



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
June 8, 2011

The Face of Fillmore this week looks at the history of those who have lived in the Reed Robison home at 90 East Canyon Road.

Construction of the home began in 1900 by Franklin Alonzo Robison. Franklin was the son of Joseph and Lucretia Robison who built the first stone home outside of the fort, which still stands as part of the Spinning Wheel Motel. He was born in Crete, Illinois and crossed the plains with his family at the age of four. He was a prominent citizen of Fillmore, serving as mayor, sheriff, and was the President of the Fillmore Irrigation Company at the time of his death in 1936. He was also a prominent church leader and he and his brothers are credited with building the first Fillmore Stake Center. Franklin left a large posterity with 23 children, 73 grandchildren, and 30 great grandchildren.



Franklin married his first wife, Eleanor Pratt the daughter of Parley P. Pratt, in 1872 and his second wife Harriet Thorpe in 1882. In 1889 he took a third wife, Lois Thorpe, Harriet's younger sister. Construction of the home just west of the one we are looking at this week was begun for his third wife in 1887, while the first two wives lived with Franklin's mother Lucretia on Main Street.

The Reed Robison home was built for Franklin's wife number two. It was built in the traditional pioneer style with locally fired bricks and stone masonry with transoms above the doors. The lot where the house is located has huge boulders just under the surface of the ground. The northeast corner of the home sits on one of these. Truly, it is on a firm foundation.

Over the years, modern conveniences



were added to the home. More recently, a garage has been added to the west of the home and will be covered with siding in the near future.

Franklin and his second wife had seven children. Two sons died at an early age. Four daughters, Josephine, Ella, Verna, and Lois lived to adulthood. Construction on the home began in 1900 and the family moved in February of 1904. In April of that year, the youngest son Ancil was born.

The Robison family had traditions all their own. One tradition was to leave the family home to the youngest son. Ancil and his wife Sarah Eva Stott Robison therefore inherited Franklin's home. Not only was Ancil born there two months after its completion, he also died in the home.

Ancil and Sarah were the parents of eight children, some of which still live in Fillmore: Luanna Cluff, Alison Robison, the late Thorpe Robison, Beth Cahoon, Ellen Nielsen of Woods Cross, Reva Turner of Delta, Reed Robison, and Sherma Morton of Bountiful.

In holding with family tradition, Reed and his wife Gail inherited the home where they have raised six children.

Another amazing tradition in the family happens on Christmas Eve. Every year since the home was built, the family has gathered for a Christmas Eve dinner. This year will mark the 107th such meeting. It traditionally consists of hot chocolate and sausage rolls, among other things. Reed says he is not sure if the menu began with his father or grandfather. At any rate, the numbers that collect for this occasion are mind-boggling. This last Christmas Eve, there were 64 family members there, although the highest number has been 80. Interestingly, Luanna Cluff, Reed's older sister who is now 80 years old, has only missed one gathering, which happened two years ago when she was hospitalized at the time.

Family and preserving the pioneer family home are an important part of the Robison tradition as it is with other families in the area who are dedicated to preserving the Face of Fillmore.