



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
January 26, 2022

Each evening as we settle in front of the television to watch the evening news, it seems to begin with an automobile accident of some sort: speed, impaired driving, wrong way driving, and a myriad of others. Unfortunately, it has become so commonplace, it is almost always a fatality to be noted on the news.

These events are not something that began recently, in fact, one of my husband's relatives, an aunt, was one of the first fatalities in the state almost 100 years ago.

Her story is a sad one:

Armina Shepard was in Mona, Utah in 1890. In 1910 she married Claude Wagstaff and the couple moved to Tabiona. Here their family thrived as they built a home and became the parents of five children.

In 1925 their home in Tabiona burned to the ground and Armina barely escaped with her life. At this point, she understandably became terrified of fire.

Six months later the couple moved to Pleasant Grove to begin over again. On September 26, 1926, Armina was the passenger in a car driven by her brother-in-law George Creer. As they drove along, sparks began to fly from a cracked spark plug and Armina panicked, thinking the engine was on fire. She jumped from the moving vehicle. The fall broke her neck and she died instantly.

Armina left behind her husband and five children ranging in age from 15 years to 15 months. She is buried in Tabiona.

Please drive carefully. No one wants their family to be telling a story like this one.



Armina Shepard Wagstaff