

M. FRENCH GILMAN

Marshall French Gilman, grandson of the first white couple to settle in the San Gorgonio Pass of southern California, died July 18, 1944, after some months of illness. Born November 12, 1871, at Banning, California, French Gilman had a long career of service: as a teacher at Upland, California; postmaster and then horticultural inspector and deputy state quarantine officer at Banning; assistant postmaster and secretary of the Palm Valley Water Company at Palm Springs; teacher and officer in schools in the United States Indian Service at Fort Lewis, Colorado, Shiprock, New Mexico, Sacaton, Arizona, and Fort Bidwell, California; clerk of the high school board at Banning; councilman, member of forestry board of Riverside County, and mayor of Banning.

For many years a rancher and fruit-grower, he was always interested in scientific method and cooperated in many ways with the United States Department of Agriculture, particularly with Dr. W. T. Swingle, supervising experimental cotton plantings near Palm Springs, establishing an experimental station of possible food and medicine plants on the Papago Indian Reservation in Arizona, and carrying out on a small plot at Banning experiments on propagation and cultivation of a Chinese species of *Ephedra*, a *Solanum* from Siam, and on budding and grafting cultivated fruits on native plum roots. He was joint author of a paper on *Ammobroma sonora* Torr. with Frank A. Thackery of the Department of Agriculture (A rare parasitic food plant of the southwest. Ann. Rept. Smithsonian. Inst. 1930: 409-416. 9 pl. 1931).

In 1899 he married Sarah Morris, a teacher at the Morongo Indian Reservation. Blind in her later years, Mrs. Gilman was unable to accompany her husband to Death Valley when it became financially necessary for him to take employment there with the National Park Service. I remember well on July 8, 1937, when a party of us climbed Telescope Peak in the Panamint Mountains, how Mr. Gilman sat down, pulled out writing materials, and wrote a letter home, saying that he always wrote Mrs. Gilman from the

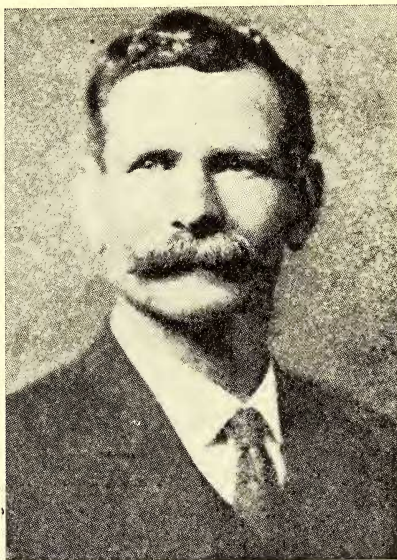


FIG. 1. French Gilman.

top. The modest Gilman home at Banning was always open to friends. Here was real hospitality and rare charm, and a delight on the part of the owners to tell about their treasures, particularly their large collection of Indian baskets. Mrs. Gilman died in 1941.

Mr. Gilman was an authority on southwestern birds, and on field trips for plants was always observing and identifying birds. The Sahuaro Screech Owl (*Otus asio gilmani*) bears his name. Between the years 1902 and 1937 he published twenty-five articles or notes in *Condor* and in 1930 he had a paper on "Cacti as nesting sites" in the *Journal of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America*.

I best knew French Gilman through his interest in plants, collections of which he had made in his various regions of residence and which he had submitted to various herbaria for study. His name will be best and longest known, however, in connection with the flora of Death Valley, to which he began to devote especial study in assisting the late Dr. F. V. Coville in his survey of plants of that area. Then, as acting custodian of Death Valley National Monument for some months in 1933 and 1934, and later in charge of a nursery and small botanical garden there, he devoted several of his last years to the native plants of that region, remaining there even through the hot summers to maintain his nursery. His plantings were visited by thousands of visitors and his evening talks on the plants of Death Valley made him known to many others.

It is a tribute to his energy and industry that he was able during his several years in Death Valley to add so many species to the list known for the region. A few examples that happen to occur to me, some of which were even new to California are: *Betula fontinalis* Sarg., *Stipa arida* Jones, *Oenothera scapoidea* Nutt. var. *seorsa* (Nels.) Munz, *Angelica lineariloba* Gray, *Mimulus montioides* Gray, *Laphamia intricata* Brandg., *L. megacephala* Wats., *Senecio spartioides* T. and G., and *S. uintahensis* (Nels.) Greenman. Then he either collected, or was in the party which collected, many plants new to science; of these the following list is very incomplete: *Eriogonum Gilmanii* Stokes, *E. intrafractum* Cov. and Morton, *E. mensicola* Stokes, *E. panamintense* Morton, *Petalonyx Gilmanii* Munz, *Oenothera dentata* Cav. var. *Gilmanii* Munz, *Cymopterus Gilmanii* Morton, *Gilia Gilmanii* Jepson (a later synonym of *Gilia Ripleyi* Barneby), *Phacelia mustelina* Cov., *Salvia carnosa* Dougl. subsp. *Gilmanii* Epling, *Maurandya petrophila* Cov. and Morton, *Mimulus rupicola* Cov., *Cordylanthus eremicus* (Cov. and Morton) Munz. Dr. Coville (*Jour. Wash. Acad. Sci.* 26: 209-213. 1936) proposed in his honor the genus *Gilmania* for that rare plant formerly known as *Phyllogonum luteolum* Cov.

Those who knew French Gilman loved him. His kindness, honesty, sincerity, enthusiasm, ability to face adversity—all these

qualities naturally endeared him to many. I count it as one of my great privileges to have had as a friend this man—self-taught and wise. It is good that his name shall live long in the botanical annals of California.—PHILIP A. MUNZ, Bailey, Hortorium, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

AN ABNORMAL PEPPERGRASS

C. L. HITCHCOCK

During the course of a taxonomic study of the *Lepidia* of the Western Hemisphere one specimen has been seen which is so unusual that it is felt a brief description of it will be of interest to others. This plant was collected at Charcas, San Luis Potosi, Mexico, in 1934 (*Alfred F. Whiting 914EB*, United States Herbarium number 1688427). It is a teratological specimen, and so greatly modified that it is difficult to make a determination to species, but it is believed that it is *L. Schaffneri* Thellung. The branches of the plant end in one or more racemes at the base of which there remain numerous pedicels supporting all that is left of the ripened silicles—the placentae and repla. Apparently these fruits produced normal seeds.

The flowers of the upper half of each raceme are progressively more and more modified. A practically normal fruit and a normal flower are to be seen in figure one. Two stamens, four sepals, four petals, and four glands are common to all ordinary flowers of the species. Figure two represents one of the little-altered flowers of the specimen. It will be noted that there are two stamens which apparently are fertile, four sepals, four short linear petals (one of which has been removed, the more easily to show the bud beneath it), and rudimentary branches that had started to develop where the "glands" should be. The silicle is enlarged, pubescent, and considerably modified internally, with basal branches developing as shown in figure three. That drawing (plate 2, fig. 3) illustrates an opened fruit bearing a small partially developed branch in the axil of each valve. The two ovules are recognizable as such, although the funiculi are freed from the placentae below their normal point of attachment in the silicle. The replum is lacking entirely.

Figure four shows a flower that is more greatly modified. In place of ovules there are leaf-like structures where ovules might normally be. The branches that originate in the axils of the valves are larger and fastigiate in appearance. The flower drawn in figure five is essentially similar to that of figure four, but all trace of the ovules has disappeared. Figure six represents a case in which a main branch has grown from the center of the fruit, one "axillary bud," only, developing. Figure seven shows a flower