

## History of Mary Adelia Felt Young (Mary Dell)

Mary Dell Young, a daughter-in-law of Brigham Young, was born May 19, 1864, to Nathaniel Henry and Mary Louise Pyle Felt on Main street, Salt Lake City, Utah. She lived here until she was two years old, and then moved to North West Temple, and attended church in the Seventeenth Ward. This is her story:

Bishop Davis was our Bishop and his daughter was my first-grade teacher. We went to the school on First West. The building was pioneer style, the best they could build in those days, "but always kept clean". A large coal stove furnished the heat, and pitch pine wood was put in to keep the building warm. The interior of the school building was slightly furnished, with wooden benches for the children to sit on, and a rustic desk where the principal sat to watch the teacher direct the class, and also to watch how the children responded, as well as their behavior. He was very strict and punished them if they were disorderly in any way.

EXPERIENCES IN SCHOOL. My two little brothers, David and Nathaniel Henry Felt, went with me to school. They were well behaved children at home, as Mother who was now living alone with us, was very strict and taught us to mind. When she told us once not to do something, we knew we had to obey her. My brother Nathaniel had made a little toy that whirled around and buzzed. He took this toy to school and some of the boys wanted to see how it worked. Nathaniel began to whirl it around and of course it made a buzzing sound and children began to laugh. The principal called Nathaniel to the desk and put on him his large white coat and a dunce cap made out of paper, then had him whirl his toy. He couldn't do it very well as the toy would hit the cap in whirling around. I stood this as long as I could, then went up to my brother pulled the dunce cap off, also the coat, and told him and David to come, and we went home. My mother met us at the door and wanted to know what was the reason we had come home from school. We told her what had happened, and she let us stay home the remainder of the day. That evening the principal came over to see Mother and they talked and talked, but we children were sent from the room and didn't hear the conversation. Mother said we were to go back to school the next morning, so we did, and none of us ever wore the dunce cap after that.

SCHOOL DAYS. We usually had good teachers like Miss Davis; I thought a lot of her, as she taught us many things I will always remember. I went through all the readers up to the fifth reader. We were taught reading, writing and arithmetic. After finishing the fifth reader, I went to Morgan's College. I was baptized at the age of eight, by Thomas Higgs, in City Creek, and blessed by him. My teacher in the Elementary School and fifth grade, was Professor Cummings. All our lessons were written on the blackboard, and we used pencil and paper to copy them from the board, and had to learn them for the next day. We knew all the pupils who attended school and were all united as one, as no one was richer than the other, so there was no class distinction. The children were easy to get along with.

EXPERIENCES IN CHURCH. Every Sunday, we attended church and had to be very quiet while the preacher was speaking. My dear mother read the Bible to us at home we memorized many passages of scripture. I attended Primary. Florence Ridges was the secretary and I was her assistant. My special interest in the Primary was teaching the little children and oh! how I loved them. I taught from the first grade up to the third and rarely missed any meetings. The Mutual Improvement Association was organized to improve the lives of all who attended, and also to become more acquainted with the great principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It especially helped the young people and instilled in their young minds the truths of the everlasting Gospel. My mother had her three children go to Mutual, as she knew it would help her in various ways to raise them. I became interested in Mutual and looked forward to it. I always took part in whatever the officers and teachers asked me to do. Knowing by taking part and in being obedient to those placed in authority over us, we could come back some day in the presence of God. Mother always taught me to be obedient in the home, if she asked me to do something I obeyed her without any hesitation. She said, "If you set the example of going to Mutual, other girls will follow and perhaps through this, you may be the instrument of saving one girl in your crowd".

Mother opened the parcel and thanked him. She was happy to find such lovely gifts, as it was a beautiful paisley shawl and a linsey woolsey shawl of blue and white plaid. My present was a dress of Scotch plaid. Oh! how grateful we were to receive these lovely gifts.

OUR HOME. Our home was located on North West Temple and consisted of a large front room about twenty by twenty feet, with a smaller room in the back, which we called the shanty room where we used to store things. It was lined with three or four inches of paper. In here we had a very large box, which was also lined with three or four inches of paper to keep the fruit from freezing. We always had to be careful in the winter to keep from freezing ourselves for we had very severe winters. The snow in the winter would top the five foot high fences. We always had to go out and shovel a path to the house before we could enter it. The air was wonderfully crisp and cold. The climate had changed a lot since those days. We even had to wear home made board shoes to walk in the snow.

THE SEVENTEENTH WARD. We girls had wonderful times together, and enjoyed each others' company at Sunday School, MIA and all meetings. We were taught to keep the Sabbath day holy. One Sunday afternoon, the boys and girls planned a picnic to the Great Salt Lake. A boy by the name of William Hielip had bought some food from the bakery. They came to my home and wanted me to go with them, and I wanted to go. I knew if I asked Mother if I may go, what her answer would be. "NO, Mary, you cannot go as would be breaking the Sabbath Day. No, dear you cannot go." We sat on our porch and talked and talked. I told the crowd to go on with the party, as my Mother would not allow me to go on Sunday. At last we decided to have the party on our porch. Just when we had the lunch spread out, and we were eating and having a very good time, who should come up the walk but Joseph Dean, our ward teacher. He looked amazed and asked if we didn't realize it was Sunday. So I explained to him that I couldn't go to the lake. "Well, he said, it is much better for you to do it this way, than go out there especially on Sunday". He went into the house and talked with Mother, so we went on with the party, and we were glad he was not angry with us.

EXPERIENCES TO REMEMBER. Judge Elias Smith was one of our neighbors and lived where the Utah Motel is now. His chicken coop and ours were in the same building. My brother David went out to gather the eggs and brought in a bucket full of eggs. Mother said, "David, where did you get all those eggs when we only have five chickens?" David told her he guessed Judge Smith's chickens' eggs were sliding down into our nests. David knew exactly how the eggs were sliding down for he had planned it that way. Mother put all the eggs into the basket and said, "David, you take those eggs right over to Judge Smith and tell him what you did and not to send one egg back, as they are all his. David was reluctant to go, but Mother insisted. So he went out of the house slowly with Mother watching until he knocked on the door and went in. Mother waited and waited for him to come back and when he did come she said, "David, why were you so long?" David replied, "Oh, Mrs. Smith had some buckwheat caked with sugar and cream and she invited me to have some. My, they were good. I'm glad I took the eggs over."

DATES. When I reached the age of thirteen years, I started to go out to the dances and went with Donald Smith. Mother went to all the dances too. She kept close watch who I went with, but I went with good boys and Mother was good to them all. All the boys used to engage us ahead of their partner for the dance and we did have a good time and never stayed out late after the dance was over. Later on one of my boy friends was a young man from Springville named Emmett Lynch. I was working in my brother's store at Provo when I met him. He wrote to me for sometime, but through no fault of his, I did not get some of his letters we drifted apart. A friend of mine, Lillian Boyer, intercepted my mail and I didn't realize it until many years later. I think it was for the best as he wasn't a Mormon, but a good man.

NAMES. After living in Salt Lake many years, Brigham Young, President of the Church, advised my mother to marry William J. Silver. He operated the silver and iron works and was the founder of this great industry. By marrying him, Mother could give my two brothers a better chance to get a vocation in life. So, she married William J. Silver on October 12, 1870. Later two children were born to them, the first, a baby boy, named William P. Silver. The second child was a little

My mother became very ill and died May 11, 1912. After her death we moved into her old home on 4th North and Main St. in the Nineteenth Ward. On Oct. 30, 1915, my daughter, Mary Louise was married to Abram Harold Lewis. All during this time my husband had been very sick. He stayed in his other home because I was busy taking care of my mother when she was ill. He died Aug 1, 1917 at this home at the age of 68 years. We all missed him as he was a wonderful husband and loved all his children. He was very quiet in his way but was well liked by all his friends and neighbors. His memory will always live with us as a kind and devoted husband.

LATER LIFE. After my husband's death my daughter, Glenn, and I moved to 3rd So. and 4th East to live with Clyde and Lavon Felt. On November 1, 1919 Glenn was married to Joseph Ralph Haas. Previous to her marriage I took a job as a cleaning woman at the City and County Building. I moved to the Lake Hotel and was a member of the Eighth and Ninth Ward. I was president of the Relief Society here for a year and a half. Also I was a Stake missionary for 18 months. I then moved to 3rd East between 4th and 5th South, where I was in the Eighth Ward. While living here we went on many Temple excursions. Bishop and Sister John Fetzer went with us also Sister Anna Tonnison and many others. We went to the following temples: Logan, Manti, St. George and Arizona. Our last trip was to the Cardston Temple in Canada. This was just before Sister Fetzer died. I have worked in these temples and have done thousands of names for dead people who were waiting for someone to do the work for them. I think there is no work more enjoyable and I intend to do more Temple work as soon as I can. Until the year about 1935 I continued to work at the City and County Building. I worked there over 20 years.

In the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, Marth Crow was Captain; First Vice Captain, myself; Second Vice Captain, Lucy Wilson. I have worked many years with the D.U.P. and have enjoyed these many years with these wonderful women. I have been Chaplain many years and still hold this position. In 1937 I was hit by a car but I didn't go to a hospital. I stayed with my daughter, Glenn until I was well. In 1944 I was hit again and dragged down the street several feet. Again I stayed with my daughter. In 1946 I was crossing the street with my friend Anna Smith when we were both hit. She had both legs broken and I had a badly hurt leg and broken ribs. I had my eyes operated on for cataracts in 1947. After this time I could again read and enjoy our standard works. In 1947 I moved to where I now live at 261 East 6th South. In 1954 I broke my leg getting into a car. I guess it was just worn out after all the accidents. I stayed with my daughter, Louise Lewis for over a year until I was well again, then I returned home. I have been a block teacher for almost 70 years and I am still active in the Relief Society, Sunday School and Mutual Improvement Association.

I will be 98 years old this May 19, 1962. I live in the same home with my daughter, Glenn and she helps me in many ways.

This poem was given to Mary Dell Young on her birthday, May 19, 1940.

#### MARY DELL YOUNG

Many Happy returns dear sister true,  
As the years pass by I will think of you;  
As you stood at the door with outstretched hands  
To welcome me to a sister band.

Your smile was sweet and very sincere,  
As you greeted each one with a word of good cheer!  
And you didn't seem strange as you stood in the door,  
For it seemed that somewhere I had known you before.

As you walk along life's pathway,  
Whatever you do or whatever you say,  
May the spirit of God like a beacon light  
Shine in your path to guide you aright.

Add when at last your work here is done,  
And life's book is closed with the setting sun'  
And you pass beyond to that radiant shore  
Perchance up there you will stand at the door.

And welcome those you have known down here,  
With a happy smile and a word of cheer.  
And I shall love to be among  
Those who are welcomed by Mary Dell Young.

Maude Kenner