

# Gillim – Newsom Cemetery

## Daviess County, KY

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, KY.

The Gillim-Newsom Cemetery is in Daviess County (KY), at 6600 Foster Road on property that is owned by Carl F. Roberts. It is about 8 miles east of Owensboro and .3 of a mile northwest of the Pleasant Valley Christian Church Cemetery, located on the Foster Road near its intersection with the Pleasant Valley Road. On the south side of Foster Road take gravel lane back to house. To the right (east) a hill can be seen across a field. The cemetery is at top of the hill in a grove of cedar trees.

On 21 Sep 1998 I visited the cemetery and found it in a deplorable state – part of it is in a thicket, the ground contains several large foxholes (at least a foot across and 2 feet deep), and most of the visible monuments had fallen over and were broken. Two relatives of the Newsom and Castlen families interred here and who had visited there reported that the current owner several years ago erected a “cattle rubber” in the cemetery to keep the weeds down.

On my visit six monuments were located. In an open area at the south end of the cemetery pieces of three monuments were found. The inscriptions on the monuments contained the following:

Elizabeth, wife of J. L. Gillim	24 Jan 1812	18 May 1870
Margaret (?C.), dau. Of J. L. & E. Gillim [in the 1860 Daviess County census, p764, she is listed as Margaret E.]	18 Nov 1852	16 Oct 1864
Everet (?L.), son of J. L. & R. J. Gillim [listed as Everett in a 1992 listing of the cemetery]	10 Jun 1872	12 Jul 1875

A few feet north of the above was a circular area that was thickly grownup with weeds and briars, about 15-20 feet across. From the edge of this area I could see a row of three monuments (rectangular blocks). I could not see any inscriptions. In front of two of these were footers with the initials “R. C.” and “N. C.” These no doubt marked the graves of three children of Lee P. Castlen & Elmira Gillim, who were enumerated in a prior listing of the cemetery by Gloria Castlen Boarman and her sister, Sandy Castlen Morris. In addition to the three monuments listed above they also found four others:

Robert, son of L. P. & E. Castlen	20 Sep 1877	25 Oct 1877
Novie, son of L. P. & E. Castlen	31 May 1871	5 Feb 1879
Frankie, son of L. P. & E. Castlen	9 Dec 1868	16 Nov 1880
Rebecca, wife of N. B. Morris	14 Jan 1845	26 Dec 1885

The dates for the three children are the same as what was listed in a biography of their father, Lee P. Castlen, published in the 1883 History Of Daviess County, Kentucky (p805-6). This source listed their names as Frank, Novel and “an infant”. Elmira Castlen and Rebecca Morris were daughters of James L. Gillim & Elizabeth Newsom. Rebecca was the wife of Norman Beeler Morris. Mrs. Larry (Gloria) Boarman [6103 Alma Ct., Owensboro, KY] said she and her sister copied the cemetery in the spring of 1992. They are the daughters of Louis Eugene Castlen & Helen Jean Volk, granddaughters of William Elmer Castlen & Mary Ellen Wood, great-granddaughters of John Wilson Castlen & Mary B. Christian, and great-great-granddaughters of Lee P. Castlen & Fannie Minnis. Lee P. Castlen’s second wife was Elmira Gillim.

The following two monuments formerly stood in the Gillim-Newsom family cemetery:

William Newsom	died 16 Apr 1863 aged _(broken off)
Rewey, wife of Wm. Newsom	died 21 Apr 1860 aged about 69 yrs.

They now stand in the Pleasant Valley Christian Church Cemetery just down the road. They are on the south side of the Pleasant Valley cemetery near the plot of their son, William F. Newsom (1825-1903). Ewing Bell, who lives near the cemetery, at 6381 Foster Road, and who formerly was a caretaker for the Pleasant Valley Cemetery, moved the monuments. His wife, Grace Bell, said that he moved the two markers about 1976 fearing that if they stayed where they were at they would be completely destroyed like several others had been. Mr. Bell is a son of Ewing Craig Bell, Sr. & Elizabeth Rebecca/Bess Newsom, grandson of Thomas Jefferson Newsom & Elizabeth Evans Allan, great-grandson of William F. Newsom & Susan E. Lambert, and great-great-grandson of William Newsom & Rewey Shown.

The following transactions involving the cemetery property were found in a research of the deed books at the Daviess County Courthouse:

- 1995 Plat Book of Daviess County, KY (Cardinal Publishing, Inc.) shows Carl Roberts as being owner of 111.3 acres on the south side of the Foster Road midway between the Pleasant Valley and South Hampton Roads.
- 3 Oct 1963, Carl F. Roberts & wife, Alma M., purchased from Edward Adams & wife, Marjorie, 111.76 acres; on the Pleasant Valley Road, bounded by D. Thornsberry, Silverisen & C. Jones; except for 1 acre reserved for a graveyard. Recorded Deed book 323, p56.
- 6 Jan 1948, Edward Adams & wife, Marjorie, purchased from Arnold Adams & wife, Lucy, 111.76 acres; on the Pleasant Valley Road, bounded by Thornsberry, Silverisen & Jones; except for 1 acre reserved for a graveyard. Recorded Deed book 182, p380.
- 14 Feb 1919, Arnold Adams & wife, Lucy M., purchased from E. E. Braner & wife, Annie G., 111.76 acres; 9 miles east of Owensboro, on the Pleasant Valley Road, bounded by D. Thornsberry, Silvereisen, C.

Jones & Street; except for 1 acre reserved for a graveyard. Recorded Deed book 101, p141.

- 20 Mar 1916, E. E. Braner purchased from J. L. Griffith & wife, Anna B., 111.76 acres; on the Pleasant Valley Road, bounded by D. Thornsberry, Silvereisen, C. Jones & Street; except for 1 acre reserved for a graveyard. Recorded Deed book 96, p326.
- 16 Mar 1916, Mrs. Anna B. Griffith purchased from Lula C. Foor 111.78 acres; on the Valley Road; except for 1 acre reserved for a graveyard. Recorded Commissioner's Deed book J, p226.
- 23 Jan 1907, Lula Castlen Foor was deeded land previously transferred to her father, L. P. Castlen (by Gillim heirs), but who had died without a deed ever having been recorded; on the Valley Road 78½ acres, less 10 acres in NE corner, & 10 acres, less 1 acre reserved for a graveyard. Commissioner's Deed book G, p414.
- 7 Apr 1896, L. P. Castlen, purchased from Jane Gillim, Nettie & A. B. Shobe, Willie Gillim, Gussie Gillim, William Morris, Maggie & George Parrish, Mira Castlen, C. F. Gillim, P. Gillim, Alexander Gillim, John Gillim, N. B. Morris, Mollie & John Davis, Henry Morris, Halie & Bert McDowell, Bettie Gillim, Phoebe Gillim, Dela Gillim, Walter Gillim & Simon Morris [preceding were heirs of James L. Gillim, deceased], on the Valley Road 78½ acres, less 10 acres in NE corner, & 10 acres, less 1 acre reserved for a graveyard. Recorded Commissioner's Deed book G, p354.
- 10 Feb 1896, L. P. Castlen purchased from Jane Gillim her dower interest in 78½ acres on the Valley Road; transferred as the result of the Circuit Court suit of Jane Gillim vs. L. P. Castlen, involving lands owned by her deceased husband, James L. Gillim. Recorded Deed book 64, p271.
- 9 Feb 1892, James L. Gillim & wife, Rachel Jane, transferred to L. P. Castlen & wife, Elmira, & "all of the Gillim heirs", 1 acre on which a graveyard is located, "is given for the purpose to be used for a family grave yard" & "it is further ... conveyed a right of way to & from this grave yard". Located on a tract of 90 acres, "which was conveyed to them by William Newsom & Reuah Newsom, his wife". Recorded Deed book 56, p29.
- 28 Nov 1852, James Gillam purchased from William Newsom & wife, Reuah, [eastern part of the above farm whereon family cemetery was located] 55½ acres, bounded on the north by lands of James M. May [who owned land on the north side of what is now known as the Foster Road, formerly called Valley Road, May's land extended over to Highway 144, where he is buried in the May Cemetery]. Recorded Deed book K, p414. James L. Gillim, on 22 Feb 1854, purchased an adjoining tract (on west) of 67 acres from Edward L. Jones, who was granted the power to sell it by the will of John W. Jones [Will book C, p43, recorded Jan 1853], bounded by lands of John Gabbard, John May & James Gillam. Recorded Deed book L, p362. The two tracts

of 55½ & 67 acres equaled the 122 acres that James L. Gillim is shown as owning on a plat of the Knottsville Precinct in the 1876 Historical Atlas Map of Daviess County, KY. (p26).

- 30 Jun 1846, William Newsom acquired a tract of 155½ acres [included above 55½ acres sold to James L. Gillim] from John Taylor & wife, Elizabeth; said Taylor was then living on it, bounded by John McKay, John May & James McKinney. Recorded Deed book H, p180. William Newsom & wife, Rewey, received this tract in exchange for 150 acres on which they were living & which they deeded to John Taylor by Deed book H, p181. The latter tract, on Burnett's Fork, William Newsom had bought from John Dozier in 1827 (book B, p266). William & Rewey Newsom sold the remaining 100 acres of this 155½ acre tract, on which they were then living, to William T. McKay & John C. Aud in 1858. Recorded Deed book P, p163. It was on the south line of the 55½ acres sold to James L. Gillim. On the east side of the Gillim & Newsom tracts was 300 acres owned by John C. McKay. John C. McKay & his son, William T., in 1857 sold this 300 acres to Hayden E. McKay, another son of John C. (Deed book O, p7). Near the northeast corner of this 300 acre tract William T. McKay erected a meetinghouse for the Pleasant Valley Christian Church in 1863. William T. had organized the church and served as its first pastor (see History of Daviess County, Kentucky, c1883, p595). Hayden E. McKay in 1864 deeded 3 acres for the purpose of a meeting house to "the elders and deacons of the Christian Church of Pleasant Valley" (Deed book V, p365). The remainder of the 300 acre McKay tract was sold in 1873 to Jonathan Weaver (Commissioner's Deed book A, p213). Weaver sold the same in 1875 to John A. Castlen (Deed book 29, p547). A brother to Lee P. Castlen, John A., was shown as being owner of the 300 acre tract on the east side of James L. Gillim in the 1876 Historical Atlas Map of Daviess County, KY. (p26).
- The tract of 155½ acres, on Panther Creek, that William Newsom acquired in 1846 [on which the Gillim-Newsom cemetery was later located] had been purchased by John Taylor, on 23 Jul 1842, from John W. Jones & wife, Nancy; bounded by lands of John McKay, John May & James McKinney; part of land designated as lot #1 on the plat of the division of lands of the May, Bannister & Co. Recorded Deed book G, p217.
- The above tract is possibly part of 358 acres, on Panther Creek, purchased by John Jones, on 9 May 1825, from James Prentis & Thomas T. Bouldin [who acquired it from agents of the May, Bannister & Co. on 23 Jun 1821]. Recorded Deed book B, p287.

The History Of Daviess County, Kentucky (c1883, p624) reports that William Newsom emigrated to the county from South Carolina in 1809. He is listed in the Daviess County censuses of 1820 p367, 1830 p195, 1840 p9, 1850 p362 & 1860 p725.

In the latter two he is reported to have been a native of Virginia; born ca 1787. He married Rewey Shown on 8 Jun 1811 in Ohio Co., KY. The daughter of Peter Shown & Sarah Whitcraft, she was born in Maryland about 1792 (see Peter Schaun, by Anthony Jones, Dallas, TX, 1981, p63-4). Edward L. Jones was appointed the administrator of the estate of William Newsom, dec'd, on 29 Aug 1863. William & Rewey Newsom reportedly had 10 children. Six of these are proven by an 1868 deed that lists the heirs of William Newsom, Sr. (Daviness Co. Commissioner's Deed book A, p143). Apparently the other four children had died prior to this leaving no issue. These six children were:

- Elizabeth (24Jan1812- 18May1870), m. James L. Gillim, 3Dec1839 Daviess Co., KY, buried Gillim-Newsom Cemetery).
- Sarah (c1818-after1868), m. Isaac Mills, 1Feb1836 Daviess Co., KY.
- Middy (c1822-1860/61), m1. Edward A. Veach, 20Dec1841 Daviess Co., KY & m2. Hamilton Bailey Gillim, 9Dec 1847 Daviess Co., KY.
- Joseph R. (c1823-1860/70), m. Elizabeth Ann \_\_, c1844.
- William F. (4Aug1825-7Sep1903), m. Susan E. Lambert, 13Sep1854 Daviess Co., KY; buried Pleasant Valley Christian Church Cemetery.
- John S. (c1828-Oct1879), m. Dorcas Jane Lambert, 17Aug1854 Daviess Co., KY; a record of his death appears in the 1880 Daviess Co., KY Federal Census Mortality Schedule.

James L. Gillim (1821/22-1892) & Hamilton B. Gillim (1Feb1823-7Oct1884, buried Panther Creek Baptist Church Cemetery, Ohio Co., KY) were brothers, sons of John Bailey Gillum & Mary Boucher, and grandsons of John P. Gillum & Elizabeth Bailey and William Boucher & Milly Faris. Their parents married in Madison Co., KY in 1818, where they were listed in the 1820 census (p164). Their widowed mother, Polly Gillim, married James Frazier in Daviess Co., KY in 1826. No monument for James L. Gillim was found in the Gillim-Newsom cemetery but he was probably interred there. Shortly before his death he had went to the trouble of deeding the Gillim & Newsom family cemetery on his farm to his heirs. James L. & Elizabeth (Newsom) Gillim according to the History Of Daviess County, Kentucky (c1883, p806) were parents of 12 children. They included Charles Franklin, Rebecca L. (wife of Norman Beeler Morris), William Francis, James A., Mary Elmira (wife of Lee P. Castlen), Phernetta T. (wife of Andrew B. Shobe), Margaret, Alexander F. & John H. Gillim. James L. Gillim married 2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs. Rachel Jane (Colbert) Gillim, 23 Nov 1870 Daviess Co., KY, she was the widow of his brother, John T. Gillim and daughter of Daniel Colbert & Mary Flint.

Lee P. Castlen (11Oct1833-17Feb1905) & his wife, Elmira Gillim (12Oct1848-18Jan1904) are buried in the Yellow Creek Baptist Church Cemetery, at Thruston, in Daviess Co., KY. Lee P. Castlen, a native of Madison, IN, was the son of John Castlen & Elizabeth Leet. He married 1<sup>st</sup> Fannie Minnis, 21 Mar 1855 Oldham Co., KY. She died in 1861-2 leaving 3 children - John Wilson (1858-1938), Florence B. (1860-1931, wife of William J. Tichenor) & Fannie C. (1862-1868). Lee P. Castlen & Elmira Gillim married 22 Oct 1867 Spencer Co., IN. Four children were born to them – three died childhood and were buried in the Gillim-Newsom Cemetery. The other, Lula D. Castlen (6Jan1874-24Sep1951), married Jeremiah Minor Foor; she is buried in Elmwood

Cemetery, at Owensboro, KY. Three of her children, Junius Lee Foor (1892-1951), Elmyra Foor Montgomery (1896-1977) & Frank Emerson Foor (1905-1988), were prominent in Owensboro business, having been affiliated with the Foor Bros. Bakery, a fore-runner of the Colonial Baking Co., and the Owensboro Ice Cream and Dairy Products (see History of Owensboro and Daviess County, Kentucky, by Hugh O. Potter (c1974, p127).

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History of Daviess County, Kentucky (Inter-State Publishing Co., Chicago, 1883, p624):

WILLIAM F. NEWSOM, Knottsville Precinct, three miles west of Knottsville, was born in Upper Town Precinct, this county, Aug. 4, 1825. His father, William Newsom (deceased), was a soldier in the war of 1812, and fought the Indians under General Hopkins and Colonel Joe Barnett. He emigrated to this county from South Carolina in 1809, and located three miles above Yellow Banks (Owensboro), and raised a crop the same year, keeping bachelor's hall with James M. Rogers. He married Miss Rewey Shown in 1811. Her father, Peter Shown, was a Pennsylvania Dutchman by birth. He came from Fredericktown, Md., to Owensboro, or Yellow Banks, in 1804, and stopped at the only house there for a day or two, where he met with the red men of the forest. It was the house of William Smithers. He then proceeded to what is now Ohio County and located. He was a hard worker and a comic, jovial old man. The settlers had many a laugh at his expense. Mr. Shown died in Montgomery County, Ind., in 1847. Two of his sons, Peter and Edward Shown, were carpenters, and built some of the first frame houses that were built in Owensboro. William Newsom was the father of ten children, of whom our subject is the seventh. He was brought up on the farm and received a common-school education. He was married Sept. 13, 1854, to Miss Susan E. Lambert, daughter of Elijah Lambert (deceased), a native of Nelson County. Eight children have been born to them, of whom six are living – Mollie M., William E., Thomas J., Josie Mc G., James F. and Harry C. One daughter, Sallie J., died at the age of fourteen years. Mr. Newsom is a member of the Christian church, as also are Mrs. Newsom and the two eldest children. Mr. Newsom owns 124 acres of valuable land, and is engaged in farming and stock-raising.

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