

SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF WILLIAM GUSTAVIS MILES
BY HIS DAUGHTER, SARAH A. WALLACE

William Gustavis Miles was born at Salt Lake City, Sept. 13, 1851, a son of Samuel and Hannah Colborn Miles. When 11 years of age, he moved with his parents to St. George as this family of seven had been called by Brigham Young to help settle Dixie. I remember hearing my father tell of the experiences of the trip as he had to drive a cow most of the way. His childhood days were days of sacrifice and toil in helping to settle a new country., but these experiences seemed to have strengthened his testimony of the Gospel. As a child, I was deeply impressed, as to his great faith, his kindness, and his ability to control his temper. Never do I remember of him giving way to profanity but he was quiet and firm in his convictions. He was always patient with his family. He was married to ParaLee Amanda Church in the Endowment House at Salt Lake May 25, 1874. Of this Union, 11 children were born, 2 girls and 9 boys. Two boys died in childhood, Richard and Haden. Two sons died in adulthood, William and Thomas. Father was a well educated man for his day. He was a great reader and taught his children to read good books. I remember the evenings when we each took our turns in reading from Church Books, then followed singing of hymns. Father was talented as a good bass singer and either led or sang in the Choir for 25 years. I remember he and Uncle Haden Church used to practise with a tuning hook. He would strike it and bring it to his ear to get the pitch. He sang in Public in quartetts and was on many programs.

He spent considerable time in guarding Indian raids and also served under Capt. James Andrus in fighting Indians at Pipe Springs. He was a stone Cutter and Mason and this capacity assisted in building the St. George and Manti Temples. He cut many of the stone in the Dixie College Building and other Public buildings of St. George. He and Uncle George Brooks used to work together as masons and were dear friends as were their wives. Father was a manufacture of the

Diamond Valley grindstone. He used to take trips up to the stone quarry about 30 miles north of St. George and cut the large slabs of white stone from the quarry. He hauled it to St. George and made the grindstone from it. He had a small mill on the Santa Clara Creek close to the quarry where he use to mill the stone. Father filled important offices in Church and Civil capacity. He served at one time as Justice of the Peace. He was a member of the High Council of St. George Stake and at the time of his death was a Patriarch. Such things as these were said of father by the speakers at his funeral “He was a man of his work, scrupulously honest, a kind and loving husband and father. “Brother Miles was a producer. He worked for all and earned all he ever had and reared his family up in honor by diligent labor.” “Brother Miles died in the satisfaction of a well lived life and possessed a richness of soul not produced by material wealth”. “His Creed and desire and ambition was for the development of this land materially and for the spiritual advancement of its people” “Brother and Sister Miles have been a blessing and inspiration to many of us. “Brother Miles taught his children correct principals by precept and example, and there has not lived in this town a more charitable women than Sister Miles.” “According to the teachings of this Church, he is entitled to Celestial Kingdom. He donated liberally to every public cause, paid his tithing fully and observed all the laws and commandments of The Lord as he understood them. assisting the cause of truth all his days.” Many other fine tributes were paid to the life and example of dear father. He died May 6, 1927, after lingering illness that was caused by the dust of the stone, he being a stone cutter for many years. He suffered for a long time with a cough and finally died of lung trouble. As his child, I have learned to appreciate his excellent character and as the years roll on, I only hope I can repay him by trying to heed a few of the teachings he gave me as a child by both precept and example.