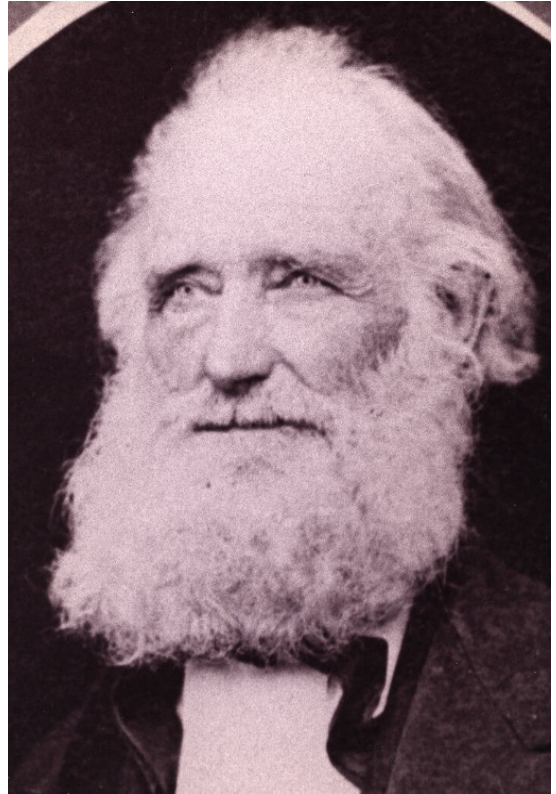


Homer Duncan Biography

1815 – 1906

Homer Duncan was born January 19, 1815 to John Duncan and Betsy Taylor Putnam in Barnet, Caledonia county, Vermont. In 1841 he married Asenath M. Banker in New York State, by whom he had thirteen children. The family came to Utah in the Barney Adams Company, arriving in Salt Lake City October 16, 1848. Homer Duncan crossed the plains eleven times by ox team, at least once as leader of a company of immigrants.

In 1849, Duncan came to Southern Utah in the Second Ten of Parley P. Pratt's exploring party and was later called to the Iron Mission. He served an L.D.S. mission to Texas and one to England; and, in 1863, he was called to St. George to help settle that community. In 1863, he married Sarah Trippess, and they became the parents of nine children. The family moved to Cedar City where he was Senior President of the Third Quorum of Seventies and Cedar City Mayor from 1871 to 1872. The 1872 census lists Cedar City's population at 500.



In 1868, along with Ebenezer Hanks, Homer Duncan helped establish the settlement of Iron City (at Little Pinto, southwest of Iron Mountain); and, in August 1870, they, with Thomas Taylor, organized the Utah Iron Company – Hanks and Duncan being owners of the claims, and Taylor providing the capital. Duncan was elected a member of the Board of Directors. When John R. Young entered the company, bringing more capital, it was re-organized in 1873, and became the Great Western Mining and Manufacturing Company, shares being valued at \$100 each. This company made most of the stamps used in the mines of Pioche and Silver Reef and turned out quantities of dog irons, flat irons, castings, and fireplace grates.

During the 1870's, Homer ran 500 head of Longhorn Cattle in the Quitchapa and Shirt's Canyon areas. He returned to Salt Lake City with his families in 1885; and, five years later, at the age of seventy-five years, he served time in the penitentiary for polygamy, a severe trial at his age.

Duncan died March 23, 1906 at the age of ninety-one years in Salt Lake City.

(Written by Inez Stevens Cooper, from **Prominent Men of Utah** and D.U.P.)
(From **Mayors of Cedar City**, page 32.)