



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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Without a doubt, the most photographed or painted landmark in the Face of Fillmore is the Territorial Statehouse. From its early times, when not many pictures were taken, it was the subject for more than its share. Today we see pictures of it in all seasons of the year with all kinds of activities on its grounds.

One of my favorites is a painting “The First Territorial Legislature” by Frank M. Thomas. The original mural is high on the south wall of the county fair building in Delta. This mural is enormous measuring six feet five inches by twenty-three feet four inches with life size people in it – lots of them. This is one thing that draws me to the painting – the fact that there are people I know in it. Important historical figures such as Brigham Young and Porter Rockwell are easily recognizable but so are friends and acquaintances from Fillmore and surrounding towns.

Let me point out some that Frank showed to me. Beginning on the left-hand side of the picture, McKay Pikyavit stands out in his native costume. Continuing on to the right is a lady in a green dress and her husband on her left. These are Joyce and Steve Frampton. The officer standing in front of his troops is Cloyd Day. At this point, Porter Rockwell with the beard in buckskins standing by the wagon is apparent. Brigham Young is the man with the cane in his hand talking to General Daniel Well. Behind the General a few steps and leaning on the carriage wheel is the artist Frank Thomas with his wife Patreecia in the red dress. In the background, here you seen a lady with blonde hair with her husband on her right. They are Carolyn and Norman Stevens. The man in buckskin to the far right is Jim Larsen. Unfortunately, the rider on the horse has been cut off. He is President Frank Stevens and can be seen in the full mural.



Mural by Frank M. Thomas “The First Territorial Legislature”

Mr. Thomas told me this mural was part of the Centennial Celebration Utah’s Statehood in 1996 and he was asked by the county to do it. A print of the mural can be viewed in the Millard County Commission Chambers in the courthouse in Fillmore.

In keeping with the traditional celebration of Statehood Day, the Territorial Statehouse is sponsoring their annual dance on Saturday, January 7 from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. While this event caters mostly to the teenage crowd, the public is welcome. Sometimes people come as families to enjoy the evening's activities.

