

Emily Jane Gill (1874-1890)

"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

Emily Jane'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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Emily Jane Gill was born in Mountain Ash, Aberdare Glanmorganshire, Wales, to David R Gill and Sarah Ann Hodges on September 11, 1874.⁷

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 today are easily cured with antibiotics. Emily's younger brother, Lorenzo Fred, died with convulsions on November 25, 1887, and 15-year-old Emily Jane died from peritonitis on July 3, 1890.⁸

Emily is buried in the Gill family plot in the Salt Lake Cemetery, there is no headstone for her grave. Her Find A Grave memorial is 99970091.

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Date Register

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

1874: Emily Jane born September 11, 1874.

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

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

1890: 15-year-old Emily Jane dies July 3.

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 Year: 1880; Census Place: Fillmore, Millard, Utah; Roll: 1336; Family History Film: 1255336; Page: 460B; Enumeration District: 030.

⁸ Utah State Archives and Records Service; Salt Lake City, UT; Utah State Archives and Records Service; Series: 21866.