



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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There is something about January that inspires me to clean closets and drawers. I realize it is not the season to spring clean yet, but if I don't do it when I get that urge, I may not do it at all.

During one of those days, I ran across a newspaper clipping from years ago, that I enjoyed re-reading and thought I would share. It has absolutely nothing to do with the Face of Fillmore, but is interesting anyway.

The clipping has yellowed with age even though at some point someone glued it to a piece of lined writing paper and laminated it. Judging from the fact it was with some things belonging to my mother, I assumed it was clipped from the Kemmerer Gazette in Kemmerer, Wyoming where she lived. On the back, in my mother's handwriting, it says, "1935".

Just a hint I have discovered, seeing my mother's handwriting brings back fond memories of her and is very comforting to me. With that in mind, I have hand written the captions in our family scrapbooks, thinking that someday my daughters will take comfort from that connection to me, as well.

The old clipping's title says: "War Veteran Waits 70 Years for Honorable Discharge from Army." The war referred to here is the Civil War.

Quoting the article:

"Omaha, Nebraska, October 19 (A.P.) After waiting seventy years, George H. Meyer, 86 of East Omaha finally has received his honorable discharge from the Union army in which he served during the Civil War, and Saturday made application for a pension.

Officials of a Veterans of Foreign Wars post who aided Meyer in his long fight to gain the honorable discharge, will honor the aged veteran and his wife at a dinner here Nov. 12.

The discharge recites that Meyer enlisted in the Union army in Tennessee on March 1, 1864, and left the service June 20, 1865. But it reveals none of the mazing circumstances surrounding his entry into the service or his departure from it.

'I was only 15, and small for my age', Meyer recounted Saturday. 'I tried to enlist in Pennsylvania, my native state. They wouldn't take me. I went to Nashville, Tennessee, and tried to enlist. I failed again. Finally, I succeeded.'

As a private in Company I, Twelfth Tennessee Cavalry, Meyer saw plenty of action. When the war ended, he and his outfit were sent to Leavenworth, Kansas.

It was in Kansas that Meyer's army service ended abruptly and under extraordinary circumstances.

'I was standing guard duty one evening,' he related. 'I saw two men approach and thought I was to be relieved. Instead, one of the men seized me from behind. They gagged me, saddled some horses, tossed me across the saddle of my own horse and galloped away. They kept on all night and most of the next day. Then, out in the middle of the Kansas prairie, they deserted me, taking my horse and revolver. I didn't go back because I was only a boy and I was afraid I couldn't convince the officers of my outfit I hadn't deserted with the others.'

According to the Veteran's Monument found north of the Millard County Courthouse, there were many residents of our county who served our country before 1900. Perhaps some of those were in the Civil War.