



## Face of Fillmore

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February 15, 2017

One of the first types of buildings to spring up around the Face of Fillmore was the mills. These imposing-sized structures provided employment as well as needed food and building supplies to the residents.

The first flour mill was owned by Noah Bartholomew and was situated just east of Main Street near the center of town. It stood in that spot for several years and employed many local residents.

The second flour mill would later become home to Jacob Croft's carding mill. The building was first occupied as "The Fillmore Flour Mill Company" and was located two blocks east of Main Street. Jonathan Smith was the first miller of this lower mill. Jim Rowley ran this mill for years, also Heber Jackson and Heber Mitchell. It supplied Fillmore and surrounding towns with flour for years.

The Upper Mill was organized in 1871 and was found at the mouth of Chalk Creek Canyon. It was first owned by Amasa Lyman. Some of the officers and stockholders were



First mill in Fillmore

Almon Robison, George Crane, A. Paxton and Thomas Greener. The building was supervised by Williams Gibbs who also was the first miller for about two years.

One of the interesting stories about this miller is that he never would take a toll from the Indians, he always gave the same weight in flour as the Indians brought in wheat. His family said he seemed to be giving them all of his profits.

Some of the first millers at this mill were James Day, Heber Mitchell, Almon Robison, Chas. Frampton, Heber Jackson, Ed Nelson and Lorenzo Brunson.

Another type of mill common to early Fillmore was the molasses mill and there were several of them. John Starley ground cane for over 30 years. Sugar cane was locally grown and the



Postcard of Upper Mill

quality of the molasses depended on the quality of cane that was boiled into juice. It took as much as 20 gallons of juice to make one gallon of molasses if the juice was poor quality. The local men hauled hundreds of gallons of



molasses into Sevier and Sanpete Counties and traded it for grain. A common expression when they were asked where they were going was, "We are going to Egypt to get grain."

The sawmills of this area were another big industry. These were often moved from canyon to canyon as the supply of easily accessible timber ran out. There are still some remnants of the old boilers in such places as Paradise Canyon, Strawberry Canyon and Teeples Canyon.

One of the most interesting mill stories in our area came from a sawmill. The mill was originally bought by James Melville, William King and Joshua Greenwood and brought from Dodd Canyon in Sevier County to a new location in Three Forks Canyon east of Fillmore. From there it eventually was moved to White Pine Canyon where the lumber was more plentiful. A few cabins were built on this location to house the workers.

On July 13, 1886, the group of men working the mill and their families were busy with their everyday activities.



Boiler in Teeples Canyon



Boiler from old mill in Paradise Canyon

The gathering storm was not unusually high on the Pahvant Mountains, so at first, no one thought much of it. Brigham Tompkinson and Can Melville were milking the cows in the corral. Lightning suddenly struck five of the trees surrounding the corral and the men used cross-cut saws to make an opening to get the cows out. Within minutes a deafening roar could be heard. Can Melville called to the families in the cabins to run for high ground as he cut the ropes that were tying the horses so they would not be drowned. The group quickly climbed the hill behind the cabins to get out of the way of the rushing water. The torrent of water was described as being forty feet high and filled with mud and timber as it hit the little settlement. Luckily everyone was safely high on the mountainside watching their belongs being swept away. Thirteen people including Can

and Mary Melville, Brig and Nellie Melville Tompkinson, Thomas and Mary Davis, John Carling, Bill Dutson and the children of these families spent a chilly night on high on the hillside wrapped in what few quilts were salvaged from the wreck of the cabins below. All of the lumber mill equipment was washed down the mountain except the boiler. One of the wagon wheels was later found hanging twenty feet up in the branches of a tree. While the entire operation was a loss, the people were left unharmed.