



## The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard

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As I look out my window at the blanket of white, I am reminded that this is only a temporary set-back in the transition into spring. Beneath the snow, the earliest crocus and pansies are blooming and other spring flower shoots have popped out of the soil. Other obvious signs of spring are not far away and among them are the annual yard sales. Soon bright florescent signs will be seen on telephone poles announcing the prospect of finding treasures that someone else does not want any longer.

I will admit to being lured to more than a few of these and at one, I found the subject of this week's Face of Fillmore.

From a table filled with assorted items, an old portrait type photograph stared up at me. The young woman in the photo was dressed in late-1800's style clothing and was standing in a dignified pose next to a large piece of ornate furniture. (See the picture here.) The lady in charge of the sale told me just to take the picture; that she didn't know who it was anyway.

I felt like a detective trying to determine who this mystery lady was. An old empty envelope was glued to the back of the picture. I painstakingly removed it and found clues. In elaborate cursive writing was the last name of Burraston and Goshen. The first name was more difficult to read and appears to be five letters long beginning with a "J". Stamped on the photo was Charles A. Stain, Springville. In another person's handwriting was a number sign and the number 617.

During the past few years I have made several phone calls to people named Burraston in the vicinity of Goshen and found that an Edith Burraston was the genealogy expert, but that she had passed away. I talked to a few other family members who knew nothing of who the lady in the photo might be. Some promised to call back after they had talked to relatives, but I have not received any of the calls as yet.

My enthusiasm for the mystery began to fade, as everyday life made other demands on my time.

Then on October 23, 2010, the *Church News* came to our home. It was like life repeating itself as a picture of Ruth Mary Fox appeared on page seven. There was the identical backdrop, furniture and pose of the Ms. Burraston photograph, with Ruth Mary Fox in her place.

Ruth Mary Fox was an early 20<sup>th</sup> century young women's leader who in 1929 became the General President of the Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Association.



Photo courtesy Church History Library



Ruth May Fox, shown here as a young matron, was a Church leader of young women and a champion of women's suffrage.  
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She was born in England and came to the United States at the age of 13, crossing an ocean and ultimately the plains to Utah in 1867. She wrote of topping the hill at Parley's Canyon as the sun set over the Salt Lake Valley and being disappointed at what she saw. She did write that this was her first and last disappointment.

One of her most famous accomplishments was that she wrote the words to the song "Carry On" for the celebration of the Church's centennial in 1930. It was sung at the dedication of the Hawaiian Temple.

Now the mystery of Ms. Burraston continued with contacts made to the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, so far with no answers, but with continued determination to find the story behind the lady in the photo from a local yard sale.