



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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The Face of Fillmore this week takes a look at an often-passed home near my own at 145 North 100 West. The current owners are Kevin and Tonya Tracy who have lived there with their family for the past five years. It is presently cleverly decorated for the fall season and Halloween as the picture shows, something Tonya is very talented at doing.

This two-story home was originally constructed in 1872 by Lewis Tarbuck, who was a prominent bricklayer and stone mason in the area. It was built with two rooms upstairs and two downstairs. Originally, there was also a log cabin behind the home. Later on a brick addition was added.

The home is made of native brick with a rock foundation. It was stuccoed about 1975. One interesting feature of the home in the past was that you stepped up or down to go from room to room. This was changed by the current owners so that each floor is on the same level.

The original owner of the home was Alexander Melville, who lived there with his wife and eleven children.

Alexander was born in Scotland. As a young man, he married Elizabeth Adamson and they soon joined the Mormon Church, as did many members of Elizabeth's family. They immigrated to the United States with a group of church members in 1844, sailing from Liverpool to New Orleans, then up the Mississippi to Nauvoo. They were only there a short time when they were driven from Nauvoo with the other church members and went to Winter Quarters. Their first child, who was named Joseph, died after they left Nauvoo. Shortly after the birth of their second child Marguerite, Elizabeth died, leaving Alexander to care for the small daughter. A few years later, Alexander married Jane Ann Dutson.

Alexander and Jane were some of the first residents of Fillmore, living in the fort for a time. He became the owner of a great deal of property in Fillmore, which he deeded to his children as they married. His original home was whitewashed adobe, before he had the brick one built. The brick home is pictured here along with the Melville family. It is believed that Rulon Melville is the child on the horse.



As the Melville's grew older, Jane lost her eyesight. Their son David Alexander Melville and his wife Alice Frampton Melville moved into the home with them to care for them. After Jane's death, Alexander died just months later. David and Alice stayed in the home the remainder of their lives with Alice living for 23 years after David's passing.

Their daughter Elaine Melville Goddard continued to live in the home. Her daughter and son-in-law, Vern and Shirley Brunson moved in with her as she grew older and was unable to stay alone.

After Elaine's death, the Brunson's sold the home to the Tracy family, who are, as the other occupants have been, interested in history of this great pioneer home.