



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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One of the first columns I wrote for the Face of Fillmore featured the Upper Grist Mill on Chalk Creek. Since that time, I have received more information that I think is a great addition to what we already knew, prompting me to revisit that location once again.



Some of the other millers were James Day, Heber Mitchell, Almon D. Robison, C. Frampton, Heber Jackson, Edwards Nelson, Lorenzo Brunson, Arnell Jackson, William Bottomfield and Lane Bottomfield.

Chad Carling tells of visiting the mill with his friend Ralph Jackson one day after school in 1947. Ralph's father Arnell was the miller at the time. The young men were curious about how the mill operated and the demonstration they saw was very enlightening.

The mill was powered by water from Chalk Creek. A portion of the creek water was diverted downhill to the mill location first through a cement ditch, part of which is still visible along Second South (Chalk Creek Road) and Third East. From there the stream of water went into a large steel pipe about 24

The Upper Grist Mill was one of three located along Chalk Creek and powered by the stream's flow. It was built in 1871 and was operated by the Upper Flour Mills Company. It was first owned by Amasa Lyman, a familiar name in the history of Fillmore and the father of Apostle Francis M. Lyman. One of the first stockholders was Almon Robison, who was the son of Joseph Robison, the man built the first stone home outside the old fort and whose family was prominent Fillmore's past.

The first miller who ran the mill for about two years was William Gibbs. He would never take toll from the Indians; he always gave them the same weight in flour as they brought in wheat.



inches in diameter. When the mill was not operating, the water went on by and back into the creek below. When it was time to start the mill in operation, the miller would manually rotate a large wheel that opened a gate valve allowing pressurized water to enter into the building. The pressure of the water forcefully passing through a turbine slowly started the motion of things turning inside the mill.

Chad said, "You could hear the creaking of belts, pulleys, and the growling of the drive shafts beginning to turn the large grinding stones. You could feel the whole building shaking, creaking and squeaking."

When the large grinding stones came up to operation speed, wheat trickled in the between the stones. In a process of crushing and grinding of the wheat, flour poured out into sacks.

Technology has come a long way since then, but it is interesting to take a glance back at the ingenuity of the early settlers of Fillmore.