



## Face of Fillmore

*By Sherry Shepard*  
June 30, 2021

Each year the Shepard's make their annual pilgrimage to the waters of Flaming Gorge Reservoir. Some years there are dozens of us while others, it is just the original two of us who spent our honeymoon there over a half century ago. The main draw is, of course, the fishing, but a family float down the Green River is an exciting activity and many of the group have met the icy waters of the river close up.

We usually stay in the little town of Manila. Upon researching the history of the area, I have found it had a nearby town as its neighbor. Situated on the banks of the Henry's Fork River near its confluence with the Green River right on the Wyoming/Utah state line, was the town of Linwood. This spot was a well-known meeting place for trappers, traders, and explorers. Outlaws like Butch Cassidy and Kid Curry were known to frequent the spot.



The old town of Linwood, Utah

Although it was often visited, it wasn't until 1890 when a man named George Solomon had it surveyed as a townsite. He named it "Linwood" for the cottonwood trees that grew there. In 1902 an Easterner Keith Smith bought site and began the town. He and a neighbor Marius Larsen began a post office, store, hotels, and a dance hall. A man named Bob Smith even started a bar called the Bucket of Blood Saloon. It attracted the rougher crowd of the sheep men who lived in the area. Sheep was a booming industry there at the time but dwindled in the 1920's because of overgrazing.

The town had an interesting school. Built in 1904, the Stateline School sat right on the boundary of the two states. Reports tell that while Wyoming believed in corporal punishment, Utah didn't, so when a student was in trouble he was taken to the appropriate side of the school for punishment.

Early in the 1960's (not long before we were married), plans were underway for the Flaming Gorge Dam. Knowing this would bury the town underwater, the Bureau of Reclamation hired a man named Alonzo Jarvie to negotiate with the landowners and help them relocate. Some people were quite unhappy about the situation. The story is told of the supposed last resident to leave Linwood – Minnie Rasmussen. It is told that Minnie invited the big shots from the Bureau along with Jarvie over to her home for tea. She listened to their proposals and told them she would consider what they had offered. That night she burned her house to the ground.

As we leave the Lucerne Bay Marina in our boat to fish, I think of the little town whose few remains lie buried under the lake's water there.



Boating on Flaming Gorge near the site of Linwood