

History of Henry Brown Wilde  
by Doran K. Wilde

Henry Brown Wild was born 11 June 1811 to John Wild and Jane Brown at Crowd Hill, Hampshire England. He worked as a man-servant. At age 29, he was married to Sarah Hewlett, daughter of Andrew Hewlett and Sarah Alder. They were married 19 Nov 1840, in the parish of Bishopstoke. They lived in Fair oak, Bishopstoke and while there, a son Thomas Hewlett Wild was born to them, on 27 June 1841. The next year, Henry changed employment, and moved to Southampton. While there, two more children were born to them, Sarah Wild, and Henry Wild.

After Henry's birth, the family moved again, to a nearby city of Portswood. Here, their fourth child, Emma Wild was born. It was also here that the Wild family joined the church. Henry had met a magnetic young elder named Thomas B. H. Stenhouse, who had told him of the restoration of the church. Henry believed and was baptized at age 38 on 12 July 1849 by Elder Stenhouse. A week later, his 8 year old son Thomas, and Henry's wife Sarah were also baptized, on 20 July 1849. On October 8 of the same year, Henry was ordained Priest in the church. Henry was instrumental in spreading the gospel to his friend and family. On November 7, he baptized Mary Phillips, Martha Sparks, Mary Wild Snelgrove (his sister), Martin Martin, Sarah Wild Martin (his sister), and Eliza Phillips Wild (his brother's wife). A week later, his older brother, William and two of William's sons, John and Henry, were also baptized by a friend, Willet Harder. William and his family were living in Bishopstoke when they were baptized. And finally, in December, Henry baptized Charles Andrews, Maria Appleton, and Frederick Wild, the son of his brother William.

About a year after their baptism, the Henry B. Wilde family made plans to emigrate to the United States, to gather with the saints in Zion. Shortly before leaving, Henry moved back to Southampton, to 4 Princess Street, Northam, Southampton. Then on the January 6th, 1851, he and his family, his wife and four young children, along with his 81 year old mother, Jane Brown Wild, and with Martha Sparks, the children's nurse, age 67, set sail on the ship "Ellen Marie" with a company of saints for New Orleans. On March 28, 1851, while they were passing between the Islands of St. Cuba and St. Domingo, a daughter was born to them, Ellen Maria Martha Wild, named after the ship, and the nurse, Martha. They were nine weeks on the water at the end of which time they landed at New Orleans. On the steamship ride up the Mississippi River, his mother became ill and died. She was buried the 9th of May, 1851, in Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri. They remained in the East until the summer of 1852, when they left for Utah, traveling in their own wagon with a team of oxen and bringing one cow. On August 20th, 1852 near the Platte river, their six and a half year old son, Henry, fell from a tree and was killed. They buried him the next morning and then had to drive on and leave him alone on the plains.

They arrived in Salt Lake in September of 1852. That first fall, the family went to Provo and Spanish Fork for the winter. They returned in the spring of 1853 and settled in what became called Sugar House [1]. Here their youngest son, Joseph H. was born 21 August, 1853. Sugar House was named for the sugar mill that was built there. It was the first sugar mill built in Utah and Henry helped to build it. Henry served as second councilor in the Sugar House Ward Bishopric with Bishop Abraham O. Smoot [3]. Henry had ten acres of land and his son Thomas

and daughter Emma herded cows where the town of Sugar House now stands. They walked from there to the Tabernacle block to meetings, over two and a half miles. While at Sugar House they experienced all the hardships and privations of that time. They dug roots and gathered greens for food and were hungry many times.

In the summer of 1859, Henry left Sugar House to settle in the Weber Valley. William H. Smith had found that wheat would grow in a place called Chalk Creek. He went to Sugar House and convinced three others, Henry B. Wilde, Joseph Stalling, and Thomas B. Franklin to settle in that area. On the 8th of June 1859, they drove their ox teams into the Weber Valley. John and Fred Wild followed soon thereafter. Chalk Creek, later renamed Coalville, is in the mountains at 5,550 feet altitude. The mountain wind made for extremely cold temperatures. For this reason, the women and children stayed in Sugar House for the winter, and came later in the spring. That first summer, the men build log houses and started to cultivate the land. The Wild cabin was on the site where the Coalville Co-op now stands and the Smith cabin where the Summit Furniture and Mercantile Company store is located. The Wilds took water from the Weber river. At first, there were only a few families in Coalville but others soon came. By 1860, fifteen families lived in Chalk Creek.

On March 4, 1861, a county organization for Summit County was established by the county court at Chalk Creek. Henry B. Wild was appointed county treasurer. He filed his bond and took the oath of office [2].

Soon coal was discovered and the new town was named Coalville. Henry B. Wild, along with Joel Lewis and Andrew Johnson, were the first to open a mine near Coalville, in what was known as Allen's Hollow, in about 1868. Afterward, they sold their interest in the mine.

Henry B. Wild was the presiding Elder in Coalville, until a ward was organized in 1861. At that time, he was called to be the Bishop, in which office he served until his death in 1875.

In 1865, the first church house was built in Coalville, and became what is known as the Old Rock School House. Construction started in the spring of 1864 and was completed in 1865. It was dedicated by President Brigham Young in the fall of 1868. It was used for church, for school, for city government meetings, for dances and social gatherings, and for a place of safety in times of troubles.

In 1867, Coalville was incorporated and H. B. Wild was voted in as one of the five councilmen on March 5, 1869. Later, he served as the mayor, from 1871 to 1872.

Almost as soon as Coalville was settled, schools were begun. The first school teacher was Sarah Hewlett Wild, who taught school in her own home. By 1860, a log school was built, and Sarah taught there. Later, after the Rock School House was built, school was held there.

In 1869, Sarah Wild became Relief Society president, and served in that position for 20 years, except for two years, which she spend visiting England.

Henry B. Wild died the 23 of February 1875 at the age of 63. His wife, Sarah, outlived him by 29 years, and died on 26 July 1904, at the age of 86 years old. Both Henry Brown Wild, and his wife, Sarah Hewlett Wild, served the church faithfully, from the time they were baptized to their deaths.

#### Sources

1. Margaret E. Carruth Rhead, "A Sketch of the Life if Sarah Hewlett Wilde, Written by her Granddaughter"
2. Summit County record, microfilm 0481,098
3. LDS Church records for Sugar House Ward