

Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard May 17, 2016



Millard High Class of 1913 - first graduating class

adults, mostly women, who wanted to complete their educations. English classes were also taught for immigrants from others countries.

The first school built outside the fort was located in the little rock schoolhouse that has become an iconic figure, pictured in all of the tourism brochures. It is noted as the oldest government owned building west of the Mississippi. Construction was begun in 1867.

With graduation approaching next week, the Face of Fillmore would like to commemorate the 103rd anniversary of the first graduating class of Millard High School. In May of 1913, one dozen students became the first graduates from that institution, shown here in this great old photo sent to me by Bill Wilson. Jane Wilson is the only graduate identified in the photo. If you can tell the names of others, please let me know.

School has always been an important part of Fillmore's history. From its beginning, education was placed high on the list of priorities. On Christmas Day, 1854, the construction of the adobe meeting house was announced. This building was used for both church meetings and a schoolhouse. Even classes were also held there for

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Jane Wilson's schedule of high school classes



Later on a small brick schoolhouse was built on the site where the U.S.D.A. office now stands. In 1881 a Presbyterian School was begun in the statehouse with 50 students, but this school lasted for only four years.

The Millard Academy was held in the old county courthouse in 1885. This was the first advanced school where students could go on beyond the high school level. For a time, the Territorial Statehouse was also used as a public school.

In 1899 the building known as the junior high was

View from a rooftop looking toward the old main building at MHS – center left – with the old auditorium to the right of it. Note the children playing in the lot where the swimming pool is now located.

built. It was later remodeled and housed the Fillmore High School which later became Millard High School. The first graduating class from Fillmore High School was in 1907 and as Millard High; the first graduates were in 1913.

Congratulations are extended to the graduating class of Millard High School 2016. It is hoped they will remember their rich pioneer heritage as they enter the world beyond high school.



MHS Old Main