

Albert James Gill (1876-1949)

"More than 80,000 converts came from Europe between 1840 and 1900 in what one historian called "the largest and most successful group immigration in United States history."¹

Albert's parents were among those immigrants. His father, David Richard Gill, married his mother, Sarah Ann Hodges, on February 23, 1862, at Glamorgan, South Wales.²

"The Church had great missionary success in Wales during the 1840's and 1850's, and many thousands of Welsh converts immigrated to America, heading West with Brigham Young as a part of the great Mormon Migration, which began in 1847. Today it is estimated that approximately twenty percent of the population of Utah is of Welsh descent."³

Albert James Gill was born on November 20, 1876, in Ogmare Valley, Bridgend District, Glamorganshire, South Wales.⁴

The Gill family sailed from Liverpool on June 29, 1878, aboard the steamship Nevada, and arrived at New York on July 10, 1878.⁵

"DEPARTURE. -- The third company of the season sailed on the S. S. Nevada, at 7 p.m. on the 29th instant. ... The English section numbered 74, making a total of 569 souls."⁶

The English section included 23 people from Wales. The handwritten ship's manifest lists "D R Gill, 40, male, father; Sarah Gill, 36, female, wife; Henry Gill, 24, male, laborer; D R Gill, 11, male child; Thos. Gill, 9, male child; Eda Gill, 7 female child; Elija Gill, 4 male child; Emily Gill, 2, female child; and Albert Gill 9/12, male infant;" as passengers 597 through 605. The Mormon Immigration Index (1840-1890), page 135, lists David R. Gill, 40, Welsh; Sarah Ann Gill, 36, Henry H Gill, 21, David R Gill, Thos G, 9, Eda L, 7, Eljah, 4, Emily J, 2; and Albert, infant; with a cost of 23 English pounds.

It was an easy voyage, "Everything bespeaks a pleasant and agreeable voyage; the weather is delightful".⁷

Ellis Island was not in operation in 1878, so the Gill family was probably processed through Castle Gardens, although no record has been found. The Gill family arrived in New York on July 10 and travelled by trail to Salt Lake on July 18, with the guidance of church elders.

Fillmore, Millard County, was considered the "last frontier" for growth in the state of Utah and recent immigrants started their new lives there. The 1880 US Census lists David (as a gardner), Sarah A, Henry, David, Thomas, Eda (Edith), Elijah, Emily J, Albert J, and Joseph J (first child born in USA) in Fillmore. The family moved to Salt Lake City about two years later.

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At age 16, Albert was working as a bookbinder for the *Juvenile Instructor*, a Mormon publication of an uplifting nature. From 1897 to 1900 Albert worked at George Q Cannon & Sons as a book binder, and boarded at 37 Jeremy Street with family members. Albert hired on with the Deseret News in 1901; he started as a "ruler", became a machinist, and then department foreman in 1922; he worked at the newspaper until his death in 1949.

Albert married **Agnes Sellers Airmet** on October 18, 1899; they lived at 374 F Street.⁸ Their first son, **Albert Douglas** was born on June 29, 1900. Son **David Glen** was born on April 5, 1903, son **Millard Airmet Gill** was born on July 30, 1905, and daughter **Mirl Ann Gill** was born on July 6, 1913

Albert registered for the draft on September 12, 1918; he is described as slender build, gray eyes, dark brown hair; although registered, he was never inducted.⁹

The 1920 census lists Albert, 43; Agnes, 41; Douglas, 19, laborer dry goods store; Glen, 16; Millard, 14; Myrl, 6, at 274 S Street. The 1930 census places Albert J, 53; Agnes, 51; Mirl A, 16, at 274 L Street. The 1940 census places Albert J, 64; and Agnes, 61, at 274 L Street, where he lived until his death in 1949. Albert died in November following surgery for colon cancer in October.¹⁰



November 29, 1949

Photo by Amy Barry

Albert James is buried in WEST_6_53_1E in the historic Salt Lake Cemetery. His wife Agnes is buried alongside.

Albert's Find A Grave memorial is # 99970721.

Salt Lake Tribune Funeral Announcement

GILJ.—Funeral services for Albert James Gill will be conducted Tuesday at 12 noon at Larkin mortuary chapel. 260 K. South Temple. Friends may call at the mortuary Monday from 4 to 8 p.m. and Tuesday from 9 a.m. until time of services. Interment City cemetery under direction of Larkin mortuary.

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Elijah, David, Independencia Ruth, **Albert**, Joseph
Sarah Ann, David R. Gill, Edith, Thomas
Photo from Amber McKean family collection

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City directory entries

- 1892: Albert J, bookbndr, *Juvenile Instructor*, res 104 S Third West.
1897-1900: Albert J, bkbndr George Q Cannon & Sons CO, bds 37 Jeremy.
1901-1910: Albert, ruler, bkbinder Deseret News, res 374 F
1911-1917: Albert J, mach Deseret News, r 425 J
1922-1949: Albt J formn Des News r 274 L

Date Register

- 1876:** Albert James Gill born November 20, 1876.
1878: Immigration: sail from Liverpool on June 29 aboard the SS Nevada, arrive New York July 10.
1880: Census: Family in Fillmore, Millard County, Utah, USA.
1896: President Cleveland proclaimed Utah a state on January 4.
1899: Albert marries Agnes Sellers Airmet on October 18, 1899.
1900: Albert Douglas is born on June 29, 1900.
1903: David Glen is born on April 5, 1903.
1905: Millard Airmet Gill born on July 30, 1905.
1910: Census: Albert, Agnes, Albert D, 9; David G, 7; and Millard A, 4, at 425 J Street.
1913: Mirl Ann Gill born on July 6, 1913.
1918: Albert registers for the draft.
1920: Census: Albert, 43; Agnes, 41; Douglas, 19; Glen, 16; Millard, 14; Myrl, 6, at 274 S Street.
1930: Census: Albert J, 53; Agnes, 51; Mirl A, 16, at 274 L Street.
1940: Census: Albert J, 64; and Agnes, 61, at 274 L Street.
1949: Albert James dies November 27, 1949.

¹ Maldwyn A. Jone, *American Immigration*, Chicago, 1960, p.126.

² England & Wales, FreeBMD Marriage Index, 1837-1919; Jan-Feb-Mar 1862. http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=freebmdmarriage&h=14014819&ti=0&indiv=try&gss=pt&ssrc=pt_t63570848_p46109290085_kpidz0q3d46109290085z0q26pgz0q3d32768z0q26pgplz0q3dpid

³ 2012 Center for Family History and Genealogy at Bridham Young University. <http://welshmormon.byu.edu/>.

⁴ FreeBMD. England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006. Original data: General Register Office. England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes. London, England: General Register Office.

⁵ Liverpool to New York on the *Nevada* (29 Jun 1878 - 10 Jul 1878). http://mormonmigration.lib.byu.edu/Search/showDetails/db:MM_MII/t:voyage/id:273/keywords:david+gill.

⁶ Letter from John Cook et al. - June 30, 1878.

⁷ Ibid.

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⁸ "Utah, County Marriages, 1887-1937," index, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/F8G2-Z6J> : accessed 04 Jan 2014), Albert J. Gill and Agnes Airmet, 1899.

⁹ Death certificate: question 15, "Was deceased ever in U.S. Armed Forces? No.

¹⁰ "Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1956," index and images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XZLN-NV8> : accessed 04 Jan 2014), Agnes Airmet Gill in entry for Albert James Gill, 26 Nov 1949.