

Newton Davidson Gilham

Pioneer of 1852

compiled by Stephenie Flora
oregonpioneers.com

Newton Davidson Gilham

b. 09 Aug 1811 Madison Co, IL

d. 15 May 1887 Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

buried Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah Co, OR
s/o Thomas Gilham Jr and Margaret Letitia Davidson

m1, c1831

Malinda Hunter

b. 1810

d. c1841

m2. 11 Sep 1845 Greene Co, IL

Marecy Agnes Valentine

b. 23 Jun 1817 IL

d. 11 Sep 1882 Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

buried Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

"20 Feb 1837

Last Will and Testament of Thomas Gillham decd

In the name of God Amen I Thomas Gillham of the County of Madison being weak in body but of sound mind and memory do make, ordain and establish this to be my last will and testament, hereby revoking all others and I do hereby appoint Margaret L. Gillham my wife to be the executor of this my last will and testament.

1st It is my will that all my just debts be paid that sufficient of my personal property be sold for that purpose if it is be found necessary.

2nd After the payment of all my just debts and funeral expenses I do hereby devise and bequeath to my beloved wife the farm and improvements hereon which I now live, known as the south east quarter of section seventeen in township thru south range nine west as will more fully appears by a reference to deed bearing date July the nineteenth 1823 from Isaac Gillham Seignor, to me also the west half of the north east quarter of section No. 20 in Township No. Three, north of range nine west, as will also appear by a reference to the above deed.

3rd I also give and bequeath to my son Newton D. Gillham one other tract of land in this county as will sufficiently appear by a reference to deed executed in favor of him the said Newton dated February the 12th 1837 by me.

4th I give and bequeath to my son Lewallyn B. Gillham two small tract of land in said county

known as the land deed to me by George Churchill said deed bearing date March the twelfth 183 as will fully appear by a reference to said deed with the exception of a small piece sold by me to Wm Davidson the precise amount not known.

5th I give and bequeath to my wife all my other lands not described here, will be easily be identified by reference to the papers in my possession which compose a part of this last bequest.

6th Also I give and bequeath to my wife all my stock in horses, cattle, hogs, sheep, oxen wagons, farming utensils of every description also all my household and kitchen furniture of every description.

7th I also give and bequeath to my beloved wife all my ready money also all my books and papers all the above enumerated articles together with every other species of property not herein enumerated either personal or real to be by here disposed of as she may in her wisdom think best

8th I give and bequeath to my son James Gillham one ____ year old colt, known by the name of the "Honey" also one saddle, bridle and martingales, claimed by him also my rifle, guns and accruements.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this twentieth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty seven

Sig: Thomas Gillham

Signed and acknowledged before us: William Gillham, Wm Davidson, Newton D. Gillham.

State of Illinois, Madison County

Wm Gillham and Newton D. Gillham being duly sworn depose and say that they are subscribing witnesses to the annexed Last Will and Testament of Thomas Gillham late of said County deceased, that they were present and heard the said testator acknowledge that he signed said last will and testament and that they believe him to have been of sound mind and memory at the time of signing and sealing the same that they saw no improper influence made used of to induce said testator to sign and seal as aforesaid, but believe that the same was done freely and voluntarily, and that they signed their names as attesting witnesses to the said Will in presence of the testator.

Sig: William Gillham, Newton D. Gillham

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12th day of Nov AD 1844.

Geo. W Trinkett"

[Madison County, IL, Will Book ___, page ____.

Familysearch.org. Illinois, Probate Records, 1819-1970, Madison Wills 1843-1863 Vol B, Image 42 of 327 [Thomas Gillham married Margaret Letitia Davidson on 16 Aug 1810. Thomas was the son of Isaac Gillham and Jane Kirkpatrick.]

"8 Jan 1850

Last Will of Margaret L. Gillham

In the name of God Amen, I Margaret L. Gillham of the county of Madison in the state of Illinois being old and infirm but of sound mind and memory do make and publish this my last

will and testament hereby revoking and making void all former wills by me any time heretofore made.

First it is my will that my funeral expenses and all my just debts be fully paid

2nd it is my will that all my personal property, goods, and chattels of whatsoever kind be appraised and sold as by law in cases of administration in intestate estates and the proceeds thereof be equally divided between Shadrack B. Gillham, Jane M. Marlow, and Margaret Lynn (my youngest son and two daughters) on this express condition that they pay to Newton D. Gillham, my son three dollars to L. B. Gillham, my son, three dollars and to James G. Gillham, my son, three dollars and to William N. Marlow my grandson, one hundred dollars.

3rd I give and devise unto my youngest son Shadrack B. Gillham his heirs and assigns forever all and every my messuage, lands, tenements and hereditaments whereof I am seized in fee situate in the county of Madison in state of Illinois for a full description reference to deeds and title papers now in my possession. This express condition that he S. B. Gillham pay to Jane M. Marlow his heirs or assigns three hundred dollars and to Margaret M. Linn her heirs or assigns three hundred dollars.

4th Should there be money on hand at my death after funeral expenses are paid it is my will that it be added to the proceeds of the sale of the above mentioned personal property and divided as above stated.

5th And I do hereby constitute appoint my son Luallin B. Gillham sole executor of this my last will and testament in witness whereof I have set my hand and seal this eighth day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty signed sealed and acknowledged before us

Sig: Margaret L. [her X mark] Gillham

Wit: H. Arthur, Calvin Kinder

State of Illinois, Madison County

I Calvin Kinder and Hiram Arthur of the county of Madison and state of Illinois being duly sworn according to law depose and say that they are subscribing witnesses to the foregoing last will and testament of Margaret L. Gillham deceased that they were personally present and saw the testatrix Margaret L. Gillham sign her name by her mark to the said last will and testament after the same had been read in her hearing and fully explained to her and that they heard her declare the same to be her act and deed that they saw no improper means used to induce her to so sign and declare that they believed and believe her to have been of sound mind and memory at the time of her so signing and declaring and that they signed their names thereto as attesting witnesses in the presence of the said Margaret L. Gillham the testatrix and sworn to before me this 6th day of March AD 1863

Sig: Calvin Kinder, H. Arthur

Joseph Chapman, Clerk"

1850: Macoupin Co, IL, November 1, 1850; Newton D. Gillham (sic), 39, farmer, \$4320, IL; Marecy, 32, IL; Minerva A., 3, IL; Anne A., 1, IL

1852: Capt of 20 wagons and 70 individuals

ODLC: #3916; Newton D. Gilham, Clackamas Co, OR, b. 1811 Madison Co, IL; arr OR Sep 1852; sc 28 Feb 1853; m'd Marecy 11 Sep 1845 Greene Co, IL. Aff: Samuel Nelson, Elijah B. Davidson, Levi W. Nelson

1860: Multnomah, Multnomah Co, OR, August 4, 1860; N.D. Gillim (sic), 49, farmer, \$1450 \$400, IL; Marecy, 43, IL; Minerva, 13, IL; Jane, 11, IL; Newton, 9, IL; Julia, 7, OR; Milo, 2, OR, Frank, 3/12, OR

1870: Portland PO, Multnomah Co, OR, no date; Newton Gilham, 59, farmer, \$5000 \$4000, IL; Marcy, 50, keeping house, IL; Ellen, 18, at home, OR; Milo, 12, at home, OR; Frank, 7, at home, OR; Fred, 5, at home, OR

1880: Mt. Tabor, Multnomah Co, OR, June 14 & 15, 1880; N.B. (sic) Gilham, 69, farmer, IL SC Ire; Marecy, wife, 63, keeping house, IL VA KY; Frank, 20, son, works on farm, OR IL IL; Fred, 15, son, works on farm, OR IL IL

Newton D. Gilham Papers circa 1852-1900.

Creator: Gilham, Newton Davidson, 1811-1887.

Title: Newton D. Gilham papers

Dates: circa 1852-1900 (inclusive)

Quantity: .02 cubic feet (1 folder)

Collection Mss 2216

Number:

Summary: Collection includes: Photostat manuscript affidavit, 1 p, circa 1852-1900, certifying that Davidson, his wife, Marecy, and their children left Illinois and arrived in Portland, Oregon, in 1852. Newton Davidson Gilham (1811-1887) was born in Madison County, Illinois and married Malinda Hunter (1810-1841 or 1842). After her death, he married Marecy Agnes Valentine (1817-1882). They left St. Louis in May of 1852 and arrived in Oregon in November (sic-probably around Oct 4). The family settled in the Mt. Tabor area of Portland, where Newton took out a donation land claim in the Spring of 1853. Newton and Marecy had seven children. He was a contributing member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Repository: Oregon Historical Society
Research Library
Oregon Historical Society Davies Family Research Library
Portland, OR 97205
503-306-5205
[http://www.ohs.org/
libreference@ohs.org](http://www.ohs.org/libreference@ohs.org)

Languages: English

Historical Note

Newton Davidson Gilham (1811-1887) was born in Madison County, Illinois and married Malinda Hunter (1810-1841 or 1842). After her death, he married Marecy Agnes Valentine (1817-1882). They left St. Louis in May of 1852 and arrived in Oregon in November. The family settled in the Mt. Tabor area of Portland, where Newton took out a donation land claim in the Spring of 1853. Newton and Marecy had seven children. He was a contributing member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Content Description

Collection includes: Photostat manuscript affidavit, 1 p, circa 1852-1900, certifying that Davidson, his wife, Marecy, and their children left Illinois and arrived in Portland, Oregon, in 1852.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Access :

The collection is open to the public.

Restrictions on Use :

The Oregon Historical Society is the owner of the materials in the Research Library and makes available reproductions for research, publication, and other uses. Written permission must be obtained from the Research Library prior to any use of reproductions. The Society does not necessarily hold copyright to all the materials in the collections. In some cases, permission for use of reproductions may require seeking additional authorization from the copyright holders.

Preferred Citation :

Newton D. Gilham Papers, Mss 2216, Oregon Historical Society Research Library.

Children of Newton Gilham and Marecy Valentine:

1. Minerva A. Gilham
- b. 11 Jan 1847 St. Clair Co, IL
- d. 27 Jun 1919 Portland, Multnomah Co, OR
- buried Rose City Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

m. 1864

Charles William Gay

b. 11 Mar 1840 Farmington, Franklin Co, ME

d. 13 Mar 1927 Ocean Park, Pacific Co, WA

buried Rose City Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

1850: Macoupin Co, IL, November 1, 1850; Newton D. Gillham (sic), 39, farmer, \$4320, IL; Marecy, 32, IL; Minerva A., 3, IL; Anne A., 1, IL

1860: Multnomah, Multnomah Co, OR, August 4, 1860; N.D. Gillim (sic), 49, farmer, \$1450 \$400, IL; Marecy, 43, IL; Minerva, 13, IL; Jane, 11, IL; Newton, 9, IL; Julia, 7, OR; Milo, 2, OR, Frank, 3/12, OR

MRS. MINERVA GAY BURIED

Services Are Held in Chapel for Portland Woman.

Funeral services for Mrs. Minerva Gay, 72, who died Friday at her home, 1533 East Stark street, were held yesterday in Finley's chapel. Rev. W. W. MacHenry officiated. He was assisted by Rev. E. O. Eldridge and Mrs. L. M. Leland sang a solo.

The pallbearers were: M. S. Brubaker, J. R. Wing, J. C. Roberts, Alex Muir, and B. Lee Paget. Mrs. Gay is survived by her widower, Charles W. Gay, two daughters, Mrs. Nellie Walton of Portland, and Mrs. Clara Gay Spear of Los Angeles, and a son, Rufus A. Gay of Oregon City.

[Oregonian, Portland, OR, Tuesday July 1, 1919 p.17]

CHARLES W. GAY, 87, DIES

WELL-KNOWN PORTLAND MAN
PASSES SUDDENLY.

Sub-Divider and Philanthropist
Well Known Here; Holdings
in Tabor District.

Charles W. Gay, 87, Portland pioneer, subdivider and philanthropist, died suddenly at Astoria yesterday when on his way from his Ocean park summer home to Portland. He had been suffering from heart disease since his illness from pneumonia six months ago, and that was thought to have caused his death yesterday. Dr. C. H. Manlove, Portland, who had been called to his aid, wired Portland relatives of his death.

Mr. Gay was born in Farmington, Me., in 1840. At the age of 18 he was working in the mines at Marysville, Cal. Six years later he came to Portland and purchased a 40-acre farm in what is now a thickly settled part of the Mount Tabor district. For many years he has been subdividing the property for home-makers. Of the farm he owned but four acres at the time of his death.

He was married in 1864 to Minerva M. Gilham, daughter of a pioneer Portland family. Six children were born, three of whom still live. Mrs. Gay died in 1918. Two years later he married Mattie Walton, Portland, who survives. Other survivors are the daughters, Mrs. Nellie Walton, 1533 East Stark street, Portland, and Mrs. Clara Spears, Los Angeles; a son, Rufus Gay, Oregon City; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Mr. Gay was a member of the Mount Tabor Presbyterian church.

[Oregonian, Portland, OR Monday, March 14, 1927 p.6]

Children of Charles Gay and Minerva Gilham:

i. Nellie Vilenda Gay

b. 29 Jul 1866 OR
d. 23 Jan 1931
m. Frank Sinclair Walton

1927: Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

ii. Frank A. Gay
b. c1868 OR
d. 21 Oct 1892 Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

iii. Emma Gay
b. c1870 OR
d.

iv. Rufus A. Gay
b. c1872 OR
d.

1927: Oregon City, Clackamas Co, OR

v. Grace Gay
b. c1876 OR
d. 1915 Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

vi. Clara Gay
b.
d.
m. Mr. Spear

1927: Los Angeles, Los Angeles Co, CA

2. Jane Anne Gilham
b. 14 Nov 1848 IL
d.

m.
W.W. Skinner
b.
d.

1850: Macoupin Co, IL, November 1, 1850; Newton D. Gillham (sic), 39, farmer, \$4320, IL; Marecy, 32, IL; Minerva A., 3, IL; Anne A., 1, IL

1860: Multnomah, Multnomah Co, OR, August 4, 1860; N.D. Gillim (sic), 49, farmer, \$1450 \$400, IL; Marecy, 43, IL; Minerva, 13, IL; Jane, 11, IL; Newton, 9, IL; Julia, 7, OR; Milo, 2, OR, Frank, 3/12, OR

3. Newton Lluallen Gilham

b. 27 Sep 1850 East St. Louis, Macoupin Co, IL

d. 14 May 1929 Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

buried Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

m.

Lillie Edwina Slavin

b.

d.

1860: Multnomah, Multnomah Co, OR, August 4, 1860; N.D. Gillim (sic), 49, farmer, \$1450 \$400, IL; Marecy, 43, IL; Minerva, 13, IL; Jane, 11, IL; Newton, 9, IL; Julia, 7, OR; Milo, 2, OR, Frank, 3/12, OR

Newton L. Gilham.

Newton L. Gilham, pioneer newspaper man and for many years a letter carrier in Portland, died at Good Samaritan hospital May 14. He had worked on various newspapers in Portland, was a miner, prospector, journeyman printer and mail carrier.



He was born in East St. Louis in September, 1850. When he was two years old his father brought him across the plains to Portland. In 1871 he graduated from the Portland academy.

In 1885 he helped organize the Portland branch of the National Mail Carriers' association and was its first president. He was instrumental in obtaining the annual vacation for carriers, and improving working conditions.

He married Miss Lillie Edwina Slavin, daughter of another Portland pioneer. He is survived by two daughters, with whom he spent the last years of his life, Ruth Gilham Frick and Addis Gilham Olsen; and two sons, Fred H. Gilham and James L. Gilham, all of Portland.

[Oregonian, Portland, OR Sunday May 26, 1929 p.19]

Children of Newton Gilham and Lillie Slavin

i. Ruth Gilham

b.

d.

ii. Addie Gilham

b.

d.

iii. Fred H. Gilham

b.

d.

iv. James L. Gilham

b.

d.

4. Ella Julia Gilham

b. 30 Oct 1853 OR

d. 06 Oct 1934 Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

buried Lone Fir Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

m.

W.H. Shane

b.

d.

1860: Multnomah, Multnomah Co, OR, August 4, 1860; N.D. Gillim (sic), 49, farmer, \$1450 \$400, IL; Marecy, 43, IL; Minerva, 13, IL; Jane, 11, IL; Newton, 9, IL; Julia, 7, OR; Milo, 2, OR, Frank, 3/12, OR

1870: Portland PO, Multnomah Co, OR, no date; Newton Gilham, 59, farmer, \$5000 \$4000, IL; Marcy, 50, keeping house, IL; Ellen, 18, at home, OR; Milo, 12, at home, OR; Frank, 7, at home, OR; Fred, 5, at home, OR

SHANE—In this city, Oct. 8, Ella J. Shane, aged 80 years, late of 1200 N. E. 83d av. Mother of E. A., Fred F., W. V. Shane of this city; Mrs. Charles Taylor of Seattle, Wash., and Mrs. H. H. Klint of Grays River, Wash. Funeral services will be held Tuesday, October 9, at 10:30 A. M. at Conservatory Chapel of A. J. Rose & Son, East 6th and Alder st. Friends invited. Interment Lone Fir cemetery.

[Oregonian, Portland, OR, Sunday, October 7, 1934 p.2]

Children of W.H. Shane and Ella Gilham

i. E.A. Shane

b.

d.

ii. Fred F. Shane

b.

d.

iii. W.V. Shane

b.

d.

iv. Mrs. Charles Taylor

b.

d.

v. Mrs. H. H. Klint

b.

d.

5. Milo Calvin Gilham

b. 27 Jan 1858 Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

d. 1922

buried Brush Prairie Cemetery, Brush Prairie, Clark Co, WA

m.

Jannet A.

b. 1867

d. 1956

buried Brush Prairie Cemetery, Brush Prairie, Clark Co, WA

1860: Multnomah, Multnomah Co, OR, August 4, 1860; N.D. Gillim (sic), 49, farmer, \$1450 \$400, IL; Marecy, 43, IL; Minerva, 13, IL; Jane, 11, IL; Newton, 9, IL; Julia, 7, OR; Milo, 2, OR, Frank, 3/12, OR

1870: Portland PO, Multnomah Co, OR, no date; Newton Gilham, 59, farmer, \$5000 \$4000, IL; Marcy, 50, keeping house, IL; Ellen, 18, at home, OR; Milo, 12, at home, OR; Frank, 7, at home, OR; Fred, 5, at home, OR

6. Frank Fletcher Gilham

b. 09 Apr 1860 Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

d. 11 Sep 1907 Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

1860: Multnomah, Multnomah Co, OR, August 4, 1860; N.D. Gillim (sic), 49, farmer, \$1450 \$400, IL; Marecy, 43, IL; Minerva, 13, IL; Jane, 11, IL; Newton, 9, IL; Julia, 7, OR; Milo, 2, OR, Frank, 3/12, OR

1870: Portland PO, Multnomah Co, OR, no date; Newton Gilham, 59, farmer, \$5000 \$4000, IL; Marcy, 50, keeping house, IL; Ellen, 18, at home, OR; Milo, 12, at home, OR; Frank, 7, at home, OR; Fred, 5, at home, OR

1880: Mt. Tabor, Multnomah Co, OR, June 14 & 15, 1880; N.B. (sic) Gilham, 69, farmer, IL SC Ire; Marecy, wife, 63, keeping house, IL VA KY; Frank, 20, son, works on farm, OR IL IL; Fred, 15, son, works on farm, OR IL IL

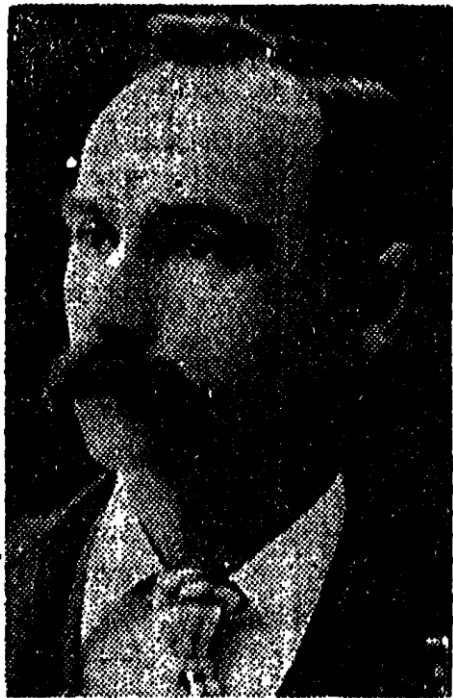
DEATH OF FRANK F. GILHAM

**WIDELY-KNOWN CIVIL ENGINEER
PASSES AWAY.**

**Was Son of Early Pioneer and a Na-
tive of This County—Promi-
nent in Railroad Affairs.**

Frank F. Gilham, a widely-known civil engineer and Portland pioneer, died at his home, 721 Hood street, at 4:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon, of Bright's disease. He was a son of the late Captain Newton Gilham, of Mount Tabor, and at the time of his death was chief engineer of the Oregon Water Power division of the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company. He served as City Engineer in 1895-6.

His death came very suddenly and was entirely unexpected. Mr. Gilham had



The Late Frank F. Gilham.

remained at his post of duty up to the usual hour Saturday night, and appeared in good health. He was taken ill Sunday, and rapidly grew worse until the end.

Mr. Gilham was born in the old family home at Mount Tabor, April 9, 1860, and was 47 years of age. His father was an Oregon pioneer of distinction. The son took up civil engineering, in which profession he was very successful. His special line was railroad work, and on that account he was sought out from among many and made assistant engineer of the Oregon Water Power & Railway Company, in which capacity he acted until the consolidation of all the local trolley lines, when he was promoted and became chief engineer, which position he held at the time of his death. He was held in high regard by his employers and his associates.

Mr. Gilham superintended the building of the Cazadero line for the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company, and also laid out the well-known resort The Oaks, on the banks of the Willamette.

Prior to entering the employ of the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company, he was for 12 years assistant to Chief Engineer Kennedy, of the O. R. & N., in construction work.

He leaves a wife and a daughter, Mrs. C. C. Gibson of Portland, and three brothers and three sisters, as follows: C. F. Gilham, of Huntington, Or.; Milo Gilham, of Battleground, Wash.; Newton Gilham, of Hillsdale, Or.; Mrs. Ella Shane, of Mount Tabor; Mrs. C. A. Gay, of Mount Tabor, and Mrs. W. V. Skinner, of Salem, Or.

[Oregonian, Portland, OR, Thursday, September 12, 1907 p.11]

Children of Frank F. Gilham

i. Mrs. C.C. Gibson

b.

d.

7. Charles Fred Gilham

b. 18 Mar 1865 Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

d.

1870: Portland PO, Multnomah Co, OR, no date; Newton Gilham, 59, farmer, \$5000 \$4000, IL; Marcy, 50, keeping house, IL; Ellen, 18, at home, OR; Milo, 12, at home, OR; Frank, 7, at home, OR; Fred, 5, at home, OR

1880: Mt. Tabor, Multnomah Co, OR, June 14 & 15, 1880; N.B. (sic) Gilham, 69, farmer, IL SC Ire; Marecy, wife, 63, keeping house, IL VA KY; Frank, 20, son, works on farm, OR IL IL; Fred, 15, son, works on farm, OR IL IL