



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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As we approach Mothers' Day, I would like to wish all mothers reading this a "Happy Mothers' Day" and also take a brief look at Fillmore's first mother.

Just a couple of months after the settlers arrived to establish the settlement of Fillmore, the first baby made her appearance. Colombia Fillmore Call was born to Josiah and Henrietta Call on January 28, 1852, in the new community of Fillmore.

While accounts of early Fillmore speak often of Josiah, less is known of Fillmore's first new mother.



Henrietta Caroline Call

Henrietta Caroline was born in Holland, Erie County, New York in 1826, the daughter of William Williams and Lydia Barnes Williams.

Her family was introduced to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints early in its history and she was baptized at about the age of eight, as were other members of the family. They joined members of the church in Kirkland, Ohio, but her parents soon became sick and died within days of each other. She was sent to live with family members and eventually lived with her oldest brother Charles. They made their way to Missouri where they were driven out with the Saints and then settled in Nauvoo. Here they became acquainted with the Call family and on the March 1, 1846, she married Josiah Call.

Soon after their marriage, they started traveling across Iowa and were among the first company organized to cross the Rocky Mountains. It was late in the year, so the family wintered among the Puncas Indians. They returned to the church members in Iowa in the spring of 1847, where they remained until the summer of 1849. Beginning their trek once again, they reached Salt Lake City in November. Henrietta and her husband, Judson Tolman and others settled later that fall where Tooele City now stands.

Their first child Alzina Henrietta was born in Council Bluffs, Iowa and their second Cyril Josiah was born in Pottawattamie County, Iowa. The family eventually established their home in Fillmore in 1851.

Colombia Fillmore Call was their third child and the first child born in the settlement of Fillmore. In the next six years, more children were born to the couple: Anson Charles, Lydia Rosetta Call Loveland, and William Wiley Call.

October 1858 was a sad month in Henrietta's life and the lives of her children. Josiah left early in the month with a man named Samuel Brown. They had gone to Juab County on business and were planning to return home right away. Weeks went by without hearing from them. They left Salt Creek on Tuesday, October 5, with two days' provisions, saying that they were going down Chicken Creek to see if a drove of cattle could be taken that way into the valley. Some men came in from Salt Creek the following Sunday and were told that Call and Brown had not arrived. They had been told by a search party of four men that their horse tracks were seen on the north side of Chicken Creek. They also found where they got off and led their horses to water. Unfortunately, they could tell that a large party of Indians had also gone that way. The searchers followed Chicken Creek and Sevier River into a valley. From this valley they returned home for more provisions and men. On Friday, November 1, fifteen men started again to renew the search. They met a man at Cedar Springs (Holden), who had just come in from the north. He told them that he saw a dead body about two miles south of Chicken Creek. He had discovered the site of the massacre of Josiah Call and Samuel Brown.

When the news reached Fillmore, grief came to both households. Imagine how Henrietta Call and her small children felt upon hearing the news.

One of her grandson's later wrote an account of the incident: "An Indian, wearing my grandfather's (Josiah Call) hat, came six months later to the home of his widow. Six frightened children clung to her apron while he told the story. Call had begged for his life. He told them he had six little papooses and a squaw that he would like to go home to; that they needed him. He offered to trade them anything for his life. They refused him. When an Indian says he'll do a thing he usually does it. He told her they took his right arm as a sign of bravery."

Henrietta continued to raise her family in Fillmore until 1859 when she moved them to Bountiful. In 1861 she married Anson Call, Josiah's brother.

The last few years of her life she made her home with her oldest daughter, Mrs. Thomas Tingey of Centerville. In October 1900, she left her home and visited on Bear River Flat, Willard City and Syracuse where she was taken sick at the home of her son, Cyril. She passed away peacefully on December 8, 1900.

She was the mother of six children, fifty-four grandchildren and forty-two great grandchildren.