



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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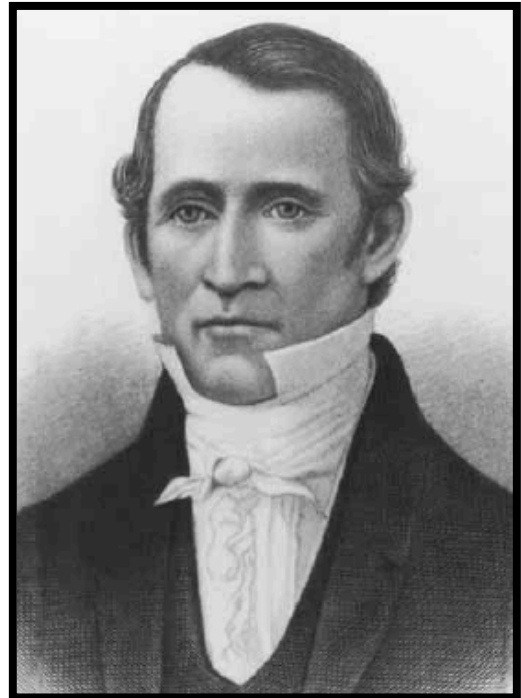
In the last few weeks while reading the April Liahona magazine, I was drawn to an article about Edward Partridge. While Mr. Partridge didn't live long enough to move to Fillmore with other family members, his son did. Both left their marks, not only in LDS Church History, but the son left a great legacy of service here in Fillmore.

Edward Partridge Sr. was rejected by his family as being "deranged" when he was baptized into the LDS Church. Within two months of that time, he was called to be the first presiding Bishop of the Church. He and his family suffered as the saints were moved from one place to another because of persecution. An account of their trials can be read in "Steadfastness and Patient Endurance: The Legacy of Edward Partridge" from the June 1979 Ensign. (This article is easily accessed on Google.)

Edward Senior passed away when his oldest son Edward Junior was only six years old. He was only 46 himself and his death was attributed to stress and persecution.

After crossing the plains and helping care for his family, the younger Edward filled a mission to Hawaii in 1854-57. He managed Amasa Lyman's Farmington farm until the family moved to Fillmore. (Amasa was married to Edward's sister Eliza Maria.)

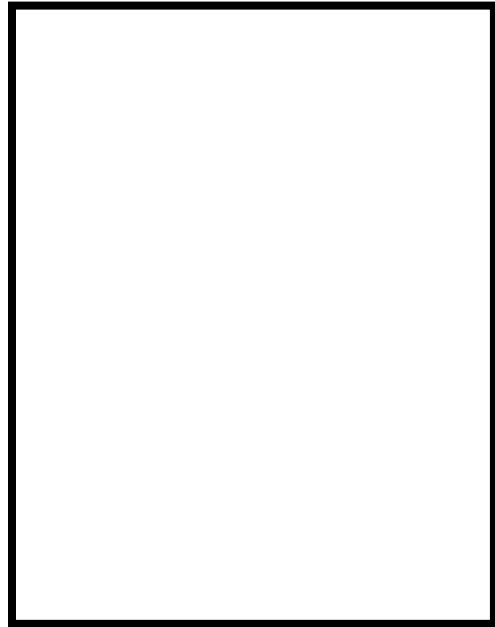
In 1869 Edward was elected probate judge in Millard County and was soon called as bishop here. He served as president of the Sandwich Islands (Hawaiian) Mission from 1882 to 1885. His secular affairs also included being the acting mayor of Fillmore, a member of the territorial legislature, Millard County recorder, and a member of the state constitutional convention in 1895. At the time of his death, he was stake president. He had two wives and seventeen children.



Edward Partridge Sr.

The Edward Partridge Jr. family home is still standing on the southwest corner of Center Street and Second West, just across the street from Millard High School. The home was built in 1871 by Lewis Tarbuck, a pioneer stonemason and bricklayer. His expert workmanship was highly acclaimed. In the late 1960's the home was placed on "The Utah State Register of Historic Sites", chosen by the Governor's Historic and Cultural Sites Review Committee. The home is 20 feet by 34 feet, with two stories and a front and back porch. It is constructed of sandstone two feet thick. The front door opens into an entryway with doors to the right and left and stairs leading to the upper floor. Both the north and south rooms have fireplaces, making them cozy places to sit. The interior of the home has been well kept in recent years with furnishings that show off its pioneer heritage.

The home is English style architecture with amazing workmanship. The details are similar to George Washington's home and can also be found in Cove Fort. The tall windows are especially interesting. Knowing that glass had to be shipped long distances on less than smooth roads, it is amazing that such large windows got to Fillmore in one piece. The house itself has changed little in appearance over the years. Older pictures do not look much different from the current ones, which is why only one picture is included. The yard has changed considerably over the years. It was once filled with a variety of trees and had large lilac bushes on either side of the dirt walkway that led to the front porch. It was also surrounded by a picket fence and had a fruit orchard and stables west of the house.



Edward Partridge Jr.



Edward Partridge, Jr
Home in Fillmore

In February 1908, Frank Partridge, son of Edward Jr., sold the home to Samuel Frame Wade for \$300 at 10% interest. The Wades soon purchased the entire block and built several outbuildings for use with their animals. A stone granary was built on each corner of the block. Three of these are still standing, while the fourth was removed to build the Fillmore Stake Center. The Wades owned the home for about 50 years with many of their family members living there at one time or another and then they sold it to a family named Brough.

In 1974, Michael and LindaGay Harris bought the home. For a short time, the Berry family lived there until they moved into their new home. At that point the Harris's began the long process of restoring the home and making it a comfortable place to live. This process has been ongoing ever since, with all of the Harris family enjoying the home and the great pioneer heritage it represents. Thomas, Carter, Professor Architecture at the University of Utah, told the Harris's that this home is the best-preserved example of this type of architecture he has seen.

Mrs. Harris's father John Dean and his wife Jeanne moved into the home and lived there about twenty years before moving north to be closer to the medical care they needed. I was fortunate to spend many hours with the Dean's in their home, enjoying their accounts of pioneer ancestors, the authentic furnishings, some of which came in wagons across the Plains and their warm friendship.

Without a doubt, the best part of these pioneer homes is the spirit of our great pioneer heritage that continues to be present there, even as owners change.