

## GILL-RANDOLPH

**ROBERT RANDOLPH**

**MARTHA E. RANDOLPH/RICHARD H. GILL**

**MARY RANDOLPH GILL/MATTERSON KENT**

There are records of **GILL** families in North Carolina as far back as 1746 in Northampton County. There is record of a **RICHARDSON GILL** in Franklin County, North Carolina in 1813, 1816 and 1823.

The **RICHARD H. GILL** with whom this narrative is concerned, was born c 1832 – based on his statements that he was 38 years old in the 1870 Clarke County Mississippi Census; and that he was 68 years old in the 1900 Lauderdale County, Mississippi Census. According to his quoted statements in both the 1870 and 1900 Census, he was born in North Carolina.

However, in the 1850 Alabama Census for Paynesville Township in Sumter County, is found, at age 18, **HENRY GILL** living in the household of **MARION A. GALAWAY** (age 38, born in South Carolina). This listing records him as having been born in ENGLAND! **GALAWAY** was a tailor and **GILL** and two other men (ages 20 and 33) were also tailors, living in the household, being trained “in the trade”. In that era there were no “schools” or education for a trade, or even a profession. The individual studied and worked with another person already engaged and proficient in the trade or profession.

Now, WHERE WAS HE BORN? England or North Carolina! If the former is correct, why did he, in later years say he was born elsewhere? Or perhaps he did not like being a “foreigner” and decided on North Carolina as a birthplace. Hopefully further exploration will answer this question. There were **GILLS** in North Carolina (Franklin County particularly) in the early 1800s. If at least age 21 when **R. H. GILL** was born, his Father was probably born, at the latest, by 1811. Where is another problem.

In the 1840 Alabama Census, Sumter County, there was a female, head of household, “**E. S. L. GILL**”, who was between the ages of 30/40. In her household was a male child between the ages of 5/10; another male 10/15 and two females, one 5/10 and one 10/15. Mother and two sons and two daughters. The youngest male is the right age for “our” **RICHARD HENRY**, was this his Mother?

Considering the time – 1850 – when “**HENRY**” went to live in another household to learn a trade, it would seem that he would only know about “local” opportunities for such and therefore it would seem logical that he had lived in Sumter County before moving to **GALOWAY’S** household.

There is, currently, no other clue as to who his parents were. In the 1900 census he indicated that both had been born in Virginia. The 1840 census did not include such data, so where “**E.S.L. GILL**” was born is not known. She does not show in the 1860 Alabama Census. But this statement of his having been born in England throws a new wrinkle.

Data from later Census records indicate that the first child of **RICHARD H. GILL** was born in Mississippi in 1858. So between 1850, when we’re reasonably certain he was in Sumter County, Alabama training to be a tailor, and 1858, he met and married **MARTHA E. RANDOLPH**. Legend had that she was a daughter of **ROBERT RANDOLPH**, her Mother’s name is not known.

In the 1840 Morgan County, Alabama Census, page 27, there was listed a **ROBERT RANDOLPH**, a male between the ages of 20/30 (born between 1810 and 1820); a female between the ages of 20/30 and a male under age 5. Age of the **ROBERT**, in which this compilation is, born c 1809 could fit. **BUT**, there should be a female under age 10, **MARTHA E.** who was born c 1835 – and, as she said later, in Alabama.

The 1850 MISSISSIPPI Census, for Kemper County, on page 164, no Township given; there is shown a **ROBERT RANDOLPH**, age 45 (born c 1805), a Merchant, born in Virginia; **ROBERT RANDOLPH, Jr.** age 16 (born c 1834), a Clerk; and **MARTHA RANDOLPH**, age 14 (born c 1836) in North Carolina. They were living in the household of **C. F. HINSON**, a Merchant. There were seven other people living in the household, all men. A boarding house? Kemper County, Mississippi is just across the state line from Sumter County, Alabama. Location of the two counties probably explains how/where **RICHARD H. GILL** and **MARTHA E. RANDOLPH** met. If their first child was born in February 1858, marriage probably took place c 1856/1857, Marriage records for the period of time concerned are sparse. Did they marry in Alabama or in Mississippi?

Clarke County, Mississippi was claimed by Spain, France, England and then the United States. Each one of these countries had their flag flying over the County at one time. The U. S. claimed it in 1778 from England. In 1785 Georgia claimed Clarke County as part of Bourdon County, part of the Georgia Territory. In 1800 Congress passed an act which gave that part of the Georgia Territory to Mississippi Territory. Mississippi became the 20<sup>th</sup> state in the Union in 1817.

Clarke County was established on 23 December 1833 from lands acquired from Choctaw Indians at the treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, September 1830 and was named for **JOSHUA G. CLARKE**, the first Chancellor of the State. Population in 1833 was 2,767 free whites, 16 free colored and 1,334 slaves, for a total of 4,117. The first County Seat was Enterprise. Later, for some reason it was moved to Quitman, named for General **JOHN A. QUITMAN**, a General in the Mexican War and second Chancellor of the State. In the 1860s when the War Between the States broke out Enterprise became the State Capital. Later the Capital was moved to Meridian then later back to Jackson. Gen. **SHERMAN** came to Enterprise in 1863, burning the town.

The city began to take form in 1854 when a handful of settlers were attracted by the proposed crossing of the Mobile and Ohio and the Alabama and Vicksburg Railroads. Enterprise, as a refined city in the 1850s and 1860s, had several palatial homes. So high was the social plane that when the M&O sought to obtain a site there for a terminal yard, the citizens of Enterprise vigorously demurred, fearful lest a lot of obnoxious labor come in. The shops went to Meridian instead, and from then on the splendor and prestige that was Enterprise began slowly to fade. In 1867 the citizens declined to accept an offer from **M. M. BROOKS** and others to establish the Stonewall Cotton Mills there.

Clarke County, Mississippi land records show that on 15 April 1860 **R. H. GILL** and **M. E. GILL**, signed a deed whereby they sold land, in the town of Enterprise to **S. R. OLLIPHANT**, for \$300.00. However the family continued to live there for that is where they were in the 1870 Census.

Neither **GILL** nor **RANDOLPH** can be found in any 1860 Census. There were two **HENRY GILLS**, one in Jackson County was a "colie" age 32 with a wife and 3 children; the one in Newton County was a Farm Laborer, age 38 with a wife and 3 children.

Mississippi seceded from the Union on 9 January 1861. Nineteen units joined the Confederate Army from Clarke County, included was the 37<sup>th</sup> Regiment, "Enterprise Tigers". The Regiment was organized at Columbus and elected field officers 28 April 1862. The 37<sup>th</sup> was detached in West Florida and was the first in the field in Georgia. General **JOHNSTON** surrendered them to General **SHERMAN** on 26 April 1864 and they were paroled at Greensboro, North Carolina. **R. H. GILL** was a Private in Company D, 37<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment during the Civil War. Company D was known as the "Enterprise (Clarke County) Tigers". There is no record of any pension application.

There was an 1866 Mississippi State Census, but neither **GILL**, nor **RANDOLPH** is shown.

The **1870 Mississippi Census, for Clarke County**, page 739, shows **RICHARD H. GILL**, age 38 (c 1832) a "Tailor", born in North Carolina. He owned real estate worth \$4000 and personal property \$150. With him was **MARTHA E. GILL**, age 35, born in Alabama c 1835, engaged in "keeping house". Children were **MARY R.** age 12 (1858); **ANNA W.** age 8 (1862); **RUTH H.** age 4 (1866) and **GEORGIA E.** age 2 (1868). Also **AMY WINN**, age 33, Negro, servant.

Living with the family, at the time of the Census in 1870 in Mississippi, was **MARTHA E. GILL'S** Father, **ROBERT RANDOLPH**, age 61 (1809), born in North Carolina, no occupation shown.

The House/Family numbers in the 1870 Mississippi Census Film for Clarke County were difficult to read. There was not one by the name of '**RICHARD H. GILL**' but there was one, 297/329, by the name of "**MARTHA E. GILL**". There were seventeen other names in the household. Included was a **RICHARD TUCKER**, age 21; **ANTONIO SCHAMBER** (?), age 36, Assistant Workman, his wife and 4 children; a black man age 35, "worker in Shoe Shop", his wife and 6 children; 2 other white men, 1 a worker in the shoe shop and the other a jeweler. All this in addition to the **GILL** Family and **ROBERT RANDOLPH**. Was **MARTHA E. RANDOLPH GILL** running a boarding house?

Between the time the 1870 census was taken and August 1874 **R. H. GILL** moved his family from Clarke County to Lauderdale County, Mississippi.

Undoubtedly because he thought that he could more proficiently ply his trade as a tailor in the more progressive city of Meridian. Meridian, or Sowashee, (the name of a creek on the city's edge) as it was called until 1860, obtained the Railroad shops that Enterprise scorned and continued to flourish.

**GILL** families migrated to Mississippi in the earl 1800s, but so far no relationship can be established between any of them and the **RICHARD H. GILL**, with which this narrative is concerned. It appears that he was in the state before February 1858.

On 8 August 1874 a Cemetery Association was organized in Meridian, Lauderdale County, Mississippi by King Solomon Lodge No. 332 F. & A. M.; Lauderdale Lodge No. 308 F. & A. M. (both Masonic) and Meridian Lodge No. 80. I. O. O. F. (International Order of Odd Fellows an off-shoot of the Masons devoted to aiding widows and orphans). **R. H. GILL** is cited as a member of the latter group and he was Secretary of the Rose Hill Cemetery Association.

Land Roll Taxes Book for 1878, page 104, for Lauderdale County, Mississippi shows that **R. H. GILL** bought lots 5 & 6, block 64 from **L. A. RAGSDALE**. The property was located near the Mobile & Ohio Railroad terminal area in Meridian.

In the **1880 Mississippi Census for Lauderdale County, HH 297/329**, the family of **RICHARD H. GILL** has added two children **SAM F.** age 8 (1872) and **PATTIE P.** age 5 (1875). His Father-in-law and his wife, **MARTHA E. RANDOLPH GILL** are deceased. The 1880 Mortality Schedule reports his wife's death, in March, due to "prostration" following childbirth. No record of date or cause of death for **RANDOLPH** has been found. There is no record of a wife for **ROBERT RANDOLPH** as far back as 1850 (in Kemper County, Mississippi) or 1870 when he was living with his daughter and son-in-law in Clarke County, Mississippi. Clarke County is separated from Kemper County, by Lauderdale County.

**R. H. GILL** is listed in the "BUSINESS DIRECTORY OF MERIDIAN" in, 1882-87 as a tailor on Johnston Street in Meridian. He later moved to 2307 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Meridian.

Children of **MARTHA RANDOLPH** and **RICHARD H. GILL** were –

**MARY (“MOLLIE”) RANDOLPH**, born February 1858, in Mississippi , probably in Clarke County. She married, on 13 October 1882 in Jackson, Madison County, Tennessee **MATTERSON MONROE KENT** Children: **ROBERT H. KENT** born May 1891 in Mississippi (1910 Census, Oklahoma Territory shows him born in Tennessee); **ROY LEE KENT** born June 1895 in Texas. She and her family are to be found in the 1900 Census for Oklahoma Territory, Vol. 9, ED122, Sheet 4, line 2.

**ANNA W.** born in 1865; in Clarke County, Mississippi; she married 20 August 1889 to **J. L. HENDERSON** in Mississippi.

**RUTH H.** born 1866 in Clarke County, Mississippi; she married on 22 November 1891 to **W. V. RAYMOND**. In the 1900 census, **RANDOLPH RAMOND**, age 9, born in Mississippi, parents born in Kansas and Mississippi is shown with as “grandson” in the **RICHARD H. GILL** household.

**GEORGIA ELLA** born 1868 in Clarke County, Mississippi (1900 census, born in Mississippi, November 1867, age 32).

**SAM F.** born 1872; in either Clarke or Lauderdale County, Mississippi. The family moved from Clarke Count to Lauderdale between 1870 and 1874. A burial record found in Clarke County, Mississippi, shows that a **SAM’L. D. GILL** died on 19 September 1860, age 33, born c 1827. This cannot be the son of **R. H. GILL**, as he was born much too early (recorded in “ENTERPRISE CEMETERY, CLARKE CO MS, in HISTORY OF CLARKE COUNTY” by DANIEL) City Directories show that **SAM GILL** was a “cash boy” for **BARBER, GEORGE & LYERLY** Company . What that entailed is not known.

**PATTIE P.** born 1875 in Lauderdale County, Mississippi (1900 census born September 1875, in Mississippi, age 24).

**RICHARD H. GILL** married, as his second wife, **VIRGINIA DAVENPORT** on 25 October 1885, in Meridian, Lauderdale County, Mississippi.

According to the 1900 Census for Meridian, Lauderdale County, Mississippi **RICHARD GILL**, age 68, born in North Carolina, was living on 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue with his two unmarried daughters, **GEORGIA ELLA** and **PATTIE P. GILL**. He said both of his parents had been born in Virginia. Under "worth" was "rents", indicating rental of residence..

The "MERIDIAN CITY DIRECTORY" for 1908-1909 does not show **R. H. GILL**. It does show –

Miss **ELLA** and Miss **PATTIE GILL**, both teachers  
Living at 913 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Miss **LILLY GILL** a teacher at Meridian Female College

**ELLA (GEORGIA ELLA) and PATTIE (PATTIE P.)** were daughters of **R. H. and MARTHA RANDOLPH GILL**

The records of Rose Hill Cemetery were destroyed by fire. Reconstruction indicates that the following were buried in plot #170, originally purchased by **R. H. GILL**, but no dates given –

**R. H. GILL** (died between 1900 and 1908)

**MARTHA RANDOLPH GILL** (died 1880 from "Prostration" after childbirth (Mortality Schedule 1880)..

**VIRGINIA DAVENPORT GILL** (2<sup>nd</sup> wife died before 1900)

**ROBERT RANDOLPH** (died between 1870 and 1880)

Infant **EFFIE GIL**, possibly the last child of **MARTHA RANDOLPH GILL**.

**RUTH GILL RAYMOND**, **R. H. GILL'S** daughter who had married **W. V. RAYMOND**.

Infant **R. KENT**, possibly a child of **MATTERSON MONROE** and **MARY "POLLY" GILL KENT** who were married in 1882.

Identity of the **DOBBS, CULPEPPER, JOHNSON, NELSON, POOL SANFORD, SMITH and TUCKER** buried in Plot 170 of Rose Hill Cemetery are not known.

The East one half of lot 170 was deeded to the (Cemetery) Association in return for Perpetual Care of the West one half in April 1946. This arrangement was apparently made by **R. H. GILL'S** daughter, Miss **ELLA GILL**, 1488 Herbert Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee or (her nephew and **GILL'S** grandson) **R. RANDOLPH RAYMOND** of Fruitland, Mississippi.