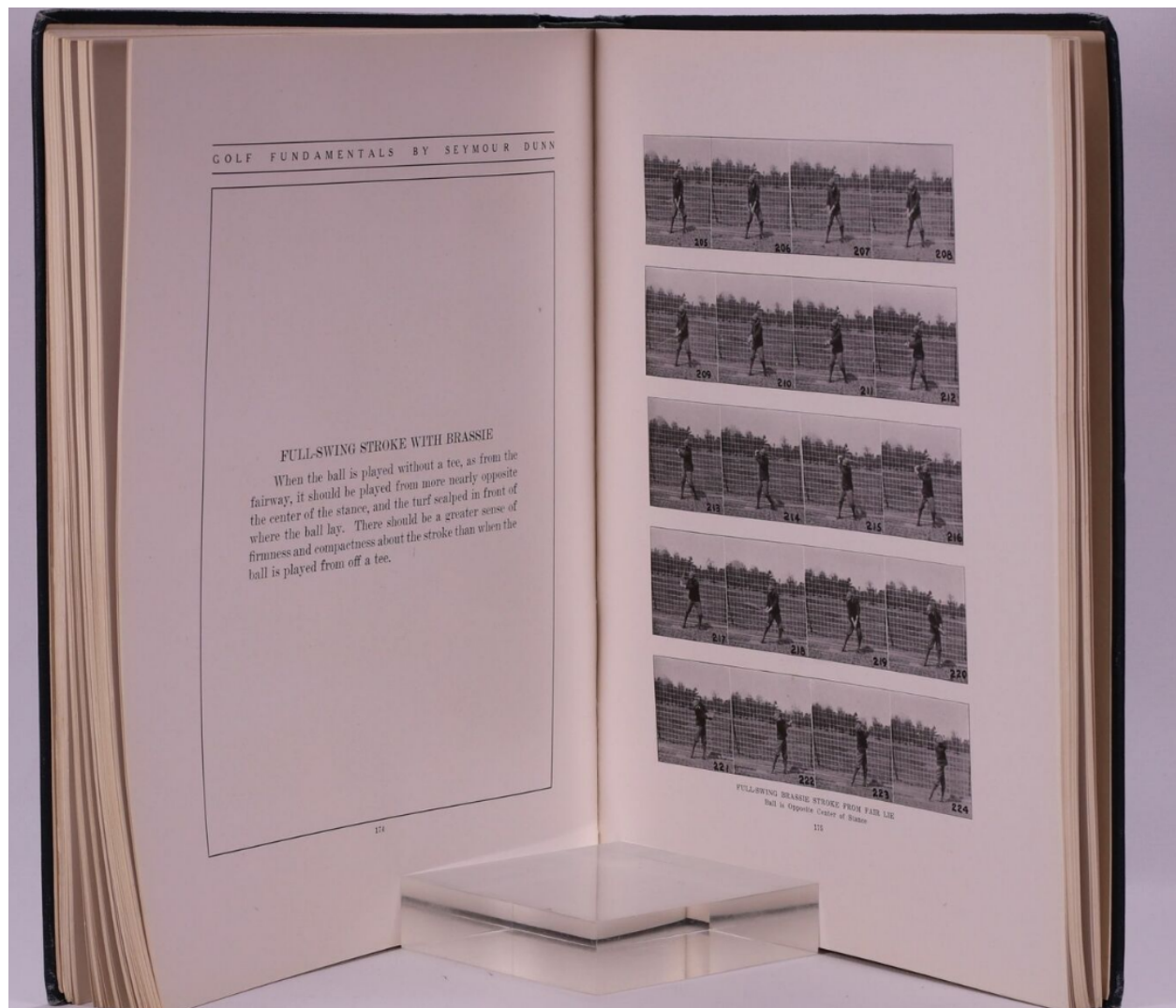
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Left: John D. Dunn (1901), Top Right: Tom Dunn at Meyrick Park (1894), Centre: Advertisement for Seymour Dunn (1907) and Willie Dunn (1899) © Golf Bulletin



GOLF FUNDAMENTALS

SEYMOUR DUNN



Seymour Dunn

Born 1882 - Died 1959

Brother of J D Dunn.

Seymour came to America at age 12 to be an assistant to his brother J D.

Seymour Dunn is ranked among the greatest teachers of golf. His students include Jim Barnes, Walter Hagan, Gene Sarazen and Joe Kirkwood. He authored, "Golf Fundamentals" "Elementary Golf Instruction", "Golf Jokes", "Standardized Golf Instruction" and he also designed many golf courses.

Much of his architectural work is concentrated in Upstate NY...

Ausable, Cazenovia, Chautauqua, Craig Wood, Lafayette, Lake Placid (Lower), Locust Hill, Paul Smith's Adirondack, Raquette Lake, Saranac Inn, Schroon Lake, Ticonderoga and Tuscarora are all attributed to Seymour Dunn.



Bibliography

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