



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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As we once again approach that witching time of year when thoughts turn to goblins and ghosts and “things that go bump in the night”, we are reminded that our little community has its share of paranormal visitors. From the first months that I began the Face of Fillmore to the present, I have been told stories of unseen visitors and some actually seen by home owners.

Recently I was told of a lady in white who was seen in one of the older pioneer homes. The earliest lady of the house had had a sad life and lived alone in the home for many years. The visitor seemed so sad that the present owner began talking to her, telling her that all was well with her home and that it would be taken care of. This has seemed to ease her distress and her visitations have become a thing of the past.

Another historic home on Main Street that is currently unoccupied by regular people has been the haunt of a more friendly ghost. In past years, adults sitting downstairs often tell of hearing footsteps of an adult sized person above them, and then hearing the giggles of children. Apparently, this visitor liked to tickle the feet of the children in their beds.

One of the first homes I stopped to take a look at as I began the Face of Fillmore years ago, was the old Huntsman Hotel on North Main Street. Mrs. Bunker showed me through the rooms and told me the history of them as well as their plans for restoring them. As travelers stayed at the hotel, the room assignments were much different than those of today. The male guests stayed in the south upstairs wing, while the women and children stayed in the upstairs north wing, which was divided into two rooms. One room at the front of the house was the nursery for the children and the back room was for the mothers, so they could put the children to bed and then enjoy visiting with each other. Mrs. Bunker told me



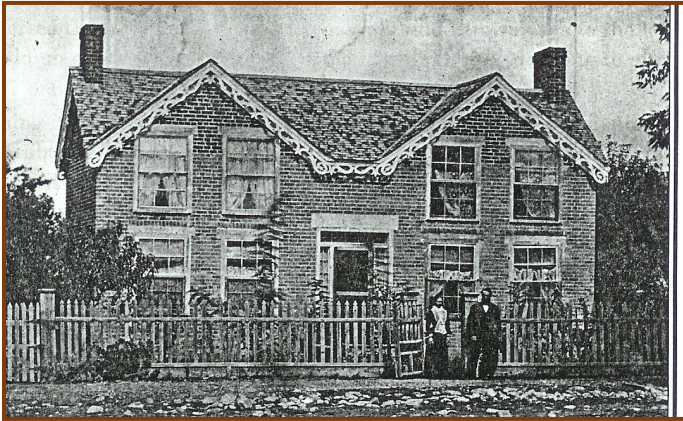
Home of a friendly ghost, not sure who the human owners are



Old Gabriel Huntsman home, once a hotel

that accounts of a woman seen holding a child at the front window were told to her as they purchased the home. This apparition is explained by the fact that the window panes were made with lead in the glass. At some point, probably during an electrical storm, the image of the woman and child standing there was imprinted into the glass in much the same way as old pictures were taken by photographers using glass plates with lead in them.

Going farther down Main Street, the former owner of the Stevens Hotel told of the ghost in the basement of the hotel. If I am not mistaken, her name was Martha. She didn't seem to bother any of the guests there, as she stayed exclusively in the laundry room.



Old Almon Robison Home

The Almon Robison home also has its share of strange visitors. Stories are told of photos being taken there. When the final pictures were made, there were more people in them than at the sitting.

Many stories of strange happenings were told of the old Millard High School Auditorium. In the second story above the auditorium there was a large room used for school dances and for gym classes. Stories are told of locker doors banging and footsteps on the dance floor. When the old building was demolished, the "ghosts" moved to the old gym and were heard in the crawl space

above. Living close-by, one wonders where these have taken up residence now that the gym has been torn down.

On October 28th and 30th beginning at 7 p.m., the Territorial Statehouse will host its "Shadows of the Past". Tours will be given through the building using only candles for light. (Electric ones will be supplied by the museum.) Stories will be told of ghostly happenings as told by those who were there.

It was explained to me that there is no attempt made to scare people; the atmosphere in the old building in the darkness does that all by itself.

I was also told that a couple of sets of ghost hunters have come to the statehouse and its surroundings searching for evidence that there are still ghosts present. They told of a picture in an upstairs room that has "extra shadows" in it. They even left recordings of unearthly sounds in the old rock school house.

Bring your family to the Statehouse for this unusual evening and enjoy the ghostly side of Fillmore.