

Gilmore Callison
Pioneer of 1852
compiled by Stephenie Flora
oregonpioneers.com

Gilmore Callison

b. 22 Dec 1808 Adair County, Kentucky

d. 22 May 1869 Eugene, Lane County, Oregon

buried [Pleasant Hill Cemetery](#), Pleasant Hill, Lane County, Oregon

s/o Joseph Callison

m1. 29 Oct 1829 Adair County, Kentucky

Elizabeth McClure

b. 05 Nov 1807 Virginia

d. 04 Nov 1852 Pleasant Hill, Lane County, Oregon

buried [Pleasant Hill Cemetery](#), Pleasant Hill, Lane County, Oregon

m2. 1853

Eliza Fleenor

b. 05 Apr 1817 Washington County, Virginia

d. 11 Feb 1876 Eugene, Lane County, Oregon

buried [Pleasant Hill Cemetery](#), Pleasant Hill, Lane County, Oregon

d/o Abraham Newland Fleenor and Rebecca McCulloch

m1. 1833 John Linder

m2. 1853 Gilmore Callison

m3. 1872 Michael Shelley

"Pioneer Preacher in Oregon. Some sources spell his first name as "Gilmore" but the tombstone is "Gillmore."

"Gilmore Callison was not the first in his family line to preach the gospel. His father, Joseph Callison, had been a circuit-riding preacher in Kentucky. Gilmore often rode with his father and brother Josiah on preaching tours. At the age of 21, Gilmore married Josiah's wife's sister - Elizabeth McClure. It was common for a brother to marry his sister-in-law's sister. After all, the families were already acquainted. Gilmore had been immersed into Christ when he was 15 and Elizabeth when she was 13. The new couple lived in Kentucky near the Mt. Pleasant Church. Elizabeth's brother John McClure, along with others, rode into Illinois to see what the country was like. They brought back such good news that many of the Callisons, Dawsons, McClures, Massies and friends moved there in 1833. When they arrived in Hancock County, Illinois, Gilmore and Elizabeth established a Mt. Pleasant church in their home, about eight miles northeast of Carthage. This was the first Restoration church in Hancock County. It included James McClure, Edmund Green Browning, David and Vashti Browning, Nancy Callison, Josiah and Mary Callison and many others. Gilmore and Josiah shared in the leadership. The church had a problem with wolves. They had to be fought off while coming and going to services and an armed sentry had to be on duty during church, especially in the evening. (Did a deacon have to be a good shot to qualify?) Despite

the dangers, Gilmore's preaching brought in a serious audience and the little church grew. In those years, the men wore homespun and the women wore dresses of calico and sun bonnets.” [Circuit Riding Pioneer Preacher by Charles Dailey]

“Gilmore and Eliza Linder Callison

-- Courtesy of John Callison

Gilmore selected flat land about a mile from the church building and soon had a good farm in operation. The following year he married Eliza Fleenor Linder, the widow of John Linder. Eliza's son Levi married Gilmore's daughter Susan and Eliza's daughter Rebecca married Gilmore's son William. It was through the hard work and good preaching of Gilmore Callison that the Pleasant Hill Church became a very influential congregation in Oregon, challenging and sending out a number of preachers and other families to establish churches in western Oregon. He was also a circuit-riding preacher in Lane County. There may be an intriguing side-light to this story. Just maybe. We know that Gilmore rode the preaching circuit in Kentucky, Illinois and Oregon. We know that he liked the name Mt. Pleasant. About 50 miles north of Pleasant Hill is a quiet, out-of-the-way district with the name Mt. Pleasant, located five miles south of Stayton in Marion County. The church there began just two years after Callison arrived in Oregon. Is it possible that Gilmore Callison was responsible for naming the area and establishing this congregation? The first 23 years' history of the congregation no longer exists. There is nothing in the remaining records that connect with Callison - or anyone else - for that matter. Perhaps information will surface some day to rule this side-light in or out. Callison moved to Eugene and led in organizing what is today First Christian Church. There were about 40 members when the congregation began in 1862. He was elected to the Oregon State Legislature in 1864. The congregation dedicated their first building to the Lord in March of 1869 and Gilmore Callison died that same month. Gilmore Callison led a full life and influenced many men and women to love the Lord and follow Him. His children did the same. Here is the death notice for Gilmore Callison from the Weekly Corvallis Gazette, Corvallis, Oregon, March 27, 1869, page 2: Rev. G. Callison, Christian minister, died at his residence in Eugene on Monday morning, 22d inst. Like a shock of corn, fully ripe, he was ready for the garner of the Lord. His death was calm and peaceful. Father Callison had been instrumental in building a fine brick church in that place, but was not permitted to live to see it entirely finished.” [findagrave.com]

Children of Gilmore Callison and Elizabeth McClure:

1. John Joseph Callison

b. 13 Aug 1830 Adair County, Kentucky

d. 23 Aug 1852 LaGrande, Union County, Oregon [died on trail]

2. William Thomas Callison

b. 14 Oct 1832 Adair County, Kentucky

d. 05 Dec 1869 Shasta County, California

buried [Pine Grove Cemetery](#), Shasta County, California

m. 1853

Rebecca Jane Linder

b. 17 Nov 1837 Coles, Coles County, Illinois

d. 12 Feb 1913 Pinal County, Arizona

buried [Dudleyville Cemetery](#), Dudleyville, Pinal County, Arizona

m2. 1870 Greenleaf Norton Robertson

3. Susan Ann Callison

b. 11 Mar 1835 Hancock County, Illinois

d. 09 Dec 1898/07 Dec 1895 Santa Clara County, California

buried [Gavilan Hills Memorial Park](#), Gilroy, Santa Clara County, California

m. 26 Aug 1853 Pleasant Hill, Lane County, Oregon

Levi Linder

b. 15 Jan 1834

d. 16 Oct 1900 Santa Clara County, California

buried [Gavilan Hills Memorial Park](#), Gilroy, Santa Clara County, California

s/o John Linder and Eliza Fleenor

4. James David Callison

b. 01 Jul 1837 Hancock County, Illinois

d. 16 Jul 1871 Lane County, Oregon

m. 17 Feb 1867 Lane County, Oregon

Catherine Harris

b. 28 Apr 1845 Illinois

d. 23 Apr 1923 Lane County, Oregon

5. Rufus Gilmore Callison

b. 24 Dec 1839 Hancock County, Illinois

d. 07 Jul 1915 Lane County, Oregon

buried [Pleasant Hill Cemetery](#), Lane County, Oregon

m1. 1868

Martha Willis

b. 03 May 1804 Benton County, Missouri

d. 13 Jun 1912 Jasper, Lane County, Oregon

buried [Pleasant Hill Cemetery](#), Lane County, Oregon

m2. 1914

Sarah Jane Adamson

b. Sep 1835 Lawrence County, Indiana

d. 18 Sep 1926 Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

buried [Old Vancouver City Cemetery](#), Clark County, Washington

d/o John Wesley Adamson and Fanny Kern

m1. 1851 Lewis Hastings

6. George Hardin Callison

b. 24 Feb 1842 Hancock County, Illinois

d. 13 Jul 1931 Greenacres, Spokane County, Washington

buried [Eden Valley Cemetery](#), Palouse, Whitman County, Washington

m. 1868 Hancock County, Illinois

Mary Ellen Fisher

b. 12 Apr 1851 Iowa
d. 09 Jul 1899 Garfield, Whitman County, Washington
buried [Eden Valley Cemetery](#), Palouse, Whitman County, Washington
d/o James Fisher and Sarah McCall

7. Robert Marshal Callison
b. 15 Nov 1844 Hancock County, Illinois
d. 27 Sep 1930 Kitsap County, Washington

m. 1864
Minerva Fisher
b. 03 Feb 1846 Louisa County, Iowa
d. 12 Feb 1916 Kitsap County, Washington

8. Amanda Elizabeth Callison
b. 26 Jul 1848 Hancock County, Illinois
d. 09 Dec 1938 Spokane, Spokane County, Washington
buried [Eden Valley Cemetery](#), Palouse, Whitman County, Washington

m. 13 Nov 1864 Lane County, Oregon
William Henry Harrison McClure
b. 06 Oct 1840 Knox County, Indiana
d. 29 Jun 1898 Eden, Whitman County, Washington
buried [Eden Valley Cemetery](#), Palouse, Whitman County, Washington

CALLISON, Nancy (1812-1852): m'd 1840 BROWNING, Edmund; died on trail