

Henry M. Marvel [6169115]

and spouse Esther L. Burgess

{Copied, essentially verbatim, from page and 15 of the M history.}

August 1, 1923

Ferndale California

To Hettie (Marvel) Markley [6169145]

My Dear Cousin:

You welcome letter came to hand a few days ago and I will now endeavor to answer. I received a letter some time ago from you and had partly written a reply and then neglected to finish it. We have also received newspaper clippings containing accounts of the Marvel Reunions and have intended to join the Association. Enclosed please find P. O. Money Order for my membership fee.

I am proud of the fact that I am a member of the Marvel family. I, and in fact all of my family, will be delighted to get the booklet containing the history of the Marvels.

I am unable to furnish any information pertaining to our father's grandfather. We regret that we are unable to attend any of the reunions. We enjoy reading the accounts of them though. I was greatly pleased with the music program rendered at the 1921 Reunion. The numbers that attracted my attention most were the songs "America" and "Tell Me The Old, Old Story." I am proud that on such occasions my people showed their respect for their country and their God. Here in California the people, many of them, are unmindful of their God upon occasions of that kind. They are pleasure mad. Few families gatherings but usually have a dance as the main feature.

California is a most beautiful and wonderful state to live, but many of its social functions might be greatly improved. Ferndale is a town of about 1000 inhabitants in a very fertile little valley of Eel River. The chief industry in the valley is dairying. Near our home is creamery and dry milk factory that handles over 100,000 pounds of milk each day. You wonder what is done with the dry or powdered milk. It is shipped to all parts of the world. It is white and fine like wheat flour and is used principally by ice cream parlors and bakeries.

Lumbering is the chief industry of the county. Redwood is the principal lumber made. The redwood tree, as you no doubt know, is a very large tree, and has been standing for countless ages upon the foothills facing the Pacific. When the Wisemen, guided by the Star of Bethlehem, were seeking the Infant, Jesus, these trees—many of them—were standing—living monuments of God's great handiwork. Under these giants would be an ideal place to hold the 1925 Reunion in Humboldt County, California. It would commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of my father—Henry Story Marvel.

The following is a conglomerated story of the Marvels in California: Henry Story Marvel [616911] was born in Ohio, December 13, 1825 and died in California June 13, 1913. You will notice that there are three thirteens in the dates just mentioned. Here are a few more: he had a daughter born on the 13th, a granddaughter born on the 13th, and a great-granddaughter born on the 13th; he has 13 grandchildren, his daughter, Lucy (Marvel) [6169114], died on the December 13th. Her grave number is 1390, while his is 1113. Sarah Marvel Langdon [6169111] lives in Eureka. She is seventy-four years old and is becoming quite feeble. Her two sons live near her.

Lucy Marvel Pedrick [6169114] died December 13, 1920. Her son, Ray, is in the oil fields near Los Angeles.

My bother, James W. Marvel [6169113], died July 10, 1921. His son Floyd is a pressman in a newspaper office at Santa Rosa, California. Jim's widow lives in Eureka.

I was married to Esther L. Burgess in 1894. We have a girl and four boys all living in Humbolt County. The girl, Addie Marvel Huntsman [61691151] has a son five years of age. Mr. Huntsman is a telegraph operator and station agent for the Northwestern Pacific Railroad. Our boys are Louis, James, Henry and Alden. Louis Marvel [61691152] and Jim Marvel [61691153] are clerks in general merchandising stores. Louis Marvel [61691152] is married and has a son three year old. Henry Marvel [61691154] is a freshman in high school and Alden Marvel [61691155] is in the sixth grade in grammar school. My wife and I each weigh over two hundred pounds and Addie Jam and Henry are huskies also. We own our home. We are members of the Methodist church.

We extend our love and best wishes to each and everyone of the Marvel family and wish that the Reunion this month will be a successful and happy event. We regret that none of us will be able to attend.

Thank you for your kindness in writing to us and urging me to become a member of the association, I am

Your Cousin,
Henry M. Marvel [6169115]