



## Face of Fillmore

*By Sherry Shepard*  
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New Year's Day usually finds me in front of the television, watching college football and eating some yummy snacks with way too many calories. This year was a little different. It began with grandkids and a waffle breakfast and then I actually did something that burned a calorie or two, while being very enjoyable.

Carl Aldrich of the Territorial Statehouse State Park guided nearly three dozen of us on an informative, historic walk. Appropriately named "Trail to Statehood: First Day Hike", it began and ended at the museum. Along the route, we passed a number of historic homes and businesses, looking at pictures Carl had brought along of the builders and other pictures of significant buildings that are no longer standing. He told stories of these people and of the architecture of the buildings, as well as invited hikers to share stories they were familiar with about the early people who lived in the homes. Near the first part of the walk, the boundary of the original fort was followed for some distance.

It was a great day for a hike. The weatherman cooperated. I found that I was enjoying just being with friends I hadn't visited with in a while and we all talked and enjoyed each other's company as we walked along. This was a real plus for me, as I think we all get too busy with daily activities and the convenience of texting and emailing, that we don't just visit like we all enjoyed in the past.

I hope, and I heard others say the same thing, that we don't just hike on the "First Day" but have occasion to do it again soon. Thanks, Carl!



Carl Aldrich, guide for the tour



Part of the First Day hikers