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## Document Title: D.A. Gilbert Family Sketch & Gilbert / Bourland Family Puzzles



D.A. Gilbert, and his wife Lucretia Roberts Gilbert (Photo from Bessie D. Morton)

### QUESTIONS

Who was the paternal grandfather of D.A. Gilbert and father of the Rev. John Gilbert of Lincoln Co., TN?

Was the Rev. John Gilbert's wife's maiden name Sarah **Bourland** or Sarah **Roberts** or something else?

How do the Bourlands fit into this lineage, as they surely do? What proof is available?

### THE FAMILY OF D.A. GILBERT AND LUCRETIA (ROBERTS) GILBERT

D. A. "Doc" Gilbert, b 6 Jun 1821 in Bedford Co., TN or NC (1850 census says NC), was the son of the Rev. John Gilbert (ca 1778/1784 NC-1841/2 TN) and Sarah \_\_\_\_ (possibly Bourland, but **not** proved) (d >1842 TN), who were in Lincoln Co., TN by no latter than 1826.

D.A. Gilbert was married ca 1839 in Lincoln Co., TN to Lucretia Roberts, b 7 Oct 1820 TN, d/o John Roberts Sr. (b ca 1765 VA & d >1850 TN) & Sarah Smith (b 1774 NC & d TN).

D.A. Gilbert died 19 Feb 1902 and his will was probated 3 Mar 1902 in Lincoln Co., TN (Will Book 5:185). Lucretia Roberts Gilbert died 24 Mar 1893 (from obituary). They were members of the Baptist Church at Hannah's Gap, Lincoln Co., TN. Both were buried in the Gilbert Cemetery, Lincoln Co., TN located 1/2 mile east of Bledsoe on south of Bledsoe-Chestnut Ridge Road.

14 children of D.A. and Lucretia Gilbert, all born in Lincoln Co., TN:

1. \*Washington A. Gilbert (1839-1898) m Margaret T. Sorrells on 3 Dec 1865 in Lincoln Co. She was born 19 Nov 1846 and d/o William Sorrells & Eleanor M. "Nellie" King. Three daughters, Alice Eugenia, Molly, & Ivy.
2. John R. Gilbert (1840 - 1864 in Rock Island, IL) Was he a prisoner during the Civil War? I can't find records from Rock Island showing that he was there or that he died there.
3. Rezin A. Gilbert (1842 - 1857)
4. Ambrose F. Gilbert (1843 - 1921)
5. William Wood Gilbert (1845 - 1894) m Martha Nicols
6. Sarah A. Gilbert (1848 - 1863)
7. Peter C. Gilbert (1849- ) m Percilla Loucy Warren on 15 Jul 1875
8. James L. "Jimmy" Gilbert (1851 - 1923) m Effie Ann Allen
9. Margaret Ann "Maggie" Gilbert (ca 1853 - 1890) m Andrew Jackson "Andy" Burns ca 1871.
10. Henry H. Gilbert (1855 - 1865)
11. Mary E. Gilbert (1857 - 1912) m W.A. "Billy" Morrison in 1874
12. Cordelia Gilbert (1861 - 1935) m Joe C. Wagster
13. Ruth America Gilbert (1865-1945) m Barachias Chiaz "Berry". Morton (his 2nd, her 1st marriage). She lived with and took care of her father until he died.
14. Frances E. "Fanny" Gilbert (1866-1946) m Joe Stephenson before 1887

A brother of D.A. Gilbert, John C. Gilbert (ca1810 -<1850) married Rachael Roberts (1812-1898), sister to Lucretia Roberts. A third Roberts sister, Susannah Roberts married another of my ancestors, John C. Morton Sr.

## GILBERT & BOURLAND PUZZLES

For several years, Melanie Nolan and I have been trying to establish the connection of this family to William Gilbert I (ca 1730-1790) of old Tyron and Rutherford Co., NC who married Sarah McCandless ca 1765 in Philadelphia. She was the d/o Alexander and Sarah McCandless of York Co., PA (His will 1766 names his daughter, Sarah Gilbert).

**William Gilbert I** emigrated from Ireland as a child with his parents. He lived in Charleston, SC by 1749 and moved to NC in 1769. He got his start making furniture. His home was known as Gilbert Town, later Holland, NC. He was the largest taxpayer and property holder in Tryon Co., NC. He was a Revolutionary War patriot. He signed the Association Oath in 1775 as a member of the Tryon Co. Committee of Public Safety. He served in the General Assembly from Rutherford Co. in 1779, 1780, 1782, and 1783. He sold his property to Maj. James Holland, his son-in-law, in 1790. He died at Gilbert Town and was buried there in 1790. He received land in Williamson Co., TN and it was tied up in litigation until 1806. The suit in Tennessee names his living children and some grandchildren.

The late Bessie D. Morton of Nashville, a granddaughter of D.A. Gilbert, and a cousin to my grandmother, owned furniture handed down in the family which was said to have been "made by the first Gilbert who came over the water." It was cherry wood and absolutely gorgeous. It included a large dining room table, chairs, and buffet server. Bessie D. also had plate which was said to have been brought "over the water," which had been left to my grandmother. Unfortunately, when Bessie D. died, leaving no heirs, her entire estate was sold. I would have purchased all of the family items, including my grandmother's plate, if I had known about the estate sale.

According to a public sale in Williamson Co., TN, in 1810, William Gilbert I had the following nine children:

1. Jenny Gilbert Prince
2. Sarah Gilbert Holland
3. Alexander McCandless Gilbert
4. Milly Gilbert
5. Sally Gilbert
6. Fanny Gilbert
7. Philip Gilbert
8. William Gilbert
9. John Gilbert (deceased)

For years, researchers have assumed that the Rev. John Gilbert of Lincoln Co., TN was the **son** of William Gilbert I. This **cannot** be so, as William Gilbert I's son, John, was dead by 1810.

Alexander is a first name used by Gilbert descendants of the Rev. John Gilbert. Does that refer back to Alexander McCandless, father of Sarah McCandless Gilbert, wife of William Gilbert I?

We are working on the assumption that the Rev. John Gilbert was a grandson of William Gilbert I, and we have been researching all the heirs of William Gilbert I. We have not been able to make a provable connection.

## THE BOURLAND CONNECTION

A word about the Rev. John Gilbert marrying Sarah "Sallie" Grace Bourland. This is not proved, although every Gilbert researcher has that information because we all got it from the same source.

While William Bourland of Laurens Co., SC mentions a daughter, "Sarah Grace," in his will in 1804, he also mentions a daughter "Casa Grace." The other children mentioned in the will have both a Christian name and a surname given for each of them. Therefore, instead of assuming that "Grace" is a middle name, it is MORE likely that "Grace" is a surname. There were Grace families in Laurens Co., SC. We cannot rule out this possible relationship, but neither can we prove it.

John Bourland of Laurens District, SC also mentions his minor daughter Sarah Bourland in his will in 1820. Our Sarah \_\_\_ Gilbert had a child by 1806, so this Sarah Bourland **could not** have been the daughter of John Bourland.

Jacob and Mary Roberts of Laurens Co., SC could have been the parents of Sarah \_\_\_ Gilbert. Jacob Roberts whose will was recorded in 1806 and settled in 1816/7 in Laurens Co., SC, names John Gilbert, husband of his daughter Sarah, and two daughters of his deceased daughter, Cassey Gilbert, (daughters: Matilda Gilbert Austin and Lucinda Gilbert Akin), among other heirs.

By 1816, a John Gilbert is selling land in Laurens Co., SC, possibly in preparation for a move to Tennessee. By tradition, the Rev. John Gilbert moved from Laurens Co., SC to Tennessee.

## WE BELIEVE THERE IS A BOURLAND CONNECTION

The first child of the Rev. John Gilbert and Sarah \_\_\_ Gilbert was Ambrose Bourland Gilbert. Another son, Washington Alexander Gilbert, named his first son William Bourland Gilbert. There must be a connection, or they wouldn't be using the Bourland connection.

What is the Bourland connection?