



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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The Face of Fillmore is all about early history and its comparison to modern day. Because of this, I have found myself delving more and more into the past, in our area and other parts of Utah.

On Facebook, there is an interesting group called Fillmore: Old and New. I am sure I have mentioned it before. I have spent hours enjoying the comments, histories, and photographs there.

Recently, I ran across another group that I have also been following: Utah's Ghost Towns. The bulk of the contributors are the same few people whose names I have read over and over. Among them is a man named Drew Purdy. His last name is one I have read in our family genealogy, but I thought little of that coincidence at first.

One evening, Mr. Purdy posted a watercolor picture of Standardville, Utah, west of Helper in Carbon County. I don't usually comment, but this time I did. I wrote, "I had my tonsils out there and my brother was born there."

His comment followed, "What year was that?" Then he added, "My grandfather was the superintendent of the mine at Wattis." (Another Carbon County location.)

I was amazed and wrote back, "Was his first name William and your grandmother's first name Mae?"

I had found a second cousin. (Maybe he is a first cousin once removed. I was never clear on the distinction between the two.)

Drew's grandfather William Purdy and my grandmother Millicent Bower Purdy were brother and sister. They came to this country with their mother and other siblings as emigrants from England in about 1889. Their father came to southwestern Wyoming earlier to earn money for their passage.



Standardville Coal Tipples years ago

We have since talked about family members, sharing stories we both knew and others we each learned through our conversation.

It was an exciting surprise to connect this easily through social media with a family member we didn't even know existed.



Standardville Coal Tipple today (only a cement foundation)