



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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Today it is brilliantly sunny in the Face of Fillmore, but the brisk air of early spring and the light breeze will probably shorten an activity I always enjoy - visiting the Fillmore Cemetery. While this may seem like a morbid pastime to some, to me a walk through the headstones is like walking into the past of our little town and getting acquainted with those who lived here long ago.

Anyone who has visited our cemetery will tell you one of the first things they noticed is the imposing monument to Almon Robison which stands almost in the center of the graveyard.

The tall marker constructed of Vermont marble is quite attractive, as far as headstones go, with its tall columns and other decorations. The costly marker is everything that Almon was not. While without a doubt, one of the wealthiest early citizens of Fillmore, he preferred to live a comfortable, yet simpler way of life than this monument, which seems to symbolize wealth and power.

A. Paul Robison remembers his uncle, "This headstone would be the last one Almon would choose."

As you approach the headstone to read the inscription, you realize that there are two names there. The second added to the headstone is the name of Harmel Robison, who is also buried in this family plot. Harmel has been described as looking a lot like the cartoon character Mr. Magoo and was the very type of person



Almon Robison's headstone



Close-up of Almon's headstone

Almon would have felt comfortable having on his ranch. When he died in 1961, some family member suggested he be buried in the vacant plot originally planned for Almon's wife.

Josephine Sweeting Robison, Almon's second wife, had chosen to be buried near the Sweeting family members. Some say that she was worried his headstone would topple over onto hers and ruin it, so she wanted to be some distance away. Hers is a large rectangular gray granite stone with the simple inscription, "JOSEPHINE, wife of Almon Robison" and the dates of her birth and death.

In the reading, I have done about Almon Robison, one account says that there are also two additional names on his headstone, that of his first wife Ada Evalyn Olmstead and their “baby son”. Supposedly the poem is also included: “Earth counts a mortal loss, Heaven an angel more”. While this seemed fitting to me, I was unable to locate it. I walked around the headstone a few times and for a short distance in all directions in case a part of the headstone had broken off and been placed close by, but I had no success. I will ask questions and go back another day when I am not ankle deep in snow.



Josephine Robison’s headstone with Almon’s on the right in the background