

A SHORT STORY of the LIFE of MARIUS ENSIGN MILLS.

Written by his daughter Lola Ensign Mills Baldwin

I Lola Ensign Mills am writing this story about my Dad Marius from things, I remember about my Dad Marius and information he told me himself. I will also include information I got from his two brothers David and Harvey. Dad and Mom told me a lot of things about their lives. I was very close to my dad and Mom for which I am very thankful.

Marius Ensign Mills was born of goodly parents in a one room adobe house near the small Sevier River in a small town called Joseph "Joe town" Sevier County, Utah, December 5 1985. He was the second child, his older brother John Henry being the first-born on May 11, ~~1984~~.

Marius was a fairly handsome man with brown eyes and brown hair. His moustache was a sandy color. He wore a beard when he was young man and it was the same sandy color.

Marius's father and mother Henry George Mills Sr. and Eliza Ann Horsley were married in Ferron, Emery County, Utah May 16, 1843 they were cousins. After they were married , they moved to Joseph to be near their parents, George Henry Sr. and Caroline Boxall. They lived in Vaca on a homestead ranch beside the Sevier River.

Henry and Eliza lived on different ranches around Joseph for a while and then they moved to a small town of Ferron Emery County, Utah (known as Castle Valley). In Ferron .Marius started very young going with his dad punching cattle and herding sheep. Marius and his Dad became very close to one another. in fact Marius was as close as any child could get to his fathe. I was told by Marius's two brothers David and Harvey that Marius was closer to their dad than anyone in the family

I know myself that my Dad was very close to his Dad. They worked very closely together. We lived with them when I was young and growing up. I got very close to my grandpa and Grandma. Marius and his dad had a mail contract together, carrying mail from Emery, Emery

Utah to Price, Carbon Utah,
Then in July 1922 the mail business closedown and Dad moved his family from Emery to a farm owned by Sade Mauren by the Huntington River three miles northwest of Huntington by my Grandpa and Grandma. Sometime in 1922 or 23 Marius and his Dad bought a Sawmill in Huntington Canyon. I remember going with my Dad to the saw mill often. I remember riding on the load of lumber when Dad had to take it to Huntington. Marius brother—in-law Herman Cooley took the lumber to Huntington for him often. Marius worked closely with his Dad from the time he was old enough until his Dad until his Dad Died July 1928.

Marius had six Brothers and three ~~brethers~~—John Henry, David James, Harvey Lafayette, George Allen, Rueben Horsley, and Emerson Milton. The three sisters were Caroline Elizabeth, Vimra Pearl and Frances Eliza.

Marius was very close to his Dads two brothers Charles and L.C. I knew them real well, they came to our house a real lot and would stay with us. Charles wife came a lot to our place. Mom and she got very close. Marius's Dad and Mom moved from Ferron to Scofield, Carbon County Utah. They were there a while in the summer of 1890; Henry G. moved his family to Scofield, Carbon County where he was employed. They lived there through the winter, on January 1891 the snow got so deep it covered the windows. A coal oil lamp was kept burning day and night in order to see anything, it was also very cold. After this experience, Marius's mother Eliza Ann H. Mills said she didn't want to spend another winter here. They spent the summer of 1891 there. in the fall they moved back to Ferron. Henry went back to Scofield to work. Marius and his brother Henry started school. Marius never had much schooling; he only went to the fifth grade. After the fifth grade, he spent his time working with his dad. He was left alone to take care of things. Being very young, he was eleven years old when he quit going to school. Marius would rather work and be with his dad than go to school. His Dad would say if you don't want to go to school you could go with me and work. Marius liked doing this so he wouldn't have to go to school.

In the spring of 1892, the National depression was on; there was hardly any work or money. It was hard for many people. Marius's Dad Henry Mills was very fortunate. He got a job working for Dave

Ecasles from Ogden Utah. Dave owned a sawmill in Scofield and he wanted it moved to what was called Mill Canyon, head of Mud water which is twenty miles southwest of Price Carbon County Utah . It isn't said but Marius could have been helping and working with his dad. Henry George Mills was working at the sawmill when his son Harvey Laffette was born on May 11 1892, Ferron Utah and wasn't able to get home when he was born.

In the spring of 1893 Henry G. moved his family to the sawmill where he was working, Marius was now seven years old and was put to work doing many things. That summer Henry G. Marius's dad homesteaded a claim a few miles north of Mill Canyon on one branch of Mud water Creek sometimes called Seely Creek at the mouth Straight Canyon about 20 miles southwest of Price Carbon County Utah. Here the family spent the winter (1893) and the first part and the first part of the year 1894 and almost starved to death. There was Henry G., Eliza Ann, John Henry, (9 years old) (Marius Ensign), eight years old Caroline Elizabeth (6 years old) David James 93 years) and Harvey Laffette (1 year old) making a family of seven at the time. A few days before Christmas December 25 Th Marius's Dad Henry went to the valley for supplies which included flour, sugar, ect. When a terrible storm came up and he couldn't get back as planned. The snow got too deep and the horses gave out on him. He had to spend the night under a pinion pine on Christmas Eve with nothing to keep him warm except the clothes he was wearing it was a wonder he didn't freeze to death. He was eight miles from home and his family. It took all the next day to tromp a trail through the snow leading his horses through the drifts. He didn't get home until after dark. This was a Christmas the family never forgot. Marius's mother Eliza Ann had to grind what little wheat they had in a coffee grinder to make some flap Jacks for her children to keep them from being hungry. Henry, Marius, and Caroline never did forget this experience. They named the place where their Dad had spent the night "Christmas Tree Hill" and every time they passed the place going to up to the ranch, all three would tell the story about "Christmas Tree hill" David said Harvey was too young to remember the story told by his siblings I am sure this was a very hard and difficult time for them I'm sure they counted their many blessings and was thankful their father never froze to death or they starved. The family never spent any more winters at the ranch. They would go to the ranch in the spring and back to the valley in the fall. It must have been hard to move so often,

but I'm sure it took a lot of patience to do this.

In the summer of 1894 the family moved to the ranch, Henry went to herding sheep and cattle for the Miller brothers. Marius went with his Dad. Eliza Ann and the rest of the family milked cows and made butter to be sold to the miners at Castle Gate, which was a mining town.

In the fall of 1894, the family moved back to Ferron Utah

On January 21 1895, another boy was born and was named George Alden.

In the spring of 1895, the family moved back to the ranch and Henry got a job working for Bob Hill from Lawrence Emery Utah. Bill Hill ran his cattle ranch in what was called Bob Hill Canyon near Henrys ranch. Bob got Henry to take care of his cattle in which Maruis was all too eager to help.

In the fall of 1896, Henry moved his family to Desert Lake Emery Utah into a log house owned by Thomas Wells. It was a two room log house in which one room had a fireplace and the other room was used for a kitchen. Marius went to school here in Desert Lake and was in the fifth grade. His teacher was named John Peterson. This was the last time Marius went to school. What he learned from then on was on his own. Marius was now eleven years old and from this time on he was practically on his own. He was left alone at the ranch to take care of the sheep, cattle and other things

. While living here in the log house owned by Thomas Wells, Marius's brother Harvey tells a story about himself and a Billy goat. It was his job to bring in the wood chips for the morning fires. He was a t the woodpile with his container bent over when a Billy goat bunted him in the butt and knocked him head, first down into the pile of chips. He gave out a yell and started to get up, when the old Billy goat bunted him again. He yelled again and his mother and brother came running. Marius picked up a stick and went running after the Billy goat. Harvey was glad to see his mom and brother. After this, Harvey made sure old Billy wasn't around, when he went to bring chips for the fire.

While the family was living in the log house owned by Thomas Wells, in January of 1897, Marius's brother George got badly burned before he was two years old. It was said when George's mother took off his clothes, some skin came off with his clothes. This was terrible and very painful. I know how painful this can be for I Lola was burned one time on my leg. It was deep and very painful. They used linseed oil for burns at this time, which my mother used on me. George got better but it took a long time.

In March of 1900, one of the heifers got in the quicksand and died. Marius, David, and Harvey took it to the lower field of Lars Marsing farm and skinned it to save the hide. On the way home they saw a ball of fire in the air. Marius said it looks like a fire in our shed. He had a young mare tied up in the shed, so they made the team run fast as fast as they could go, but by the time they got there, the whole shed was in flames. A close neighbor, who saw it, came to help. He got the mare out in time but that was all, except for a stack of hay and the yard fence. The stable, chicken coop with setting hens, cow shed and their dad's new harness was all lost in the fire. The next morning when the ashes were cold, the found hens add roasted eggs on their nests where they had been setting. The buckles on the new harness were where they were hung. .

It was told that Marius's brother George and John Wells had gone in the shed to try out some matches. They tried them out in some dry straw and it wasn't long before they had a blaze going, resulting in almost everything being reduced to ashes. George was four years old and John Wells was six years old and were being typical boys.

While the family was living in Thomas Well's place. Henry bought a city lot in Desert Lake town site from Eli Kirksam. Henry moved his family there in a dugout which had two rooms like the other house. One room had a fireplace with a skylight in the ceiling. The children would play on the hearth in front of the fireplace and watch the flames catch on to a fresh piece of wood when it was put on to replenish the fire. It was amazing for to watch those cedar wood sparks jump here and there as the wood began to burn. The pinion pine wood is beautiful when it burns and shows different colors.

It was while they were living in the dugout that a baby girl was born October 16, 1897 and was named Vima Pearl making this family of

seven boys and two girls. Marius and his brothers helped their Dad get logs from the canyon above their summer ranch, to build a two room log house near the dugout. They lived here in the house until they moved to Sunnyside Carbon Utah 1901.

Marius was twelve years old and was working away from home most of the time for Ruben G. Miller.

A small two room frame building was built in Desert Lake for a school, Church , dances and social gatherings. The town was surveyed and a commission as Postmaster was granted to Silas Winder. The Post Office was known as Desert Lake. Maurius's sister Caroline Mills Winder was Postmistress at one time. the Winders kept a store in Desert Lake.

At one time the people living in Desert Lake became a loving and friendly helping one another. They really prospered. Desert Lake was a pretty place.

Most of the women did their sewing and made quilts. Many happy hours were spent making quilts. All traveling for years was done by team and wagon, horse and buggy. There was two yoke of oxen and they were owned by Samuel Wells.

Dancing was the most popular form of amusement with picnics and programs as part of the entertainment. House parties, sleigh riding, hayrack riding and buggy riding were the most fun. Roast chicken, potatoes and corn were served which becomes a tradition for many generations. They made their own games like run sheepp run, kick the can, wolf over the river, hide and seek, and annie high over.

On April 19 1900 Marius brother Ruebun Horsely was born making a family of eight six boys and two girls.

In the year 1901, Henry got a job in Sunnyside and moved his family there. Marius went to work with his dad and two brothers Henry and David in the Mine, digging coal. The boys mother Eliza Ann cooked for the boarders and became friends with many people. The Mills and Wells family were close friends. Henry brought 160 acres of ground from Brigham Hamilton two miles east of desert Lake on a measly flat. He decided to get some fruit trees and plant an orchard. He

bought 1600 fruit trees. He moved his family back to Desert Lake and started taking care of the trees. Marius stayed in Sunnyside to work at the mine and spent his money to help pay for the fruit trees. Marius got married in June 1903 and had to stop sending money to pay for the fruit trees.

Mary Llewlyn was a sixteen year old girl from Scofield and had left home to come to Sunnyside to live with her sister and brother in law. Their names were Annie and Ross Davis .Mary became friends with Caroline Mills and her brothers. She heard that her dad was coming to get her so she went to Desert Lake with Caroline and then came back to Sunnyside. She talked Marius into marrying her in order to avoid going to Scofield with her Dad. Mary was sixteen years old and Marius was eighteen years old full of youth and foolishness ,when they were married June 17 1901. They weren't married long when they started having problems. It was said Mary wouldn't stay home and make a life for her and Marius. She wasn't happy ,in 1904 they moved to Desert Lake in Marius's Dad and Mom's log house. Marius's dad and family were lining on the place where they planted the fruit trees. Marius worked closely with his Dad though he was married. Mary was not happy and it was said that she wouldn't stay home and make a life for her and Marius. This was discouraging to Marius so he would go off herding sheep. When Mary turned eighteen, she filed for divorce and it was granted to her on October 9 1905. She left and went back to Sunnyside Utah. After Marius divorce, he lived with his parents a short time helping on their place. He took a herd of goats to the summer ranch and took care of them for his Dad. he worked for different cattlemen and sheepherders. Marius was always helping his Dad.

In the year 1906, Marius was hired to move camp for a sheepherder who was going to the desert. When he came back he started working for President tuben G. Miller. He worked a lot for this man. He told me (Lola) many times that he enjoyed working for this man and expressed it many times with his family. when the Miller brothers sold out in 1907, Ruben G Miller hired Marius to gather his horses and cattle for him. Marius worked for Charelle Grimes and then for Jackk Mauran. Marius never forgot his duties and came home when he could to help his Dad.

Henry, Marius's father, moved back to Desert Lake in 1903, he got

active in the LDS Church. In November 1903, he took his family to the Manti Temple where he was endowed and sealed to Eliza Ann. On November 25 1903, Their children were all sealed to them except Marius who was married but not active. I Lola Mills Baldwin had Marius sealed to his parents on June 22, 1960. The LDS Saints in Desert Lake went to Cleveland, Utah to attend Church meetings. Some time in the year 1888 or 1889, they were given a Presiding Elder so the might hold church in ther own area. This eliminated the long trips to Cleveland. Thomas Wells was the first Presiding Elder and then on March 9 1904 Desert Lake branch was organized into a ward. Manassa J Blackburn was sustained Bishop, Henry G Mills was sustained as first counselor and Dan Powell was sustained as second Counselor. The LDS Saints living in Desert Lake built a tithing grainery.

On November 13 1904, another boy was born to the Mills family and they named him Emerson Milton (seven boys and two girls).

In 1905 the Bishop made a deal with Joseph Powell of Salt Lake to purchase the land northeast of Desert Lake for a new town.

In 1906, Bishop Blackburn left and went to the Reservation. Henry G Mills was then sustained as Bishop of thr Desert Lake Ward with William Lisombe as first Counselor and Joseph Draper as second Counselor. The responsibility of establishing a new town and builiding up a new settlement now fell upon Bishop Mills. In the spring of 1908 the families moved in to the new town site. Among them was the Lewis Ray family, the Charles Mills family and the Thomas Wells family. The tithing building was moved to the new town site. The Desert Lake Ward was transfered to the new town site. The Desert Lake Ward was transfered to the new town site and Henry remained bishop. the families held school, church and other gatherings in the tithing building.

On February 14 1907, another girt was born to the Mills family in which they named her Frances Eliza. She was the last child. they now had seven boys and three girls completing a family ten. In 1910, Bishop moved his family he new town site. They tore down the log house in Desert Lake and rebuilt it back in the new town site with two additional rooms added which were bedrooms in the Attic. they built the house over a cellar so Eliza wouldn't have to go outside to get

things from the cellar.

Bishop Mills ran the Austin Ranch north of the new town site with Marius at his side.

In 1910 a contract was granted to Thomas Wells to make cement blocks for the construction on a new school building and it was soon finished. It was only used for school and other social gatherings. Harvey Mills and John Wells helped make the cement blocks.

Francis Emily Cooley Wells was appointed postmistress in whom part of Emily's house was used for the Post Office.

The telephone was placed in Emil's house so when a call came in it was Emily was responsible to get the message to that person.

Turned out to be a very busy time for Emily. When the new settlement was reorganisd, Henry G stayed in as bBishop along with his counselors, Eliza was sustained as Relief Society President with Emily Luella Olsen and Emily F Cooley Wells as her counselors. Emily Wells was also sustained as Primaty President. As Desert Lake water became no good from the Alki lands draining into it, the people from Victor had to start hauling their culinary Cleveland. Desert Lake soon become as a "Ghost town". Nothing is their but desert and alkie flats. Victor soon became the same and its a shame for and its a shame for at one time both towns was beautiful

On July 1 1914 Henry took the mail contract from Charlie Winders .

On July 1 1918, Henry and Marius took the mail contract from Emery to Price. they had it until July 1 1922 when it went out of business.

Thomas Wells had it from Victor to Huntington in which I didn't know how long he had it. Until it ran out of business, I suppose.

In 1907 Henry Henry heard that Sarah Isabelle Wells Davis had moved back with her parents. He asked her if she would like to come and work for his wife Eliza Ann because Eliza had fallen ill at the time. Sarah Isabelle knew the family and told Henry she would come to work.

Sarah Isabelle (Belle) as everyone called her called her throughout he life, married Morgan Davis on December 24 1901. they lived

together and had three children. During the first year of 1907, he left her and went back to Des moines Iowa. In the spring of 1907, Belles brother George came to Helper and moved her and her children to her parents house in Victor. She had three girls, Sarah Frances born October 26 1902, Emily Luella born March 13 1904, and Thelma born June 27 1905 in Sunnyside. Belle worked for different people around Victor and Desert Lake. sometimes she would take her children with her to work and put them in a corner, with toys to play with while she worked. This way she didn't have to leave them with her mother so much. In 1908, Belle went to Price, Carbon, Utah to work for a Lawyer by the name of JW Waef to pay for her divorce, which was granted to her in June 1909, After she got her divorce she went back to Victor.

Sometime in 1909 Mariuis came home from herding sheep and stared courting Belle. after a few times he became interested in her and asked her to marry him.

Marius and Belle were married July 25, 1910, by Marius Father Bishop Henry Mills. they were happily married and all the family liked Belle.

They bought L V Mills place in Victor located just west of town. Marius and Belle lived here most of the time until they moved to Huntington Emery Utah in the year of 1916. When Marius and Belle got married, they took Bells three girls with them, Sarah Frances now eight years old and Emily Luella six years old and Thelma was now four years old. Sarah stayed with them until she went to Provo Utah, Utah around 1930. As Luella got older she went to school and stayed with Harvey and Verna Mills in Huntington and attended school for a while and then went to Victor where she got married June 4 1924. Sometime later in the year 1922 or 23, Thelma left home and went to grandpa Wells and stayed there until she got married on June 6 1928.

In 1910, Marius, homesteaded 320 acres of land out by the Cedar Mountain at a place called Lucky Flat. He tried dry farming there and also ran the cattle in the summer.

Marius's brother Harvey built a dam in the south end of Lucky Flat and made a pond. He did a good job and there was water in this

pond as long as anyone could remember. On March 30, 1911, a baby girl was born and was named Caroline Jane (Carrie) in Victor. In the summer of 1911, Marius got a job on the phone line from South fork of Garden Creek to the North Fork at the Seeley Ranch. Marius moved Belle and he four children to Garden Creek. Marius brother David helped on the phone line. After the phone line was finished, Marius moved his family back to Victor. Marius worked on farms helping whenever he could to make a living for his family. He also helped his dad whenever he could. On May 3 1912, another baby girl was born and named Eliza Rosetta On December 23 1913 Amanda Udella was born making a family of six girls. The happy family was happy with the six sweet little girls.

Marius worked at whatever he could to make a living for his family, which included shearing sheep. He worked with sheep and cattle all his life.

In 1916, Marius moved his family to Huntington Utah in a log house southwest of town. Marius and his brother John Henry leased the only garaage in Huntington where they worked together in a successful business.

On february 25, another baby girl was born and named Lola Ensign making the family a total of seven girls. by this time they probably thought they were never going to get a boy oh welll this is life .

In the Fall of 1917 Marius and his Dad leased the Deer Creek mine located in Huntington Canyon. Maros and del Marshall dug the coal and Herman cooley hauled it to Huntington.

On July 12 1918 Marius and his dad Henry got the mail contract to carry the mail from Emery to Price, Marius gain moved his family where he tok the mail from Emery to Price. Marius Dad moved to Price and ran a boading house. Marius brother John moved his family to Price and worked in the garage keeping the car running for the mail carrier.

On October 2 1922 a baby girl was born in Emery and was named Merlene enlargin the number to eight girls. Belle had a hard time with this baby and they almost lost her. When the baby was six weeks old she got whopping cough and almost died. The good Lord was good

to us in saving her life. In 1921, the family got smallpox and was quarantined for several weeks. Merlene got really sick again. We were blessed again I (Lola) can remember getting vaccinated and still carry a scar on my arm. Marius couldn't come home when we were quarantined because he was carrying the mail to Price. I don't know for sure but I think he stayed at a friend's house. The house we lived in was a two-story framed home surrounded by poplar trees and was very nice.

Driving the Mail from Emery to Price wasn't easy at that time. When it rained or snowed, all there was dirt roads. Marius would get stuck in the mud many a time Edward Well\$TED) was called to help him, Bells brother told the story of an experience he had one time when he went with Marius to Price. This particular day, it had been raining and the roads were muddy. They were between Price and Huntington at a place called Blue Slate Hill. The mud was very sticky and they had to get out of the car every little ways and clean the mud off the car. The mud stuck like glue.

On July 1, 1922 the mail business closed out and Marius lost his job. He moved his family back to Huntington and rented a farm from Sade Mauran. We called her Aunt Sade. The farm was located northwest of town along the Huntington River three miles from town. Sade had another farm three miles east where she lived with her two children Faye and Peter. Both farms had orchards with fruit of all kinds, which included berries such as gooseberry, red currant and others. I (Lola) remember moving from Emery to this farm when I was five years and a half years old. Marius Dad was buying a farm upon the hill one mile northwest from the farm Marius was renting. Marius Dad's farm had a big orchard also with all kinds of fruit and berries. It had a big raspberry patch. I (Lola) thought this was great to live by my grandparents. I got very close to them. Marius and his Dad were still working close together. I remember helping with the threshing and going to the sawmill riding on the load of lumber. When my Dad Marius would take it to Huntington, Herman Cooley hauled most of the lumber to Huntington for Marius and his dad.

I (Lola) grew up happy and had a lot of fun on the farm. There was a big tree in the front of the house with a swing on it.. We had fun swimming and climbing on the tree. Fun playing in the orchard under the apple trees with our dolls and eating green apples. It is a wonder

I (Lola) grew up happy and had a lot of fun on the farm. there was a big tree in the front of the house with a swing on it.. we had fun swimming and climbing on the tree. Fun playing in the orchard under the apple trees with our dolls and eating green apples. It is a wonder we never got sick. It was fun going with my sisters and herding cows, which would include Grandpas cows. It was fun with our cousins when when they came. I enjoyed great Grandma Horsely when she came. She came a lot and stayed many days with us. She was so much fun to have around. I loved her very much.