

Joseph John Gill (1878-1946)

"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

Joseph'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 Gill family sailed from Liverpool on June 29, 1878, aboard the steamship Nevada, and arrived at New York on July 10, 1878.³ The passenger list includes David Sr, Sarah Ann, adopted son Henry Hodges, David Jr, Thomas, Edith, Elijah, Emily, and infant Albert.

"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."⁴

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 for the voyage.

It was an easy voyage, "Everything bespeaks a pleasant and agreeable voyage; the weather is delightful."⁵

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 completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869 ended Utah's isolation and greatly improved both comfort and time for the journey from New York to Utah. The Gill family arrived in New York on July 10 and were in Salt Lake on July 18, so they probably traveled by train with the guidance of church elders.

"...Thanks to Church organizational skills and resource, most immigrants avoided many hardship and mistakes that usually plagued inexperienced travelers. Liverpool, England, served a departure point for Latter-day Saint British and European immigrant (75 percent of whom traveled as families. After 1854, to avoid river diseases, Latter-day Saint companies from Liverpool docked at Boston, New York, or Philadelphia, where Church agent arranged for railroads to take the immigrant to frontier outfitting points."⁶

Fillmore, Millard County, Utah, is a community named by an act of the Utah Territorial Legislature signed by Brigham Young in 1851, honoring President Millard Fillmore. Fillmore was considered the "last frontier" for growth in the state of Utah and recent immigrants started their new lives there.

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Joseph John Gill was born in Fillmore, Millard County, Utah, to David R Gill and Sarah Ann Hodges on December 12, 1878;⁷ their first child born in the United States.

1880 US Census of Fillmore, Millard, Utah; lists David (as a gardner), Sarah A, Henry, David, Thomas, Eda (Edith), Elijah, Emily J, Albert J, and Joseph J. The family moved to Salt Lake City within two years.

These late pioneers traveled by steam ship and steam railroad. They had electricity and indoor plumbing, but they didn't have penicillin, and many died of illnesses that are easily cured with antibiotics. Joseph's younger brother, Lorenzo Fred, died with convulsions on November 25, 1887. Their 15-year-old sister, Emily Jane, died from peritonitis on July 3, 1890; and 10-year-old brother, Hyrum Samuel, dies of heart disease December 20, 1890, all in Salt Lake City.

Joseph married **Rhoda Josephine Thomson** on March 18, 1903, in Salt Lake City. About one year later, their son, Joseph Franklin Gill, is born on March 2, 1904. Their happiness is short lived as Rhoda dies of Typhoid fever on September 19, 1908. After her death, Joseph and his son moved back to Jeremy Street with family. Six-year-old Joseph Franklin dies on October 22, 1910, from diphtheria.

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City directories show Joseph as a sign painter from 1910-1917, living on Jeremy Street. Joseph was drafted on September 12, 1918; he has light blue eyes and dark brown hair, and lists his brother, David R Gill, as his nearest relative. In January 1920, Joseph is living with his sister Edith and her husband at 42 Jeremy Street. He marries **Eleanor⁸ Ondine Moth Iverson** on June 24, 1920. Their son, Gail John is born April 22, 1921, and their daughter Patrice⁹ is born in 1924.

In 1930, Joseph and Eleanor lived at 840 6th Avenue with son Gail John, 8, and daughter Patrice Ann, 7. They live at Delmar Court from 1933 to 1936, and move to 72 R Street about 1938, where Joseph lives until his death.

Joseph established his own sign painting company - Gill and Gill - which he operated for 35 years with his brother, Thomas. Their ad in the city directory: Gill & Gill (Yes We're Brothers; Thos G and Jos J) Signs, base 32 S Main, Tel Was 4515.

Joseph becomes street lighting supervisor in 1942, city traffic supervisor in 1944, and street lighting supervisor Public Safety Commissioner in 1946. During the war, Joseph administered gas rationing for city employees and directed "share the ride" while an administrator of the War Transportation Committee.

Joseph "died at his home Wednesday at 8 a.m. of a heart ailment shortly after rising" on November 20, 1946. By today's standards, the obituary language is flowery and overwrought, but it



Elijah, David, Independencia Ruth, Albert, Joseph

Sarah Ann, David R. Gill, Edith, Thomas

Photo from Amber McKean family collection

Joseph John Gill (1878-1946)

characterizes the life of an immigrant' child – from Welsh coalmines to respected city employee and church member.

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Joseph's obituary ran in The Salt Lake Tribune on November 21 and 24, 1946.

The Salt Lake Tribune, Thursday, Nov. 21, 1946

Lighting Supervisor, 67, Dies Of Heart Ailment in S.L.

Joseph J Gill, 67, 72 R St., prominent Salt Lake lighting supervisor and Utah Peace Officer Assn. member, died at his home Wednesday at 8 a.m. of a heart ailment shortly after rising.

A son of David and Sarah Ann Gill, he was born Dec 12, 1878, in Fillmore, Millard county, and had resided in Salt Lake about 50 years.

He married Eleanor Iverson, June 24, 1920, in Salt Lake City and established his own sign painting concern of Gill and Gill, which he operated about 35 years.

Footprint Member

Mr. Gill was a member of the antelope Island chapter, International Footprint Assn.;¹⁰ he also was a former member of the Salt Lake Executive Assn.

During the war, Mr. Gill administered gas rationing for city employees and was directly responsible for the active "share the ride" proposal while an administrator of the War Transportation Committee.

Mr. Gill became a street lighting supervisor in 1942, a job at which he was active until the day before his death.

List of Survivors

Survivors, in addition to his widow, include a son and daughter, Gail John Gill and Mrs. Patrice Ann Everts; a brother; Albert J. Gill; three grandchildren, Peter L Everts, Patricia Ann and Gregory E. Gill, all of Salt Lake City.

Funeral services will be conducted Saturday at 2 p.m. at 574 E. 1st South where friends may call from 8 a.m. Saturday until time of services. Burial will be in the Salt Lake City Cemetery.

The Salt Lake Tribune, Thursday, Nov. 24, 1946

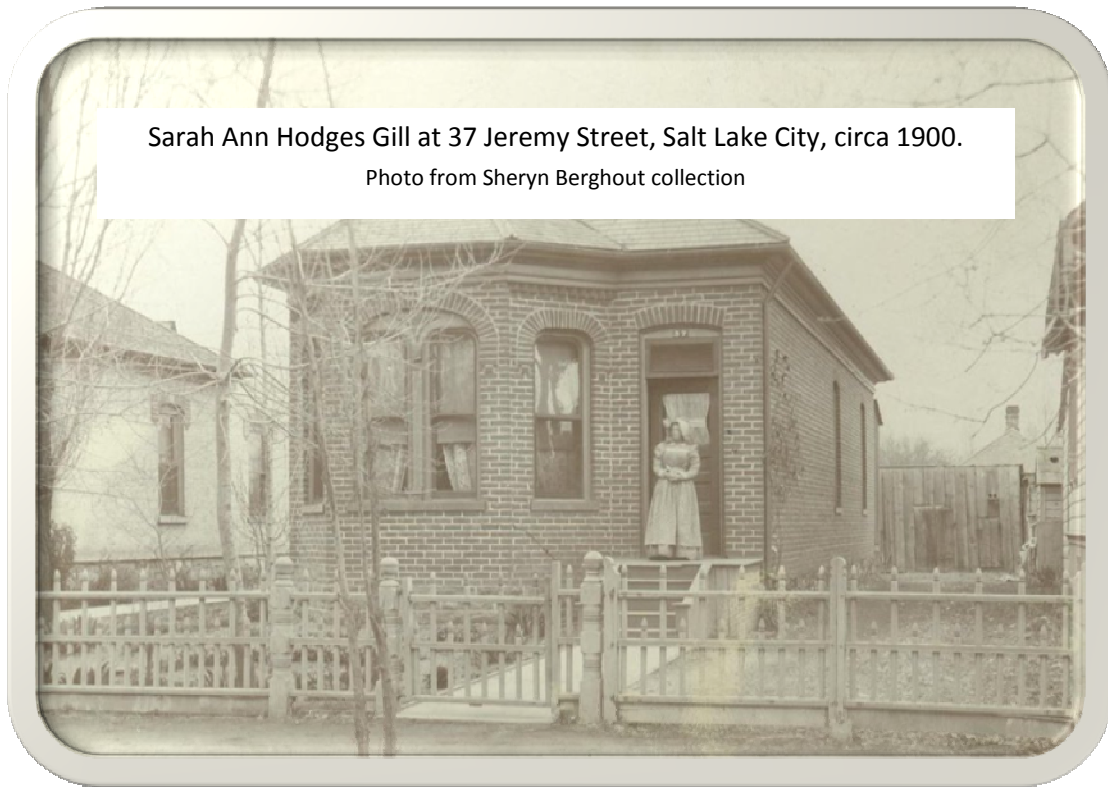
Funeral Held in S.L. for Lighting Chief

Characterized as a man of dependability and outstanding character during funeral services conducted Saturday was Joseph J. Gill, 67, 72 R St., prominent Salt Lake lighting supervisor and Utah Peace Officer Assn. member.

Speakers eulogizing Mr. Gill during funeral services Saturday at 7 p.m. at 574 E. 1st South, conducted by George J. Weber, pastor of First Congregational church, were L. C. Romney, Salt Lake City commissioner of public safety and Edward M. Ashton, former bishop of Yale ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Referring to Mr. Gill, commissioner Romney said: "He was a man of kindness and courtesy, and who was very efficient and dependable in his work for Salt Lake City." Commissioner Romney read a letter of appreciation and condolence to Mr. Gill's family from Mayor Earl J. Glade in which Mr. Gill was praised highly for the quality and quantity of his work. In speaking of Mr. Gill, Mr. Ashton said: "Even as a young man he was of outstanding dependability and character, and was always a fine example for his associates.

Dedication of the grave was by Jack Martin, Salt Lake City, in the Salt Lake City Cemetery.

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Burial: Joseph is buried in the Salt Lake City Cemetery; plot L-13-1, along with many members of the extended Gill family.

His Find A Grave Memorial # 23259142.



Photo by Judie Latshaw Huff.

Joseph John Gill (1878-1946)

Date Register

1862: Joseph's parents - David marries Sarah Ann Hodges (1842-1917) on February 23, in Wales.

1869: Completion of the transcontinental railroad.

1878: Immigration - sailed from Liverpool on June 29, aboard the SS Nevada, arrived New York July 10.

1878: Joseph born on December 12 in Fillmore, Utah.

1880: US Census: Family in Fillmore, Millard, Utah, USA.

1890: 15-year-old Emily Jane dies July 3; 10-year-old son Hyrum Samuel dies December 20.

1896: President Cleveland proclaimed Utah a state on January 4.

1903: Joseph marries Rhoda Josephine Thomson on March 18 in Salt Lake City.

1904: Son Joseph Franklin Gill born on March 2.

1906: His father, David R. Gill, Sr., dies.

1908: Rhoda Josephine Thomson dies of Typhoid fever.

1910: Census – Joseph living with his mother at 43 Jeremy Street.

1910: Son Joseph Franklin Gill dies on October 22 from diphtheria

1918: Joseph drafted on September 12.

1920: January, Joseph living with sister Edith and her husband at 42 Jeremy Street.

1920: Joseph marries Eleanor Ondine Moth Iverson on June 24.

1930: Joseph and Eleanor living at 840 6th Avenue with son Gail J, 8, and daughter Patrice A, 7.

1946: Joseph dies on November 20.

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 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.

⁴ Letter from John Cook et al. - June 30, 1878.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ *Coming to Zion: Saga of the Gathering*, William G. Hartley, July 1975.

⁷ Ancestry.com. Salt Lake City, Utah, Cemetery Records, 1848-1992.

⁸ Eleanor, Ellinor, Elinor.

⁹ 1930 census "Patrice"; 1940 census "Patricia"; The Salt Lake Tribune "Patrice"; no birth certificate.

¹⁰ The International Footprint Association, a non-profit, encourages fellowship, respect, cooperation, and helpfulness between all arms of law enforcement and others sympathetic toward law enforcement. <http://www.footprinter.org/>