



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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In President Biden's Inaugural Address given on January 20, he invited the nation to join him in a moment of silence for victims of the CoVid19 pandemic and to continue praying in the days ahead for peace and healing.

Continuing in the address, he also said, "If we do this (work toward peace), then when our days are through, our children and our children's children will say of us, 'They gave their best. They did their duty. They healed a broken land' ".

No matter what political party you affiliate with or whether you don't really lean to one side or the other, I think all agree with his sentiments.

The rioting preceding the inauguration and the threats of more to come leave us with an unsettled feeling.

Yet looking back through America's past, we see evidence of unrest at different levels since the landing of the Pilgrims centuries ago. Seldom has there been a time that there was not a conflict at some level among the population. Often that has been between different races or ethnic backgrounds, as it continues today.

Recently, during an investigation of what was inside a box which originated with my parents in Price, I came across an interesting newspaper story that told of one of these conflicts. I had always thought how fortunate we are to live in a small community where people generally seem to get along, but it seems small communities are not exempt from serious issues.

The community in the article was Kenilworth, Utah. Kenilworth is a small mining community situated north of Price along the mountainside. The major road in and out is a paved one that winds through the pinyon/juniper, climbing to the mountain's face where the coal mine is located. The mine at Kenilworth began in 1904 and the town was laid out in 1908. British miners thought the landscape resembled Kenilworth Castle in their homeland and so it was named that. The town reached its peak in 1947 when the population was over 1000, but as of the 2010 census, it was down to 180. Though now unincorporated, it still has a post office.

It seems the unrest in Kenilworth began soon after the town did. The newspaper I found is dated Monday, February 9, 1911.



Old Kenilworth Store

According to the account, riots began at the Independent Coal and Coke Mine the previous Thursday. It escalated until the fatal shooting of deputy sheriff T. Elias Jackson on Monday as well as the wounding of another deputy Chris Sonberg. One “foreigner” was known to be dead and there were thought to be others in the hills surrounding the town.

The trouble began when over alleged “short weighing” of the coal; however, this was denied by mine officials. Several of the complaining workers were laid off from their jobs and the trouble was thought to be over. Instead, these workers and others who sided with them gathered in the hills and fired on the town and the mine. Extra lawmen were brought in from Salt Lake to help take care of the violence.

Disagreements appear to be part of our history, though our sentiments are with our new President for positive change.

One other interesting, but unrelated note compares the name of that newspaper to ours. Each week we enjoy reading the Millard County Chronicle Progress - “Serving the Greater Pahvant Valley”. The old newspaper I have been referring to is the Eastern Utah Advocate – “A newspaper published for people now on earth.”