

Legrand Duncan

Legrand Joseph Colville Duncan was born November 1, 1818, in Blount County, Tennessee. In 1834, he moved with his family to Walker County, Georgia and helped his father build their family home. He achieved an 8th grade certificate and taught school in Alabama and Mississippi.

With the discovery of gold in California in 1849, Legrand migrated west settling in Mariposa County, California. Not finding his fortune there, he arrived in Portland and in 1850 established a land claim in Washington County. He worked there teaching school. In 1851, he decided to move south, arriving in the Rogue River Valley, and settling a land claim along Bear Creek. In 1852, when gold was discovered in Rich Gulch near Jacksonville, Legrand mined again, in Josephine County and along Jackson Creek.

In 1857, Legrand served as a member of the convention that wrote the constitution for the State of Oregon. His signature is recorded on the original document. During that summer, he married Permelia Lusk Thompson. In 1858, he was elected Sheriff of Jackson County and was reelected in 1860. However, due to poor health, he resigned in 1861.

A son, Marvel, named for Legrand's father, was born to the Duncan family in 1860. Sadly, the boy only lived for six months.

Legrand was elected County Judge in 1866, served for four years, then declined re-nomination. In 1866, the family built their new home on South First Street in Jacksonville, which still stands today.

With the passing of Judge Shipley in 1871, Legrand was appointed County Judge by then Governor Grover to fill the vacancy until the election of 1872. Judge Duncan died on October 26, 1886.