



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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The Face of Fillmore looks closely at a fascinating fact that has become more and more evident as one examines life in Fillmore both past and present. Hidden in some of the most unlikely places are treasures that reveal to us information about Fillmore's people and the lives they led. It also helps us to feel a closeness to those who have gone on as we share their possessions and the stories behind them.

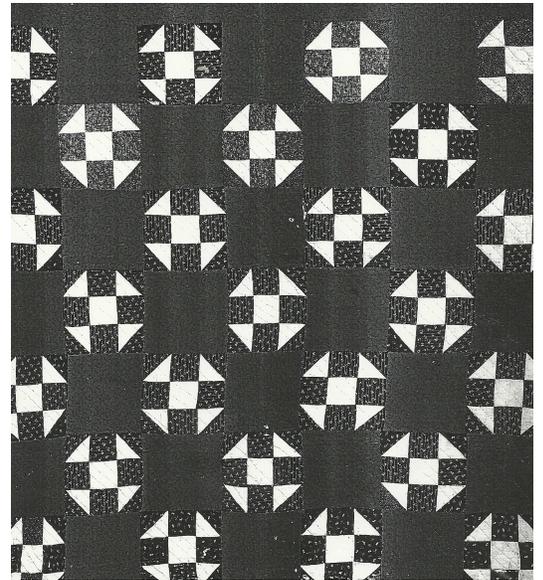
Recently a cousin of mine introduced me to the book Gathered in Time: Utah Quilts and Their Makers, Settlement to 1950 by Kae Covington. There on page 52 is the story of one of Fillmore's early residents as told by her great granddaughter.

In 1988 Janine Speakman Rodgers, noticed something unusual about a quilt that was frozen to the windshield of one of the family cars. The night had been a particularly frigid one and the old quilt was being used to help lessen the scraping of the windshield in the early morning hours. Janine had remembered this quilt being in the family for years and used as a camp quilt among other things. It was obviously used more for its warmth than its beauty. But that particular morning, through the torn pink exterior, a piece of red, quilt-like fabric was showing through. Janine asked her mother Iris if she could have the quilt and carried the frozen stiff item into the house to thaw out. As it did, she removed the quilting one stitch at time, revealing what she had suspected. Underneath the outside, was a black, white and red quilt nearly a century old.

Janine's father Scott, was certain the quilt had been made by his grandmother Minnie Colgrove Ashby. At one time, the quilt, the Shoo Fly pattern, had been a work of art but years of use had taken its toll and it had been repaired many times. Too old and worn to be used elsewhere, Minnie must have decided to use it as batting inside a new quilt. She quilted it inside the pastel nine-patch she pieced and quilted in the 1930's - a Depressive era quilt.

Minnie was an avid quilter, belonging to a group of ladies who were known as "The Club". They gathered regularly for quilting bees here in Fillmore where Minnie was born in 1872 and lived until she died in 1948. She married Richard Truman Ashby in 1895 in the Manti Temple and they raised four children: Geneva Speakman, Fern Robison, Alice Robison, and R. Eugene Ashby.

Richard was a farmer by trade. He died unexpectedly in 1920



at the age of 42, leaving Minnie with a farm to run and cows to milk in order to raise money for her young family. Her children in turn took care of Minnie in her advancing years.

"Aunt Min" as she was affectionately known to her friends, was a dear, sweet, kindly person who received her greatest pleasure from serving others.

All of her family were present at her funeral services except two grandsons, Doyle Robison who was serving in the Swedish Mission and Scott Speakman, who was laboring as a missionary in Kansas. Ruderger Ashby had returned from his mission a few days before her death.

The quilt which she had made and was eventually "recycled" in later years, is now in the possession of Janine Speakman Rodgers at her home in Wallingford, Vermont, safely tucked away in a closet for future generations to enjoy.

A quick thank you to my cousin Peggy Andreason for sending me this information. Up until just a few years ago, I did not even know that Peggy existed. She and her husband were planning a trip to the National ATV Jamboree and Peggy mentioned that fact to her Aunt Joyce. Aunt Joyce (actually a second cousin to me) and I have been in contact for years. She told Peggy about our involvement with the Jamboree and the "rest of the story" is easy to piece together. It turns out that Peggy's father and my father are first cousins.