



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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I was awakened in the darkness of the early morning hours by an idea for this week's Face of Fillmore; at least I think that was what aroused me from my sleep. I lay there revisiting some of the ghostly accounts that I have been told by Fillmore's residents and thought my readers might enjoy these during this witching time of year. Admittedly, I am not a firm believer in the supernatural, but I will also admit to enjoying a scary ghost story as much as the next person.

One of the first homes I stopped to take a look at as I began the Face of Fillmore years ago was the old Huntsman Hotel on North Main Street. Mrs. Bunker showed me through the rooms and told me the history of them as well as their plans for restoring them. As travelers stayed at the hotel, the room assignments were much different than those of today. The male guests stayed in the south upstairs wing, while the women and children stayed in the upstairs north wing, which was divided into two rooms. One room at the front of the house was the nursery for the children and the back room was for the mothers, so they could put the children to bed and then enjoy visiting with each other. Mrs. Bunker told me that accounts of a woman seen holding a child at the front window were told to her as they purchased the home. This apparition is explained by the fact that the window panes were made with lead in the glass. At some point, probably during an electrical storm, the image of the woman and child standing there was imprinted into the glass in much the same way as old pictures were taken by photographers using glass plates with lead in them.



Going farther down Main Street, the owner of the Stevens Hotel tells of the ghost in the basement of the hotel. If I am not mistaken, her name is Martha. She doesn't seem to bother any of the guests there, as she stays exclusively in the laundry room.

Tales are also told of the Millard County Courthouse where lights sway for no apparent reason.

The Almon Robison home also has its share of strange visitors. Stories are told of photos being taken there. When the final pictures were made, there were more people in them than at the sitting.

Many stories of strange happenings were told of the old Millard High School Auditorium. In the second story above the auditorium there was a large room used for school dances and for gym classes. Stories are told of locker doors banging and footsteps on the dance floor. When

the old building was demolished, the “ghosts” moved to the old gym and were heard in the crawl space above the gym. Living close-by, one wonders where these will take up residence when the gym is torn down.

October 27 and 30th, the Territorial Statehouse will host its Shadows of the Past. Tours will be given through the building using only candles for light. Electric ones will be supplied by



the museum. Each room will have someone in it depicting what would have happened there – a musician playing in the music room, a teacher writing a letter in the school room, a prisoner in the old jail, and many more. Stories will also be told of ghostly happenings as told by those who were there. Incidents of deaths in Fillmore will also be told. Carl Camp explained that there is no attempt made to scare people; the atmosphere in the old building in the darkness does that all by itself.

Carl also told me that a couple of sets of ghost hunters have come to the statehouse and its surroundings searching for evidence that there are still ghosts present. They told of a picture in an upstairs room that has “extra shadows” in it. They even left recordings of unearthly sounds in the old rock school house.

As we enjoy the sights, sounds and stories of this spooky season we remember the words of a famous poem:

“From ghoulies and ghosties and three-legged beasties and things that go bump in the night please deliver us.”