

## The Dufficy Family of Marin County, California

© by Catherine L. Gowdy

**Michael Calhoun Dufficy** was the first of his family to settle in Marin County.

Born in or near the town of Strokestown, Roscommon County, Ireland, on December 29, 1839 to Francis and Alicia (Lane) Dufficy, the family moved to England and then emigrated to the United States in 1846. They went to New Orleans, Louisiana where Francis died in 1848. He had been a surveyor and engineer. On November 7, 1852, Mrs. Dufficy and her children, Michael C., Thomas J., Dennis, Henry, Jane and Bridget, traveled to California via the Isthmus of Panama aboard the steamer, *Falcon*, for the Atlantic portion of the voyage, and then on the steamer, *Northerner*, on the Pacific, arriving in San Francisco late in December of that year. They stayed in San Francisco until 1854, and then went to Marysville where, according to Michael's obituary, he "engaged in mining during those early days of gold excitement." He became involved in a grocery store, became a Notary Public, and operated two hotels; he was an agent for the stagecoach run from Marysville to La Porte and an owner of land in Yuba County. He returned to San Francisco in 1876 where he continued in the hotel business and was a money broker. He moved to San Rafael and opened the Grand Central hotel from which he retired in 1886 when he was elected a Justice of the Peace and began studying law. He was admitted to the bar in 1894 and thereafter practiced that profession, retiring about 1909.

Michael C. Dufficy and Edwina O'Brien were married in Marysville on February 2, 1863. She was a native of Dubuque, Iowa and the daughter of Dr. James and Eliza O'Brien. The O'Brien family had come to California by covered wagon in 1849 and settled in Sacramento. Dr. O'Brien practiced medicine there and later in Oroville, Butte County; in 1858 he was appointed superintendent of the Butte County Hospital and Infirmary and also elected County Coroner. He died in San Francisco on December 12, 1871.

Edwina O'Brien Dufficy died at her home on Fourth Street in San Rafael on June 10 (cemetery) or 11 (newspaper), 1913. She was born December 31, 1844 and grew up in Oroville and Marysville. She attended Notre Dame College and was the charter president of the alumni association. In San Rafael she involved herself in many charitable organizations, was president of the Ladies Aid Society of the Catholic church, and was assistant president of the Associated Bureau of Charities. She and her husband were married for fifty years and had thirteen children. On Sunday, February 2, 1913, they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in their home on Fourth Street in San Rafael among friends and family. Present were Mrs. Jane Tomb of Marysville, sister of Judge Dufficy, and Mrs. Josephine F. Woodward, a sister of Mrs. Dufficy, they being the witnesses at the marriage in 1863.

Mr. Dufficy died on May 6, 1919 at his home, age 79 years. Both are buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, San Rafael. The couple was survived by nine of their thirteen children: Mary C., Edwina, George W., Josephine, Veronica A., Charles M., Alicia L., Elizabeth M., and Rafael G. Dufficy.

**Mary Cecilia Dufficy**, born October 24, 1867 in Marysville, was married to Dr. James Philip Tormey on January 12, 1892 in San Rafael. She died in San Francisco on August 3, 1940 at the age of 72 years and is buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, San Rafael. Two

children were born to them: May Tormey who married Ray Harold, and Veronica Tormey who married Arnold Gamboni. In 1903 they were living in San Leandro.

**Edwina Dufficy**, born September 12, 1869, was educated in the public schools, a graduate of San Francisco Girls High School and the San Jose Normal School. She taught for ten years in Marin County schools, and in 1900 departed for San Francisco where she took the vows of a Sister of Mercy and was thereafter known as Sister Mary Michael. She died in San Francisco, CA on August 24, 1957.

**George Woodward Dufficy** was born October 8, 1871. He studied medicine and in 1900 was a resident physician at the Sisters Hospital in Sacramento. He married Evelyn Rackliffe, of Sacramento, daughter of State Treasurer Rackliffe, in October, 1900. George died in Sacramento on August 31, 1952.

**Victor Dufficy**, born 1874, is also buried in St. Joseph Cemetery in Marysville. His stone says he died January 22, 1875 at age 10 months 18 days. The grandmother of these children, Alice Dufficy, is also buried in this cemetery; her stone gives the date June 4, 1897 and the age of 87 years.

**Josephine E. Dufficy**, born January 8, 1876, was a graduate of Dominican College and the State Normal School. She taught for a time in the San Francisco schools. On April 28, 1900 she married William P. Barry at St. Raphael's church. In 1913, they were living in San Francisco. They were residing in Honolulu, Hawaii at the time of her father's death in 1919. She died November 15, 1951, age 76 years, and is buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery. I am told that Josephine and William Barry had three daughters: Edwina, Barbara and Wilma. An article dated July 4, 1903 in the Marin Tocsin describes Edwina as "a sweet dark-eyed child ..."

**Charles M. Dufficy**, was born December 11, 1878. He and his wife, Irene, were living in Salinas in 1913; he had the rank of Lieutenant at the time of his father's death in 1919. Charles lived in Marin and was active in banking circles until 1929, when he removed to San Francisco and entered the real estate sales field. He died March 22, 1955 in San Francisco. Burial was in Golden Gate National Cemetery. This couple had no children.

**Alicia Lane Dufficy** was born February 16, 1880 in California and died February 24, 1940 in Alameda County, but is buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in San Rafael. She married A. David Friedlander in 1905. A native of California, he was a dermatologist, practicing in San Francisco. He died there on January 28, 1928 and is buried in Cypress Lawn Cemetery in Colma. They had four children: Richard D., John Dufficy, Marie A., and Phyllis Friedlander.

**Richard D. Friedlander** was born November 17, 1906 in California and died in San Francisco November 1, 1951. He was a doctor. I am told that he married twice and had three children.

**John Dufficy Friedlander** was born in California on September 8, 1908 and died in San Mateo County on January 10, 1972. He was an accountant and also had a career in real estate. He married Virginia Elizabeth Spargo on May 6, 1939 and they had a family of four children: Suzanne Marie, May 23, 1940 in San Francisco; Diane Virginia, January 12, 1943 in San Francisco; John Dufficy, Sept. 10, 1947 in San Francisco; and Richard Michael who was born in San Mateo County on March 31, 1954.

**Marie A. Friedlander** was born November 25, 1909 in California and died in Alameda County on August 23, 1973. She married Joseph Aloysius Kitterman (April 15, 1906 - March 26, 1985). He owned a paint store in Alameda where they lived. They had three children: Joan Alicia, July 2, 1932; Joseph A., August 2, 1936; and Alicia Marie, Sept. 16, 1941.

**Phyllis Friedlander** born in San Francisco September 6, 1911, and died in Alameda County July 11, 1961.

**Veronica Anita Dufficy**, born about 1881 and a native of Marysville, died in Marin County on March 31, 1932 at the age of 51 years. She was a graduate of the University of California (in 1898) and devoted her life to teaching. She began her career in Fresno but returned to San Rafael where she taught Latin and French for many years at the high school. She became head of the language department and was also librarian. For the five years prior to her death, she had been the Dean of Girls. She was much respected and in her honor, flags flew at half-mast and all San Rafael schools were closed in tribute.

**Elizabeth M. Dufficy** was born May 14, 1882 and died in Marin County on November 4, 1976; she married Horatio Baldwin Muzzy in San Rafael on September 18, 1907. Horatio was born December 12, 1881 and died in San Francisco on November 11, 1956. He and Elizabeth had three children, all born in San Francisco:

**Elizabeth Muzzy** was born October 21, 1908. She married Lawrence McCune, an attorney, in San Francisco where they raised their three children: Elizabeth Jacketta, born May 24, 1939 and died Sept. 30, 1997; and twins, Lawrence Muzzy McCune and Sally Baldwin McCune, both born December 17, 1942. Lawrence is married, has children, and currently resides in Marin County.

**Edward L. Muzzy** was born March 24, 1911.

**Horatio Baldwin Muzzy Jr.** was born June 7, 1913 and died in San Francisco on May 16, 1942 at the age of 28 years.

**Frances Anita Dufficy** was born January 27, 1884 in San Rafael in the Central Hotel, and died June 28, 1886. She is buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

**Rafael G. Dufficy**, born November 20, 1885 in San Rafael, was the last child of Michael and Edwina Dufficy. He died December 22, 1932 at the age of 47 and was buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery on the 24th.

Rafael attended Mt. Tamalpais Military Academy, then studied medicine at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in San Francisco. His post-graduate work was done at the University of San Francisco and he interned at St. Mary's Hospital. Upon completion of his training in 1913, he opened an office in the Cheda building opposite the court house in San Rafael and began the general practice of medicine. During World War I, he served in the Army and was stationed at Letterman's Hospital in San Francisco and then was sent to a hospital in Brest, France. Following the war, he returned to San Rafael and continued his practice; towards the end of his career, he served as county physician, which involved daily visits to the County Farm and to the hospitals, as well as

responding to the Traffic Squad. Later in life he was made a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons in recognition of his service

He was very active at the civic level as a member of the San Rafael Fire Commission, a director of the Marin Municipal Water District, and the Board of Education. For seven years, he served as president of the San Rafael Chamber of Commerce. In addition, he involved himself in many social groups, including the Elks, Rotary Club, American Legion, Meadow Club, and the Marin Rod and Gun Club, to name just a few.

Rafael G. Dufficy and Catherine Ellis were married in Sacramento, CA on March 7, 1914. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry M. Ellis of that place. A native of Los Angeles, California, Catherine was born March 12, 1890 and died in Marin County on August 23, 1971. She had lived in Marin for 60 years. Burial was in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, San Rafael, on August 25, 1971. She and Rafael had a family of four children: Ellis R., Rafael G., Patricia L. and Nancy Ann.

**Ellis Rafael Dufficy** was born January 1, 1916 in San Francisco, California. A Major in the U.S. Air Force and Marin County deputy district attorney (1946-1950), he died at Travis Air Force Base in Solano County November 27, 1962. An obituary was published in the Marin Independent Journal on Wednesday, November 28, 1962. It states that he suffered from a blood disease and was transferred to the Travis hospital from Kingsley AFB in Klamath Falls, Oregon where he was an attorney in the Air Force Judge Advocate General's Department. He served as a sergeant in the Marine Corp during World War II and joined the Air Force during the Korean War; he had been stationed in England and Oregon for the ten years preceding his death. He was survived by his wife, Lee of Klamath Falls.

Ellis and his first wife, Harriet Buck, had five children:

1. Michael Buck Dufficy was born July 2, 1938 and married Penelope Ann Throp on August 1, 1958.
2. Francesca Dufficy, born January 31, 1941, married Donald B. Lethbridge February 14, 1961.
3. Ellisa Dufficy was born February 2, 1947.
4. Elizabeth Dufficy was born August 31, 1948.
5. Peter Kirk Dufficy was born September 26, 1950.

**Rafael G. Dufficy** was born in San Francisco on April 24, 1918. He married Helen Sheafe on August 7, 1939 at St. Raphael's Church in San Rafael. They had met as students at Stanford University. He went to medical school, served in the Army, and then settled in Marin County. He was County Medical Director from 1950 to 1962. Their five children are:

1. Daniel Calhoun Dufficy married Joyce Marie Clark on May 31, 1974 and on Sept. 26, 1980 he married Sandra Jo Woodward.
2. Rafael Garcia Dufficy III married Karen Jane Baukel in San Rafael on May 7, 1963.
3. Kathleen Willard Dufficy, born Nov. 17 1946, married Thomas Anthony Conroy in Marin County on April 18, 1970.
4. Robert James Dufficy, born June 2, 1948
5. Margaret Helen Dufficy, born April 24, 1953

**Patricia Louise Dufficy** was born in San Francisco on March 15, 1921. She attended Dominican High School in San Rafael, California and graduated from Lux

College in San Francisco in 1941. She married Robert D. Byrne on July 30, 1941. The ceremony took place at Old St. Mary's in San Francisco. Bob, a native of San Francisco, was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo D. Byrne. He graduated from Stanford University in 1941 with a degree in engineering. He served in the Army during World War II and retired as a Captain. After the war, Bob and Pat settled in San Jose, CA which they called home until 1966. They then moved to Aptos, CA and in 1983, they moved to Carmel Valley, CA and lived there for 16 years. Bob died February 9, 1999. Patricia is currently living in Scottsdale, AZ with her daughter, Cathy. The Byrnes had a family of three children:

1. Susan Louise Byrne was born on August 3, 1943 in Chicago, Illinois. She married Bill Lukenbill Jr. and has two daughters, Jennifer and Julie, as well as a grandson, Jack Warner Harmon. All reside in Scottsdale.
2. Peter Daniel Byrne was born on May 6, 1945 in Chicago. He lives in Mahwah, New Jersey, and is the father of two: Megan and Christopher.
3. Catherine Lynn, born March 2, 1948 in San Jose, CA, is a resident of Scottsdale, AZ and has three children: Molly, Melissa and Matthew.

**Nancy Ann Dufficy** was born in Marin County on November 3, 1926. She married James Fewell and settled in San Rafael where they raised a family of seven children:

1. Timothy Daniel Fewell was born July 3, 1948 and married Barbara O'Mara on Sept. 6, 1969.
2. Gary Martin Fewell, born May 26, 1950, married Dawne Patry on May 25, 1970.
3. Nancy Dee Fewell, born March 27, 1952, married Anthony Soule Sept. 30, 1978.
4. Catherine Laurie Fewell was born December 31, 1953 and married Paul Olson on June 26, 1977.
5. Patricia A. Fewell, born September 18, 1957, married Mark Parnow May 26, 1985.
6. Karen M. Fewell, born September 19, 1959, married Larry Battaglia on Feb. 29, 1992.
7. James R. Fewell was born April 19, 1963 and married Liana Wilson on July 25, 1987.

#### Sources:

- California Birth and Death Indices
- Marin County Marriage Index and Books
- Marin County Historical Society Newsletter, Spring, 1998
- Biographical information compiled by Caroline O'Hara, 1936
- Financing an Empire: History of Banking in California, Vol. IV, Marin Edition, Pg. 516-517
- History of the State of California & Biographical Record of Coast Counties, by J. M. Guinn, 1904
- The Bay of San Francisco, Lewis Publishing Company, Chicago, 1892
- Interviews with Susan Byrne Lukenbill, Nancy Ann Fewell, Diane Friedlander
- Cemetery Records
- Articles and obituaries from Marin newspapers:
  - Marin Independent & Marin Independent Journal:

11 Jan. 1900	06 Jan. 1916
03 May 1900	07 May 1919
18 Oct. 1900	08 May 1919
06 Feb 1913	01 Apr. 1932
12 June 1913	04 Apr. 1932
08 Mar 1914	16 Apr. 1932

20 Dec. 1932  
23 Dec. 1932  
24 Dec. 1932 (2)  
29 Dec. 1932  
02 Apr. 1932

23 Mar. 1955  
16 Apr. 1970  
25 Aug. 1971  
02 Dec. 1989

Mill Valley Record, 12 May 1982

Marin Tocsin, 04 July 1903 and 15 Apr. 1911

