



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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You don't have to have a pirate's map to discover hidden treasure. Sometimes it is right where you live, but you still may have to search for it. Unfortunately, it may take some work – cleaning out an attic or old building – but the end result can be amazing.

Jolynn Blodgett of Holden called to say it had happened to her. She and her husband were cleaning out the old barn behind their home and found a box of amazing treasures. The box contained an assortment of items, among them dozens of old pictures. The collection had belonged to Barta Melville, the wife of Rex Melville, who had lived in the home years before. Several of these were the Melville family including George, Nellie, Rex, Rulon, LaMoyne, Dave, Reuben, Rhoda and others. It appears from the information there that Rex's mother was an Ashman and several Ashman's have their pictures in the collection.

Both the Melville and Ashman surnames are familiar in Fillmore's history.

Along with those pictures are several unidentified people who may or may not belong to these families. A few others pictures were labeled but there was no obvious connection to the Melville's or Ashman's. One of those is shown here. This picture is of Abraham and Molly Carling, who were the grandparents of LeGrande (Ladd) Warner, a favorite neighbor of ours.

One picture in this box was sent to then Governor Jon Huntsman Jr. who definitely considered it a family treasure.

The treasures were not confined to only pictures but certificates of interest were in the collection. The original marriage certificate of George and Nellie Melville is in the box, dated 1899. Several other papers are there, including written accounts of people's lives and experiences they had.

These kinds of finds could be just what someone else is looking for to unlock questions about their family's past that they have been searching for.

While cleaning closets, attics, basements, barns or any other similar places is not my favorite activity, it may prove to be worthwhile and help unlock some of the past stories of the Face of Fillmore.

