



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Franklin Monroe Gilbert

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Franklin Monroe Gilbert was a Georgia native who served in a Mississippi unit. Most records reflect that he was a lifelong bachelor who worked as a physician. At many times in his life he was known as Frank Gilbert. After practicing in Grapevine for several years he moved to Lampasas County. He died in 1919 in Denton County, and lies buried there. Much of this biographical account is the work of a Gilbert descendant, William R. Price, in his 2004 work, The Gilbert Family: At America's Crossroads.

Dr. Gilbert was born April 3, 1832 in Carrollton, Georgia. He was a son of John Wesley Gilbert and his wife, Sallie Broughton, both of whom died in Oktibbeha County, Mississippi. John Gilbert was a successful developer and businessman in Georgia, possibly for a time in Alabama, and in Mississippi. By 1844, the Gilberts were established in Oktibbeha County. Four of John Gilbert's sons became physicians and moved to Texas. One of them, Henry Clay Gilbert, was well known during his practice at Smithfield in Tarrant County.

The Gilbert family home was near the current town of West Point, Mississippi in Clay County. In 1860 Franklin graduated from the Medical College of Louisiana at Tulane with his brother Jackson, both receiving medical degrees. From there he moved to a boarding house back home in Starkville.

Mr. Gilbert served the Confederacy in Company A, Camp Guard, Camp of Instruction for Mississippi Conscripts. He enlisted at Enterprise, Mississippi on September 1, 1862 for the duration of the War. He was a resident of Oktibbeha County, and was exempted from further service because he was a practicing physician. His name appears on a muster roll for the regiment for the period April 30 through October 31, 1863, but the exact date of Gilbert's exemption is not recorded.

There was also one Franklin M. Gilbert who served in Co. A, 30th Mississippi Infantry. This Mr. Gilbert stated his age at twenty-five when he enlisted in February 1862 at Black Hawk, Mississippi. On July 28, 1864 he was hit in the right knee by a minie ball near Atlanta, Georgia; the wound

necessitated the amputation of his leg about two inches above the knee. We have located no mention of the Dr. F. M. Gilbert who came to Texas being handicapped in this way. Thus it seems possible, to this researcher at least, that these two records refer to two different men named F. M. Gilbert.

Dr. Frank Gilbert was still in Oktibbeha County Mississippi in 1870, and he was working as a physician. Family sources indicate he may have attended school at Washington University in St. Louis Missouri while making his way to Texas. By 1871, he had settled in Tarrant County Texas. By 1875 Dr. Gilbert lived at Grapevine. He appears in the tax list for that year as the owner of eight acres of the Ambrose Foster survey, worth eighty dollars, and four and one-half town lots in Grapevine, worth a total of two hundred ninety-five dollars. The Ambrose Foster survey is located within the old business and residential area of Grapevine. Dr. Gilbert also had one horse worth seventy-five dollars, two cows worth ten dollars each, one hundred dollars worth of equipment or machinery he used in his work, and twenty dollars worth of small gold or silver items.

When the 1880 census was taken in Grapevine, Tarrant County, Dr. Gilbert was boarding in a rooming house operated by another of our veterans, Eli R. Boardman. Other boarders who lived with them were two merchants and two clerks. Grapevine had several other doctors at the time, including William E. Dorris, Constantine Gillespie, William D. Lipscomb, and Henry A. Lewis. Dorris and Lewis were also among our Confederate veterans.

Mr. Price reports that from this boarding house Frank supervised three of his brothers who followed him to Texas from Mississippi to become physicians. Daniel and Henry were the youngest brothers. They attended school in Louisville and then Washington University in Missouri. After graduation they joined Frank in Tarrant County Texas to become doctors after "reading" under him. Frank apparently moved to Lampasas County, Texas at some point in the 1880's.

In the 1900 census of Precinct 4 of Lampasas County, Texas, Dr. Gilbert was recorded boarding with a widowed merchant and fellow Confederate veteran named French Vaden. At some point during this decade, Frank moved to Cresson in Hood County, Texas and remained there for a while. A 1908 Hood County School Record extract lists a Sallie Gilbert, of Mexican descent, with Frank as her father. Frank apparently next went back to live with his nephew, Monroe Gilbert (son of his brother Daniel) in Lampasas.

When the 1910 census was taken, Dr. Gilbert was living in the household headed by his nephew, Monroe Gilbert, in Precinct 4 of Lampasas County, Texas. He was still working as a physician. He confirmed to the census taker that he was a Confederate veteran.

Dr. Gilbert did not apply for a Confederate veteran's pension.. Between 1910 and his death in 1919, Frank moved to Lewisville Texas. There he lived with his brother Jackson and Jackson's two children until his death on March 29, 1919. According to his death certificate, his death was caused by broncho pneumonia of about one week's duration, with old age listed as a contributory cause. Dr. D. W. Gilbert of Irving, Texas was the informant for the death certificate. The death certificate says Franklin M. Gilbert was a single man.

Frank left a will in which he bequeathed his property to his niece and nephew, Jackson's youngest surviving children. He was buried on March 30 in Old Hall Cemetery in Lewisville, Denton County Texas. His grave is marked with a readable granite headstone.

