

Isaac Duffin

Isaac Duffin was born 31 December 1826 in Bankhouse, East Crompton, Lancashire, England.¹ He was the fourth of ten children of James Duffin and Margaret Gledhill. His father died when he was eleven years old. The next year, the family joined the Mormon Church. Margaret and her seven children were living in Prestwich, Lancashire, England, in 1841.² She began working at merchandising to support her children and stepchildren, and Isaac was a willing helper. Isaac was described as five-feet seven inches tall, strong and stocky, weighing 15 pounds with blue eye, light hair and clear rosy skin.³

Isaac served a served mission in England from 1843-1848. In 1848, he met and courted Mary Fielding. He soon sailed for America and lived near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, working for funds to send for his brother and sweetheart. Isaac and Mary were married 8 June 1849 at Manayunk, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the day she arrived in America.⁴ They had eleven children.

Isaac and Mary went west, Mary by boat to St Louis, Isaac and his brother by land, meeting her there. He purchased a covered wagon and they crossed the plains to the Great Salt Lake Valley in 1850.⁵ Isaac built an adobe house and worked as a brickmaker in Salt Lake City.⁶ The next year, he was enlisted in J A Hunter's Company for one month.⁷ He and nine others were sent to retrieve the Church cattle from Sanpete County. While camped at Clover Creek, Juab, Utah Territory, they skirmished with Indians and he was wounded in one knee, shattering the knee cap, which caused him problems all his life.⁸

The family lived in Ogden, Weber, Utah Territory, in 1856, then moved to Salt Lake City. Isaac was called on a mission in 1853, to Fort Supply, a re-supply station for those travelling west.⁹ In 1860, Isaac was a laborer, living with Mary and six children in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah Territory.¹⁰ He was actively engaged in building roads until 1862 when he was called to engineer the building of roads in Dixie and settled in Toquerville, Washington, Utah.¹¹ In 1866, he enlisted and served six months in 1866 as 3rd Lt in J D L Pearce's Company of the Utah Territorial Militia.¹²

In 1862, Isaac was called to go to Dixie and serve as a road engineer. He sold his house and all his holdings in Salt Lake City and moved his family to Toquerville, Juab, Utah Territory. He started a mercantile business and engaged in stock raising and farming. He also freighted produce to Pioche, Nevada. He sponsored a silver mine (Duffin mine) five miles southwest of Toquerville, near the Virgin River. He shipped his ore to Pioche until the mills opened at Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory.¹³ He made grindstones from slabs quarried from the famous Tecumseh ledge in Silver Reef¹⁴, hauling some of them to Pioche.¹⁵ It is claimed that it was one of his grindstones that included silver ore and led to the discovery at Silver Reef.¹⁶

¹ Veterans of Federal Service buried in Utah, Territorial to 1966; Isaac Duffin, Mormon Pioneer, 1826-1883 (*Familysearch.org*).

² England and Wales Census, 1841.

³ Isaac Duffin, Mormon Pioneer, 1826-1883 (*Familysearch.org*)

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Ibid, *Ogden Herald*, 22 March 1883; Utah Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel Database, 1847-1868.

⁶ United States Census, 1850.

⁷ Veterans of Federal Service buried in Utah, Territorial to 1966.

⁸ Utah History, Soldier, Veteran & Prisoner Rolls & Lists, History of Utah, by Orson F. Whitney, Vol 1, p. 45; *The Tennessean*, 22 October 1853, p. 2; *The Times-Picayune* [New Orleans], 16 October 1853, p. 5.

⁹ Isaac Duffin, Mormon Pioneer, 1826-1883 (*Familysearch.org*)

¹⁰ United States Census, 1860.

¹¹ *Ogden Herald*, 22 March 1883; Isaac Duffin, Mormon Pioneer, 1826-1883 (*Familysearch.org*)

¹² Veterans of Federal Service buried in Utah, Territorial to 1966.

¹³ Isaac Duffin, Mormon Pioneer, 1826-1883 (*Familysearch.org*)

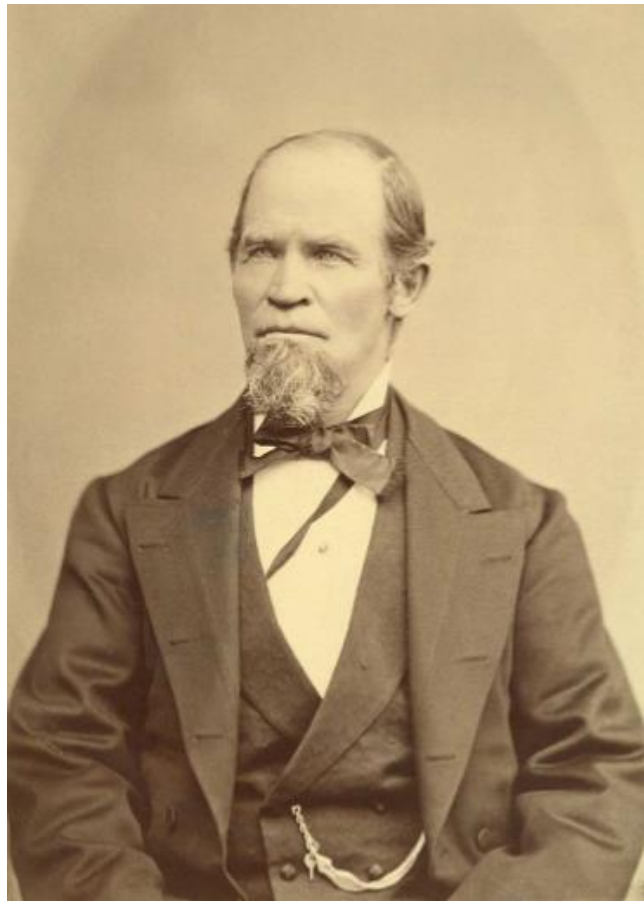
¹⁴ Memories of Silver Reef, by Mark A. Pendleton, in *Utah Historical Quarterly*, 1930, p. 105.

¹⁵ Saga of Three Towns, by Marietta M. Mariger, 1951, p. 100.

¹⁶ A History of Toquerville, by Wesley Larsen, 1995, Vol 5, p. 2.

Isaac was made a naturalized citizen in 1865¹⁷, and served one term in the Territorial Legislature of Utah Territory.¹⁸ In 1870, he was a farmer, living with Mary and eight children in Toquerville, Kane, Utah Territory.¹⁹ He served as Kane County treasurer in 1874.²⁰ In 1880, he was a farmer, living with Mary and five children.²¹ He was an authorized agent for the Salt Lake Daily and semi-weekly Herald newspapers.²² He was called on a mission to England, after eight months he returned due to ill health.²³ He operated the Duffin Store in Leeds.²⁴

Isaac died 26 February 1883 in Toquerville, Washington, Utah Territory. He was buried in the Toquerville Cemetery.²⁵ When he died at age 56, it was said that he had done more than the average man could do in 80 years: rancher, farmer, stockman, merchant, miner, and builder of Utah roads.²⁶ Mary died 1905 in Toquerville and is buried with him.



Isaac Duffin (Image from Isaac Duffin, Mormon Pioneer, 1826-1883)

¹⁷ *Leavenworth Times* [Kansas], 23 July 1875, p. 1.

¹⁸ Isaac Duffin, Mormon Pioneer, 1826-1883 (*Familysearch.org*)

¹⁹ United States Census, 1870.

²⁰ *Gazeteer of Utah*, 1874, p. 70.

²¹ United States Census, 1880.

²² *Salt Lake Herald*, 15 January 1880, p. 4).

²³ Isaac Duffin, Mormon Pioneer, 1826-1883 (*Familysearch.org*); *Salt Lake Herald*, 10 July 1881, p. 3; *Millennial Star*, 3 January 1881, p. 122.

²⁴ *Saga of Three Towns*, by Marietta M. Mariger, 1951, p. 25.

²⁵ Utah Obituaries from Utah Newspapers, 1850-2005; *Millennial Star*, Vol 45, p. 272.

²⁶ Isaac Duffin, Mormon Pioneer, 1826-1883 (*Familysearch.org*)



Isaac and Mary Duffin (Image from Isaac Duffin, Mormon Pioneer, 1826-1883)



Isaac Duffin home in Toquerville, Mary Duffin on porch
(Image from Isaac Duffin, Mormon Pioneer, 1826-1883)

WEST		5 Robt. Collins		6 David Ellsworth		7 Thos. J. Brown		8 Osman M. Duell	
		4 Nancy W. Baldwin		3 Jas. K. Baldwin		2 Christopher Jacobs		1 Thos. R. Forsyth	
WEST		5 Wm. C. Moody		6 Chas. D. Burnham		7 Wm. Sear		8 Andrus Woods	
WEST		4 Sam'l. McBride		3 Thos. Judd		2 Nathan Tanner		1 Thurston Simpson	
WEST		5 Wm. H. Kimbell		6 Benj. T. Mitchell		7 Benj. T. Mitchell		8 Robt. T. Barton	
WEST		4 Jas. W. Norton		3 Hamilton M. Wallace		2 Pauline H. Allred		1 Nathaniel V. Jones	
WEST		5 Jos. L. Rawlins		6 Martha A. Noah		7 Washington N. Gooke		8 Edward D. Wade	
		4 Christopher Markley		3 Isaac Duffin		2 Isaac Duffin		1 Dan'l. Grenig	
WEST		5 Levi Emery		6 Thos. R. Forsyth		7 Robt. Harris		8 John W. Coward	
WEST		4 John Alger		3 Henry P. Richards		2 Wm. Gonyea		1 Wm. Emery	
WEST		5 Sarah Ogden		6 Jos. Goodrich		7 Elizabeth W. Bailey		8 John M. Hockaday	
		4 John M. Hockaday		3 J. E. Armstrong		2 Thos. M. Abbott		1 Amos P. Stone	
WEST		5 Thos. Heath		6 John Holmes		7 Andrew Holmes		8 Edwin Heath	
WEST		4 John Heath		3 John Heath		2 John Heath		1 John Heath	
WEST		5 Newel Bullen		6 Ira N. Spalding		7 Willard McMullen		8 Wm. S. Gibbs	
		4 Henry Thomas		3 Elias B. Stockton		2 Morgan Phelps		1 Benj. Waldron	
WEST		5 Old Fort		6 Pioneer Square		7 Pioneer Square		8 Pioneer Square	
		4 Pioneer Square		3 Pioneer Square		2 Pioneer Square		1 Pioneer Square	

Plat of Salt Lake City with Isaac's two plots marked with a blue "1"
 (Image from faculty.arch.utah.edu/batholomew/Think_Tank/FullDoc.pdf)



(Image from Familysearch.org)