

History of William E. Mower Sr.

William E. Mower, farmer and stock raiser, son of Henry Mower and Elizabeth Hall, was born in Springville, Utah, November 10, 1854. The family moved to Fairview in 1862 where he grew to manhood.

He worked on the farm and assisted his father in freighting to Pioche, Nevada in his early life. Later he haled freight from Thistle, Utah to Fairview. We will remember one of his team, a brown mare he called "Bess." She was very much afraid of trains. Father used to tell us of how she would put her head under the neck yoke while he was loading his freight at the depot. She also showed great fear of Indians and could smell them a long distance away. For instance my sister, and Emma J. (Weller) Diamond, and adopted daughter of our Grandmother Mower, were going to a party at the Swen O. Neilsen farm about four or five miles north of our home. They were riding Bess and encountered some squaws drowning out ground dogs. Bess began to snort and shy off when they were a mile away from the squaws and when they got closer she threw the girls off and would have ran home if they had not had hold of the rope around her neck.

Father was always a lover of animals especially horses, and took great pride in training them. He was known all through the county as an expert with horses and broke many a team to work. If a man had a horse that was balky and refused to pull he could bring it to father and he would talk to it and pet it and have it pulling its share of the load right away. He would not have a horse mistreated or underfed. When Bess got old, one of his brothers wanted her to help make him a team. Father told him he could have her providing he would be kind to her. The horse came back home and Father gave her to an old friend of his whom he knew would treat her well, but this man couldn't keep her. One morning when father went out in the yard he found her standing there. She had opened the gate and come in. He went up to her and patted her and said, "Old Bess, you'll not have to leave this home again", and she did not until she died.

He was married in June 1875 to Emily R. Stewart, daughter of James Stewart and Elizabeth Hoopes at Fairview. He built a two-room log house where their first baby was born. They named him after his father---William E. Mower Jr.

In 1877 he went to Milburn where he took up a homestead about one and a half miles out of town. This place was situated in the north end of Sanpete Valley and is one

of the most picturesque spots in that part of the state. He built his one room log house down by the Sanpitch River where it runs next to the hill. There was an abundance of trout in the river and the chokecherries and serviceberries were plentiful in the summer. The deer used to come down into the fields to feed. So they were supplied with plenty of venison. Bear used to roam in the neighborhood too.

On March 21, 1878 a baby girl came to bless their home. She was named Elizabeth after both her grandmothers. One day when she was a little tot she was sitting in the doorway when a black bear passed by. Mother on seeing it ran and grabbed Elizabeth and shut the door in a hurry it frightened her so badly.

These people were really pioneers as only three or four families lived in that part and they a mile away from each other. At this time the Indians were sometimes mean and hateful towards the whites. They used to come over here from Indianola to beg. There were three old Indians that were quite mean and all the women and children were afraid of them. They were called Old Dave Indian, Chuke and Ponawatts.

In the spring of the hard winter 1880, on March 25 another baby girl was born. They named her Elmira. This had been a very trying winter to them, as the snow was so deep it covered the fences and sagebrush. A large number of their cattle died on account of not having sufficient feed. A few days after Elmira was born it began to rain and the snow melted so fast it was like a lake outside and the dirt roof house leaked so badly they had pans all over the bed to keep mother dry. However, they all got along nicely and they were very happy. Father used to love to recall these memories when they celebrated Elmira's birthdays in later years.

After this father built a new two roomed log house which had a shingle roof and a floor in it. Mother, being a fine housekeeper made this home look very neat and attractive. She took pride in knitting beautiful lace for her pillowslips and baby clothes. She also made beautiful quilts and the lace on her pillowslips was always beautifully laundered. James Byron was born in this house July 6 1882.

In this same house on New Years Eve a baby girl, Elzada, was born. That night father took the children to Mother's sister Selena's home; while he was on his way to Fairview after Grandmother Stewart and the midwife, Aunt Levee Terry. The next morning when father brought the children home, one sister remembers of grandmother

showing a large stocking knitted of clouded yarn in shades of blue that she said Santa Claus had put the baby sister in.

Shortly after this, father and mother decided he should marry another wife. So December 23 1885, he married Cecelia, daughter of Peter C. and Kirsten Jensen. They were married in the Logan Temple.

He built her a log room just north of mother's home. Their oldest son, Henry Alvin was born February 4, 1887.

While living out on the homestead, mother's children started going to school. They had to walk two miles in deep snow in the winter. Their first teacher was mother's sister, Selena, who taught in her little log room home.

In 1889 the town sight of Millburn was laid out and the people who lived on their homesteads were called to move in town. Accordingly, father started to move his houses into town. He had mother's home partly completed and she and her children were living in a log stable when father received a call to go on a mission to the Southern States. He left in October 1887 and Grandfather Stewart and Mother's brothers, George and Hyrum finished her home and moved her and her little children into it. The family was left in very destitute circumstances. Mother was in poor health as she gave birth to a baby boy, Francis the June after father left. She did house work for others and took in washings to keep her family going. She used to tell of being very destitute. One Saturday night she was washing the children's clothing after she had put them to bed, so they would be clean for Sunday. They only had one outfit. While washing Elizabeth's and Mira's dresses she discovered they were nearly worn out. She made it a matter of prayer as she always felt that the Lord would provide her with the necessities of life. The next day, Sunday, Aunt Levee Terry came to her home and brought cloth to make the little girls dresses. She said she just felt that mother needed it.

Grandmother Stewart (mother's mother) came and took care of her when Francis was born the next September grandmother passed away. This was a very hard blow to mother, as grandmother was such a comfort to her in her distressing times.

Following grandmother's death and grandfather feeling very lonely, he insisted that mother take her family of little children and move to Fairview with him which she did and put the children in school there. They lived there during the winter, but moved back

home the next spring.

She rented the farm and did what work she could for others and kept her family going until in October 1889 when father was honorably released by President William Spry and returned home.

After returning home he and brother William hauled lumber out of Cottonwood Canyon in Fairview to pay the debt incurred by his mission. He often told how the Lord blessed him in providing a way for him to meet this obligation.

While he was hauling lumber he was constantly tormented by the deputy marshals who were after the men living in polygamy. However, he became tired of dodging them and allowed them to catch him. When his trial was held in Provo he was dismissed on payment of a fine instead of going to prison.

In 1890 the Milburn Ward was organized and he was called to act as 1st counselor to Bishop James W. Stewart. Peter C. Jensen was 2nd counselor. They presided over the ward about 27 years until 1918.

Melissa was born September 26, 1890, and died May 24, 1893. Moroni was born September 24, 1893. Right after he was born we moved back on the farm in a new house father had built. He often said the place where this house stood was the dearest spot on earth to him. This house consisted of three rooms.

In the year 1896 George Hyrum was born October 24. He died the next April 27, 1897. He was always a sickly baby and died suddenly.

Between the years 1899 and 1902 father build Aunt Celia a nice home about a quarter mile on the same farm, the old homestead.

Her family consists of Henry Alvin, Kista Mahala, Clarence, Edgar, Ellis Wiley, LaRue, Mabel, Morley and Vera.

The first to get married and leave home was Elizabeth. She married A.A. Erickson August 1897.

There were three deaths in the family in the spring of 1897. Grandmother Mower passed away March 17, George Hyrum, mothers baby, April 27 and Aunt Celia's Mahala in May.

Father lived and died a faithful Latter Day Saint April 15, 1921.