



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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Gail and Vicki Mitchell’s home at 230 South 100 West has seen many improvements over more than a century. It has been clear to the Mitchell’s who have looked into it closely that the first section of the home, a small adobe one-room building with a wooden floor, was built much earlier than the remainder of the home.

This early section appears to have been built by Robert Henry well before the turn of the 20th century.

Robert Henry left their native Sligo, Ireland for Montreal, Canada in 1830 with a strong hope in his heart of improving his family’s living conditions. When they arrived, they found that life in Canada was not that big an improvement over the one they left behind. The older girls in the family took positions as governesses and everyone else did what they could to survive financially. With family funds running low, the father, Warren Henry died a broken-hearted man.



Robert Henry of early Fillmore



Gail and Vicki Mitchell home

Three years later the family moved to New York along the Hudson River where they learned of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and joined it. Several of the children and other family members lived for a time in Nauvoo and many came west. Robert Henry was one of these children. He came to Utah in 1850 and helped to settle Iron County, probably with the George A. Smith Company, acting as a guard in Indian trouble. He was a freighter and eventually a farmer, as well.

Robert married Mary Ann Ross who was from Scotland. Their first son was born in Cedar City. Afterward they joined a company going to San Bernadino. There they had two daughters. In 1854, Mary died leaving her three little children and her husband.

In 1859 Robert brought his family to Fillmore where his brother Andrew's family was and also his sister Rebecca. The families helped him raise his children.

In 1864 Robert married his second wife Elizabeth Bacon who came from England and lived with her cousins the John Cooper family. This couple had two daughters. The Robert Henry family was known for their fruit trees and had a beautiful orchard near their home. They dried fruit to preserve it for the winter. Robert's life was an active one until the fall of 1889, when he was killed in an accident.

Robert Henry built the original home at 230 South 100 West. After the first tiny room, two more rooms were added to the east and the fireplace was removed from the first room which also had a trap door under the house.

In 1940, it was remodeled by Oswald Sorenson and again in 1946 by Philander and Alta Lambert Day, who added a kitchen. He also enlarged the basement to accommodate a furnace and enclosed the basement stairs. They also added imitation brick to the outside

In 1978 Gail and Vicki Mitchell bought the home. They added a utility room west of the kitchen and two bedrooms upstairs in the 1980's, as well as adding siding.

The home is attractive and modern-looking. One would never guess its early beginnings.