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HISTORY OF HENRY MOWER JR.

BORN*22 Nov. 1824, in Providence Township, Bedford, Penn.

Died--20 Feb. 1902- Fairview, Sanpete Co. Utah

Married - Susan Strong- in Nauvoo-1845-

Also married 5 other wives in Utah

Came to Utah--Oct. 1849- Silas Richard Company.

Material for history collected by a great great granddaughter-

Alice Anne Mower- Nibley Park Camp

South Center Salt Lake County.

DUP PREVIEW PAGE

HISTORY OF HENRY MOWER Jr.

Compiled by Marilyn M. Froerer

Reasearch has revealed that the Mower name is prevalent in England, Switzerland, and Germany. It is also spelled many different ways. One Richard Mower is believed to be the first one to emigrate to America. The earliest known Mower of our family is an Andrew Mower of Maryland, who had a son Michael, who is the father of our Henry Mower Sr., the father of Henry Mower Jr. of whom this history is about.

Henry Jr. was born 22 November 1824 in Providence Township, Bedford County, Pennsylvania. He was the son of Henry Mower Sr. and Mary Amick. He was the fourth child in a family of ten children, namely: Catherine who died in infancy, Mahala, Leah, John, Susan, Mary who died in infancy, Ezra, George Caldwell, and Hannahette.

When young Henry was twelve years old, in September 1836, his parents joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We know he was also baptized at this time but no record is available proving the fact. About 1838 the family moved to Springville, Sangamon County, Illinois. This was before the Saints were driven out of Missouri.

One story handed down in the family is that while living in Sangamon County, Henry Jr., then the eldest son, drove a carriage for Abraham Lincoln. This was while Lincoln was a member of that State Legislature and it is not known whether it was before or after Lincoln's marriage to Mary Todd on 4 November 1842.

It was about 1843 when Henry Sr. moved his family to Nauvoo, Hancock, Illinois. Mob violence was quite severe at that time. Also living in Nauvoo at this time was a lovely young Mormon girl by the name of Susan Strong. She, with her parents Jacob and Sarah Hill Strong, had joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints along with other family members in Strongtown, Indiana County, Pennsylvania, and migrated west to be with the Mormons in Nauvoo. After a short courtship, Henry Jr. and Susan were married on 11 December 1845, in Nauvoo. When the temple was completed, they were endowed

on the third day of February 1846.

Soon after this the Mormons were driven out of Nauvoo into the plains of Iowa. Council Bluffs, known as Kanesville at that time, Iowa, was one of the places where the Saints gathered until they could journey on to the Rocky mountains in the west. Henry Jr. was especially tender with Susan at this time as she was expecting their first child. The male child, William Henry, was born 24 September 1846 in Kanesville, but much to their sorrow he died the following day. While still in Kanesville their second male child, John Albert (my great grandfather) was born 3 August 1847. Henry Jr.'s mother, Mary Amick Mower, died in Kanesville in 1846.

In 1849, the Mower family were able to join the Silas Richards Company, along with Susan's family, and make the long trek to the Salt Lake Valley. They arrived at their destination in October 1849. Henry's father and his family came later and settled in Springville.

The Fort in Pioneer Square was a haven of rest for the Mower family that first winter. As soon as possible, Henry provided Susan and their small son with a home outside the fort. He had employment as a hotel manager and also sold provisions, etc. to the travelers going west to California. Some say that his store was located in Union, Salt Lake, Utah.

They were grateful when a daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, was added to their family on 10 October 1851.

Henry thought to better his living conditions by moving his family closer to his father who lived in Springville, Utah, Utah. Here he ran the first threshing machine in that area. To make his records in the Church more accurate, he was rebaptized on 3 May 1855 in Springville by William Huggins. For some reason or other, however, he moved his family back to Union Fort. Perhaps it was because of the love and respect he had for the Captain of the plains, Silas Richards who was at that time Bishop of Union Fort, which

attracted them to that locality. It might also have been due to the ill health of Susan which caused them to move back to a place where she could be taken care of by those who loved her, as she died on 17 July 1856 at the home of their dear friend, Keziah Frances Brady Richards, wife of Silas Richards. Susan was sorrowfully and lovingly laid to rest in the Salt Lake City cemetery.

Henry allowed Susan's parents to take five-year-old Sarah Elizabeth into their home to be raised to maturity. However, Henry kept his eight-year-old son, John Albert, with him until John reached manhood and went on his own.

On 28 April 1857, Henry married his second wife, Alice Chappel Burton, in the Endowment House and they had three children: Henry III, Charles Albert, and Edwin Parley. Henry's third wife was a widow, Elizabeth Hall Bills whom he married 24 August 1857(?), by whom he also had three sons plus an adopted daughter: George Harrison, Ezra William, John Lisbon, and Emma Jane. He married his fourth wife, Lois Woodward Jordan on 5 July 1863, but this marriage only lasted a short time ending in divorce. His fifth wife, Lady Ruvina Jane Mount Siler, was married to him on 2 June 1866 in the Endowment House and they had four children plus two from a former marriage: Cynthia, Amasa, Lula, and Lydia plus Samuel and Hyrum. Henry married his sixth wife, Amy or Emma Amelia Jones on 12 December 1878 in the Endowment House and she bore him only one son, Sidney Willis Mower.

In 1861 or 1862, Henry took part of his family to Fairview, Sanpete County, Utah, which was a new locality just being settled for farming and stock raising.

Almost from the first the numerous Indians of that area presented a problem to the settlers. They took everything they could lay their hands to around the homes as well as stealing livestock on the ranges. But when a scuffle between an Indian and white man in Manti in 1864 happened, it started the Black Hawk War which was a very serious confrontation. Henry

took an active part in the war, being ready to go at a minutes notice in defense of the settlers and their livestock. He could ill afford to lose a nice team of horses to the marauders. Finally, peace was once again found in the area for the Saints.

In those early days of Fairview, there wasn't much that could be done to earn money. Most of the financial needs of the people were met by trading work or produce for one's needs. However, carrying the Government mail to the towns up and down the valley was a job that did pay cash. Henry was fortunate to get this mail contract and with the aid of his sons, served the people faithfully for a number of years in this position. He was lovingly called "Uncle Henry" by all his acquaintances in Sanpete valley.

He also served a short term in the penitentiary because of his polygamous marriages. He was living with his fifth wife, Ruvina, at the time of his death on 20 February 1902 in Fairview. He was seventy-seven years of age.

This man, who was my great, great grandfather, had been one of the faithful servants of His Church and was good to his family. He was honored and respected by his numerous posterity which now numbers over two thousand.