



P. F. Duncan

P. F. Duncan, cashier of the Duncannon National Bank, was born on Duncan's Island, Dauphin County, May 27, 1859. He is a son of **Benjamin Stiles** and **Priscilla (Miller) Duncan**. **Benjamin S. Duncan** is deceased. **Mrs. Duncan**, who is of German descent, resides at Duncannon with her son, **Mr. P. F. Duncan**.

For many generations back, even long before authentic history, the **Duncan** family occupied an honorable place in Scotland. With the opening of the New World to Europeans, many of the hardy and frugal sons of Scotland came to this Western land, where they and their descendants have been among our most valued citizens, many of them rising to high positions in church and state.

Not only in Pennsylvania, but also in many other parts of the Union, this influx of the liberty-loving sons of Caledonia has left a lasting impress for good. None of those families have become more widely spread or more potent in their influence than the **Duncans**.

Thomas Duncan, great-great-great-grandfather of the subject of this biography, emigrated from Scotland to Pennsylvania with his family prior to 1740. Settling for a time in the western part of Lancaster County, he died in Cumberland County, in the year immortalized by the Declaration of American Independence, 1776. His sons were: **William; John; David; Stephen** and **Daniel**, twins; and **Samuel**. **William** died in Cumberland County in 1794; **Samuel** in 1778; of **John** and **David** there is no authentic record; **Stephen** died in Carlisle, Pa., in 1794; **Daniel**, in Shippensburg, Pa., in 1791.

The line of descent from the original **Thomas Duncan**, who came from either Aberdeenshire or Perthshire, to the subject of the present biography, was as follows: (1) **Thomas Duncan**, who emigrated; (2) **Stephen**, son of **Thomas**; (3) **Thomas**, grandson of **Thomas**; (4) **Robert C.**, great-grandson of **Thomas**; (5) **Benjamin S.**, great-great-grandson of **Thomas**; (G) **P. F.**, great-great-great-grandson of **Thomas**. **Robert C. Duncan** and **Stephen Duncan**, were sons of the celebrated **Judge Thomas Duncan**, of Carlisle, the third in order of the above genealogical table. **Robert C.**, the grandfather of **Mr. P. F. Duncan**, removed to Duncan's Island about the year 1806. Here he spent the remainder of his days, and it is from him that this beautiful and well known island takes

its name. His brother **Stephen** resided in Perry County, near the mouth of Shermans Creek, and was the founder of the Duncannon forges. He subsequently removed to the city of Washington, where he died. **Robert C. Duncan** had two sons; one of these was **Dr. Thomas Duncan**, who was born in 1814, and died on Duncan's Island in 1879. He was one of the most prominent medical practitioners of Pennsylvania; and was conspicuous as a member of the State legislature. The other son of **Robert C.** was **Benjamin S. Duncan**. Born on Duncan's Island in 1816, he went in his boyhood to Arkansas, where he resided until 1858. He was a prominent politician, and held the office of sheriff, and other responsible positions. He dealt extensively in real estate. Among his operations in this line was laying out a suburb of Arkadelphia, which is still known as **Duncan's Addition**. When he finally left Arkansas, in 1858, he returned to Duncan's Island, and engaged in farming, residing in the house in which he had been born, until his death, which occurred in February, 1870.

Benjamin S. Duncan was twice married. His first bride was **Elizabeth Carpenter**. They had two children, one of whom, **Mary**, widow of the late **David Heikel**, resides at Ocean Grove, N. J. **Mr. Duncan's** second marriage was with **Priscilla Miller**; they had five children, of whom two died in childhood. Three survive, as follows: **Patrick F.**; **Jane M. (Mrs. William Wills)**, of Duncannon; and **Miss Priscilla M.**

Mr. P. F. Duncan passed through a full course of studies in the public schools of his vicinity, after which he entered the office of the Duncannon Iron Works in a responsible position, which he filled most acceptably and with the greatest fidelity for ten years. Upon the institution of the Duncannon National Bank, January 1, 1890, he was appointed to his present office, he being at the same time a stockholder in the bank. He has been a resident of Duncannon since 1883.

Patrick F. Duncan was married at Duncannon to **Ida May**, daughter of **William J.** and **Hannah Stewart**. **Mr. Stewart** was for many years manager of the Duncannon Iron Company's Store, and a leading and influential member of the Presbyterian Church. **Mr. Stewart** is deceased; **Mrs. Stewart** still resides in Duncannon. **Mr. and Mrs. Duncan** have six children: **Benjamin Stiles**; **William Stewart**; **Helen Huling**, deceased; **Priscilla May**; **Patrick F., Jr.**; and **Jean Stewart**.

Mr. Duncan and his family attend the Presbyterian Church. **Mr. Duncan** is an advocate of the Democratic Party. Honored and respected by all his fellow-citizens, he has been entrusted with many important and responsible positions, in addition to his situation as bank cashier. Among these may be mentioned those of director of the Duncannon National Bank; of the Perry County Railroad; and of the Trout Run Water Company. With an ancestry distinguished for generations for the responsible positions they have ably filled, **Mr. Duncan** has apparently started on a career which promises to add new laurels to the brilliant record of his progenitors.

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