

Millard County and Fillmore

In the early 1870's Isaac and Harriet lived in Gandy in the Snake Valley in Millard County. The births of their two youngest daughters Maudie and Stella were registered in Fillmore in 1871 and 1877. This description of Millard County and county seat Fillmore is a transcript of the Utah Gazetteer, Directory Salt Lake City, E. L. Sloan, 1874

MILLARD COUNTY

Is one of the largest counties in the Territory in point of area. Like Box Elder, Tooele and Utah the extreme western portion of the county incorporates a large tract of the Great American Desert. Millard is bounded on the north by Juab, east by Juab, Sanpete and Sevier, south by Beaver and west by the State of Nevada. It was settled during the spring of 1851, by Ansom Call and some thirty families, who located at Fillmore. About this time the first Legislative Assembly of Utah Territory met in "Great" Salt Lake City, as it was then called, and Fillmore, in Millard County, was settled as the capital of the Territory. Through the eastern half of Millard County the Utah Central Railroad runs. The mail, to a majority of the towns, however, has to be carried over the mountains by coach or buckboard. Millard is quite a rich farming area, the land being very productive where water can be obtained, while the whole county is noted for excellence of the fruit raised in it. The habitable portion is the eastern section, lying close to the Wasatch Range. The Sevier Lake or Sink, as it is sometimes called, is in this county. After rising in Garfield County, and flowing south through Piute, Sevier and part of Sanpete Counties, the Sevier River runs north, then west and then south through Juab County, and finally after flowing a considerable distance in a south easterly direction through Millard empties into the Sevier Lake, and as there is no outlet, it is called the Sevier Sink. The lake is about forty miles long, by some eight miles wide on an average and, there being no outlet, its waters are naturally salt. Millard is a county exceedingly rich in mineral deposits. Gold, silver, lead, copper, fireclay, coal, lime rock, iron, sulphur, sandstone, mica, gypsum, aluminium and zinc are among the minerals discovered up to date. The output of ore or bullion forms no very important factor at the present time, but that the county has the capacity there is not even opportunity for a doubt. The large sulphur deposits elsewhere referred to exist in this county, the like of which has not been found anywhere else so far up to date. Though much talk has been indulged in, little decisive action has been taken towards bringing the beds into that productive position which their extent and purity, or fineness would warrant. However, like others, this difficulty time will speedily overcome. Millard County embraces also some excellent grazing country and stock-raising is among the profitable industries, while farming is the mainstay of the population. Millard is in a position to become a populous and a wealthy county, her natural resources not agriculturally alone, but minerally to an unusual degree, warranting such a position for the county within a reasonable period.

FILLMORE

Fillmore, the county seat of Millard County, has an area of sixteen square miles and was incorporated January 12th, 1867. At the time of incorporation it had an area of thirty-six square miles; elections are held biennially. The citizens are chiefly engaged in farming and stock-raising. Here are located two saw and two grist mills. There is but one church, the Latter-day Saints; J.D. Smith is bishop; four schools and four schoolhouses, district and Presbyterian, with an average attendance of 200. The places of amusement are a theatre and three libraries, Sunday school, Mutual Improvement and Liberal. It has also the following societies: Relief Society, Primary, Young Men's and Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Associations and Union of the People's Party.