

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY
DAUGHTERS OF UTAH PIONEERS

OCT 29 2010

PIONEER TITLE PAGE

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DATE PIONEER ARRIVED Oct. 12, 1849 NAME OF COMPANY Silas Richards
NAME OF PIONEER Henry Mower, Jr.
(COMPLETE NAME INCLUDING ALL MARRIED NAMES OF WOMEN)
BIRTH DATE AND PLACE Nov. 22, 1824 Providence Township, Bedford Co, PA
DEATH DATE AND PLACE Feb. 20, 1902 Fairview, Sanpete, UT
SPOUSES (1) Susan Strong (2) Elizabeth Hall Bills
(3) Alice Chappel Burton (4) Lois Woodward
PARENTS: (FATHER) (5) Ruvina Jane Mount Siler (6) Amy Amelia Jones Gatlack
Henry Mower, Sr.
(MOTHER) Mary Amick Mower

WRITTEN BY Cleo Mower Spencer SUBMITTED BY June Renne' Altop Wallace
Company Name Sacramento CA Camp Pony Express

SOURCES OF INFORMATION
Histories written by descendants.
History of Fairview
The Mormon Trek West
Essentials of Church History

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June R. Altop Wallace

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A Sketch of the Life of Henry Mower, Jr.

Henry Mower, Jr. was born Nov. 22, 1824 in Providence Township, Bedford County, Pennsylvania, the 4th child of Henry Mower, Sr. and Mary Amick Mower. Ten children were born to Henry, Sr. and Mary: Catherine (who died in infancy), Mahala, Leah, Henry, Jr., John, Susan, Mary (who died in infancy), Ezra, George Caldwell, and Hannahette.

In September of 1836, Henry's family joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The family moved to Springfield, Sangamon Co., Illinois about 1838 to be nearer the main body of the Church. One story handed down in the family is that while living in Springfield, Henry, Jr. drove a carriage for Abraham Lincoln, while he served as a member of the State Legislature.

The family moved about 1843 to Iowa, just across the river from Nauvoo, Illinois. It was shortly after this that the Prophet Joseph Smith and his brother, Hyrum were killed in Carthage Jail on June 27, 1844, while being held for trial.

Henry met and courted a young girl named Susan Strong. Susan was the daughter of Jacob and Sarah Hill Strong and was born May 3, 1825 at Strongtown, Indiana County, Pennsylvania. Erastus Snow preached the gospel to them and they were baptized on October 20, 1836. Susan and her parents and sister, Sarah, and brothers, William and John Albert, moved to Nauvoo, Illinois, arriving March 18, 1840. Henry and Susan were married in Nauvoo on Dec. 11, 1845.

The Nauvoo temple was rushed to completion because of the increasing mob violence and their forcing the Saints to leave Illinois. Many saints received their endowment in the Nauvoo temple before they left and Henry and Susan received theirs on Feb. 3, 1846.

On Feb. 4, 1846, the first group of Saints crossed the Mississippi River into Iowa, leaving their beloved Nauvoo behind. Temporary settlements were set up along the way. On April 24, 1846, one such settlement, Garden Grove, was established on the Grand River. Henry, Susan and their parents and families were a part of this first group. Some families stayed to plant crops for those to follow, but Henry and Susan moved on to Kaneshville (now Council Bluffs), Iowa. They remained here for 2 years.

It was here in Kaneshville that their first child, William Henry, was born on Sept. 24, 1846, but to their sorrow he died the following day. Henry's mother, Mary Amick Mower, died at Winter Quarters in 1846. Their second child, John Albert, was born here on Aug. 3, 1848.

Henry, Susan and their young son, John Albert, along with her parents and other family members were assigned to the Silas Richards company for the move West. They left Kaneshville, July 10, 1849, arriving in the Salt Lake Valley on October 12, 1849. They spent their first winter in the Fort at Pioneer Square. They soon made a home outside the Fort. Henry had employment as a hotel manager and also sold provisions to travelers going west to California.

Henry took a second wife, on July 24, 1851. Her name was Elizabeth Hall Bills and she was the widow of John Bills and had a young son, Thomas Wesley Bills. Henry's wife, Susan, gave birth to a little daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, on Oct. 10, 1851. Henry's father and family came to Salt Lake in 1851.

In 1854, Henry decided to move his family south to Springville, in Utah county, where his father was living. Henry, Jr. bought and ran the first threshing machine in that area. Susan's health grew steadily worse, so Henry moved her back to Fort Union where her parents lived and she died on July 17, 1856. Susan's parents took little 5 yr. old, Sarah Elizabeth, to live with them. Their 8 yr. old son lived with Henry and his second wife Elizabeth.

Henry and Elizabeth's first son, George Harrison, was born at Fort Union on June 25, 1852. Two more sons would be born in Springville, William Ezra on Nov. 10, 1854 and John Lisbon on Jan. 9, 1859. They adopted a daughter, Emma Jane, who was born in Salt Lake City, Nov. 4, 1876.

Henry took a 3rd wife, a single girl that was 19 years of age named Alice Chappel Burton. She had come from England with her mother, Harriet Bradshaw Burton. They were married on April 8, 1857 and sealed to each other in the President's office by Daniel H. Wells in Salt Lake City. Plural marriage was difficult for this young girl to understand and cope with. Henry took Alice to live with him in Springville. 3 boys were born to them while they lived there. Henry Mower III was born Feb. 4, 1858, Charles Albert was born on Nov. 8, 1859 and Edwin Parley was born on Dec. 13, 1861.

It was when Edwin was but a few months old that Alice decided she could no longer endure plural marriage and they separated. She moved back to Salt Lake with the boys. Henry would stop by often to visit the boys on his frequent freight trips from Springville. On one of these trips she had the 2 oldest boys with their clothes tied up in a bandanna ready to go back to Springville with Henry. She took the youngest son and went with her brother, William, to California to live with her sister, Harriet. She said she would send the youngest, Edwin, back to him when he stopped nursing. Edwin returned to live with Henry when he was 12 years old. Records in California show that Alice died on Dec. 2, 1867.

In 1862, Henry and Elizabeth and their children moved to Fairview, Sanpete County. This was a new settlement and Henry built a log house on Main St. Sanpete County was somewhat isolated from the early routes of travel and communication. Before the transcontinental railroad was completed, the mail was carried by Pony Express from St. Joseph, MO to Salt Lake City and then on to Nephi and settlements on the south by Stage Coach. Henry had a contract with the government to meet the Stage Coach at Nephi and carry it to Manti, Ephraim and Mt. Pleasant and other settlements in between. The mail was carried between Fairview and Mt. Pleasant by Henry's sons, who were mere lads. They rode on horseback to deliver the mail. Every traveler in the Sanpete County was familiar with "Uncle Henry" as he was lovingly called. Henry also ran a small farm and ran a small grocery store in Fairview for a time.

On July 11, 1863, Henry married a 4th time to a widow, Lois Woodward, but they only lived together for a short time and divorced on Aug. 3, 1866.

He married a 5th time to another widow, Lady Ruvinia Jane Mount Siler on Jun. 16, 1866. She had 2 children with her first husband, Andrew Lafayette Siler. Ruvinia bore 4 children to Henry, Cynthia Mahala born Mar. 13 1867, Amasa Nelson born Oct. 25, 1869, Lula Almira born Mar. 10, 1870 and Lydia Marie born Apr 19, 1875.

Henry's last wife was Amy Amelia Jones Garlick who had previously been married to Joseph Garlick. Henry and Amy had one child, Sidney Willis, who was born on Sept. 20, 1876.

Henry served a short time in the penitentiary for his plural marriages.

Henry died, Feb. 20, 1902 in Fairview, UT at the age of 77.