



## Face of Fillmore

*By Sherry Shepard*  
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The more I write *The Face of Fillmore*, the more I see pieces of the puzzle fit together as columns overlap and connect. This week is no exception to that. At Christmas, the story unfolded of early groups traveling through the area during the Christmas season. One of those groups was the Exploring Party led by Parley P. Pratt to explore what was to become the Iron Mission in 1849.

On their return trip to Salt Lake City, they made a camp on the east side of the Pahvant Mountains along the edge of Chalk Creek. That December, the snow had become too deep for them to travel on. A few of the strongest horses and riders continued on to Salt Lake City, while the main group remained until March at the site of what would become Fillmore.

One of those remaining at Chalk Creek was Noah Bartholomew, who would play a prominent role in the history of our community.

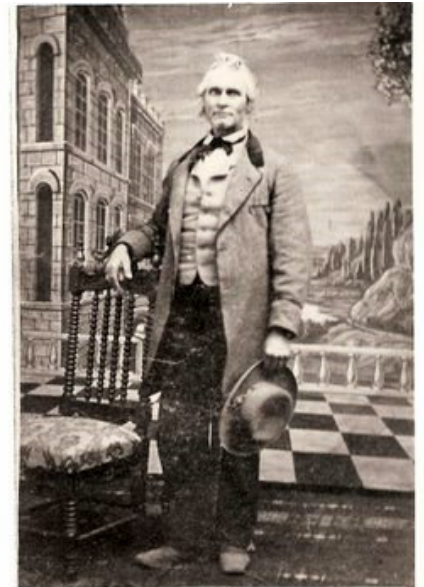
Noah Willis Bartholomew was born April 1, 1808 in Dryden, New York and died in Fillmore on August 1, 1876. He married Miranda Catlin in 1828 in New York. Their children were Emily, George, Louis, Nelson, Willis Lyman and Miranda. He also married Mary Altana Catlin, a sister of his first wife, while crossing the plains. The ceremony was performed by Heber C. Kimball. Their children were Matilda, Edwin, Noah, Laura and Don Alonzo.

Noah, his two wives and son Edwin are buried near each other in the Fillmore Cemetery.

In 1851, the first permanent settlers moved to Fillmore. Among them was Noah Bartholomew and his family along with twelve other families. On October 29, 1851, the four wings of the state house were laid out in the center of town square. That evening a meeting was called at which President Brigham Young proposed that Anson Call be appointed Judge, Indian Agent and Presiding Elder of the little group. Noah Bartholomew was named first Bishop. On November 2, the whole camp held religious services in the tent of Bishop Bartholomew.

In 1855, Noah Bartholomew built a home on the hillside just east of present-day Main Street and north of First North. The brick was made by Henry Faust and was the first made west of the Missouri River. The basement and huge stone oven were made of sandstone. The first floor of the house had eight rooms and the upper floor had four rooms to accommodate the large family. The home was modeled like a steamship, with a long hall extending the length of the house and rooms off it on each side. Each room had a brick fireplace.

Later on, Noah and his wives took in boarders and even later it was used as a hotel.



Noah Bartholomew

Interestingly, the Bartholomew home became known as the “Bartholomew Castle” by local residents.

The Bartholomew’s also built an adobe mill east of their house for grinding flour. In 1864, a carding machine was attached to the flour mill for carding wool and rolling it into bundles from which to spin and weave much needed cloth.

Noah Bartholomew and his family also had an unusual interest. They were circus people. Wills Robison, a Fillmore resident, tells us: “The circus originated in Fillmore and was composed of Fillmore people. They trained three years and then went all over the country. It made a great reputation. There were trained horses, ball walkers, etc. The great tents were then a real wonder. The swale where the horses trained is called Circus Hollow and is four miles east of Fillmore.”

While the Bartholomew home is no longer intact, remnants of it are prominently seen. In 2008, the Mark and Nelda Paxton family donated the sandstone rocks from the lower portion of the Bartholomew home to be used in constructing the benches we now have dotting the sidewalks along Main Street.

#### Historical Note

On January 28, we celebrate the 165th birthday of Fillmore’s first baby. Columbia Fillmore Call was born to Josiah Call and his wife Henrietta on that date. Josiah was the brother of Anson Call.



Bartholomew Castle



Remains of the Bartholomew home about fifty years ago