

## Duncan Family

John Randolph Duncan, born April 25, 1821, in Culpeper Co., VA, was the youngest child of Frederick and Susan (Stallard) Duncan. His oldest brother, Edward Pendleton Duncan, and wife, Frances (Luttrell), and their five children had come for the opening of the Platte Purchase and pre-empted land south of the present town of Dearborn.

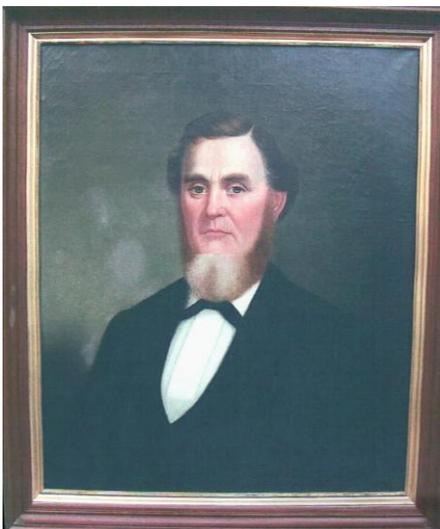
In Culpeper in 1843 John R. Duncan married Mildred Jane Duncan, oldest daughter of Marshall and Mary Ann (Garner) Duncan; and the next year the young couple and their infant son, James Lewis, started for Platte County. Their wagon train included Mildred Jane's mother, who had become a widow at age 33, and her seven other children, and six slaves. 1844 was a year of terrible flooding and the group was detained in St. Louis for several months.

Arriving too late to plant crops or to build, they spent the winter in brother "Ned's" home, and the next spring the little family bought and moved to the 160 acres south of brother Ned. Mary Ann built a home in Camden Point for her family.

Over the years John Randolph's family grew with the addition of Robert Eldridge, born 1846, died 1866; Camilla, born 1848, married (1) James Dulin and (2) Henry Thorpe; Flora Ann, born 1850, died 1852; Mary Mildred, born 1851, married (1) George Ransdell and (2) Hugh Wilkinson, died 1890 at age 39; Susan Catherine, born and died 1853; Isabella, born 1854, married Marcellus Stallard, died 1879 at age 25; Helen, born 1856, married John Buchanan; Eudoxy, born 1857, died 1858; William Marshall, born 1859, married Anna Smart; Sterling Price, born 1862, married Emma Maupin; and Lee, born 1864, married (1) Charlotte Trumbo.

During the Civil War only James Lewis was old enough to serve, but his parents had a harrowing experience. A group of soldiers from Leavenworth rode up to the house one day and demanded money which they claimed John R. had received from the sale of his slaves. There was no money as John R. and Edward had sent their slaves to Texas at the beginning of the war. The soldiers became insistent and threatened Mr. Duncan, but a group of Quantrill's men had followed the troops and they rode out of the woods yelling and succeeded in scattering the federals. Among the rescuers was Cole Younger, who in later years attended a basket dinner at the Pleasant Grove Church.

By 1888 John R. was listed as one of the largest landholders in Platte County. About 1890 he retired from the farm and moved to Camden Point. At this time he gave his six living children a gift: the choice of either 160 acres of his land or the money to buy 160 acres. As a result the children lived on farms only a few miles apart.



John Randolph Duncan



Mildred Jane Duncan

Mr. Duncan was a deacon and pillar of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church. He was a tall, erect man, seen mostly in a black broadcloth suit with a white, tucked-bosom shirt. Mrs. Duncan was a tiny woman who wore a size one shoe and five-and-one-half glove. William Paxton wrote of them, "They possess wealth, intelligence, integrity, and Christian faith ... honored and revered." Mr. Duncan died in 1902; Mrs. Duncan in 1911, and her mother in 1881. All are buried in Camden Point Cemetery. Lu Durham