

BRIEF LIFE SKETCH
Of
VASILIOUS GEORGE KOURINAKIS
Born January 1896 in
Alikampos, Crete, Greece

Came to America in 1914

Known in America as
William George Curtis

Written by
Ilse W. Curtis (wife)

For

THE HELLENIC L D S SOCIETY
Feb. 1966

William George Curtis

William George Curtis was born on the Isle of Crete, Greece, in the village of Alikampos, on January 1, 1896. A son of George Kourinakis and Anastasia Stavros Kourinakis, who named him Vasilios. He was their fifth child. The others were 1st, Gust, Helena, Ross, Andreas, Christo, Steve, Antonia, and 3 boys, triplets, who died in infancy.

His father was a butcher by trade, but also farmed his olive groves, and vineyard. As a young boy, Bill would help his father make the frequent trips into the City of Chania to market the lambs, olive oil, grapes and wine.

At the age of 17, he, with his older brothers, Gust and Ross, came to America, arriving in April, 1914. They settled in Hanna, Wyoming, working in the coal mines there.

When the First World War broke out, Bill enlisted under the name of Bill Koras, and was sent to Camp Tungston, Kansas. He, with a few other young men from Hanna, were honored by the local people by having their names engraved on the base of a Flag Pole, which remains and may be seen today.

After six years' service in the armed forces, Bill was stationed at Fort Douglas, Salt Lake, Utah. While there he met Ilse Wesche. Then, 19 months later, they were married in Price, Utah, on September 1, 1921. The marriage was later solemnized in the Salt Lake Temple.

Bill worked in the Carbon County Coal Mines, for about 1 year, then moved to Bingham, where their daughter, Hellen, was born in February 1923. A few months later, they moved to Salt Lake City, buying a home on 4th North and 10th West. Bill then went into the Baking Business. He operated the City Bakery lunch counter with his wife, and delivered bread and pastries to stores and boarding houses in Bingham and Salt Lake until 1930. He then sold the bakery and went into the wholesale dairy business. He was baptized a member of the Church of Latter-Day Saints, 15 December, 1925.

By this time, two sons were born to them. George William and Andrew Jay, and the name Koras was legalized to William George Curtis.

Having out grown the home on 10th west, an apartment was rented for a little while until another home more suitable for our needs could be bought.

This home was north off 1st West in the 19th Ward, where we enjoyed our many dear friends, and all worked in the church for the next 15 years, and our lovely three children were married.

In the Spring of 1945, while delivering his milk route during a foggy morning, Bill ran into a telephone pole, crushing his chest on the steering wheel of his truck, which put him into a hospital for several months, and on August 23, 1945 he passed away.

His funeral services were under the Honor Guard of the American Legion. His burial was in Salt Lake City Mount Olivet Cemetery.