



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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With Mothers' Day being celebrated this next Sunday, it seemed appropriate to take a close look at the life of a woman who made a great, positive mark on the Face of Fillmore.

For many years Ann Green Dutson Carling was the only midwife in Fillmore and neighboring towns. Her fee for delivering a baby was three dollars which she would take in cash or merchandise. She not only helped many women join the ranks of motherhood, but also was a doctor for all of the illnesses of both young and old in the community. Without really understanding the scientific reasons for what she did, she practiced sanitary measure that we now know are necessary but were not common in her day.

Ann was unique in the fact that the Prophet Joseph Smith set her apart as a midwife, telling her that she would be successful if she used herbs exclusively in her work. She became known as the "Herb Doctor". She planted her own herb garden and made her own teas and medicines. Not only was her garden a medical necessity to many, but she also planted a variety of flowers making it also a garden of beauty.

I have been told by some of her descendants that she lived in a little house on the block between First West and Second West and First North and Second North in Fillmore. There are some older buildings on the block, and I can't help supposing which of those she may have lived in. I was told there are plants growing there still that don't grow anywhere else in town.

Ann Green was born on October 12, 1799 in Lugwardiness, Herefordshire, England, the fifth daughter of eleven children of William Green and his wife Jane Prosser Green. William was a shoemaker and his wife and children helped supplement his income by taking in laundry.

When Ann was in her twenties, she moved to Hereford City where she became a maid in the home of Joseph Dutson, a blacksmith, and his wife Elizabeth Haffield Dutson. John Dutson, their son, was a writer and a mapmaker, spending much of his time at sea. In 1826, when he returned from one of his trips, he and Ann were married.



The couple became parents when their daughter Jane was born a year later. In 1828 Ann was expecting their second child (a son) when John again went to sea and never returned. Nothing was ever heard from anyone aboard the ship, which presumably sank, drowning the entire crew.

In 1840, missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints came to Hereford and the entire Green family was baptized. Nearly all of them emigrated to the United States, many aboard the ship *Medford* with Elder Orson Hyde in charge of the group. They sailed to New Orleans, then up the Mississippi River to Nauvoo.

While there, Ann met the widower Isaac Carling and the two were married. Ann became mother to his three remaining children as well as her own Jane and John.

Isaac and Ann were also blessed with a son Frank while they lived in Nauvoo. In 1846 the family began the exodus west with Brigham Young.

While in Pottawattamie County, Iowa., Ann Carling gave birth on June 25, 1847 to her second Carling son, Joseph Mathew.

One of her patients and close neighbor in Pottawattamie was Elizabeth Adamson Melville, wife of Alexander Melville. Their baby Margaret was born December 22, 1844. Then son Joseph Alexander was born on February 24, 1846 and died that October. Tragically, the mother Elizabeth Melville, died only a month later. This left the Melvilles' two-year-old daughter Margaret in Alexander's care. Knowing he had to continue on west, he left baby Margaret in the care of the Carling's, adding one more to their large family.

Apparently, John and Ann Carling had planned to cross the plains in 1847. They were signed up to go with the Daniel Spencer Company, who left Winter Quarters on June 17. For some unknown reason, they didn't go to Utah until five years later.

When they arrived in Utah, Ann and John took their family to Provo where her sister Elizabeth Richmond lived. However, they did not stay there long. They moved in October to the new settlement of Fillmore, which was only a year old. Other extended family followed in the years to come.

Ann served the people of Fillmore and beyond all her life. She had four children of her own, only three of them lived to be married. She had 35 grandchildren. From them her descendants in our area and elsewhere have reached large numbers.

She suffered a stroke on July 3, 1893 and died less than two weeks later. She is buried in the Fillmore Cemetery, but her life story lives on to inspire others.