



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
February 15, 2012

The Face of Fillmore this week takes a look at the home at 110 West 100 North. It is presently owned by the Rick Ransdell family, who also reside part of the time in Sandy, Utah. Rick has done a lot of remodeling to update the structure. He has added an extra room to the south side of the home to give it more living space. He also rebuilt the wooden fence around the northeast yard and has added some storage buildings on the west.

Rick bought this home in Fillmore to enjoy time away from the city and be nearer the out of doors his entire family loves. He is there frequently, working on the yard and home. When weather permits, he works on a sprinkling system for the lawn that is in progress, as well as other landscaping.



To the people of Fillmore, this has become known as the house with the totem pole. An older tree in the yard died, and instead of removing it as many people do, Rick had it carved with a chain saw to create perhaps the most interesting yard decoration in town. The totem pole contains likenesses of all of the family members as well as an eagle on the top, representing the freedoms we enjoy.

The home was built in 1857 and was originally occupied by Allen and

Margaret Ashby Russell.

Allen came to Fillmore in May of 1852, just months after the town was first settled. He was a counselor to the bishop from 1857 to 1861 and was then called on a mission to the towns of western Millard County. At this same time, he was set apart as one of the first patriarchs in Fillmore. He served in that capacity until his death at age 95. He also worked in the Manti Temple in his later years.

Allen and his wife raised eight children in this home: Vilate, Melissa, Mary, Margaret, Richard, Emily, Jane and Janette, though not necessarily in the order of their birth. From them comes a large posterity in the Fillmore area.

An interesting side note about his grandchildren. Julia Vilate Carling, Russell Warner and Newell K. Warner were all married in 1910.

Even with the remodeling to the exterior, the original pioneer home is plainly visible.

