

JOHN CHAPMAN DUNCAN AND TERESA ANN FERRELL

John Chapman Duncan was the oldest son and second child of Homer Duncan and Asenath Melvina Robinson Banker. He was born September 9, 1846 near the Des Moines River in the vicinity of Montrose, Iowa. He came with his parents to Utah in 1848. He married Teresa Ann Ferrell May 27, 1872, at Cedar City, Iron, Utah. Teresa Ann Ferrell was the only child of John Ferrell and Sarah Ann McMillan. She was born January 27, 1854 at Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. She came with her mother to America in 1856 together with her mother's other children by her first marriage.

John C. Duncan was nearly two years old when his parents began their trek to the Salt Lake Valley from Iowa arriving at their destination August 22, 1848. He remembers driving cattle as a small boy as well as the event of the seagulls eating the crickets that had taken his father's wheat crops. The seagulls would eat all the crickets they could hold and then go for water and come back for more. His family lived in Little Cottonwood Creek and later in Salt Lake City by where the D & RG Railroad Depot was. As a young man of 16 years he traveled to Nebraska and helped to bring immigrants to Utah.

John's father was called to help settle "Dixie" in about 1870. John married Teresa Ann in 1872 and while there four children were born to them. John filled a mission to Pottsville, Pennsylvania in 1876 for two years. In 1880 he was called by Erastus Snow to go to San Juan County, Utah to help settle that country. John and other men went to the San Juan, found a place to settle, but Indian trouble made them change the route they took. Instead of going through Arizona as planned they gathered their cattle and headed north wintering at Sam Gilson's and moving into the head of Salina Canyon for the next summer. That fall they moved into Salina. John lost this drovers around Salina Canyon because they feared Indians. In the next spring John and Teresa drove their herd to Quitchenpa which is south of Emery. John and Teresa Ann determined that they must stop and plant the seeds they had or they wouldn't have food enough to subsist on. They camped in the creek while they built a house of rock located just further north of the creek. They dug into the bank of the creek to make a place to put their beds and to get out of the sun. A good garden was planted on the creek bank. The Lord seemed to be with them for just as soon as they moved into their new house there came a terrible storm and flood that ruined their garden and destroyed the dugout where they were living. They could never have gotten out had they been sleeping there.

The winter of 1880 – the awful Friday of 1880– was devastating to the John Duncan family. They had terrible experiences with the elements at that time. Their cattle could not find shelter from the extreme cold and many froze to death. John froze his ears and toes while going to a place a quarter of a mile away to get wood. Sam Gilson brought some poles he had been using for a corral and built them a house. They chinked up the cracks with sticks and mud in the day time and at night the wind would blow the chinks out. Then the next day they would have it to do all over again. They had a big box into which they put their children to keep them warm in front of the fire. While living in Quitchempa they had experiences with wild animals such as the numerous deer that could hardly be driven away, Indians, and the elements. The cattle did fine for the feed there was so good and they had their gardens. Sam Gilson also had hired a young

man to teach his children and invited the Duncan children to join them which they did. This was their first schooling. A friend, Tom Simpkins, lived with the Duncans for a year and a half. He married Mary Merrick. They built a house close by and helped John on the ranch. The U.S. Mail came from Price through Emery County to Salina and stopped to change horses at John Duncan's place and the men who brought the mail stayed overnight. The mail was carried by pack horses and it took a week for the "mailmen" to make the round trip.

John Duncan moved his family to Ferron in 1885. When he gathered his cattle, the cattle rustlers and the extremely cold weather got about half of his herd. He only had about 400 head left. They lived with Ephraim Homer's folks for about six weeks. Homer lived in a three room house on the block north of where Perry Snow now has a grocery store. (This is the block east of the church house on the hill.) John bought and built on property located on the southeast corner of the block (where Will McDonald lives now.) While living there the diphtheria epidemic occurred and they lost four of their little girls to this disease.