



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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The Face of Fillmore this week takes a close look at a man who was a brother to Anson Call, who I referred to as the Father of Fillmore, in a recent column.

Josiah Call's story is the kind of stuff legends of the Old West is made up of. Josiah and his companion Samuel Brown were the first killed by Indians since the community of Fillmore was settled.

I found the account as it appeared in the Deseret News on October 19, 1858, titled "The Late Indian Massacre". It was written by the newspaper editor at the time, although I did not find out his name. Perhaps one of the things that drew me to this account was the fact that the man who first located one of the bodies was named Shepard.

"Thinking you would like to hear the facts concerning the massacre of brothers Josiah Call and Samuel Brown, between Salt Creek (Nephi) and Fillmore, I take the liberty to write them to you as they appeared in evidence before the coroner's inquest held over the bodies yesterday.

"They left Salt Creek on Tuesday, 5th Oct. with two days' provisions, saying that they were going down Chicken Creek to see if a drove of cattle could be taken that way into this valley. Some brethren came in from Salt Creek the Sunday following; hearing that Brothers Call and Brown had not arrived, told what they heard at Salt Creek.

"On Monday, four men started in search and found by their horse tracks that they had taken the north side of Chicken Creek. They also found where they got off and led their horses to water. This satisfied the men that Brothers Brown and Call had gone this way. It was somewhat difficult tracking them; as to all appearances a large party of Indians traveled the same trail.

"The Brethren followed Chicken Creek and Sevier River into a valley. From this valley they returned home for more provisions and men. Indians with whom they were acquainted told them that there were many Indians close by.

"On Friday 1st some fifteen started again to renew the search. They met Brother Shepard at Cedar Springs (Holden), who had just come in from the north. He told them that he saw a dead body about two miles south of Chicken Creek. Accordingly, they proceeded forthwith and found both bodies within about two hundred yards of each other."

Both men were shot, their throats cut and they were scalped. Call's right arm had been severed and was missing. They had been stripped of their clothing except for their underwear, boots and socks.



“The remains were this day interred in the cemetery of this place (Fillmore), the occasion being one of the most solemn I have ever witnessed. This is the first instance of the kind that has happened to any citizen of this place since its settlement.

“Report says some Indians went to Sanpete and said they had killed two white men in the Sevier River valley. The men fought like bears and killed one Indian. That they (the Indians) had to run into the canyon, but they got more help and followed and killed them.

In an account by a grandson:

“An Indian, wearing my grandfather’s (Josiah Call) hat, came six months later to the home of his widow. Six frightened children clung to her apron while he told the story. Call had begged for his life. He told them he had six little papooses and a squaw that he would like to go home to; that they needed him, He offered to trade them anything for his life. They refused him. When an Indian says he'll do a thing he usually does it. He told her they took his right arm as a sign of Bravery.”

Josiah Call left behind his widow Henrietta Caroline Williams Call and children: [Alzina Henrietta Call Tingey](#), [Cyril Josiah Call](#), [Columbia Fillmore Call Loveland](#), Anson Charles, Lydia Rosetta Call Loveland, and [William Wiley Call](#).