



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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Have you driven past the Territorial State Park lately? Following the moving of the two log cabins that formerly sat east of the Little Rock Schoolhouse to make way for the new pavilion, another cabin is under construction near them. Maybe re-construction is a better term as the original logs are being put back together after being carefully removed from their former site.

The cabin was built in the backyard just across the street to the south at 65 West 100 South. This property was owned by Jean Paxton who donated the cabin to the state park before selling the little yellow house that faces there.

The cabin was dismantled and brought across First South log by log where it is being put back together exactly as it was found except for two bottom logs that were rotted, as well as a new roof, door and window that will be added.

Earliest records show that Joseph Payne was the original owner. In 1896 when Utah became a state, all property was deeded to Joseph V. Robison who was then the mayor and then the deeds were put in the names of the people who were the residents of the property at the time. Joseph Payne appears in those records.

The position the cabin was in on the property is very unusual. Most houses were built facing the street and a certain distance from it. This cabin was located far back on the property and was facing east. According to Carl Aldrich from Utah State Parks, there are a few possible reasons for this. Perhaps, Mr. Payne built the cabin as a temporary home to live in while he constructed the yellow house that faces the street. Another possibility is that one of the owners, probably a Paxton since it was in their family for a long time, moved it from another location. There is little evidence to tell us what really happened there.



Pictures here show the cabin in its original location as well as the reassembling of it near the Pod.

Joseph Payne was one of the few non-LDS pioneers to Fillmore. Some records show him as being born in Nauvoo on September 7, 1840, while Family Search says he was born in England. Another mystery. His parents were members of the church and he was orphaned at an early age. His father died when he was five years old and his mother when he was seven. He came across the plains with the Hyrum Mace family in 1851 and married Harriet McBride in 1860. The couple had three children: Josephine Greenwood, Maud Hanson and William P. Payne.

Joseph Payne was a well-respected member of the community. In his obituary dated April 7, 1911, we read of his attributes: "The large auditorium was filled to overflowing by friend and neighbors by whom the departed pioneer was held in high esteem, and known as a most desirable citizen. He was a man of excellent habits, fine moral character, honest and honorable in his deals and conversation with his fellows, peaceable, patient and agreeable, a model husband and father and one of the best of neighbors. Although Mr. Payne was a member of no church, his pure and honorable life placed him far above many a professed Christian."

It will be interesting to watch the cabin take shape once again, another reminder of our rich pioneer heritage.