



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
February 1, 2017

The Face of Fillmore on any given day is filled with the faces of people from nearby communities along with those from Fillmore. As the hub of many East Millard activities, Fillmore draws people here for school, church events, celebrations, shopping, occupations and more. Certainly, family and close friendships are mingled throughout the area.

I thought it would be interesting this week to move beyond Fillmore's city limits and take a quick look at how some of our neighboring towns were settled and got their names.

The first settlement in Round Valley, twenty-some miles north of Fillmore, was Grab-All. This was a stage stop. In 1858-59, two Mormon farmers, Richard Johnson and Thomas H. Robbins, are mentioned as settlers there. During the Black Hawk War of 1863, Brigham Young suggested moving farther away from the mountains so approaching riders could be easily spotted. He selected the spot and reportedly named it after Scipio Africanus Kenner, a lawyer and Brigham's personal telegraph operator who happened to be standing on the corner designed as the town square at the time.

On June 10, 1866, Black Hawk and a war party swooped through Scipio and the valley surrounding it, killed cow herder James R. Ivie and his young helper, Henry Wright, and drove away 500 head of cattle. A military group chased them as far as the Sevier River, but they escaped.

Cedar Springs was a favorite camp site with traveling parties because several large springs were found there. Parley P. Pratt's Southern Exploration Party on its way to the Iron Mission had camped there.

During the mid-1950's Cedar Springs was known as Buttermilk Fort, due to the large quantities of fresh, cold buttermilk stored in the spring-houses of the settlers.

Elijah E. Holden was one of Cedar Springs's first settlers, arriving with his wife, Catherine Thatcher Holden in 1855. She died the following April only two weeks after Elijah left on a mission to England. In early September 1857, with a young boy whose name was not found, he started for Nephi with a load of wool for carding. On the return trip, an early blizzard blew in from the south, which the two encountered at Chicken Creek. After some time, their team refused to face the storm so Holden abandoned them. He decided to hike the 32 miles on to Cedar Springs with the boy, rather than return the 17 miles to Nephi. The young boy began to get very tired and by the time they reached the summit south of the river, he could go no further. Holden carried him as far as he had the strength. He wrapped the boy in his own woolen shirt and laid him under the cover of a cedar tree and went on. Within sight of Cedar Springs, he took shelter under a clump of oak. After the storm search parties found their frozen bodies on September 8. When a post office was established for Cedar Springs in 1858, it was named Holden in Elijah's honor.

Meadow's first white settlers, James and Jeanette Duncan along with their children, Mary and James, arrived in 1857 from Fillmore. He had scouted out the area which was described as being "covered with sagebrush and meadow grass" and determined it would be a good location for farming. According to some records, they farmed the area in the summer and returned to the safety of Fillmore's for in the winter. The Duncan's were soon joined by four other families: Tomkinson's, Tylers', Lemon's, and Rowley's.

Meadow's first white settlers, James and Jeanette Duncan along with their children Mary and James, arrived in 1857 from Fillmore. He had scouted out the area which was described as being "covered with sagebrush and

meadow grass” and determined it would be a good location for farming. According to some records, they farmed the area in the summer and returned to the safety of Fillmore’s fort in the winter. The Duncan’s were soon joined by four other families: Tomkinson’s, Tylers’, Lemon’s and Rowley’s. These settlers helped each other construct their dugout homes along the west side of a ridge, west of the present-day town.

By 1861, the town of Meadow in its present location had been established. It had been determined this was a better location because of the quality of the water for culinary use. Blocks with two lots to a block and a street in between were agreed upon and each family was given a lot and each built a home of adobe or wood.

The site of Meadow was used regularly as a camp by the Indians. Chief Walker made it one of his “homes” there and returned to the location to die on January 29, 1855.

Charles Hopkins of Lehi, Peter Robinson and Peter Bayes were the first to settle on the banks of Corn Creek, downstream to the west from present-day Kanosh. The area had plentiful water and good farm land. The Salisbury and Gilmore stages, which ran from Salt Lake to Pioche, stopped here. It was named Petersburg for Peter Robinson, the first postmaster, and was later renamed Hatton after Richard Hatton, his successor.

In 1867, Brigham Young suggested resettling closer to the mountains to conserve water and avoid early frost damage to crops. The new site was named Kanosh, after the local Pahvant chief. A peace-loving man, Kanosh accepted the Mormons and was baptized into their faith.

The last of the present-day communities to be settled was Flowell. In July 1915, Brigham Tomkinson brought in a large Artesian well on his farm six miles west of Fillmore. During the next six months, many more wells were drilled and many families moved there. The area was known for a while as Crystal.

According to some sources, the day the Rasmussen brothers brought in their well, pictured here, someone in the group said the town should really be known as “Flowing Well”, and that name stuck for a while.

In 1922 a post office was established with William Hore as postmaster and, at the suggestion of O.E. Brower, the name of the town was officially changed to Flowell.



The Rasmussen brothers in Flowell bring in an Artesian well.