



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard

June 11, 2008

The Face of Fillmore welcomes home the 145th National Guard Unit with thanks for their service to our country and thanks for answered prayers for their safe return.

Fillmore has a history of pride in serving our country. A unique log building stands on Main Street just south of the Courthouse, as a memorial to the men and women who dedicated part of their lives to military service.

In November 1919 World War I veterans Clinton E. Day and Cuthbert Trimble decided that an American Legion Post was needed in Fillmore. The legion was formed a week later and met in the top of the statehouse until the log legion hall was completed in 1926.

The history of the building's construction shows the pride this community had in their military people.

In 1922 Frank L. Stewart and his wife Ethel were honeymooning in Idaho. Frank was taken by the enormous stands of beautiful lodge pole pine. Stewart devised a plan to sell the logs for \$5 each to the citizens of east Millard County, who in turn would donate the logs to the Legion Veterans of World War I. The money would pay for the logs and freight. Patriotism and enthusiasm were running high and the logs quickly sold. All of the needed logs were bought in February, 1924. The Fillmore City Council granted a lease for the property to Post 61 "for the entire life of the American Legion for the purpose of a memorial home" on January 24, 1924.



Martin Hanson and his sons made the plans and the layout of the octagon building. They cut and fitted the logs. Most of the labor was donated. Elmer Davies and Basil Moulton hauled the gravel and dug the basement.

Water was installed in 1930 and electricity in 1934.

Articles of Incorporation for Post 61 with the State of Utah and Millard County were signed December 17, 1959.

The main floor of the building was remodeled in 2002 and the utilities brought up to code in 2005. At the present time, the main hall is decorated with military memorabilia and paintings, many of which were painted by Frank Thomas. The legion has made the hall available to the community as public service since its completion.

Legionnaires named the American Legion Hall – "Day-Stewart-Trimble Home of the Brave 2004".

Another impressive memorial to the military contributions of this area stands on the north side of the Court House. The Millard County Veterans' Memorial Wall was dedicated in May 2001 in a memorable ceremony. Over 4800 names of veterans of military service from Millard County from pre-1900 to the present day are engraved in the wall. American flags guard the white cross at its entrance.

The wall was the first recipient of a very prestigious award – the Freedom's Foundation at Valley Forge Award. It is appropriate that we once again thank the committee responsible for this great asset to our community: Wayne Jackson, Howard Alldred, Robert Wetzel, Richard Bunker. Terry Brewer, Rayma Day, Mark Pearce, Cal Stewart, Don Corry, Colonel Sam Starley, Suzanne Limburg,

Kenneth Porter, Jerald Warner, Knox Huntsman, Gwen Hunter, and Frank Thomas along with County Commissioners LaVar Cox, Stephen Draper and Tony Dearden.

According to Raymond Stephenson, Commander of the American Legion Post, a great celebration of freedom will take place on August 16, further honoring our returning troops. At 10 a.m. there will be "Welcome Home to Our Troops Freedom Salute at the Territorial Statehouse". This will begin with a fly over and the presentation by name of all of the troops with a flag ceremony, the national anthem and prayer. The welcome will be given by Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr. Presentations will be made by Major General Brian Tarbet and Brigadier General Jim Martin. A special flag presentation, cannon salute, siren salute, and prayer will end the program. Lunch will be served to all in the park at noon along with a musical patriotic program. A dance will be held that evening in the American Legion Hall.

