

## Gillespie Overview

Recognizing that the Gillespie surname can be found in many places around the world, I make no assumption that "my" Gillespie's are the ONLY ones. This document is meant to give you an overview of MY Gillespie line only (at least as I understand it to be today!)

So here is a very big picture of this Gillespie line. The earliest name we've been given is John Gillespie. He may have been born in Scotland, this is uncertain. The time of his birth was around 1780, and the time of his death was around 1883 in County Armagh, Ireland. This information comes from "The Gillespie Family Record" written by Edith Gillespie of Flint, Michigan in 1966. Besides that source, there are two other pieces of documentation that give us the NAME of John Gillespie: the second marriage record of his son, James Gillespie in Quebec and the death record of his son Robert Gillespie in Michigan.

According to the "The Gillespie Family Record", John Gillespie had two marriages, and his second wife was Sarah Woods. This source lists the children from that marriage to be: James, Robert, Sarah, and Alexander. All four of these children emigrated to Canada, landing in Quebec in 1837, again according to the same source. However, there is reason to believe the time frame might have been a bit more staggered. Perhaps JAMES did arrive in 1837 because it appears that all of his 10 children were born in Little River, Quebec Canada starting in 1838. Likewise, SARAH and her husband John Smith might have arrived in Quebec about 1837 because they too had children in Quebec shortly after that date.

ALEXANDER, however, potentially came later as a record has been found of his death at the Marine Hospital in Quebec in 1840. The story in the Family Record is that Alexander contracted typhoid fever on the ship coming to Quebec, which would mean he was on his way to Canada in 1840. There is of course also the possibility that Alexander did arrive earlier and after living in Quebec for a few years, he then became sick and died.

Finally, there is ROBERT Gillespie. According to recent documentation found, Robert arrived in Quebec around 1847 with his daughter, Mary Jane, which is nearly 10 years later than stated in the Family Record. Robert and Mary Jane worked for 18 months before they could send for the rest of his family. The Family Record tells us that Robert moved his family to Michigan, and indeed they can be found there in the 1860 census of Springfield, Oakland, Michigan. One of Robert's sons - Alexander - married his Canadian cousin - Sarah - who was the daughter of JAMES. Thus this branch of Michigan Gillespies are related both to JAMES and ROBERT Gillespie.

## ***Welcome the Greer's***

Prior to 2010, the above summary is how my family has generally understood our Gillespie history. However, last year some documentation turned up which made everything much more complicated. I have attached a document in my library that explains the discovery in more detail, but here is a summary.

As I mentioned in the beginning, John Gillespie had (at least) two marriages. Without knowing who the mother was, The Gillespie Family Record states that two daughters from the first marriage married brothers of the name GREER and they emigrated to America. The identity of these characters and their story of emigration is now a subject of some interest for two reasons:

1. One of ROBERT's sons, James H. Gillespie, married Isabella GREER. Her parents, John and Isabella Greer, came to Oakland County, Michigan from Orange County, NY in the early 1830s and purchased a tremendous amount of land. This by itself is curious, but there is more. The maiden name of Isabella Greer's mother, also Isabella, is GILLESPIE. So far, we have not been able to determine who the parents of Isabella Greer Gillespie were!
2. A probate record was found in Oakland County, Michigan in 1857 for Elizabeth Gillespie, who interestingly was also "of Orange County, NY" and had purchased land in Oakland County. In that record, her siblings are listed as Thomas, Jane, and Nancy Gillespie, as well as her half-siblings James, Robert, and Sarah! Sure enough, land records were found that show ROBERT Gillespie inheriting some of his half-sister's land. Where previously we never knew WHY Robert came to Michigan from Quebec, we now know that he came to collect inheritance of his half-sister's land.

Thus I have added GREER to the title of my GILLESPIE research because the connection between these two families is important. There is now much more than a suggestion that both GILLESPIE and GREER families emigrated from Ireland even before 1837. Did they come to America or Canada, or both? The number of questions seems to multiply from there, but it is not my purpose in this document to present more questions. This is, after all, just the beginning, an introduction.