



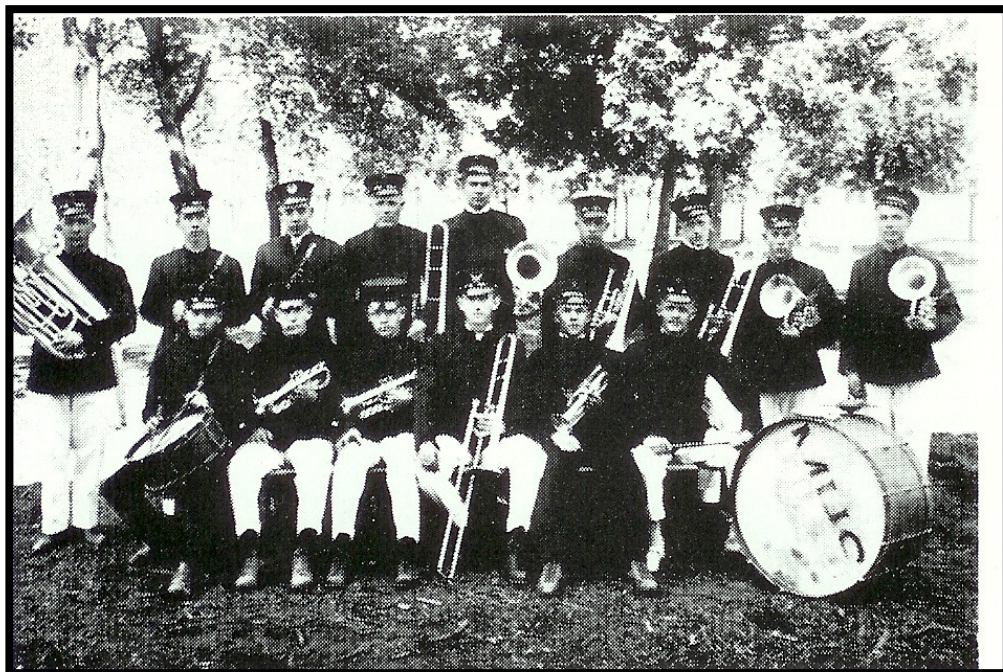
Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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The Face of Fillmore pauses to celebrate the birth of our great nation. For the last 166 years, residents of Fillmore have celebrated the Fourth of July. People from surrounding communities converge on Main Street in Fillmore for a great parade along with food and games in the park. It has become a day for family and class reunions – the enjoyment of renewing old acquaintances. While we no longer dress in our Sunday best as was done in days gone by, we look forward with much anticipation to this yearly event.

Pictured here is the Fillmore Community Band from 1913. Patriotic music has always been part of the celebration.

From *Milestones of Millard* by Stella Huntsman Day we read, “The celebration of our nation’s birthday has always been a big event in the lives of the Latter-Day Saints; but the little band of freedom-loving saints within the old fort of Fillmore were determined to make this first celebration an extra special one. They erected a bowery by the little schoolhouse and raised the Liberty Pole on Saturday in



Fillmore Community Band from 1913

preparation for the festivities to be held on Monday. At dawn on July 4, the guns were fired in salute. The Indians who were camped on the hill just south of the fort, became excited and sent runners to Corn Creek to notify the Chief, Kanosh, who later arrived on the scene with his warriors demanding an explanation. Anson Call together with some fifty of the biggest men in camp met the chief and explained through an interpreter the reason for the celebration, at the same time inviting the Indians to join them in commemorating Independence Day. A fat ox was barbecued in the public square and the Indians joined in the sports, racing, jumping, target shooting with bows and arrows and sling shots, and so forth; concluding the celebration with dance in the evening. The festivities did much to cement the friendship between the settlers and the Indians.”

On the morning of July 4, 2018, residents will again gather to celebrate this national holiday. It should be a day to remember family, friends, good times, and our nation’s celebrated past and promising future.