



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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With school back in session after the Christmas break and the middle of the school year fast approaching, many of us have our minds on schools.

This week the Face of Fillmore takes a look at one very familiar one – the little rock schoolhouse on the corner of First South and First West.

Education has been a major activity since Fillmore had its beginnings back in 1851. According to the marker mounted by the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, Millard County Company, in 1953, “Before the close of 1851, the pioneers of Fillmore had erected a log school room inside the fort. It had split logs for seats, a dirt roof and floor. In 1854 an adobe church was built which served as a school”.

Anson Call, leader of the community, said, “We built a schoolhouse within fifteen days after our arrival”.

Volney King, another prominent citizen, recorded, “The schoolhouse was made ready for use December 10, 1851 and the first term of school commenced Monday, December 22”.

Emily Smith Hoyt, a cousin to Joseph Smith, and Selma Robison were the first teachers. Tuition was three dollars a term of twelve weeks.

In 1867 three small school buildings were erected. The little rock school we see today was one of them, and held the distinction of being the first building financed by taxpayers. It was built right on the site where it now stands. A cement walk has replaced the flagstone, which once led to the front doors and which still surrounds the school.

The first teacher at this one room school was Edward Milo Webb who was “called” to be the teacher at this school and went to Salt Lake City to study at Deseret University.

In 1939, a tragic fire gutted another school building on the same block and burned it to the ground, forcing other arrangements to be made for the students. During the 2 ? years it took to construct the new

building, the fourth grade was held in the rock schoolhouse. Because of that, there are most likely people in Fillmore today who attended fourth grade in the little rock school. For these people, this is the only school still standing in Fillmore which they attended.

If any of that group reads this week’s Face of Fillmore, I would be interested to hear from them.



The Rest of the Story
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A few weeks ago I wrote of the little rock school house and asked to hear from anyone who might have gone to school there.

My request came at an unusual time.

I had gone to the drug store to fill a prescription and druggist Jerry Warner said he wished he could remember the song he was going to sing to me. I had no idea what song he was referring to, but he went on to explain that while in the fourth grade in the little rock schoolhouse, Mrs. Vera Frampton had written a song about going to school there for her students to remember that experience by. Mr. Warner remembered parts of it then told me other memories he had of the school.

At the time of the school fire, there was also another school building on the block with the little rock school. The group attended the remainder of third grade upstairs in that building and all of the fourth grade in the rock school. There were very little frills to go along with their location. Mrs. Frampton had only a portable chalkboard and tried to keep the students warm with a potbelly stove.

Jerry also remembers two of his classmates, Dan and Don Stevens, whose dog Jiggs would sit outside the door and complain about not coming in.

On one occasion, he told me of a day he had been harassing the teacher. He said she invited him to stay after the other students left, but when her back was turned, he made a quick exit. His parent's home was just west across the street on the lot where Mary Day Fowler's home is now located. He tried to hide there, but could see Mrs. Frampton coming across the street, so he and his companions ran across the street to the south to the Jay Roger's home and hid in the attic. When they could see the teacher coming, they climbed out onto the roof and hid in a shed. None had given a thought to having to face her the next day at school.

Thanks to Jerry Warner for sharing these memories.