



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
November 21, 2018

This week has been one of a definite increase in patriotism in the Face of Fillmore. No matter what time of day one drove down Main Street, the display of flags in front of the Millard County Courthouse and American Legion Building as well as the field south of that, was an impressive sight. Our thanks to Fillmore City for this touching memorial to the 400+ veterans who are buried in the Fillmore City Cemetery. Veterans Day always brings out the patriotic side of all of us, but this had added tremendously to that feeling.

On the morning of Veterans Day, I spent a little time walking around the Veterans Memorial near the Court House and enjoying the display of flags as the early morning sun hit them.

This year there was added interest as we commemorated the 100th anniversary of the ending of World War I. At that time on the 11th day of the 11th month at the 11th hour, November 11, 1918, the “Great War” came to an end. The Salt Lake Tribune reported on the celebrating as the war ended, describing it as “unprecedented enthusiasm.” For a time, the date was celebrated as “Armistice Day” and in 1938 it was declared a national holiday. President Dwight Eisenhower renamed it “Veterans’ Day” in 1954 to celebrate the service of all of our country’s servicemen.

Listed on the Veterans Monument in Fillmore are hundreds of veterans, but I found it interesting to count the 462 that served between 1901 and 1940. Obviously, a large section of those names was connected with World War I.

As always, I also found myself looking through old newspaper clippings and found a particularly fascinating one about World War I. This article was from somewhere in the mid-1930’s and tells of an ordinary group of women who became heroes to many.

During the First World War, there was a



group of nurses in France and Belgium who ran an underground railroad to help allied prisoners escape from the Germans. The nurses worked at their regular jobs while aiding prisoners to safe houses during the night and finally to the Dutch frontier and safety. The headquarters of this group was in the Brussels home of Edith Clavell, an English nurse. The newspaper article I found highlighted one of her co-workers, Louise Thuliez, and others who were involved in this effort.

The article was written as a human-interest story upon the release from prison of the accuser of this group of nurses. Gaston Quien who had been charged with the betrayal of the nurses was freed due to insufficient evidence against him after almost twenty years' imprisonment. Quien was a Frenchman who the nurses had sheltered, but was in fact working for the German Secret Service.

Thuliez tells that, "One afternoon I happened to visit a friend who was also under surveillance and we were both arrested. Thirty-five of us were arrested and five of us were sentenced to death. Edith Clavell and a Belgium man Phillippe Baucq were put to death even before the official notice of the sentences imposed was published."

Thuliez and three others who were sentenced to death had their sentences commuted by President Woodrow Wilson, the Marqis de Villai-Lobar, the Ambassador from Spain, and the Pope of the Catholic Church. The rest of the group was sentenced to hard labor and worked in brick factories or made buttons. Three days before the Armistice, Miss Tuliez was released from prison after spending 33 months there. The cell she occupied was never again occupied by a prisoner. The prison of St. Giles was used as a show place and the cell was decorated with flowers and a portrait of Edith Clavell.

Louise Thuliez was given many awards for her bravery during the war and did much to insure others received the honors due them, as well. She returned to Lille, where she was the head of a school for girls in the suburb of Paris.

(Thanks, Mom, for always having your scissors handy when you read the newspaper.)

Thanks to Molly Stevens for the beautiful sunset picture.