

Genealogical and Biographical Record of Will County Illinois, Containing Biographies of Well Known Citizens of the Past and Present; Biographical Publishing Company, Chicago, 1900

S. Finley Duncan, D. D. S. In his chosen profession **Dr. Duncan** has a high standing in Joliet. His constant study of the science of dentistry (for he has ever been a student), his extensive practice giving him a thorough practical information, and his acknowledged skill in the treatment of cases of an unusually intricate nature have given him a just prominence among the people of his home city. Since he opened his office in Joliet in 1888 he has established an important and constantly increasing practice, having retained his former patrons at Wilmington as well as gained many new ones. Every improvement in the science of dental surgery (and there have been many of recent years) receives his thoughtful consideration, and, if approved upon study, is adopted in his practice. He is therefore thoroughly up-to-date in his work. He has been a contributor to the literature of his profession, although the demands of his practice are such that he has little time to devote to the preparation of articles. Since 1881 he has been a member of the Illinois State Dental Society, before which he has been a clinician and has also read papers that attracted considerable attention. At one time he held office as vice-president of the association.

The first member of this branch of the **Duncan family** in America was **James Duncan**, who came from Scotland and settled in Perry County, Pa. His son, **Samuel**, was born in Pennsylvania, where he followed the miller's trade in early life. In 1854 he moved to Indiana, settling first in a county adjoining Henry County, to which he subsequently removed. He rented a grist and saw-mill which was operated by water power, and after some years bought the property. In politics he was a staunch Republican. A prominent Methodist, he was an officer in both church and Sunday school. In the Odd Fellows' order he took the highest degrees. At the time of his death, in 1895, he was eighty-five years of age. He was twice married, and by his first wife had four daughters, one of whom, **Hannah J. Duncan**, survives; while by his second wife, **Margaret Duffy**, of Ohio, he had five children, four of whom attained mature years, viz.: **Davidson D.**, who is engaged in the milling business at the old homestead; **John Wesley**, who died in infancy; **Beverly W.**, a business man of Markle, Ind.; **Joseph Trimble**, a farmer and stock-raiser of Henry County, Ind.; and **S. Finley**, of this sketch.

In Knightstown, Ind., near where **Dr. Duncan** was born December 2, 1856, he received his education and passed the years of youth. He was eighteen when he took up the study of dentistry. After spending two years in practical work in an office he entered the dental department of the University of Michigan, class of 1877. He began practice at Lewisville, Ind., but in February, 1879, came to Will County and settled in Wilmington, building up a good practice in the ensuing years. For the purpose of taking a special course of study, in 1887 he went to Chicago, where he studied in the Chicago College of Dental Surgery, from which he took the degree of D. D. S. In September, 1888; he came to Joliet, where he erected a residence in 1898, and owns other real estate. From boyhood he has been identified with the Presbyterian Church. He was an elder of the congregation at Wilmington, and for several years served as Sunday school superintendent. October 18, 1881, he married **Louise**, daughter of **Bryan Fisher**, of Wilmington. They have two children, **Margaret Louise** and **Hubert Fisher**.

