



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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Cemeteries, headstones and other related items have always been fascinating to me. A walk through the Fillmore City Cemetery is one of my favorite pastimes.

With Memorial Day right around the corner, visiting the cemetery where your family members have been laid to rest is a great way to share family stories about them with your children or grandchildren.

Finding someone's grave can be quite an adventure. This week I will share a few hints with you that have been helpful to me.

Focusing on the Fillmore Cemetery, there are some real helps on the city's website. I find it easier to have a grave spotted before trying to find it on the ground.

First, go to fillmorecity.org, then to Fillmore City – Utah's First Capital and then to cemetery. Click on the brown lettering that says: "Utah State history cemetery and burial database". On the left click on "search for a person buried in Utah". Insert the name of the person you are looking for and click on the blue search button. If there is not a cemetery listed for that person, fill in the cemetery space and then click on search again. The plot number you are looking for will be near the bottom of the information listed. This number can be used along with the cemetery map to lead you to the exact spot you need.

If you are looking for someone in the Fillmore Cemetery go back to the cemetery screen and click on the cemetery map where the word "new" is pointing it out.

A map of the cemetery plots will be displayed. Find the number of the plot you are looking for and zoom in to see the names listed there.

It is important to note that these blocks are not nearly the size one might think. This originally was a problem for me.

My husband and I spent some time there with a measuring tape and found out some helpful information.

We picked Plot 181 diagonally across from the little shed near the entrance. We measured from the center of Richard Ervin Day's headstone to the center of Afton Huntsman Schwartz's headstone and found it to be about 25 feet. We also measured from the center of Milton Melville's to the center of Alonzo Huntsman's and found that to be about 16 feet.



I discovered in searching for graves of early Fillmore people, I was miscalculating the distances. I had assumed these “blocks” were much larger. Recently we had an opportunity visit the Benjamin City Cemetery, looking for the graves of my husband’s great-great-grandfather, his wife and daughter. Right away we found the one of the mother – Eliza Jane Bird and looked all around it for the others. We referred to the directory and the map posted in the cemetery and found the numbers of the plots and gravesites were identical for all three. We went back to Eliza’s grave and found that there was only one headstone. Each person’s information was listed on a different side of the same stone.

Whatever reason you visit the cemetery, connecting the person buried there to stories of their life can make it a more meaningful experience.