



## The Face of Fillmore

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This week's Face of Fillmore looks at the home on the southeast corner of First East and First South. The original owner of the home was Richard Truman Ashby. He was born in 1871 in Mountain Meadows, Utah, the oldest son of Nathan and Martha Ann Truman Ashby. He grew up in St. George. When he was nine years old his parents left on a mission to the Sandwich Islands. Unfortunately, his father died on the way back home. When he was almost 13 years old, his mother remarried. In 1888 the family moved to the Fillmore area. He worked as a driver for Heber J. Mitchell and even drove the mail for a time.

In 1894 Richard married Minnie Colegrove, the daughter of Harley and Helen McBride Colegrove, in the Manti Temple. They had four children: Geneva, Eugene, Fern, and Alice May.

It was about this time that the home was constructed. Richard also started a farm in the "Sinks", which was located about seven miles from Fillmore. There he raised produce to provide for his family. He also worked at the lower mill. He took an interest in local politics. He was elected Mayor of Fillmore in 1908 and later served three terms as County Clerk.

Richard was also active in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, serving a Sunday School superintendent and second counselor to Bishop Almon Robison.

He died suddenly of a heart attack at the age of 48, leaving his wife to raise their four children alone.

In this picture taken in 1905 we see from left to right: Minnie Ashby holding her daughter Fern (Robison), Belle Hatton, Geneva (Speakman), and the little boy farther to the right is Eugene. Others in the picture are unidentified.

The home is presently owned by Dwight and Diane Memmott who have made many modernizations and improvements to the home and property. Interestingly, the home now has a high hedge around it on the north and west, but the original picket fence is still there inside it.

