



Chapman Duncan mistakenly surveyed a ditch in Virgin City that had the intake lower than the outlet. Hence, song,

*“Way Down South in Pocketville,
Where Duncan Dug His Ditch Uphill”.*

August 30, 1929
Duncan's Retreat Pear Tree
Leni Brinkerhoff (2016)



https://books.google.com/books?id=46GHv3A0fgUC&pg=PR7&dq=geological+survey%E2%80%99s+tertiary+history+of+the+grand+canyon+district+1882&hl=en&newbks=1&newbks_redir=0&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjIk_zVmf-b9AhUgIzQIHVYsDqUQ6AF6BAgLEAI#v=onepage&q=geological%20survey%E2%80%99s%20tertiary%20history%20of%20the%20grand%20canyon%20district%201882&f=false

William Henry Holmes produced this chromolithograph for Clarence Dutton's Geological Survey's *Tertiary History of the Grand Canyon District* published 1882. Holmes had joined the Hayden survey in 1872 replacing Thomas Moran. Holmes approach to illustration was more scientific than Moran's. In 1875, he studied ancestral Puebloan culture in Utah. His models of ancient ruins were exhibited at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876.



Smithsonian Butte - Valley of the Virgen



Alice Parker Isom Home and Store

J.L. Crawford Collection

https://issuu.com/utah10/docs/volume_10_1942/s/68447 Memoirs

UHQ 1942

My great grandparents were Richard and Alice Easton Parker. They were parents of six children, my grandfather John Parker, their second son, married Ellen Hesking. They were the parents of ten children: Isabelle, Robert, Richard, Roger, Nancy, John, William, Ellen, Alice and Mary. They were all born in Lancashire, England. My father was the fourth son, John Parker Jr. He with his parents, one brother and three sisters were among the first to embrace the Gospel in a foreign land and were baptized by Heber C. Kimball in 1838. Grandfather and grandmother came to America in the first ship that was chartered for L.D.S. emigrants. They settled in

Just before we left home President Young came to Virgin and organized a branch of the United Order, with father as president and my husband as vice president and secretary. We worked in the Order two years, then it was dissolved. We were not prepared to live it, or for some reason we went back to the old way. To us it seemed better. My husband worked with the men all



On April 7, 1884, Alice's father-in-law died.

May 1905

On January 17, 1885, William, her eldest son-in-law died.

On October 17, 1885, Alice Parker Isom's two year old daughter died.

On December 6, 1885, Alice's husband George Isom died at 39 years old.

Also, on December 6, 1885, George her second eldest son-in-law died.

On December 21, 1885 Alice gave birth to her ninth child Sarah Laverna.

On March 24, 1886 her father John Parker died at 74 years old.

On February 24, 1888 her mother Ellen Briggs Parker died at 79 years old.

Alice was appointed manager of the store after her father died. In the fall of 1894 some of the store's stockholders became jealous. They thought she was doing too well. Those stockholders pulled out and built a new store. Within a year the new store failed with \$1700 in debt. Three years later Alice returned to Virgin and restarted the store.

In 1907 there was a big oil excitement in Virgin. Alice took in boarders and purchased a sawmill. Over 500 men depended upon her for supplies. When the boom busted in 1908, she was left with \$5,000 in debts.

July 1902

Articles of incorporation have been filed by the La Verkin Oil and Mining Company, which will do a general mining business with a capital of \$300,000. Its principal office will be at St. George and its directors and officers are as follows: Robert C. Lund, president; Samuel Judd, vice president; A. B. Andrus, secretary and treasurer; A. F. McDonald, Grant Snyder, James Andrus, E. M. McArthur and Thomas Judd, directors.

OIL IN WASHINGTON COUNTY.
Californians Expected to Drill Wells in Virgin City Field.
Owners of oil lands in the vicinity of Virgin City are feeling encouraged over the prospect for the development of their properties and of ascertaining without any cash outlay on their part whether or not petroleum exists there in paying quantities. If it does, then William Lange, Jr., of San Francisco will pocket the deeds to every alternate section all through the heart of the section, says the St. George Advocate.
During his recent visit to this part of the country Mr. Lange entered into an agreement with the Rio Virgin Oil & Refining company and the La Verkin Oil and Mining company for the development of their properties, the conditions of which are as follows: Within ninety days of the execution of the bond, some thirty days of which have already elapsed, Mr. Lange agrees to have suitable oil derricks on the ground of the first named company. When this is done the company agrees to place deeds to every alternate quarter section of their holdings in escrow with McCormick & Co., at Salt Lake. Thereupon work is to commence upon the ground of the company and be prosecuted without needless delay, either until oil in paying quantities shall have been struck, or until 1,000 feet in depth shall have been reached, when the aforesaid deeds are to be released to Mr. Lange. Within thirty days thereafter work is to commence upon the holdings of the La Verkin Oil and Mining company, and be prosecuted under like conditions. Dr. Aefflick and associates, who also have large holdings, agree to deed every alternate quarter section of their ground to Mr. Lange in the event of his striking oil on the holdings of the Rio Virgin company.
Information of a reliable nature has reached the parties interested in relation to the financial standing of Mr. Lange and his ability to carry out his part of the programme. The information is to the effect that not only is Mr. Lange possessed of considerable wealth himself, but he represents heavy financial interests.
Better indications for oil are rarely ever met with on the surface than are to be found in the Virgin district, and if Mr. Lange is the sort of person he is represented to be it will be only a matter of a few months before the locators will have some definite knowledge of the conditions below the surface of the ground.

VIRGEN BENCH OIL FIELDS A PERMANENT



OIL EXPERT ON VIRGEN FIELD

Wealthy Operator and Field Expert of Wide Experience Talks of Conditions.

P. W. Dunn, a wealthy mining operator of Nevada and an oil operator of wide experience in the different fields of the United States, is in the city with his family after having made a careful investigation of the Virgin City oil fields. During his trip he spent up all conditions, even to the roads leading into the region, the cost of transportation, and living accommodations, and he returns an enthusiastic on the country. And a wide, unassuming confidence, but as an individual who was able to take the real situation of the region and draw conclusions from the knowledge of a man, remaining quiet. The following statement from Mr. Dunn will be read with our interest, not only by those who are already interested in the field, but by all men everywhere, as they will recognize that some one is taking who knows and who is making an attempt to make something of the same particular combination of to find the source of some particular section of the field.

District is Fine Region.

"Virgin City is a settlement with about 300 inhabitants, situated on the Virgin river, at the junction of the north branch and the main stream. It is really a beautiful spot in a fertile valley that can easily be extensively irrigated when all the waters are used. The town itself is well situated with trees, with water running on both sides of the street. There are also good schools and churches and a very friendly, hospitable class of people. The place is now much in need of a lively spirit, machine shop, oil refinery supply house, large hotel, stores, and in fact everything required in a new oil field.

"There is plenty of timber for logs in the country, but not quite enough to saw the logs. As shown showing in logs round, for a time, and they are now timber in. Virgin and vicinity of petroleum are not to be lost. Men having good minds should go into the country, as there will be several years of work for oil.

Formation is Described.

"The formation of the country for miles is a series of alternating strata of sand, lime and shales, varying from hundreds of feet to thousands down to narrow layers. At intervals this formation is cut through by deep canyons leading to the river. In these canyons the strata formation is clearly shown, ranging from 100 feet strata to 1,000 feet. From some of these strata at different altitudes, oil seeps out. These rocks and fossils are shown. I noted one of them in a distance of fifteen miles. The formation dips about 10 feet to the north in the northwest, and the seepings show at different altitudes from 50 to 60 feet above the others at from two to six miles in distance. This shows beyond a doubt that there is both a shallow and a deep field.



The cliffs shown in the top picture are of the Permian age, overlying the upper carboniferous rock. It is between these two series of rock that the several strata of oil sands lie.

Just below the general view are shown well No. 1 of the Virgin River Oil & Development company, and the oil pond which formed when the well came in.

Below is a bit of the country surrounding the well, looking northeast.

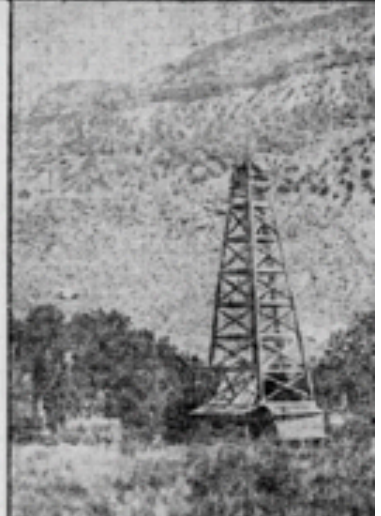
by heavy work from Marysville to the field is eighty-five miles. The Salt Lake, Los Angeles and San Pedro (throughout) can get an easy line in from land to sixty-five miles. A new line can be built to the latter end in sixty miles, and to Salt Lake in 100 miles.

"The worst drawback to operations down there right now is the lack of teams and some heavy machinery. There are the facts regarding the new Utah oil discovery and they will be proved to fact as men and money can do it."

Discovered in 1902.

"The history of the development of the Virgin Bench oil fields begins with the discovery in 1902 in the Virgin River canyon of oil sands corresponding and depending oil. Locations were made and an attempt was made to interest capital to drill the field. Finally in the spring of this year (Edwards) and Edwards men took hold, placed a rig on the field north of Virgin City and commenced operations. The well was quickly put down. The ground drifts rapidly and little water was encountered, there being only thirty-seven feet of surface to the well.

"The oil secured by inserting the oil work gathered at the surface is shown by analysis to consist of 40 per cent. gas oil, 40 per cent. gasoline, 10 per cent. kerosene, 10 per cent. fuel oil and 1 per cent. tar and waste. The oil has a gravity of 30. The oil from the well is similar in appearance and is considerably of the same high grade.





Sheep's Bridge over Virgin River

Virgin Corrals

