

HEADQUARTERS
507TH SIGNAL COMPANY (SVC)
AIC 59

16 March 1954

SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation

TO: Mervin S Miles
Col, US 56 132 F16

1. It is with the realization of the conscientious effort and fine work you have displayed as a cook and baker which prompts the writing of this letter.
2. Though the work of a 1st cook is often monotonous in nature, you carried out your duties excellently. The characteristics of your ability and attitude have stood you well among your fellow men. It is not often possible to gain the respect of those you work with as well as those you work for. Your accomplishment of this is certainly a credit to you.
3. I am sorry to see you leave us and know that finding someone to replace you will not be an easy task. My sincere appreciation for all you have done.

Harold A. Manner

1st Lt
Mess Officer

1st Ind

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HEADQUARTERS, 507th Signal Company (Svc), APO 59, 16 March 1954

TO: Cpl Mervin S Miles, 507th Signal Company (Svc), APO 59

1. It is with sincere pleasure that I forward this letter of Commendation to you.
2. Your outstanding ability as a Baker materially increased the morale of this entire command by providing variety, wholesomeness and testiness to the daily menu.
3. It is my sincere hope that the future holds much success for you and I wish you Godspeed in your journey home.


ROBERT J. SCHMITT
Captain Sig C
Commanding Officer

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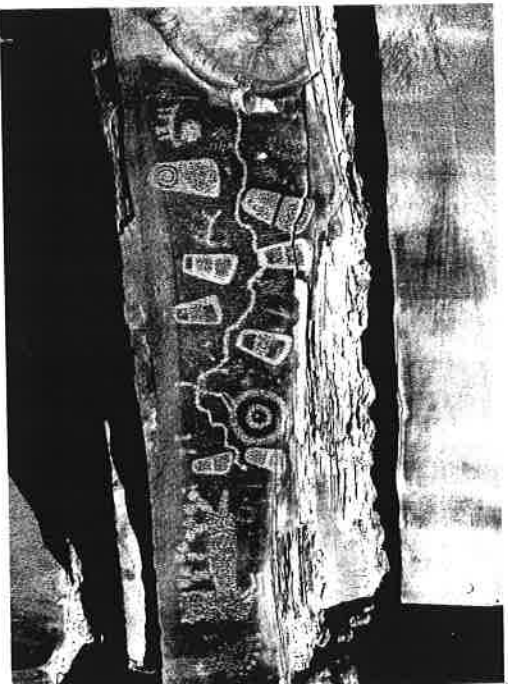
Harold A. Munn

HAROLD A. MUNN, JR.
1st Lt. S1, O
Mess Officer

FAMILY COLLECTION'S

Miles, Mervin
Rock Art

EAC2007.015



- Harrison, Joy-3
- Gardner, Lamont –Horsereacking 42
 - Huntington (towns) 19
 - Huntington, school (schools and town)
 - Huntington church (town)
- Huntington, Emma
 - Huntington, Preston Family
 - Gardner, Irene Johnson
 - Jensen, Bertly—12
- Jensen, Dermis and Venice -300
 - Joe's Valley –(Emery County) –18
- Johansen, Byron
 - Johansen, Grace
- Johansen, Peter and Zora (These can be put in same book with separators Johnson, Margaret Johnson, Hannah Rowley and Milas Jensen, Russ (put with Dermis and Venice) Lawrence School-1 (Lawrence Town and School) Leonard, Lund—2
- Mammoth (Emery County)
 - McArthur, Shirl 28
 - McElprang, Della
 - McKee, James Alber, Jr. and Eliza Mae
 - McKee, James Albert and Ruth Chase
 - McMullin, Douglas George and Luella Gordon
 - McMullin, George Wesley and Florence Mae
- McMullin, Hazel--33
 - McMullin, Lee –37
- Jorgensen, John and Lena and family--generations
- MK Tunnels—(Emery County)45
- Mohrland (towns
- Mortensen, Orlan
- Muddy Creek –Rochester/Moore (towns)100
- Nielson, James
 - Old homesteads Cleveland and Elmo (towns)
 - Olsen, Argene
 - Price, Owen
 - Wareham, Ray
 - Richards, Addie 300
 - Oveson, Joe
- Robbers/Outlaws
- Mammoth Reservoir Flood –Rowley, Vernell
- Hiawatha,--Rowley, Vernell
- Old Dugout Settlements—Rowley, Vernell
- Uranium Mines Remnants—Rowley, Vernell—(label all these Historic Places—Rowley, Vernell

Rowley, Samuel
 Rowley, Margaret Ellen
 Rowley, Ann Jewell (these three rowleys can be put together with separators.
 San Rafael Swell
 San Rafael Bridge
 Saw Mills
 Scofield
 • Seely, Montell and Kathryn Pincock
 Seely, funeral
 • Seely, Pageant (put in Castle Valley Pageant)
 • Sherman, AlbeY Lyman and Mary Eliza Swan
 Sherman, AlbeY William and An Eliza Pogson
 • Smith Ranch—24
 Snow, Etova
 Snow, Winstead Alfred
 Stilson, Kent
 Stokes, Reed
 Swasey, Monte
 Swasey Royal
 Swaseys-543

Town Kisk photographs (Towns)—146
 Tuttle, Azuriah and Ann Mabbot
 McMullin—unidentified
 Uranium Mining (Emery County)
 Uranium Mining—McMullin—11
 Uranium—58
 Uranium—Consolidated Mines
 Uranium—Wheeler, Marion
 USGS—100
 Victor (Towns)
 Wakefield, Adeline—274
 Walker, Joe papers donated by Jim Kennick (put these in Outlaws
 Ward, Clayton-25
 Ward, Floyd and Karen restaurant-1
 Ward, Timothy
 • Wareham, Ray's grandmother
 Wilberg Mine Disaster
 • Wilberg Resort
 Wilberg, Wayen
 William, Mark H.-7
 Wilsonville (towns)
 WWII—George Marquart

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CAMP SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIF.

CO 7 BTG 5 US R TC LT DAVIDE RIGGS COMDG



Oral History of
Mervin & Sharon Gale Defriez Miles

November 5, 2009

Interviewed: by Dottie Grimes

Transcribed by Bernice Payne

Dottie: We need your full name and where you were born and who your parents were.

Gale: My full name is Sharon Gale Defriez Miles, and my parents is Warren Henry Defriez borned in Mohrland, Utah and my mother is Leah, and there is a story behind the name Leah. She too was borned on the Duchesne River. My dad's parents are William Henry Defriez borned in Vernal, Utah. My grandmother was Beatrice Palmer, and she was borned in Huntington. And her father was found about 6 miles below Huntington with a bullet in his head?

D: Oh, my gosh!

G: He was herding sheep. That's how he made his living. They had several kids. Some guy just walked up to him and shot him.

D: Do they know who or why?

G: They never did find out. They always said it was the Robbers Roost Gang. But at the time I was growing up they said that the Robbers Roost guys were grandpa's best friends. So it had to be someone that was on the run. But who they don't know.

D: What was his name?

G: His name was George Edwin Palmer. Grandma's mother raised all these children by herself.

D: Oh! What a story! And what was her name?

G: Her name was Adelia Terry Mackelprang. And her family came through the Hole-in-the-Rock.

D: Okay those are the Mackelprang's that were my ancestors friends--my great grandfather's best friends.

G: Grandpa Hansen—now he had a saw mill.

D: Which grandpa?

G: That's my mother's side of the family. He homesteaded in Mountain Home, Utah.

D: What was his name?

G: His name was Paul Christian Hansen. His brother, his full brother, was named Paul Soren Hanson.

One decided not to be a Danish and took the Sweden spelling. So when you are doing your genealogy, you have to do brothers with different spelling.

D: So “son” and “sen”?

G: Ya. And then Aunt Marie, she married the Ungerman, and I don't know too much about that side other than just Aunt Marie.

D: Start with Soren—the picture up here:

G: Soren Hansen, right here (picture hanging on her wall) came from Denmark, and as he was coming across the plains with 4 children and his wife, they got to the Platte River, and the stampede of oxen stampeded through their camp...

D: Oxen or buffalo?

G: No oxen—very unusual- I don't know what spooked them or anything, but anyway, it killed her and another one. And they're buried out there.

D: What was her name?

G: Her name was Ane Marie Bendixen. As they were traveling, Ane Marie Bendixen and Grandpa had four small children and he had to care for them alone. So as he was coming across the plains, there was a couple that tried for several years to have children and wasn't able to. So they told grandpa that if he wanted to they would trade them a milk cow for this baby. Which grandpa could not see doing that, but knowing that probably before he reached Salt Lake, the baby would die. So he did. And he regretted it from that day until the day he ended up in Fountain Green and he was running a store. And this lady came in with 4 or 5 little kids and she said, “Are you Soren Hansen?” And he said “Yes” in his own language and she said, “would you be willing to take your baby back? Because I have so many little children now I can't take care of them?” So, he took this child back, and he said that it was like dream come true.

D: Oh, my gosh!

G: And so later he had married this Marie Nielson, and she had taken care of his children. And then he had married my grandfather's mother who had four children, and her name was Maren Mortensen Anderson, and she had the six children.

Then Grandpa and her had the three. They lived in that little house there in Castle Dale and Grandpa Soren, as he was called him, had kind of a neat store. It was someplace right in that area.

D: In Castle Dale or Orangeville?

G: In Castle Dale. And as my grandfather grew, he said he could remember of crossing the creek, because there was no fences, no nothing--and he could remember Indians camping on the creek right down here. And he bought that property years later, and every time we would go, he would plow up some kind of pottery or something. And in later years, he found there was a spring that was going through there, and that's why it's so swampy. But he said he was literally scared to death, because he knew it was Indian territory, and he was afraid he was going to come home scalped.

D: I think they all had a little bit of a fear.

G: They did. But he said they were very gentle. They didn't speak English, but they would nod, you know, or something. But he said they used to walk clear up on the Ghost Ridges to get away from them. Yet he only lived a couple of blocks from there [laughing] My grandmother Alfred Hansen was a school teacher. She went to the BYU and she taught school and she too homesteaded.

D: What was her full name?

G: Her name was Lillian Elvira Alfred Hansen.

D: About when was she born?

G: Gosh I can't remember.—1886 in Spring City Utah.

D: That's okay. But she was the one that married Soren Hansen's son?

G: Yes, my grandfather Paul. They called him Pauly

D: And he was Paul Hansen.

G: He was Paul Hansen. The story was when my grandma and grandpa moved in from their homestead which was in Talmage, and they moved to Duchesne and rented a place on the Duchesne River. And my mother was born in November the 11th of 1919. When my grandmother started in labor grandpa decided I'll just cross the river and go get the doctor. (Grandpa decided to cross the Duchesne River because he thought it was quicker) Well he crossed the river alright, and the ice broke; He fell in and had a hard time getting out.

D: Where were they living?

G: On the Duchesne River.

D: Wow, so he fell in the river.

G: He came back and changed clothes, and then decided he didn't have time to harness the horse, so he just put a halter on it and took off. He got the doctor and came back.

They had one boy by the name of Harold, and he came out and he said, "Dad, you're late, she's here!" So grandpa said, "Well, okay." And the doctor was...not really upset, but kind of amazed that Grandpa would even try to cross the Duchesne River. [laugh]

Mother was always known for giving grandpa his baptism. [laugh]
They decided... my grandmother and my grandfather decided that they were not going to name any of their children after each other. So when they decided to name mother, her name was just Leah. It went on for years. Grandmother always bragged to the fact was that nobody was ever named after her. But if you take the first letter of each of her names, you will find out. Lillian "L", Elvira "E", Allred "A" and Hansen "H". And that's how my mother got her name.

D: [laugh] Oh, how cute!

G: When Grandma found out she was about ready to hang Grandpa. But the damage was already done. [laugh]

D: Do you think he had premeditated that name.

G: Oh yeah, he had. He was one of those guys that you just didn't quite know what to expect. But he could tell you "I will go along with that" but down in his mind he was thinking, "Oh sure I will". And this is how he worked.

D: Who moved to Emery County of your ancestors?

G: My grandfather moved here when he was about 12 yrs. old. (Paul Hansen) When he got of age to leave home...that's when he went over to Spring City. That is where my grandmother was born. They married and went to homesteading-- 160 acres.

D: Where was that?

G: That was in Talmage and Mountain Home. Then, Grandma had the best land, so they gave up Grandpa's and took her's as a couple. When my mother spent her's, Grandpa decided that he was tired of the snow and the wind and everything, and he was coming to Emery County where the wind didn't blow and it wasn't cold. [laugh]

And he moved to Huntington the first year and then lived on Dick Allen Hill for about 2 or 3 years and grandpa got the chance to buy here in Castle Dale, and they moved to Castle Dale. And this is where they spent their life.

D: And was his father still alive?

G: No his father had died. They died before my mother was born. So this was kind of home to him. Grandma would have rather stayed out to the reservation because that is where her people had gone. But grandpa wanted to come here and he got into the sawmill business and his was one of the first sawmills in Joes Valley.

D: What was that sawmill named?

G: It was just on Middle Mountain. He bought the saw mill from a guy from Huntington Canyon, and it took him 3 years to get it out. It took him one whole summer to move it up...he couldn't move it up the road, because the mill was so big. And he had to have a four-up to move it. He borrowed his brother's other team and he had a team and they moved it the creek.

D: Wow.

G: And then he moved it from there to where he had it in Joe's Valley.

D: This is still Paul?

G: Yes.

D: Where did your father come from?

G: My father was born in Mohrland, Utah in 1915. Born to William Henry DeFriez and Beatrice Marie Palmer. And at the time he was going to school, there was no school up there. So they would have to come to Huntington. They did have a makeshift bus, at that time, that they could transport the kids. And then his mother and dad moved from there to Hiawatha. And then they moved...no take it back...they did not move to Hiawatha, they moved to Black Hawk, which was just a ways from Hiawatha. My mother and dad got married in '38, and they moved to Mohrland and then to Hiawatha, and that is where I was born in Hiawatha. I was born in the Circle.

D: Oh how long did you live there?

G: I lived there until I was about 6.

D: You don't remember too much about it then?

G: I remember some of the.....I remember having to cross the bridge. I thought if it ever broke I would go to hell--it was that deep. And I was literally scared to death of it. As a group of kids we all walked together. I always made sure I walked in the middle so I didn't have to look off the edge.

D: Where was the bridge?

G: It was before we went up the lane into The Circle. You go through town and then you went off the lane and ended up west. I remember living across from the people that moved to Emery County. There was Homer Moffit and Spencer Day... But dad decided that he was tired of the coal mine, and so he came down, and him and some of his friends poured a basement where my brother lives now, and lived in it for several years, as he was building the house. And I went to school in Castle Dale.

D: Do you remember the time when the Castle Dale school was closed and the kids had to go to either Huntington or Castle Dale, I mean Ferron? I heard that was a big county uproar.

G: I missed out on that.

D: I heard that was a big uproar.

Mervin: It was. I graduated from the 8th grade. But we were supposed to go to Huntington an instead of that we said, ‘No, w’ed go to Ferron. I graduated in ‘49 so it would have been about 1945.

D: Why was there this kind of war going on?

M: Like between North and South Emery? It is just like Brigham Young University and the University of Utah.

D: Oh you mean there were rivals.

M: Yeah rivals.

D: Was Ferron your rival too?

M: No.

D: So you just didn’t want to go to Huntington?

M: We just didn’t want to go. There was one, Roger Curtis, who just passed away, was the only one that I knew of that went from here to Huntington. The rest of us all went to Ferron.

D: Now, why did he go to Huntington?

M: I don’t know. Probably he had some relations there or something.

D: Tell me how you guys met.

G: We met square dancing.

D: Where is that? After high school or what?

M: Yeah. She was about a senior. When we really met. Then her mother and dad was square dancing. They had a record playing machine, and we learned to square dance playing the records. And we had a group—normally we would go to Ferron and dance in the civic building—the old one. That’s where we really met.

D: Did you live in Orangeville?

M: Uh huh.

G: I lived in Castle Dale. Yep when we got married I moved a long ways from home.

M: She used to live right where Bott Lane comes into town—the third house down—that's where she lived.

G: So I really moved a long ways.

D: That is kind of neat for you guys to live your whole in the same area.

M: Well we did leave.

G: I knew his mother and dad. He was in the service. But I went to school with his nephews and niece. So I knew his sisters and his dad before I ever met him. I remember that his dad was a watchful eye, you might say. When I'd come up I always rode a horse and before I would leave he would always have to check the saddle and bridle and all the things to make sure that I could get home safe. He was a very sweet man. He just seemed to be able to have time for the kids.

D: What was his name?

G: His name was Samuel Mark Miles.

D: And what was his wife's name?

G: Her name was Ella Peacock.

D: He sounds like a neat man.

G: He was!

M: We really moved a long ways. For a lot of years my mother lived right on this corner. This is where her family was basically raised, and when they were married they lived just two blocks south of here. We had just a two room house when me and my two sisters...

G: That was the neatest little house. Because I came from a big house—a three bedroom home. And for me to come up here, and I always called her Grandma, but to see how she lived—for me it was so unique. To walk in the back door and see the kitchen table and the old coal stove and a pan of water heating on the stove to do dishes, and I just loved it. And then we'd go into this second room was a bedroom combined, and it had the neatest little fireplace. I could set there on that one chair and just glare at that, because it so unique--Not very big, but boy it put out the heat. And it was so clean! His mother just kept that hardwood floor and linoleum spotless. And how?, I don't know, with

everybody tracking in and out like they did. But I loved that house! In fact when Mervin built their house over there on the corner now, I could have just sat down and cried, because they were tearing down that old house. I just felt like it was part of me. I didn't have that much to do with it, but it was something that I dearly loved!

D: I remember you telling me and you showed me where they lived and that you had lived in a log cabin.

M: Yeah, it was just a log cabin. After I got back from the service---then I went with Dad to get the timber. No, it was before I went to the service, we went to the saw mill--Davis's saw mill and got the timber out and sawed it up and hauled it here. And then when I got out of the service then I came and built that house that's on the corner.

D: That is so neat. What a guy!

G: They didn't have much.

M: They didn't have anything. They never owned a car.

G: But his dad was I believe that he was born deaf.

M: He was. Him and his brother

G: They both were deaf. But we got a kick out of his dad because he wore an old fashioned hearing aid that goes to the ear, and has the little square box. Instead of his dad putting it out so the volume would go to the box, he'd always stick it inside his overalls...and he still couldn't hear. I remember saying, many a times, "Let me put that on the outside so you can hear." "Oh, I can hear just fine." [laugh]

D: It sounds like he was very nice.

G: He was --- he was just something that was special. (showing a picture she picked up from the table.) This is him and his wife.

D: Where did you get that old table?

M: That's all we got is antiques.

G: That old table was that guys. (Pointing to the picture on the wall.)

D: Soren Hansen's Oh gorgeous.

G: But I have right now a table that was taken apart when him and his first wife came from Denmark! My grandfather put it back together, but there was one leaf that got broke so when he opened the saw mill up here, he sawed out a piece of pine and put in it, and to this day it's still there. And it came all the way...

D: Did that come from Denmark? (pointing to a buffet)

G: I'm not sure, I think this guy here and his wife bought that from my grandfather when they got married. And then that white machine right down there. And that is what my mother learned to sew on.

D: Oh, that has got to be a treadle. I wish I had brought my camera. I need pictures of that furniture.

G: I'll get you some one day.

D: That buffet is really unusual.

G: It is. We looked for a date. As a child, my grandparents had a longer room than this, and as a child I remember hiding from my grandfather when he would come in from doing chores. We'd all dart and go under that. It wasthe best hiding place.

D: It's just the right height. Those are kind of tall legs.

G: We'd hide three deep if we could, you know try to hide from Grandpa. And he would play with us-- "I wonder where they are at. They haven't got their chores done."

When my grandmother died, my grandfather had to move in with my mother because of age. And he gave that to me. And this table was as black as tar. And I refinished it to that point. I didn't want to take a lot of stuff off of it. Didn't want to make it look too new.

D: It's beautiful

G: Ya, it brings a lot of memories back. There's one leg on that my grandfather was afraid was going to come off so he put a big screw in there. [laugh]

D: Well that's history too.

G: Yeah, those are all memories.

D: Let's get back to you and Mervin and how many kids you had. And where he worked.

G: We have 4. I came from a family of three and I'm the oldest. Mervin came from a family of 3 and he's the youngest. And he's the only boy in his family. And I'm the only girl. We have 4 children. Two boys and a set of twin girls.

D: And who are they?

G: The girls was Marca (pronounced Marsha) spelled MARCA—different-- and Marie. They are over there on the hutch. (pictures) And the oldest boy is named Mervin Lynn and the second boy is Richard David.

M: Here's the twins (showing a picture).

D: Mervin was telling me about when they were born. You didn't know.

G: I had no idea. I had no clue.

M: There's another story too. When they were born the doctor never told us we were going to have twins. Of course they didn't have the equipment they have today. So when she went to the hospital, she was different and the nurse said, "Oh we are going to have twins huh?" I said, "Well, if we do you can have one." That was Mrs. Forsythe, the nurse there.

G: He was giving my kids away! [laughing]

M: She was about to hold me to it too. And I did, I told her if we have twins you can have one. [laughing]

G: When they come out. The one on that side weighed 4 lbs. --no the one on that side weighed four pounds, the other was...

M: Are you sure which is which?

G: Well, I'm guessing.

D: Was he pretty surprised when she packed them in?

G: Oh yeah. In fact when she walked out she had them in her arms and said, "Which one can I have?"

G: He was flabbergasted. He could not answer. And when they brought them into me and I looked at them, and I thought what are you guys doing. Actually I thought they were just delivering the babies around—you know. They had this big room full of mothers. When they laid them in my arms, I thought "Well, they've been up all night. They've made a mistake, I don't have two babies." And Mrs. Forsythe said, "Well Gale here they are. It took you long enough."
There's a lot of stories behind them two.

D: Tell me some of them. Do they live here by the way?

G: They live in Huntington.

D: They are both married?

G: One's married, and one divorced. But they were so identical and being as stupid as we were, we forgot to put the names on the backs of the pictures. So our son, Richard, was the only one that could actually tell them apart. So when we looked at the pictures we would have to say "Richard, which one is this? And he would say, "Mother, don't you know your own kids?"

M: We don't know which is which there.

D: Really? (laughs)

M: No.

G: We separated them when they went to school, figuring it would be a better choice. I got a phone call one morning saying that Marca was way behind in school because she hadn't been there for about a week and a half. I said, "Yes, I know she hasn't been there for a week and a half, she's been home with the flu." And so come to find out the other twin was filling in for her and doing her work and forgetting her work because she didn't want her sister to get a failing mark. But it was okay if she got one.

Down here at the high school, we went down to argue with them about their grades, because they were both getting the same grades. And when we got there we asked them "We know there's a difference in them. Why can't they get their own grades?" They said, "Well, you tell us who they are and if they'd quit playing jokes maybe we could help them." [laughing]

D: They got one report card between the two of them?[laughing]

M: Another incident happened over here by the Food Ranch. We had a pickup truck the kids drove to school all the time. Well coming home from school one day, they got right there where the entrance goes into Food Ranch, they was coming up the highway and a girl came out from Food Ranch and hit them broadside. Well of course they called the cops, and the girl that was driving didn't have a driver's license, so the other twin gave her, her driver's license. Jeff Horox, the county commissioner said, "I know there is something wrong here, but I don't know what it is."

G: The one that didn't have her driver's license, sent her boyfriend home to get the other drivers license, so the other one would have one. So I went up, he took the driver's license, and he beat me up there and handed the other license to Marie. Jeff, he knew, but he just didn't know what was going on. He said I can't ask for the other ones driver's license because she wasn't involved in the wreck. But I know...

So when I got them home and they switched their license and went back to work.

D: Did you have quite a few problems at school with them?

G: We didn't have any problems. The teachers did! [laughing] No, they were real good. They were just twins. And they like to play it. They played it to the fullest.

M: They were good kids.

G: We were down to the ball game one day and Mervin's nephew was there and he said, "Uncle Mervin don't you know your own girls? That's not Marca, that's Marie." He said, "how do you know?" "Because she wears levis and the other wears corduroy."

I spoke up and said, "Do you know...?" He said, "I've been watching them and they haven't changed."

D: So is Parent Trap their favorite show?

G: Pretty much. Even as old as they are now and at the time that they worked together, they could fill in for each other and the boss would never know.

M: One of them was working in BK's, and the other was working down here at Stewarts. He dropped off supplies at the bank, then came to Castle Dale and there was the other twin and he said, "How in the world did you beat me over here?" [laughing]

G: "Well, I've been here since 5:00." He said, "No you haven't! I just passed you in Huntington, and I just done your shopping!" Then she finally told him the truth and said, "I have a twin and she works over there."

M: It's a different experience to have twins. Medical-wise, if one has got something, the other can tell. I don't know. I'm not smart enough to know the connection, but I do know that if one's sick, the other knows it without even talking to her. We had Marca with some problems and she was really upset, so we says, "Well, we'll call Marie." So we called Marie and those two talked for a few minutes and then she was just fine. Marie told her she was hurting the same as she was.

G: Same thing with their deliveries. They could tell when one went into labor.

They'd call me and say, "You better go check on her; she's not feeling good today."

(dog barking)

And even today they have their symptoms—they know that something is not right. When Mike got hurt real bad, they knew...

D: Oh there's one now!

G: This is Marca. We know because she is wearing red.

Marca: I always were this shirt.

G: I know, Marie never does.

Marca: She's got a brown one.

M: Marca could do anything on a farm. Marie didn't like the farm. Marca she could cut hay, bale hay...anything.

G: And she still does.

D: Do you enjoy being a twin?

Marca: I never knew the difference. Yeah, I guess. I don't know.

D: You didn't get where you resented her?

Marca: No.

D: How fun. It sounds fun to have twins..

M: Our kids were basically never in trouble because even when I was at work all the time, the girls would help the boys on the farm.

D: Now what were your boy's names. Did I get them?

M: One was Lynn and the other one Richard.

D: Tell me about your work-- career; what you have done.

M: Me?Where do you want me to start? When I was born?

D: Yeah.

M: Well, let's see. I was born on March 22, 1931 in Orangeville in the log house we was talking about. That's where I was born. I lived and went to school here all my life. Went through grade school, and when we went to high school, we told you between North and South Emery, we went to South Emery.

All my life, I helped Dad on the farm or helped the other farmers here. I did their farm work, because we don't have bailers or nothing else, and we was always hauling hay by (inaudible). So any of the farmers that needed somebody to work, then I'd go work for them. Growing up during the Depression, you know, we didn't have any money. So how I learned to work was helping the farmers and helping my dad on the farm here. Went to grade school and then South Emery. I graduated from South Emery in 1949, and I graduated from Seminary also. After Seminary, I worked for Cox Brothers Saw Mill on East Mountain for a couple of years, and in 1952 that's when I went to the Service.

D: Did you join or was there a draft in place?

M: No, there was a draft in place. Prior to that I went to Utah State University—went to Carbon College for a year and then Utah State. Then they drafted me and from there I

went to Fort Ord California, for training that's on this picture (a picture of his unit). And from there I came home for a week, and from there I went to California, got on the group ship that was 5300 people, and sailed across the big pond and landed in Tokyo. Spent three days there and sailed another two days to Seoul, Korea and got off the ship. Seoul, Korea was just blown to pieces. There was nothing there. The war was right there. We pulled up in a battleship, loaded into PT boats, with your field pack and your rifle and come ashore. They separated us out and sent us to different camps. I spent the latter part of '52 and all of '53 in Korea. Then I came back from Korea in 1954.

D: What part of the war did you see, then?

M: Well, different parts, you know. The fighting was right at the parallel—the 17th parallel. That's where we landed and that was the very north of Seoul.

D: So you landed right in the middle of battle?

M: Right in the middle of it. Then they shipped some of us back South to the telecommunications company. That's what this company is (showing a picture). We had communications camp. When we got to the camp...well a lot happened...we were attacked by gorillas one time during troop training back at the camp, but they finally killed them.

D: Was gorilla warfare new with Korea? Or did it happen before?

M: It happened before. One big thing about the Korean War was so much drug traffic.

Then when we got to the camp where we was going to be, it was still the 507 Signal Corp. I was supposed to be working on telephones but they didn't have any cooks, so I'd had experience cooking—camp cook on the mountain up here, and then all the time for the 19 days coming across the ocean, I'd helped them cook on the ship. All the time, when we got to camp, they wanted to know if there was any cooks. I told them I didn't have ? Cooks? That's the military specialist. They said they need cooks, so I went in the Mess Hall and cooked out there all the time I was in this camp. For the most part...well the one part I was cooking during the day, and then they needed a baker at night, so I went to work as the night baker making all the pastries for the next day.

D: (to Gale) Wow! Does he still do the cooking?

M: (to Gale) Be quiet. [laughing].

Then I did all the baking like the breads and pastries and different things. I got two letters of commendation out of the company—cooking all the time and baking all the time. Then during the day, you know, I was totally bored. So they were having a driver's license program, and so I went and got my driver's license for a half ton truck and came out and drove a ? for the telephone exchange which was downtown the whole time. So I drove back and forth just so I would have something to do, because all day I would be sitting around doing nothing.

D: What time did you have to start your baking?

M: You'd usually have to start at 6:00 at night and then I'd work until one or two in the morning. In the Service, you always have a revely call in the morning. I never did have to answer that because I worked at night. I'd get up at 8:00 or 9:00 and then I'd want something to do.

D: Yeah, you can't sit still, can you?

M: [laughing] No. No. So I'd haul them back and forth. Then I don't remember the date for sure...In 1954, in March, it seems like...they was going to discharge me early, because they found I was an only son. When they found out I was an only son, they wanted to send me right home. I wouldn't have it. But in March, why I just come home with an honorable discharge in March of 1954.

I came home and helped Dad on the farm and bought a 1952 Ford tractor. Like I said before, my mother and dad never did have a car. When my dad got that tractor, he would drive the tractor back and forth to his farm, and that was his means of transportation.

D: Now did you buy the tractor through the GI Bill?

M: No. I bought it from Scow's Tractor Service, which is right here. That's where I bought it from when I came home. I had saved enough money and sent it home to my parents, so I had enough for a down payment.

One thing that my mother did, all the time I was in the Service, and the other mothers here in town, every Sunday, was they would walk to chapel and have a prayer service for the Servicemen and women. Every Sunday. I just thought that was so thoughtful of them.

D: What a good ideal!

M: One time when we were going over, we hit a big storm—a really bad storm. They locked everybody down below; they wouldn't let us out at all, on account of this storm, because the ship, on the back end was teetering. While this storm was going on, one Sunday morning, over the broadcast system said, "LDS services in such and such a place in 10 minutes. And I went down to that Sacrament Meeting, and you know, the water was so rough, and the sea was tossing us so bad, that I was getting to the point where I was getting scared. We went to Sacrament Meeting and had the sacrament, and the most calm feeling came over me. The water didn't subside or anything, I just had this calm feeling that everything was fine.

D: That's neat!

G: While he was in the service, he sent money home to his parents, and didn't your dad buy that washing machine?

M: No. My dad bought my mother the first washing machine at the county fair...He had a team, and they had pulling matches, and he went down and he won that pulling match, and that's how he bought the first washing machine for my mother.

D: That's neat! I've seen pictures of those pulling matches. I hadn't thought of that...

G: I'm sorry, but I knew that washing machine was important. It was to her.

M: The other thing that I did, and she has now, (meaning his wife Gale), was when I was in Korea, and they sent us out some packing forms (?) where we could buy Noritake China. So I sent my mother a complete set of Noritake China.

D: Oh, my gosh! She must have felt so elegant.

M: I paid shipping from Japan to Orangeville here, and it cost me \$54.00. And now she has it, and the girls will have to fight over it. [laughing]They can split it.

D: I was just looking at those cups and wondering where they came from.

G: My girlfriend is moving down here; they're Greek. She got them, I don't know where, and she said I can't take them with me. She bought her a motor home and is leaving and said, "Do you know anybody who's Greek?" And I said, "I'm Greek enough."

D: So did your mother ever use her Noritake China? Or did she feel like...?

M: I only remember her using it twice. There was only one saucer, when I got to Orangeville, there was only one saucer broke. And we've still have that stored back...

D: That is a neat story. I would be so excited to get that china, but I love dishes.

M: And then after I got out of the Service and come back and helped on the farm, and worked around, and helped in the timber with the Cox ? For a year or so, and then I got a chance to start for BLM. That was in 1956. That's when I started for BLM—1956. Now, we don't want to get into that today.[laughing] So we'll cut it off there.

D: Wow. You have a lifetime of stuff to tell me.

M: There's so much to know about the Desert, we'll just have to get a map out and go through each part, but at least I've got a start.

D: Yeah.

M: But I left out a part of my life history here. But I'll think about it, and we'll get back to it.

D: What other stories do you have about growing up in Orangeville or Castle Dale, teenage years or childhood. What was it like? Who were prominent people in the towns or interesting characters?

M: Well, when I went to school with our class, there were only three of us boys, and that was ? Kean Luke, he was the oldest, and then Rue Ware and then me. And we were all born in March. Kean was the 11th of March, Rue's was the 19th and mine was the 22nd. And all through school, we chased together all the time—all through school. Kean and Rue's parents both owned stores here in town. And the one store—the Ware store is still setting, but the Luke store that set right across the street, is the one that sets in Castle Dale that Sharp and Sherita Snow has, you know that big white building? That used to sit up here and that was the Luke store.

D: Were they like general stores?

M: Yeah, general stores. But the thing was, and not casting any shadows on them two, but it was hard for us because we never had a penny to our name, but their parents had the stores, you know, and we was always chasing together, and if they wanted something, they'd go through the store and pick up a candy bar or ice cream cone, but I never had a dime to pay for it, so I never did get anything. (laugh)

D: Oh, that's sad!

M: So that was a little different.

D: Was there room for two general stores in Orangeville?

M: Yeah, there was. I remember there wasn't many cars, when we was growing up and going to school. If we went anywhere we rode a bike or rode a horse. 90% of the time we rode a horse. Wares didn't have a farm. Lukes did and we did, so we'd ride back and forth to different farms...help take cows on the mountain or whatever.

D: Did Rue go with you even though he wasn't ...?

M: Not a lot. Even today we all three still live here in town.

D: That's neat!

Where was the first automobile dealership?

M: As far as...even today there's never been a dealership in Orangeville.

D: What about in Castle Dale?

M: There was one in Huntington and that was the Earls. The actual dealership was in Filmore, but he sold cars here. That was the only one that I knew of that was in the County.

D: So everybody bought automobiles from Price?

M: Yeah, they were buying them from Price. Price Trading...and then there were some other stores.

D: (To Gale) Do you remember the stores in Castle Dale when you were young?

G: It was called Huntington Brothers, and Stan Huntington and Ward Huntington run it, and the Co-Op, and Wallace Ryan ran it. That's still standing.

M: Now Huntington Brothers, right along the sidewalk, you know where you go to Boyd's (Pharmacy), that's where the old store was. They had the store for years and years, and then they tore it down and built the new store which is that building where Boyd's... is, but they built that after they tore this one down. Huntington Brothers was so neat to deal with. You went in there and if you had the money, fine, and if you didn't they'd write it on the slip. And anything you wanted, if they didn't have it, they'd get it. They was the neatest people to deal with, I ever seen.

G: I remember there was a bus stop there, and a lot of the kids would walk over and wait for the bus, and either Stand or Lloyd would come out and say, "How many of you got lunch money?" And if you didn't have lunch money, you did before you left.

D: Wow! What neat people!

M: It's unbelievable the people that used to live here—how kind and considerate they were.

D: What about L.T. Hunter? Do you remember Hunter? (The Druggist)

G: He made the best malts in town. (laugh) Yeah. He had a place for malts and stuff—like a drug store.

M: The building still stands right on the corner of 1st East.

G: He had these big round stools, you know. And we'd always go in, and he knew—there was six of us girls...

D: What were their names?

G: Oh, there was Ramona Almond—she married a Rowley; Sunny Johansen--she married a Wilson; Janet Magnuson--she was a Whitman; and Ruth Brian--her dad owned the store; and then there was me and Anita Filmore.

D: You were friends for years?

G: Oh we still are, but we've lost some of them.

D: And you'd go down to Hunter Drug, you said?

G: The minute he seen us coming down the street, he'd just about have it ready for us. We'd go in there and there were six stools, and we were allowed to sit on the stools, but if anybody else came in to order something at the counter, we'd have to give up our stools. And so we made a habit of staying there as long as we could, but the minute we seen the door open, we knew somebody would take our seats.

D: Oh fun! (laugh)

G: Yeah, I had fun time in Castle Dale. I had a good group of girls I chased around with, and we grew up close and we're still close.

D: Do you know anybody by the name of Frenchy?

G: Um-hm.

D: What do you know about him.

G: Rufus Wilberg—This is really quite a thing because I just found this information...

D: Good. This is the most mysterious guy I've ever heard of.

G: We called him Frenchy. His name was Eugene, and his last name was Erraud. And he was from France. And he lived up the canyon on Rufus Wilberg's property. And they always said that he had a lot of gold. That he was a prospector.

M: It was on East Mountain.

G: Was it? Anyway, it was up there, and he hunted while he was there, and I remember going up there with Filmore.

I don't remember the year. But I send
my towards paper out in the old log
house we send in, this operation was
done by Peter upon on the kitchen
table. I had a old long hair dog

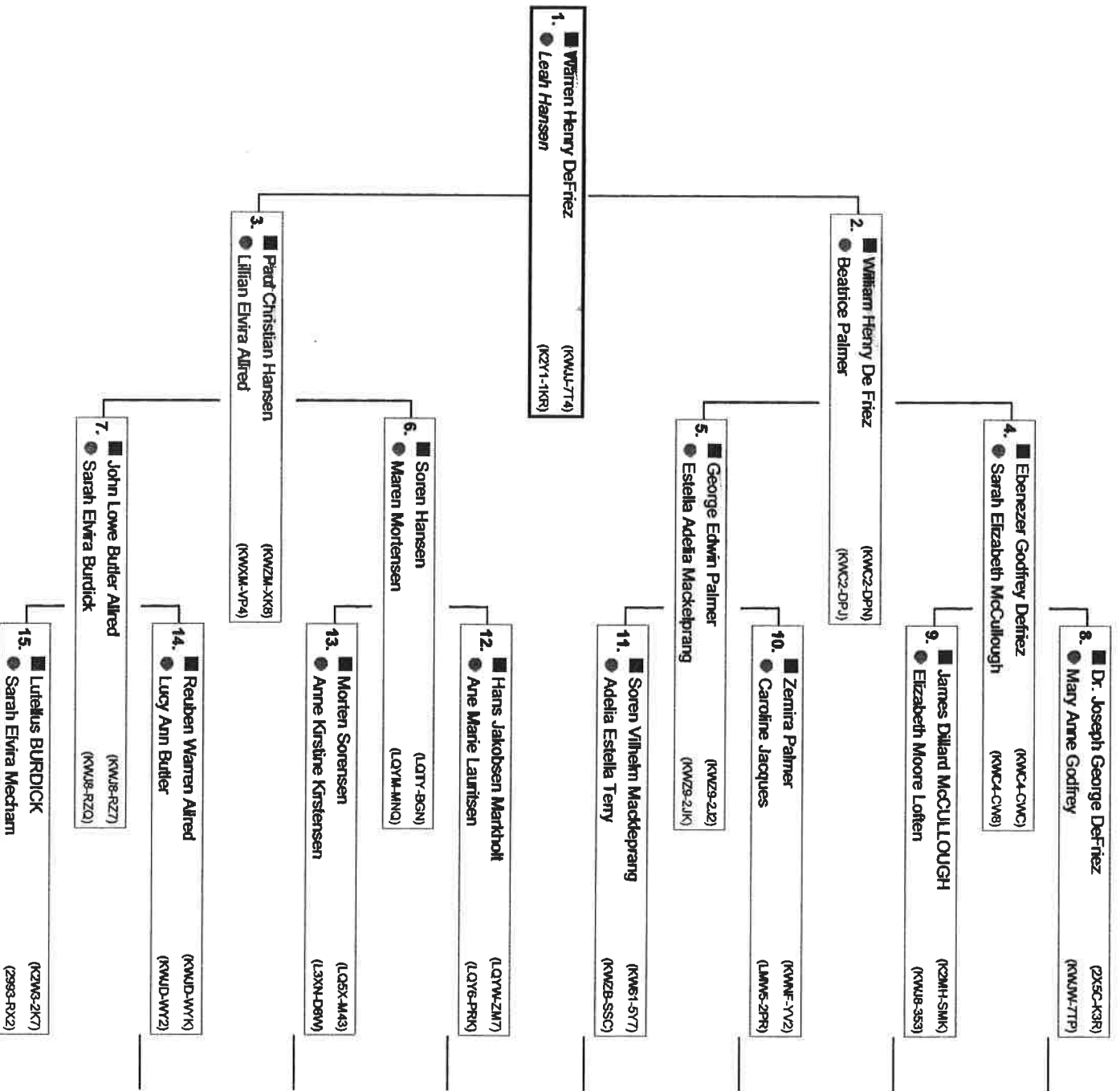
~~The second that something was wrong.~~
~~I had been made some kind of~~
~~noise.~~ After they had given me
the others they opened the kitchen
door to let the fences out and this
a dog came right in the house
after the doctor. My dog had been
back out of the house with a beam
My father told me of this.

Ancestor Chart

for "Warren Henry Defriez" and "Leah Hansen"

Number 1 on this chart is the same as number ___ on chart ___
 Use spaces on side to enter the chart numbers on which the line continues.

Chart 1

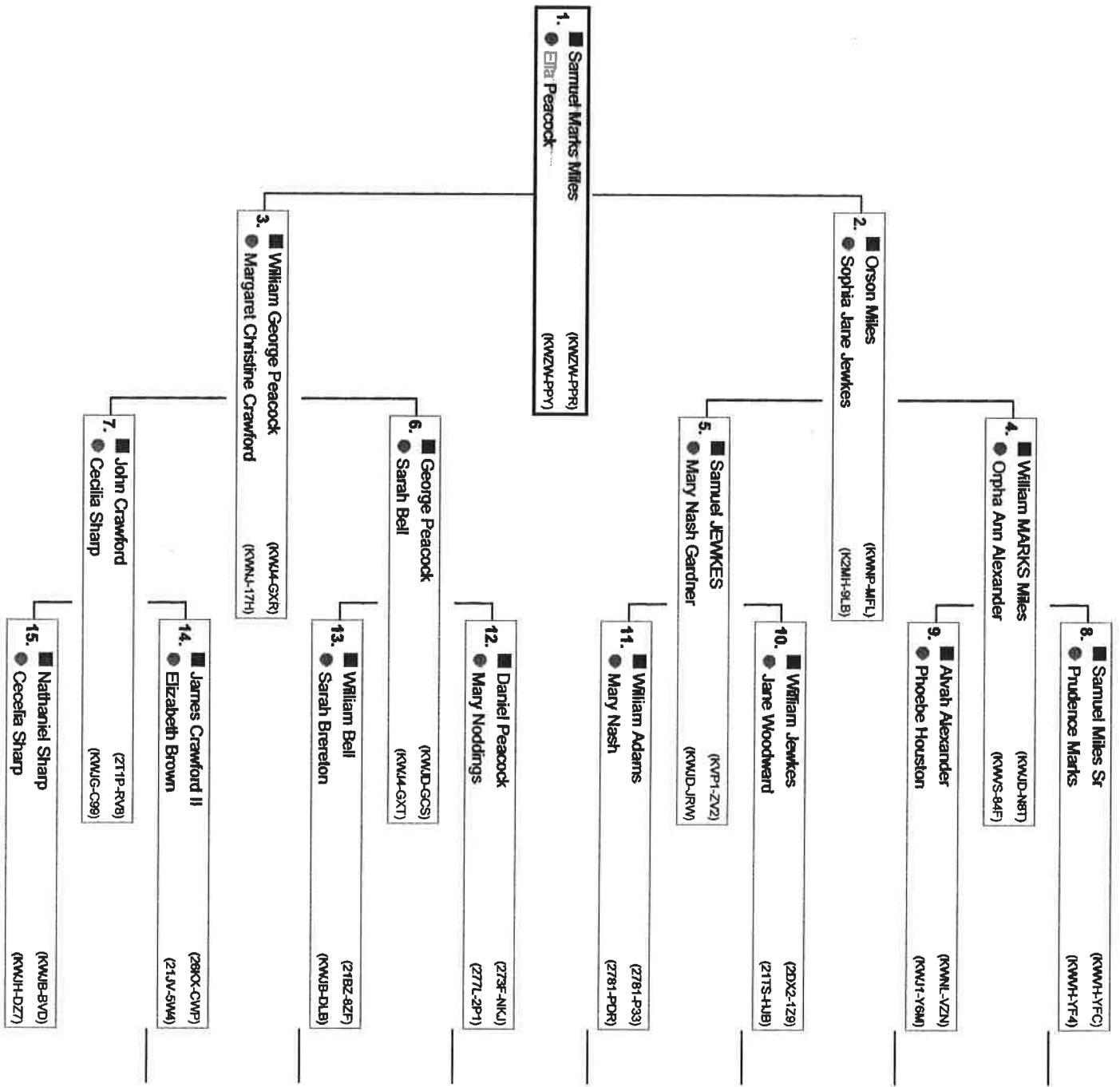


Ancestor Chart

for "Samuel Marks Miles" and "Ella Peacock"

Chart 1

Number 1 on this chart is the same as number ___ on chart ___
 Use spaces on side to enter the chart numbers on which the line continues.



Oral History of
Mervin & Sharon Gale Defriez Miles

November 5, 2009

Interviewed: by Dottie Grimes

Transcribed by Bernice Payne

Dottie: We need your full name and where you were born and who your parents were.

Gale: My full name is Sharon Gale DeFriez Miles, and my parents is Warren Henry DeFriez borned in Mohrland, Utah and my mother is Leah, and there is a story behind the name Leah. She too was borned on the Duchesne River. My dad's parents are William Henry DeFriez borned in Vernal, Utah. My grandmother was Beatrice Palmer, and she was borned in Huntington. And her father was found about 6 miles below Huntington with a bullet in his head?

D: Oh, my gosh!

G: He was herding sheep. That's how he made his living. They had several kids. Some guy just walked up to him and shot him.

D: Do they know who or why?

G: They never did find out. They always said it was the Robbers Roost Gang. But at the time I was growing up they said that the Robbers Roost guys were grandpa's best friends. So it had to be someone that was on the run. But who they don't know.

D: What was his name?

G: His name was George Edwin Palmer. Grandma's mother raised all these children by herself.

D: Oh! What a story! And what was her name?

G: Her name was Adelia Terry Mackelprang. And her family came through the Hole-in-the-Rock.

D: Okay those are the Mackelprang's that were my ancestors friends--my great grandfather's best friends.

G: Grandpa Hansen—now he had a saw mill.

D: Which grandpa?

G: That's my mother's side of the family. He homesteaded in Mountain Home, Utah.

D: What was his name?

Mervin Miles

This is a brief history of Mervin Miles. Born under the covenant and of goodly parents, Sam and Ella on March 22, 1931 in Orangeville, Utah in a log house located what is now 495 South 1st. East in a very little old house. It had two rooms with a fire place in one room, and the other was a kitchen. Aunt Kate Reid was a midwife along with Dr. Nixon.

The house has since been torn down and replaced by the house that now stands there and lived in by my sister Jane Heiniger. I have two older sisters—Jane and Helen, and one older brother that died at birth. Some of my most fond memories was going with my father to haul coal and wood to store for use to heat the two room house during the winter. We had a little two room house that set to the east of the log house. This is where we slept. There was no heat in it at all. It sure was cold in the winter to go to bed without any heat at all.

Also my mother used to cook all summer long on a coal stove. I helped my mother make soap on an open fire and grate that was outside. I helped my father do the chores night and mornings. I also helped on the farm. We did not have a car so when we went anywhere we would go by team and wagon or just walk.

I don't remember the year, but I had my tonsils taken out in the old log home we lived in. This operation was done by Dr. Nixon on the kitchen table. I had an old long-haired dog that sensed something was wrong. I must have made some kind of noise. After they had given me the ether, they opened the kitchen door to let the fumes out and this old dog came right in the house after the doctor. My dad beat him back out of the house with a broom. My father told me of this.

I was baptized March 4, 1940 in the old Orangeville Building by Lee Jewkes and was confirmed by Kenneth Peacock.

I went to school in Orangeville Elementary up to most of the 8th year. I was taught by Maria Peacock. From grade school I went to Ferron to high school, then called South Emery. From high school I went to college at Utah State in Logan for one year and at Carbon College for one year—1952.

During the summer months I would work on the farm with my dad or work for someone around town. In 1952 while I was working up on East Mountain for Cox Brothers I got my call to serve my country in the Army. Before going to the Service, Pres. Ray Sitterud interviewed me to receive the Melchizedik Priesthood. Pres. E.G. Luke ordained me. I left for the Service on October 7, 1952. I went from Orangeville to Fort Douglas in Salt Lake City. From there we were put on a train to Fort Ord, California. From there I was in 16 week training at Camp San Luis Obispo. After this training I come home for a short furrow, then was shipped to Camp Stonewood in California.

From there I was put on a ship and sent to Tokyo, Japan and then on to Korea. We landed at Seoul, Korea. The war was being fought right there. I was so scared! I didn't think I would ever see Orangeville again.

From Seoul, Korea I was put on a train and sent down south to Pusan (Busan), Korea. We were attacked several times by North Korean soldiers as we traveled. We arrived in Pusan. I worked as a cook in this company whis was the 507th Signal Company. I stayed here all the time I was in Korea, which was a year.

We were in church services one Sunday and I heard the door in the back open and turned around to see who was coming in, and to my surprise Ruone Law was coming to church! Also Earl Huntington was stationed next to me in the next compound. While I was in Korea my father had a heart attack so in the next few months I was sent back to the States and released so I could help take care of them. This release was April 9th, 1954. I arrived home several weeks later. I worked on the farm and worked again for the Cox Brothers. In March of 1955 I started to work for the Bureau of Land Management. I worked here for about 36 years. I spent a great deal of time in the desert east of Orangeville. This is some of the most enjoyable time I have ever spent. There is no way you can see all of this beautiful county in a lifetime. I have lown over all of it in an airplane. I was on a fire crew in Rough Creek one summer. We had a helicopter to fly us into rough terrain. One trip I was on the helicopter and it crashed with us on board. None of us was hurt. When I came home from the Service in April 1954, I met and started to square dance with Sharon Gale Defrieze. We danced and went together for several years. On May 25, 1957 we were married in the Manti Temple. Lymn, our first son, was born on March 4, 1958. On October 4, 1961, our second son Richard was born. On May 29, 1963 we were blessed with twin daughters Marca and Marie. All of our children were named and blessed by their father. Later on, when they was eight years old, they were baptized and confirmed by their father.

In June 1969 when the job cap closed in Price I was transferred to S.L.C. We lived there until March of 1971 when I was transferred back to Price and we moved back to Orangeville. I worked as a Range Technician in what was then Ferron area. I worked there for two years. Later on they gave me a new position to supervise the crew that does all the maintenance. I had this job for about 11 years. Then I applied for and got a position as Surface Protective Specialist and Inspector for the oil and gas industry. I had this job for about nine years. There on July 28, 1989, I retired from B.L.M. with 36 years of service on August 1, 1989 I started to work as the Foreman Custodian in the Castle Dale Stake for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints. This was a very good change for me.

Merrin S. Miles

was born under the sign of Gemini on March 22, 1931

This is a brief history of Merrin Miles
in chronological order in a log house located
what is near 405 South 1st East in Ogden

My old home had two rooms with a fire

place in one room, the other was

used for a kitchen and table bed was in

room of my mother's and my father's

was in the room since I was a child

and lived in by my sister Jane & Helen

one old brother that died at 17. Some of

the most foolish things was going with

my father to haul coal, wood, etc. store

for use to heat the two room house

during the winter all so my mother

would to cook all summer long on a

coal stove. Help my mother make soap

on a open fire and goat that was out

side. I helped my father do the house

work & manage all the help on the

farm. We did that year & car

to when we went anywhere we

would go by team & wagon or just

walk.

I don't remember the year. But I had
my towards taken out in the old dog
house we found in, this operation was
done by Nelson upon in the kitchen
table. I had a old dog hair dog ~~and~~
~~He seemed that something was wrong.~~
~~I had found made some kind of~~
~~noise.~~ After they had given me
the table they opened the kitchen
door to let the fumes out and this
old dog came right in his hand
after the doctor. My dog had his
back end of the house with a beam
My father told me of this.

I was baptised March 1940 in the ^{old} Congregational
 Church ~~at~~ by Joe Fenner and was confirmed
 by Kenneth Peppers. I went to school
 in Congregational Elementary West of the ^{city}
 year I was baptised by Maria Pecker. From
 Grade School I went to Fenner to High
 School. This called South Elementary.

From High School I ~~was~~ went to college
 at West State in Topeka for one year
 and at Eastern College for one year.

~~From~~ ~~college~~. During the summer
 months I would work on the farm with

My dad one week for someone around
 there. In 1952 while I was working

up on Dad's machine for one year I
 got my call to serve My country in

the army. I left for the service
 Oct 7, 1953. I went from Congregational to

First Douglas in S.C. from there we were
 put on a train to Fort Ord California

from there I was in ~~the~~ week training
 at Camp Sausalito ^{after} this training I came

home for a short period then was shipped
 to Camp Stearns in California, from there I

went out on a ship and sailed to ~~the~~
 Japan and then on to Korea ~~we~~
 landed at Seoul Korea the war was

ending fought till June. I was so scared

Before going to the service
 I attended ^{for} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~service~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~service~~
 the ~~service~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~service~~
 Duke Ordained me.



I liked Miss P. I would ever
 see any good again. From Sand
 River he was put on a train and
 sent down South to Peterson House
 where were after several times by
 North ~~Mountain~~ Salinas as we traveled. we
 arrived in Perris. I worked as a cook
 here in this camp which was ¹⁰⁰⁰ 507th Signal
 Co. I stayed here all the time I was in
~~House~~ which was a ~~big~~ ^{big} ~~thing~~ ^{thing} over a year.
~~There~~ ~~was~~ ~~one~~ ~~thing~~ ~~and~~ ~~I~~ ~~heard~~ ~~the~~ ~~door~~ ~~in~~
 the back open I turned around to see who
 was coming in and ~~was~~ ^{was} my Sergeant
 Rouse Jar was coming to check. All the
 old Accounting was stationed next to me
 in the next compound. While I was in
~~House~~ my father had a bad attack so in
 the next few months I was sent back to
 that state and released so I could help
 take care of them. This release was given
 Oct 1954. I arrived home several weeks later
 I worked on the farm and worked again for
 Cox River. In March of 1955 I started to
 work for the Bureau of Land Management. I
 work here for about thirty six years.
 Spent a great deal of time in the desert
 valleys of Oregonville. This is some of

In June 1969 when the job was
 closed in Pice & was transferred to S.H.C.
 we lived there until March of 1971 when
 I was transferred back to Pice and we moved
 back to Oregonville. ~~I~~ worked as a Range
 Technician in which was then the Federal
 area later ^{to work some time from} ~~one~~ ^{to work 3 years} they gave me a new
 position to ~~Supervisor~~ the crew that
 does all the maintenance, ~~that~~
 I had this job for about (11) & 1/2
 years. Then I applied for and got a
 position as Surface Protection Specialist and
 supervisor for the oil & gas industry
 I had this job for about 19 1/2 years
 then on July 30, 1989 I returned from
 B.L.M with 36 years of Service. on Aug
 1, 1989 I started to work as the former
 supervisor ~~the~~ in the cattle sale stalls
 for the slunch of Lewis Street of Father
 Day Society. This was a very good
 change for ~~me~~ me.

we had a little live brown hares that
~~set~~ set to the east of the fog house this
is where we slept there was brown
heat in it at all. It sure was cold
in the winter to go to bed without any
hoof at all.