



## Face of Fillmore

*By Sherry Shepard*  
March 13, 2019

The Face of Fillmore offers congratulations to the American Legion on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its beginning in Paris, France, on March 15, 1919.

Fillmore's Post 61 began on November 17 of that same year when World War I veterans Clinton E. Day, Frank Stewart, and Cuthbert Trimble decided that an American Legion Post was needed in Fillmore.

The legion first met in the upper room of the Territorial Statehouse. The building at that time belonged to Fillmore City but there was not money in the budget to refurbish it. When the Legion began meeting there that November, the building was in rough shape. Through time and money spent by volunteers both from the Legion and from the community, the building received a much-needed renovation. Governor Mabey arranged for \$800 to help with the project. The outside stairs on the rear of the building leading to the second story had to be rebuilt as well as the front stairs and landing. A maple floor was installed on the upper floor along with countless other improvements.



The legion met in this location until the completion of the log building on Main Street in 1926. This unique log building stands on Main Street just south of the Court House, as a memorial to the men and women who dedicated part of their lives to military service.

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 building construction was unusual. It was built in an octagonal shape with tongue-and-groove on all corners. The logs were 20 feet long and 8 to 10 inches in diameter. The roof was hip style with exposed rafters in the ceiling. The interior of the building shows the logs are chinked with plaster and cement. Three large stone fireplaces were installed for heating the building.

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 labor was donated. Elmer Davies and Basil Moulton hauled the gravel and dug the basement.

The first meeting was held in the Legion Hall on December 12, 1925.

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”.