



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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Fathers' Day brings to mind those who have acted as "Fathers" of Fillmore, although our mayors have not always been men.

Try this Fillmore Trivia:

How many people have served as mayor of Fillmore in its 183 year history?

How many served as mayor before Fillmore was technically a city?

How many women have served in that capacity?

The office of mayor was not filled immediately up the settling of our community. The Mormon settlers had put such a distance between themselves and others, it stands to reason that the original settlers looked to their religious leaders to act as the governing powers over the community. The bishop was expected to keep law and order as well as look to the citizen's religious needs.

In January of 1859, seven years and a few months after Fillmore was settled, the first mayor was elected. He was William Felshaw (pictured here) and was followed four years later by Joseph Robison. Four years later Fillmore was incorporated into a city and his son Joseph V. Robison became mayor. It is his name that is seen on all abstract titles as all of the town of Fillmore was deeded to him by President Ulysses S. Grant and then deeded to each property owner.

In 1871 Joseph V. Robison was called on a mission and Edward Partridge became the mayor. Joseph V. became mayor again upon his return and he was again followed by Edward Partridge.

This is an interesting pattern that happened several times in the town's history. It appears that once you were mayor, you were a prime candidate for that office again.

In the ensuing years several others held the position, often for more than one non-consecutive term. These included Ira Hinckley, Nephi Pratt, Benjamin Robison, Thomas C. Callister, Joshua Alma Greenwood, John Kelly, Joseph D. Smith, George Viele, E. Wallace Kelly, Nelson Bishop, James Day, Richard T. Ashby, Daniel Stevens, A. Frank Robison, T. Clark Callister, Joseph F. Anderson, Maurice Lambert, Edward Nelson, Wells Starley, William D. Melville. Horace Day, James Kelly, Alonzo Beauguard, D. LaMoyne Melville, Howard Johns, Paul McBride, Golden Wright, Robert Nielsen, Mark Paxton, Robert Edison, Doris Rasmussen, Keith Gillins, Eric Larsen, Jer'E Brinkerhoff, Michael Winget, Col. Vernon Starley, David Christensen, and our current mayor Eugene Larsen, also pictured here.

Our thanks to those who have served as major for their contributions to our great community.

In answer to the trivia: Forty-two individuals have served as Mayor of Fillmore with only one woman to serve in that office. Two were mayor before Fillmore was incorporated.

