



Face of Fillmore

By *Sherry Shepard*
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This week we pay tribute to the pioneers who settled Utah. Certainly, that is what Pioneer Day (July 24) is all about.

A brief review of the events tells that in 1846 Brigham Young began to guide the Mormons westward in search of a new home where their religion could be practiced without the conflicts with other groups they had encountered in Missouri, Illinois and other states. His group followed the route that would later become known as the Mormon Pioneer Trail, crossing five states and more than 1200 miles to the Salt Lake Valley.



After four months of traveling, Brigham Young and 5000 others arrived at the Missouri River. Here they built the camp of Winter Quarters, where they would make plans for their final stages of the journey to the Salt Lake Valley. More than 600 died of illnesses or accidents during their stay there.

In 1847, Young led a small group on to the valley. This group contained 143 men, three women, two children, 72 wagons, 93 horses, 66 oxen, 52 mules, 10 cows, 17 dogs and some chickens. The group followed the Platte River west until they came to the Rocky Mountains, crossing them until they descended into the valley of the Great Salt Lake.

Soon thousands of Mormons were making the long journey west along the same route. Saints from as far away as Europe traveled the trail, some by wagon, and others who walked, pulling handcarts. From 1846 to 1869, more than 70,000 people made this trek.

A well-stocked wagon was made up from a supply list of important items: 1000 pounds of flour, 100 pounds of sugar, 20 pounds of soap, 15 pounds of iron and steel, 10 pounds of rice, two or three oxen, two or more milk cows and one good wagon. (Information taken from *The Mormon Pioneer Trail* by Arlan Dean)

Just four years after the settling of the Salt Lake Valley, the first group was called to settle in Fillmore under the direction of Anson Call. In much the same fashion, these settlers headed south from their newly established homes in Salt Lake to settle what was intended to be the capital of the Territory of Deseret here in Fillmore, arriving here in the fall of 1851. The spirit of continuing to colonize the West was alive and well in the hearts of these courageous people.