



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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This week Fillmore takes a look at the doctors in our community from the very beginning.

The first “doctor” in Fillmore was O.H. Speed. Mr. Speed had no medical degree but the early residents trusted his knowledge and skill in that area and called him “Doctor”. His reputation was excellent in that field. He made a liniment for rheumatism which was widely used for years. Mr. Speed was also a school teacher and taught in a dugout between Center and First South Streets.

John A. Ray and Noah W. Bartholomew went around the community, attending to the sick. They mostly set broken bones. Two others who would share that task were Joseph S. Giles and Joseph E. Ray.

In the years that followed Dr. North came along and was a popular figure in the community. He was an enormous man. The children of Fillmore were often seen tying his shoes for him because he was too large to reach them himself. He was called on to care for Chief Kanosh when he was sick.

The first woman to be added to the list of those caring for the sick was Ann Green Dutson Carling who was trained in obstetrics and cared for many of the women in the county during their “confinement”. Her fee was \$3 which was usually paid in potatoes, fruit or other homegrown items. She brewed herbs and made her own medicine.

Other names connected with healing were Emily Ray, Sarah Speakman Clothier, Mary A. McBride, Allen Russell, Lucinda Dame, Edward Davies and others. Their only pay was the thanks they received.

In the 1880’s, Elizabeth Shipp located in Fillmore and taught a class in delivering babies. Many women in the county took the course. Two of those were Jesse Huntsman and Cordelia Warner of Fillmore who later went on to deliver many babies as well as nursing the sick.

Three doctors arrived in the 1890’s. They were Dr. Manery, Dr. Edwin R. Keen and Dr. Neil. The women of the community thought it was disgraceful to have a man deliver their babies, which limited the amount of work each of these doctors had and each finally left the area.

The first medical doctor to stay very long in Fillmore was Dr. T. O. Duckworth. He moved here as a young man and married a local girl, Edith Huntsman, daughter of Gabriel and Eunice Huntsman. After just two years, they moved to a larger city where his practice would be more lucrative.

Abe Carling accompanied Dr. Duckworth on many of his trips to visit patients, assisting him in his work. After Dr. Duckworth moved, Mr. Carling continued to care for those in need of his knowledge.

The first native son to return as a doctor to Fillmore was Dr. Collier Robison, son of Benjamin and Susan Robison. He soon left as well.

Dr. Dwight came in 1907 in hopes of making this his permanent residence. He also opened a drug store in connection with his practice, but he, too couldn't make enough money to support his family the way he had hoped.

Dr. Elmer Hinckley, another native of Fillmore, practiced here for only a short time, moving on to a larger city. He married Angie Callister, the daughter of Thomas. C. and Alice Callister.

In 1910 Dr. R.B. Stevens and his father came to this community from New York. He met and married Anna Huntsman, daughter of Orson and Frances Huntsman and they made their home here. His practice was very successful and they family stayed until 1922 when he sold the practice to Dr. Earl Maxon, who opened the first hospital in Fillmore. Beatrice Owens was the nurse for Dr. Stevens for many years. Mr. Grover A. Giles was the first registered nurse to come to Fillmore.

A Dr. Clark came to Fillmore for a little over a year at that same time.

In 1923 Dr. William Baker came to Fillmore, bringing his family with him, and bought a home in town. His office was in the Avalon Theater building and was very successful. He stayed until 1936 when he moved to California.

Dr. Earl Maxon sold his business to Dr. Dean C. Evans in 1925. Dr. Evans opened a hospital on the upper floor of his home on Main Street, which he continued until the newer hospital (now the city building) was built on First West and Center Streets.

In the nearly 100 years since Dr. Evans arrived, several doctors have been part of our community. (Trying to name them all from memory of what I have heard would certainly leave several off the list.) We appreciate the dedicated work of the doctors, nurses and other health professionals in our community and their contributions to Fillmore in other ways.

Much of the information here was taken from Milestones of Millard, which is a great resource about the history of all of Millard County.



New medical clinic in Fillmore