



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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The Face of Fillmore this week looks at a home that is nearly 130 years old and until recently has been occupied by descendants of its original owners.

The east facing home is located at 140 South 200 East, not far from the entrance to the Wildlife Park.

According to Daughters of the Utah Pioneers records, Elvin Mitchell found an abstract deed in the bank deposit box belonging to his father, Guy Mitchell. This was found after Guy's death. It states that President Ulysses S. Grant deeded the property to Joseph Robison, Mayor of Fillmore. Mayor Robison deeded the property to William S. Hawley in 1872 for \$3.25. It was then deeded to Heber J. Mitchell on May 10, 1883 for \$300.00.

Heber J. Mitchell and his wife Bessie Powell Mitchell were the first residents of the home. It appears it was a log cabin built in Flowell and moved to the Mitchell property in Fillmore shortly after Heber bought the property.

The Mitchell's were parents of 15 children, three of whom were born before the move into the Fillmore home.

The home has undergone three renovations since it was a log cabin. The first was the addition of three adobe rooms to enlarge the home enough to accommodate the many children living there. In the 1900's the lean-to section was taken down and a dining room, kitchen and bath were built in its place. This addition was of cement bricks that are common to the Sugarville area in western Millard County. Until this time there was no indoor plumbing or electricity. Water was obtained from a ditch that ran through the property north of the house.

A white picket fence ran in front of the home, as well as a rail fence seen in the picture, which was taken about 1900. The children on horses are Heber J. Jr. and Hyrum. Other children are Jessie Pearl, Cleve, Nolan and Baby Guy with mother Bessie Mitchell and Grandmother Holbrook.

Before Heber died, he deeded the property to his five living children for \$1.00. They deeded it to Guy Mitchell in 1946.

Guy was a frugal man, having lived through the Depression years. It is reported he buried money in the back yard, which treasure seekers still search for, according to the home's present owners.



In the last few years, the property was purchased from Elvin Mitchell by Lacy Cluff and Travis Worsley. They have spent a great deal of time painting and refurbishing, while trying to keep some of the original character of the home. The pioneers would paint by hand to make the surface look like a wood finish. An example of this can be seen in one of the bedrooms.

Giants fruit trees which once furnished the original Mitchell owners with fruit and are over 100 years old still stand in the yard.

According to a report to the Daughter's of the Pioneers by Helen S. Mitchell, the grandchildren still have many happy hours of memories associated with the Mitchell home. They appreciate the legacy left to them from these fine pioneers.