

William Henry Davis
1907-1960

Compiled by Virginia Rowley 1-26-2019

William Henry Davis was born in Orangeville, Emery County, Utah on February 19, 1907 to Elias Henry Davis and Susannah Laramie. He was the 6th of 8 children born to the couple. William was known as "Bill". He had a limited education, but was a hard worker. As a young teenager he herded sheep on the San Rafael Desert. The Davis family owned a sawmill in the Manti La-Sal Mountains above Joe's Valley Reservoir. They worked the sawmill every summer.



Bill met Berniece Blackburn at a local dance. They were married November 13, 1934 in Orangeville. On July 7, 1950, Bill and Berniece were sealed in the Manti Temple. Bill and Berniece were the parents of 5 children, Kathaleen, 1935, Ronald, 1940, Dale, 1941, Earl, 1947, and Dixie, 1950. Bill continued to work with his family at the sawmill every summer. Kathaleen tells a story of her father, Bill and Grandpa Davis hauling logs. Grandpa Davis was sure that he could haul more logs by horse and wagon than Bill could by truck. Bill was delighted to prove that he could haul 5 logs while Grandpa was only able to haul 2 logs with his wagon.

Bill was an easygoing person with a great sense of humor. He loved to joke and tease. The nieces and nephews all loved their Uncle Bill. Kathaleen remembers that her friends liked teasing with her dad, they all called him "Uncle Bill" too.

During the winters Bill would work at any job he could find. He hauled large rocks from the Morrison-Knudsen Tunnels on the San Rafael Desert. On one of his jobs he even counted vehicles on the highway as they passed. He worked for the Emery County Road Department hauling dirt and gravel. His last place of employment was at Church Mine. This was a mine owned by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He transported coal from the mine to church houses all over Utah.

Bill was sick many times throughout his life with a heart condition. He passed away July 31, 1960 at his home. He is buried in the Orangeville City Cemetery.

