

Thomas George Gill (1868-1943)

"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

Thomas'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

Thomas George Gill was born on May 31, 1868, in Ponderpree, 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 rail 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.

Thomas married **Emma Zilpah Morgan** on March 24, 1892; they lived at 42 Jeremy Street with his parents for a time

Thomas George Gill biography



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before eventually moving to 277 N Street.⁸ They had 11 children. Two died as infants and one son, 9-year-old Thomas George died of heart disease.

Vera Aldean Gill Hoagland (1892 - 1978)

Effie Gill Jensen (1894 - 1983)

Jetta Gill Johnson (1896 - 1965)

Lucille Gill (1898 - 1904)

Ruby George (1900 - 1984)

Thomas George Gill (1903 - 1913)

Margaret Louise Gill (1903 - 1995)

Gordon Morgan Gill (1912 - 1994)

Ralph Willard Gill (1915 - 1980)

Thomas Geoge died .May 27, 1943, of heart failure.

Photo by BBW

His Find A Grave memorial is # **73076206**.

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The Salt Lake Tribune, Friday Morning, May 28, 1913

Death Claims Founder of Sign Agency

Tom G. Gill, 74, for many years one of Salt Lake City's best known sign painters and co-founder of Gill and Gill, sign agency, died Thursday at 2:40 p. m. at his home, 277 N street, after a long illness. Mr. Gill had been in advertising and sign painting most of his life, and with his brother, Joseph J. Gill, founded Gill and Gill in 1916. A former member of the Exchange club, Mr. Gill retired from business and civil life a few years ago due to ill health. He was 74 years old. Born in South Wales on May 31, 1868, a son of David R. and Sarah Ann Hodges Gill, Mr. Gill came to the United States when he was nine years old. He lived in Salt Lake City nearly all of his life. He was a member of the LDS church.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Emma Morgan Gill; five daughters, Mrs. Frank L. Hoaglund, Mrs. M. A. Johnson, Mrs. W. Earl Jensen and Mrs. S. H. George, all of Salt Lake City, and Mrs. F. H. Owen of Alameda, Cal.; two sons, Gordon Gill and Ralph W. Gill of Salt Lake City; a brother, Joseph J. Gill; 17 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be conducted Tuesday at 1 p. m, in the Twenty-seventh LDS ward chapel, 185 P. street, with Zeniff D. Harrison, bishop, officiating. Friends may call Monday from 1 to 9 p. m. at 2128 South State street, and Tuesday at the home of M. A. Johnson.



Elijah, David, Independencia Ruth, Albert, Joseph
Sarah Ann, David R. Gill, Edith, Thomas

Photo from Amber McKean family collection

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180 M Street from 10 a.m. until time of services. Burial will be in Salt Lake City cemetery.

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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_085z0q26pgz0q3d32768z0q26pgplz0q3dpid

³ 2012 Center for Family History and Genealogy at Brigham 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.

⁸ "Utah, County Marriages, 1887-1937," index, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/F8GX-Q6V> : accessed 10 Jan 2014), Thomas G. Gill and Emma Z. Morgan, 1892.