



The Face of Fillmore

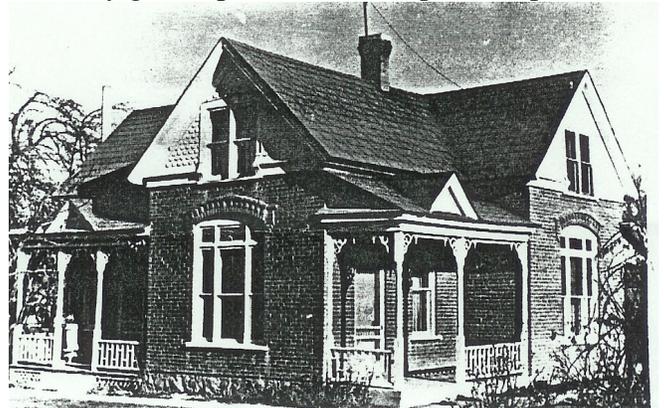
By Sherry Shepard
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The Face of Fillmore this week focuses on a home on the northwest corner of 400 South and 200 West. The story behind the home is one of travel, joy, romance, tragedy and family ties. It began long before the building of the home.

In the year 1879, two families converted to the LDS Church in Denmark and left there to join the Saints in Zion. The Rasmussen and Iverson families' travels paralleled as both came on the same ship from Denmark to Salt Lake City and then on to the San Pete County settlement of Fountain Green, then to Deseret in Millard County. From there both families moved to Fillmore.

A member of each family becomes the focal point of this story. When the families left Denmark, Pauline Iverson was four and Rasmus Rasmussen was seven. As they grew up their friendship developed into love and wedding plans were made.

Rasmus was a carpenter by trade and with the help of his father Knud built a lovely brick home for his new bride. Knud's specialty was shaping the supporting beams of the roof. He also made intricate scrolls, fancy curlicues and spirals along the edges of the roof. This was all done using knives and axes for tools, as that was all that was available at the time. The two took great pride in the carving work used to decorate the new home. Inside were a large living room, dining room and small kitchen on the ground floor. Three small bedrooms with dormer windows were up the narrow stairway on the second floor.



Rasmus and Pauline were married on December 21, 1898 in Fillmore. The bride's parents served a huge dinner to all the wedding guests as was the custom at that time and the bride and groom set up housekeeping in their new home.

On September 20, 1900 they became the parents of a beautiful baby girl whom they named Pauline after her mother. Sorrow came to the family when the mother died only six days later.

Rasmus was so overwhelmed with grief that he left the baby in the care of family members and worked out of the area, returning once again to live in Fillmore in a few years. He married his first wife's sister Betty Christina, and the family moved back into the home he had built. They had five children of their own. Rasmus continued his occupation working with his brothers Lars and Hans as a carpenter and also farmed in Flowell.

The home has stayed in the family for years. In 1966 it was purchased by the Rogers family. Major improvements have been made to the structure in recent months. New windows and doors were installed and insulation was added to make the home more energy efficient, but the brick exterior and gingerbread trim is still in its original state for future generations to enjoy.