

The Family and Descendants of Thomas Gilmore Gilmer

Written by Clarence Crocker

Born in Ireland, Thomas Gilmore came to [Bivingsville \(Glendale\), S.C.](#) in 1853. He married Nancy Reaves and they were listed as Gilmore in the 1860, Gilmer in the 1870 Census, Gilmore in the 1880 and the 1900 Census. From 1910 on, the family was listed under the name Gilmer. His obituary listed him as Gilmore but his grave marker shows his name as Gilmer. In my research I found two Gilmores registered in the 1870 S.C. Census who was born in Ireland and one Gilmer born in Ireland registered in the 1880 Census.

Census Enumerators recorded the census as they understood the registrant which oft times had little to no education which led to numerous discrepancies in names, dates and ages, however, the 1898 D. E. Converse Co. plat shows that Thomas Gilmore owned land joining the company property on the north-east side. Click [Survey Plat of Glendale](#). No clear explanation for the change of Gilmore to Gilmer was found.

The 1860 Spartanburg/Bivingsville Census listed the household as;

Thomas Gilmore 25, husband/machinist Wife; Nancy 24
Child; Mary J. 2

The 1870 Spartanburg/Bivingsville Census listed the household as;

Thomas Gilmer 38, husband/cotton mill machinist Wife; Nancy 30
Children; Mary Jane 11 Robert 7 Ellen 4 Sally 2 Laura 1

The 1880 Spartanburg/Glendale Census listed the household as;

Thomas Gilmore 45, husband/cotton mill Wife; Nancy 39
Children; Robert 18 Ella 14 Sallie 12
 Laura 10 Herbert 7 Emma 5

The 1900 Spartanburg/Glendale Census shows that Thomas Gilmore and Nancy had been married 40 years and were the parents of 7 children, six living. The household was listed as;

Thomas Gilmore 65, farmer, born April, 1835 Wife; Nancy 50, born
January, 1850

Children;

Herbert 27, born December, 1872 Emma 24, born February, 1876/married 4 years

Laura Gilmore Ammons 29, born December, 1870/married 1 year

Zeb. V. Ammons 39, born October, 1860/son in-law

Dora Ammons 13, born December, 1886/granddaughter

Minnie Ammons 8, born October, 1891/granddaughter

Tommie Ammons 12, born in January, 1888/grandson

Lattie Ammons 10, born January, 1890/grandson

Virginia Gilmore 5, born March, 1895/granddaughter. (Writer believes this should be Virginia Ammons)

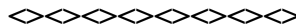
The 1910 Spartanburg/Glendale Census listed the household as;

Thomas Gilmer 70, husband, head of household	Wife; Nancy 72
Children; Herbert 37, married 7 years	His Wife, Sallie 24
Grandchildren; Ella 6	Lottie 4

Excerpts from the Obituary of Thomas Gilmore published Tuesday, July 8, 1913;
“Thomas Gilmore died at his home at [Glendale](#) Sunday afternoon. Thomas Gilmore was born near Belfast, Ireland about eighty years ago. Coming to this country on the Steamship *Markhellen* in 1851, he walked from Greenville, S. C. to [Glendale](#) at the age of 18. Six years later he was married to Miss Nancy Reeves. From this union was born two sons and five daughters, all of whom survive him except the oldest son. He joined the [Glendale Methodist Church](#) about forty two years ago and was an exemplary Christian citizen. The deceased leaves a wife and six children. Funeral services were held Monday afternoon”

No obituary for Nancy Gilmore Gilmer was found. According to her grave marker, she died at the age of 76, December 29, 1915.

Both are buried in the [Glendale Community Cemetery](#).



Mary Jane Gilmore Gilmer, daughter of Thomas and Nancy Gilmore Gilmer;

Mary Jane married Zack W. Vandiver

The 1900 Spartanburg/Glendale census shows that they had been married 20 years, no children. The household was listed as;

Zack Vandiver 51, husband/born February, 1849	Wife; Mary Jane 41, born August, 1858
---	---------------------------------------

The 1910 Spartanburg/Glendale Census listed the household as;

Zack Vandiver 60, husband/weaver	Wife; Mary Jane 52
Susan Vandiver 87, mother/widow/mother of 7	
Richard Vandiver 40, brother	

The 1920 Spartanburg/Pacolet Census listed the household as;

Zack Vandiver 70, husband/Mail Star Route Carrier	Wife; Mary Jane 60
Ruby Gilmer 7, niece	

Zack W. Vandiver died at the age of 84 at his home after a short illness April 28, 1933. He was buried in the [Glendale Community Cemetery](#).

Excerpts from the Obituary of Mary Jane Gilmore Gilmer published Monday, May 9, 1938;

“Mrs. Mary Jane Gilmer Vandiver, 80, one of [Glendale's](#) oldest residents died at the home of her sister, Laura Ammons, yesterday morning after a lingering illness. She was born in

Glendale, the widow of Z.W. Vandiver and the daughter of the late Thomas and Nancy Reaves Gilmer.

Survivors were; sister, Mrs. Laura Ammons; brother, F. Herbert Gilmer.

Funeral services were held in the Glendale Methodist Church with interment following in the Glendale Community Cemetery.”



Robert L. Gilmore Gilmer, son of Thomas and Nancy Gilmore Gilmer;
Robert married Clara V. Wheat.

The 1900 Spartanburg/Glendale Census listed the household as;

Clara Gilmore 31, born in April, 1869/widow/head of household/mother of 5 children.

Children;	Eugene 11, born in October, 1888	Rembert 9, born in July, 1890
	Lilly 7, born in July, 1892	Nellie 5, born in November, 1894
	Dewy 2, born in February, 1898	
	Dora Wheat 42, born in January, 1858/mother	

Robert L Gilmore Gilmer, born September 11, 1862, died June 7, 1899 and is buried in the Glendale Community Cemetery. No Obituary found.

Excerpts from the Obituary of Clara V. Gilmore Gilmer published Friday April 1, 1927;
“Funeral service for Mrs. Clara V. Gilmer, 58, who died yesterday at her home after an illness of five weeks, will be held at the residence this afternoon with interment following in the Glendale Community Cemetery.”

Mrs. Gilmer is survived by five children; two daughters, Mrs. J. Roy Lowe and Mrs. L.H. Magness of Spartanburg; three sons, Eugene Gilmer, Spartanburg, Rembert Gilmer, Glendale and Dewey Gilmer of Philadelphia; three sisters, Mrs. L.V. Hayes, Glendale (see Medical Care. Mrs. H. A. Holman, Gaffney and Mrs. Lizzie Hildreth, Bessemer, Ala.; also one brother, H. D. Wheat of Gaffney.”



Hiram Eugene Gilmore Gilmer, son of Robert L. and Clara W. Gilmore Gilmer.
H. Eugene married Essie Weathers;

Excerpts from the brief obituary of H. Eugene Gilmer published March 11, 1935;
“H. Eugene Gilmer, 46, died last night at his home on South Converse Street after a long illness. He is survived by his widow and five children; George, Cecil, Billy, and Jack Gilmer and Mrs. Tom Lawter, all of Spartanburg; two sisters, Mrs. J. Roy Lowe and Mrs. I. B. Magness; two brothers, R. F. Gilmer, Glendale and Dewy Gilmer, Philadelphia.”
Interment took place in the Glendale Community Cemetery.



Jack Vogel Gilmer, son of H. Eugene and Essie Weathers Gilmore Gilmer;
No census records were found.

Excerpts from the Obituary of Jack Vogel Gilmer published Friday, October 20, 1967;

“Jack Vogel Gilmer, 48, of Oakhurst Circle died at the General Hospital Thursday after a brief illness. He was the son of Mrs. Essie Ray Gilmer and the late Hiram Eugene Gilmer, a construction worker and of the Methodist faith.

Survivors were; daughter, Jane Gilmer; sister, Mrs. J. L. Elias, Columbia; brothers, George R. and Lewis Cecil Gilmer, Spartanburg and Lloyd Keith Gilmer, Clifton, N. J. “ He was buried in the family plot in the [Glendale Community Cemetery](#).



**Charles Gilmer, son of H. Eugene and Essie Weathers Gilmore Gilmer.
No census records were found.**

**Excerpts from the obituary of Charlie Gilmer published Wednesday, June 28, 1933;
“Relatives learned yesterday of the death of Charlie Gilmer killed in an airplane accident at Faribault, Minn. He was formerly connected with the airport and it is understood that Mr. Gilmer and a friend owned a plane. Details of the fatal wreck were not available.**

Mr. Gilmer was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Gilmer who live on S. Converse Street. He is survived by; his parents; brothers, George, Jack, Cecil and Bill Gilmer; sister, Miss Ray Gilmer”

Funeral arrangements were not published but he is interred in the family plot in the [Glendale Community Cemetery](#).

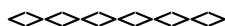


**Dewey L. Gilmer, son of Robert L and Clare Wheat Gilmore Gilmer;
No census records were found.**

**Excerpts from the Obituary of Dewey L. Gilmer published Monday, November 25, 1946;
“News was received here last night of the death in Philadelphia of Dewey L. Gilmer, 49, formally of Spartanburg. He was the son of the late Robert L. and Clara Wheat Gilmer.
Mr. Gilmer was struck by an automobile as he was crossing the street near his home.**

Survivors were; his wife, Mrs. Frieda Wies Gilmer; two sons, Herbert of Pa. State College and Walter Gilmer, Schenectady, N.Y.; two sisters, Mrs. L.B. Magness and Mrs. Roy Lowe and one brother, Rembert F. Gilmer, all of Spartanburg.”

Funeral arrangements were not published but the body was interred in the family plot in the [Glendale Community Cemetery](#).



**Rembert Gilmore Gilmer, son of Robert L. and Clara Wheat Gilmore Gilmer;
No marriage or census records were found.**

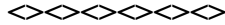
**Excerpts from the obituary of Rembert F. Gilmer published Tuesday, May 30, 1972;
“Rembert Falls Gilmer, 80, of Spartanburg, Route 2, died at his home Monday after a long illness. He was a native of Spartanburg County; a disabled veteran of WW1; the son of the late Robert L. and Clara Wheat Gilmer. Survivors were; daughter Mrs. Ruby [McKinney](#) of Florida; sisters, Mrs. J. Roy Lowe and Mrs. I. B. Magness both of Spartanburg; also several grandchildren. Graveside services today at the [Glendale Community Cemetery](#)”**



Ella Gilmore Gilmer, daughter of Thomas and Nancy Gilmore Gilmer;
 Ella Gilmer married W. L. Bagwell.
 For family story; (see [Josiah Bagwell Family](#).)



Laura Gilmore Gilmer, daughter of Thomas and Nancy Gilmore Gilmer;
 Laura Gilmore Gilmer married Zeb V. Ammons.
 (See [Zeb Ammons](#) for family story).



Herbert F. Gilmore Gilmer, son of Thomas and Nancy Gilmore Gilmer;
 Herbert F. Gilmore Gilmer married Sallie Lee, a native of Pacolet, the daughter of Berry and Alice Kirby Lee. They were married 62 years.

1920 Spartanburg/Glendale Census listed the household as;
 Herbert Gilmer 47, husband/section man Wife; Sallie 33
 Children; Ila 16, cloth room Lottie 14 Robert 9
 Ella 7 Andy 4 years 4 months

A son Frank Gilmer was born later.

Excerpts from the Obituary of Herbert Gilmore Gilmer published Saturday, September 14, 1963;

“Herbert F. Gilmer, 90, died at his home Thursday. Retired from the textile industry, he was a lifelong resident of [Glendale](#) and a member of the [Glendale Methodist Church](#). He was the son of the late Tommy and Nancy Reaves Gilmer.

Survivors were; his wife, Mrs. Sallie Lee Gilmer to whom he had been married 62 years; two daughters, Mrs. J. F. Freeman and Mrs. Ella Bennett; two sons, Robert and Frank Gilmer; fifteen grand and nine great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held in the [Glendale Methodist Church](#) with interment in the [Glendale Community Cemetery](#).”

Excerpts from the Obituary of Sallie Lee Gilmer published Wednesday, November 7, 1973;

“Mrs. Sallie Lee Gilmer, 87, widow of Herbert F. Gilmer, died Tuesday in a local nursing home after a long illness. A native of [Pacolet](#), the daughter of the late Berry and Alice Kirby Lee and was a member of the [Glendale Methodist Church](#).

Survivors were; daughters, Mrs. J. T. Freeman and Mrs. C. L. Bennett; sons, Robert L. and T. Frank Gilmer; fifteen grand and twenty great grandchildren.

Funeral Services were held in Floyds Greenlawn Chapel with interment following in the [Glendale Community Cemetery](#).”



Ila Gilmer, daughter of Herbert F. and Sallie Lee Gilmore Gilmer;
 Ila Gilmer born November 14, 1903, died August 2, 1920 in an auto wreck and is buried in the [Glendale Community Cemetery](#). For details of the wreck; (See [Terrible Wreck](#)).



Lottie Gilmer, daughter of Herbert F. and Sallie Lee Gilmore Gilmer;
Lottie first married Lawrence L. Carter.
They became the parents of three children; Harry L, Nancy Jean and Don Carter
Lawrence L. Carter died at the age of 41, February 1, 1938 and was buried in the [Glendale Community Cemetery](#).

Following the death of Lawrence L. Carter Lottie married Troy Freeman.
They had no children.
Lottie Gilmer Carter Freeman died at the age of 90 in January, 1963.
Troy Freeman died at the age of 84 in September, 1995



Robert L. Gilmer, son of Herbert F. and Sallie Lee Gilmore Gilmer;
Robert married Myrtle Mae Spurlin, daughter of Forest C. and Annie Bell Spurlin.
They became the parents of six children.
Their Children; Sylvia Kay, Marchellon, Sally Rae, Bell Chyleen, Rhonda Lee and Tommy Gilmer.

Excerpts from the Obituary of Robert L. Gilmer published September 28, 1988;
“Robert L. Gilmer, 78, died September 27, 1988 in the Spartanburg Convalescent Center
Survivors were; wife, Mrs. Myrtle Mae Spurlin Gilmer; five daughters, Mrs. Harold (Kay) Dillard, Mrs. James (Marchellon) Burnett, Mrs. Donnie (Sally Rae) Grice, Mrs. Robert (Bell Chyleen) Fowler, Mrs. Bobby (Rhonda Lee) Horne; one son, Tommy Gilmer and his wife, Audrey Worthy Gilmer.

Myrtle Mae Spurlin Gilmer died at the age of 92 in July, 2008.



Ella Gilmer, daughter of Herbert F. and Sallie Lee Gilmer;
Ella married Clyde Lindsey Bennett.
They became the parents of one son.

Clyde Lindsey Bennett died at the age of 88 in December, 2001 and was buried in the Cannon’s Camp Ground United Methodist Cemetery.

Excerpts from the obituary of Ella Gilmer Bennett published Tuesday, July 18, 2006;
“Ella Louise Gilmer Bennett, 94, died Monday at the Magnolia Place in Spartanburg.
Born June 10, 1912 in [Glendale, S. C.](#), she was the daughter of the late Herbert and Sally Lee Gilmer. She was the former owner and operator of a kindergarten in Cannons Camp Ground and was a member of the Cannons Camp Ground United Methodist Church where she had taught in Sunday School and was the former organist and pianist. She was a poet and composer of children’s music.

Survivors were; a son, Joe Bennett and his wife; two granddaughters; two grandsons; five great grandchildren and a brother, Frank Gilmer of [Glendale](#).
Funeral Services were to be held at Cannons Camp Ground United Methodist Church with interment following in the Church Cemetery.”



**Andy Gilmer, son of Herbert F. and Sallie Lee Gilmer;
Andy married Mary Ella Deaton, daughter of Clyde Vernon and Ida Crocker Deaton.
They became the parents of three children, Dianne, Lynn and Harry Gilmer.**

**Andy Gilmer died in the Charleston Medical Center at the age of 42 in December, 1957 and
is buried in the [Glendale Community Cemetery](#).
Mary Ella Gilmer lives in Spartanburg as of September 2013.**



**Frank Gilmer, son of Herbert and Sallie Lee Gilmer;
Frank married Marjorie Sprouse, daughter of Thomas Edgar and Virginia Hatchett
Sprouse.
They became the parents of three children; Barry S., Franky and Terry Gilmer.**

**Marjorie Sprouse Gilmer died at the age of 74 in June, 1995.
Frank lives in a nursing home in Spartanburg as of August, 2013.**



**Emma Gilmore Gilmer, daughter of Thomas and Nancy Gilmore Gilmer;
Emma married Walter L. Gregory. They became the parents of two children which died as
infants.
For family story; (See [Glendale Police](#).)
All four are buried in the [Glendale Community Cemetery](#).**



**Writer's comments; This writer had the privilege of knowing many of the Gilmers. They
were hardworking, wonderful, congenial people and highly respected in the community.**

**All Census and Obituary records, courtesy of the Spartanburg County Library.
Researched and written September, 2013.
[Clarence E. Crocker](#)**