



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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One prominent home from the 1800's is located on the corner of Fillmore's Main Street and Sixth North. Originally built of red brick, the home has since been painted white. This house has a history of being home to families with very early ties to Fillmore. This week we will look at a few of those.

The Verne Bartholomew family were the first to be remembered in the home. While it is unclear if he actually built the home or was just an early resident, Verne's family has since extended to include many residents of both East and West Millard.

Verne Bartholomew was the son of Edwin and Lelia Deseret Lyman Bartholomew. He was born January 4, 1874 in Fillmore. He was the eighth generation of Bartholomew's to be born in America and was descended from William Bartholomew who arrived in Boston on the ship Griffin on September 8, 1634, coming from England because of religious persecution.

Verne attended school in the Presbyterian School which was held in the old Territorial Statehouse. He loved all kinds of animals, especially horses, and studied to become a veterinary surgeon. He served the people of Millard County in that capacity for 30-35 years.

On December 14, 1896, Verne married Emma Day, the daughter of John and Mary Clark Day. Shortly after their marriage Verne left for New York, bringing back a herd of Holstein cattle to introduce to Millard County.



Verne Bartholomew and his wife Emma
besides their "new" car

The couple lived in the home on Main Street for many years with their four children: Orlo Verne born in 1897; Loy Day born in 1899, Nada (Melville), born in 1905; Ruby (Durrant Denison), born in 1909 and Dewey Clayton, born in 1916.

Nada is the mother of Ross Melville who told me that his mother lived in the home as a young child. Ross also shared with me stories of the extensive remodeling of the home to make it more modern and convenient.

Verne and Emma had another business in Fillmore. In 1919, the Alcazar Dance Hall burned, and the Bartholomew's saw a need for another amusement hall. Verne owned property on the north side of the public square, so he constructed another dance hall at that location at a cost of \$12,000.

About this time the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints divided once again into two wards. The groups tried meeting in the same building for a time, but this arrangement proved to be difficult to schedule, so the Second Ward met in the Seminary Building, the Relief Society Building and the Verne Bartholomew Dance Hall.

Unfortunately, this amusement hall met the same end as the Alcazar when it burned to the ground on July 28, 1919. In *Milestones of Millard* we read: “A canyon breeze from east carried the fire to the church building which was situated on the west side of the hall, and in a short time it was a mass of charred ruins and the people were deprived of a suitable place in which to Worship God.”

One of the largest floods to every come down Chalk Creek happened on July 28, 1917. Large trees three feet in diameter, as well as huge boulders lodged against the bridge on Main Street creating a dam that sent the flood waters in all directions. The gardens of Verne Bartholomew and some of his neighbors were buried in mud. The citizens of Fillmore worked together to dislodge the dam, saving the area from further damage. Unfortunately, several horses, cattle and hogs drowned in the flood.

Ross Melville told me of his grandfather's passing in 1947. As a young boy Ross was sitting beside his grandfather's bed. He had been in a coma for some time. Ross's mother and other family members were also in the room. Verne awakened long enough to call out his wife's name and then passed away. She had died just five months earlier. They are buried in the Fillmore City Cemetery side-by-side.

At some point in the mid-1900's, the home was purchased by Hal and Oleva Robison and once again was filled with the laughter of many children. Judy Roberts is one of those children and a visit with her painted a great picture of what life there must have been like. She remembers she was in about the first grade when this move took place.



A few years ago, in a run-down state



Removing dead trees from the property

Judy says the house was in disrepair when the family purchased it, but with lots of hard work it became very livable once again. With eight children in the home, the one bathroom was quite a popular spot in the home. In the late 1950's, a large remodeling project took place with the kitchen and laundry being moved to the west side of the home. Another bathroom was also added.

Oleve had a green thumb and the garden and yard of the home soon flourished. Flowers and lawn and a prosperous vegetable garden spread over the property. There were also pastures for the family's animals – cows, chickens, dogs and cats, and even a donkey Hal found on the desert.

With the creek nearby, the children enjoyed the cool waters on hot summer days. This was also the source for the saddest memory of the home. One day the children went to play in the creek and their little sister Katie drowned.

Judy remembers as the Robison children grew up and went away to school, others were taken in to live with the family.

Oleve was an elementary school teacher and many in town will remember being in her classes. Hal was a geologist.

The house has remained empty for long periods of time and has been recently remodeled yet again and sold recently to Salvador Sanchez. He is excited about moving to Main Street. The location will be better for his taco business.

And another chapter of the home's history begins.



Today's view