

Field and Staff, 120th Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, 9th Division, 13th Army Corps



Photo Credits: Jason Holderfield

Ast. Surgeon John C. GILL entered service 23 Feb 1864 at age 25. He was captured 3 May 1864, near Snaggy Point on the Red River, Louisiana; was transferred to 114th OVI 27 Nov 1864. Mustered out with the 114th 31 July 1865.

Dr. John Corlett GILL

Father: John GILL

Mother: Mary A.

Birth: 13 Aug 1835 OH

Marriage: 1 Kate CRAW on 9 Jan 1873 at Cuyahoga Co OH.

Death: 20 Sep 1921 at Euclid, Cuyahoga Co OH

Cemetery: Lake View Cemetery, Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co OH. Sec 3 Lot 128

Pension Card: John C. GILL, Asst. Surgeon, Field and Staff, 120th OH Inf., Surgeon 114th OH Inf. Asst. Surgeon 65th OH Inf. Invalid applied 24 Oct 1904. John died 20 Sep 1921 at Euclid, OH. Pension Index: Invalid applied in Ohio.

1850 Census, Cleveland Ward 1, Cuyahoga Co OH, Dwelling 659, Family 726: John GILL, age 39 Isle of Mann, master builder; Mary Ann GILL, age 34 Isle of Mann; John GILL, age 14 OH; Charles H GILL, age 9 OH; Ann M. GILL, age 6 OH; Thos. E. GILL, age 3 OH; Eleanor CARIE?, age 20 Isle of Mann?; C. E. CORLETT, age 27 Isle of Mann, mason; Jane CORLETT, age 21 OH; Dwelling 660, Family 727: Eliza CORLETT, age 18 OH; Richard TOWNER, age 35 Mass; Mary TOWNER, age 31 NY; Minerva TOWNER, age 9 OH.

1860 Census, Cleveland Ward 1, Cuyahoga Co OH, Dwelling 1776, Family 1784: John GILL, age 49 Isle of Man, carpenter; Mary A GILL, age 47 Isle of Man; John C. GILL, age 23 OH; Charles H, GILL, age 18 OH; Anna M, GILL, age 15 OH; Thos E. S. GILL, age 13 OH; Ella E A GILL, age 6 OH; Henry E. MORRISON, age 14 OH; Eliza SHELDON, age 22 Germany.

Thursday, 30 June 1864 Plain Dealer [Cleveland OH] Page 3 Available at Cuyahoga County Public Library, Fairview Park, Oh, history and genealogy section.

<https://cuyahogalibrary.org/Research/Resources/Plain-Dealer-Historical>

Dr. John Gill Not Dead ---Letter from Him---The Bloody Attack and Capture

"It will gratify the many friends of Dr. John Gill, who was reported killed on the Red River, to read a letter from him to Dr. Capener, of this city, which we publish entire, as it is too interesting to omit in any part:

Morganzia, La., June 21st, 1864

Dear Friend: --

As I am once again in God's country, I will devote a few moments in writing a few lines to some of my friends.

I must say that I feel like a new being to get inside our lines once more, although my captivity was not in any way confining, as I was paroled, and given the liberty to go about at pleasure within the limits of the village, (Cheneyville, [Louisiana]). I was treated very kindly by the Confederate officers that captured us; they were

Texans. You have no doubt read of the capture of the boat and our regiment; but a few remarks may not be uninteresting. At some future time I will give particulars more fully. Our regiment, the 120th, received orders on the morning of May 1st, to strike tents and embark at once on the transport 'City Belle,' for Alexandria.

Everything went on smoothly till about two o'clock in the afternoon of Tuesday, May 3d, when without a moment's warning we were surprised by the report of cannon from the enemy. They were concealed behind the levee. The Red River being low at the time, they had every advantage, as we were in full view, and were unable to see them.

They allowed us to pass one battery and to approach to about 100 yards of another one that was planted nearly half a mile above, when it opened on us with shell, and at the same time, volley after volley of musketry was poured upon us like hail. The first shell was directed at the wheel house. It carried away a portion of the roof. The second shot was at the boiler. This shot was effectual, having struck the boiler and allowing the steam to escape, killing many horses, mules, and I have no doubt, several men, as many jumped into the river at that time. Now both batteries opened on us, and a constant fire of musketry. The scene on the boat was terrible, the balls passing through the boat as if it were paper. The wheel was shattered to pieces while the pilot was at it. He, poor man, was shot three times, once with shell and twice with minnie balls, which caused mortal wounds. I was standing by my state-room door when we were first fired into; a shell came through the cabin and passed through my state-room about a foot over my head, completely covering me with feathers and bedding; the only injury it did me was a slight scare. Just at this time Col Spiegel, of our regiment, came through the cabin, ordering all the men who had concealed themselves to go in the hurricane deck and return the fire. When he (the Colonel), came to where I was standing, he received a mortal wound, in the bowels. He fell, exclaiming, 'My God! I'm done for this time, my military career is ended!' I went to him and examined his wound, and found nearly two hands full of intestines protruding through the wound. These I immediately returned, and remained with him during the whole engagement.

Col. Mudd, of the 2d Illinois cavalry, was shot about the same time our Colonel was. He was killed instantly, being shot through the head. Both colonels lay within three feet of each other. The engagement lasted forty minutes. Our men returned their fire, but could do but little execution, as the enemy were completely hidden from view behind the levee. Many made their escape on the opposite bank of the river, but as the bank was very steep several were wounded in scaling it. Col. Bassett, of the Corps d'Afrique, was mortally wounded while rallying the men on the opposite bank. Lieut. Co. Slocum and Major McKinley, of our regiment, succeeded in making their escape with 164 men. There are some 190 men yet to be accounted for. All that fell into our hands, belonging to our regiment, were eleven wounded and three killed. The rest were taken prisoners or missing, a great many, no doubt, were killed and fell into the river, as we were told that several bodies were seen floating down the river several days after the disaster.

There were many wounded belonging to other regiments, besides citizens. After our boat surrendered the rebels rushed on board the boat and made for the bar the first thing, then after drinking all the liquor, they came tearing through the cabin like devils, rifling the pockets of the dead and wounded, and carrying off all the baggage and everything moveable [sic]. We saved nothing but what was on our backs. All our medicines and instruments were taken; even a pocket case that I had by my side while dressing one of our wounded men was taken from me. Before the wounded were dressed a gunboat was reported to be coming up the river. Orders were given by Gen. Major, commanding the brigade of the enemy to leave the boat and fire it immediately. I then went to see Colonel Hardeman, commanding one of the regiments, and begged him to have the fire extinguished, and allow us to remove our dead and wounded on shore. He kindly consented and ordered his men to assist us. We managed to get all the wounded off, but I fear that some of the dead were burned, as the boat was fired in several places ere we got the last wounded man on shore. The officers had no control over the men as they were maddened with whisky [sic] and acted more like devils than human beings. The wounded were taken to a log house close by. -- We were allowed to retain three men as nurses.

Dr. Stanton and myself were allowed to remain with the wounded. We were kept in this house till Thursday following, and such a scene may I never again witness. The wounded were stretched out of the bare floor, many without covering of any kind, their clothes and blankets being taken from them, and we had not a grain of medicine of any kind to give the wounded, and it was heartrending to hear the moaning and see the suffering without being able to relieve them. Toward evening of the second day a Surgeon of one of the regiments of the enemy, came to see us. From him we received a small quantity of morphine, for which we were indebted to the efforts of an officer in Col. Bailey's regiment, who did his utmost to make things comfortable for us. Thursday morning, May 5th, we were informed that two gun-boats and a transport were coming down the river from Alexandria. About 9 o'clock A. M., the boats made their appearance at a bend of the river, nearly a mile distant from where our boat was captured. When the boats came within range of the enemy's batteries they opened upon them. The transport was pretty well protected with bales of cotton, (Gen. Banks' veterans, one bale of cotton is equivalent to two veteran soldiers,) but the cotton was but little protection from the shell from the batteries. The 56th Ohio Volunteers, Col. Raynor commanding, was on board on their way home, having re-enlisted. The transport was so disabled and the gun boats did but little execution. They were also disabled in a short time; one of the gun boats, the 'Covington,' our men destroyed

by fire before leaving her, but the other, the gun boat 'Signal,' fell into the enemy's hands, they taking off her guns and then sunk her in the channel of the river. -- Col. Raynor was wounded, but is recovering from his wounds rapidly. He was taken prisoner. Thursday afternoon we were all removed to Cheneyville, a small village some nine miles back from the river. The wounded were furnished transportation; the others, nurses, surgeons and slightly wounded, allowed to go on foot. The day was very warm and the dust some three inches deep. I will not soon forget that little tramp. We were nearly starved. -- When on the road, some 5 miles from the river, we passed a rebel camp, and they, no doubt, knowing our rations were cut down some, kindly threw out in the road quite a large supply of corn bread and boiled corn beef for our benefit. You can't imagine how rapidly the 'fodder' was 'gobbled up' by us. Our pockets and hands were well filled, and we ate with a relish that was quite amusing to the rebs. We reached Cheneyville at dark and were quartered in negro shanties. Here we remained a week, then were taken to a large building used as a school house and Masonic Hall. We could not wish a better place for the wounded. The citizens treated us kindly, especially the ladies, who called nearly every day, bringing many delicacies for the sick and wounded. We remained at Cheneyville till a week ago last Saturday, when we were taken to Alexandria, there to be placed on transports and paroled, and sent down the river to our lines. There were some 340 [840] wounded brought down, some from Mansfield, Pleasant Hill and Cheneyville.

We arrived at the mouth of Red river last Friday morning, when we were put on board the steamer Iberville, the wounded taken to hospitals at New Orleans and the Surgeons sent to their different regiments. I will write again and give some more particulars. I write this in great haste, as a friend is waiting to take it to Cincinnati.

Ever Your Friend,
John Gill"

Plain Dealer [Cleveland Ohio] 22 Aug 1865, page 4:

"Returned in Health and Spirits A year ago last May the 120th O. V. I. was engaged with far superior numbers of the enemy in a pitched battle about twenty-five miles from Alexandria, and was almost annihilated. One of the officers of the regiment furnished, as near as he could ascertain, a list of the killed and wounded. Among the former was the name of Dr. J. C. Gill, of this city, Surgeon of the regiment.

This list was published in the Plain Dealer and, so far as we knew, was supposed to be correct. The remnant of the 120th was consolidated with the 114th and when a change of prisoners was effected it was discovered that Dr. Gill, was fortunately, not dead, but among the prisoners exchanged. He joined with the remnant of his regiment the 114th, and since then has been wandering, up and down, all over the southern territory. To the infinite happiness of his friends in this city, he arrived home last evening, from Texas."

1870 Census, Cleveland Ward 1, Cuyahoga Co OH, Dwelling 249, Family 296: Mary A GILL, age 50 Isle of Man; John C GILL, age 32 OH, physician; Chas, age 28 OH, fire ins. agent; [next page] Family 297, A. M. GILL, age 24 OH [female], Ella GILL, age 15 OH; Family 298, H. MORRISON, [male], age 24 Isle of Man, book keeper w/w store; W. C. CORLETT [male]. age 85 Isle of Man.

Married Kate Ohio, Marriages 1800-1958: John C. GILL married Kate CRAW on 9 Jan 1873 at Cuyahoga Co OH.

1880 Census, Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co OH, 134 Arlington St, Dwelling 179, Family 180: Wm B. CREW, age 70 NY, father born Mass, mother born Ver., liquor trade; Margarette CREW, wife age 60 NY, parents born England; Wilson J CREW, son, age 30 OH, assistant; James M, CREW son, age 26 OH, assistant; Mattie CREW, daughter, age 20 OH; Family 181, John C. GILL, age 44 OH, physician and surgeon, parents born Isle of Man; Kate GILL, wife, age 32 OH, parents born NY; Wm C. GILL, son, age 5 OH; Anna GILL, daughter age 3 OH.

In 1893 the Dept. of the Interior reported that Jno. C. GILL was living at 148 Ontario St, Cleveland OH.

1900 Census, Cleveland, Ward 15, Cuyahoga Co OH, 434 Kennard St, Dwelling 2, Family 2: John C. GILL, physician, born Aug 1836, age 63 OH, married 28 yrs, parents born Isle of Man; Kate GILL, wife, age 40 OH, born Nov 1850, married 28 yrs, 3 children,/3 still living, parents born NY; William C. GILL, son, physician, age 23 OH, single, born June 1876; Anna A, daughter, age 22 OH, born May 1878, single, clerk in library; Kyle J, son, age 17 OH, single, born Sep 1882, student; Margret CRAW, mother, age 79 NY, parents born England, born Mar 1831[should be 1821], widow, 5 children/3 still living; Catherine SMITH, niece, age 6 Colorado, born Nov 1894, father born England, mother born Denmark.

Plain Dealer [Cleveland OH], 18 Feb 1901, page 6:

"Gill,--Kate Craw, wife of Dr. John C. Gill, Sunday morning, Feb. 17. Funeral Tuesday morning, Feb 19 at 10:30 standard, at the residence, 434 Kennard st. Burial private.

Cleveland Leader, 2 June 1903, page 8, there is the obituary of John C. Gill's mother-in-law Mrs. Margaret Wilson Craw. She died at Dr. John C. Gill's residence which was No. 434 Kennard street. There is a long, very

nice article about Mrs. Craw, including a photo. It is available at pay sites online.

1910 Census, Cleveland Ward 21, Cuyahoga Co OH, 8625 Cedar Ave, Family 155: William C. GILL, age 34 OH, first marriage, married 5 yrs parents born OH, physician in general practice; Eleanor GILL, wife, age 34 Canada, first marriage, married 5 yrs, 3 children/3 still living, father born Ireland, mother born Canada; Eleanor C GILL, daughter, age 3 OH; William S, GILL, son, age 2 OH; Margaret GILL daughter, age 5 months OH; John C GILL, father, age 74 OH, widowed, first marriage 36 yrs, parents born Isle of Man, retired with own income; John K. GILL, brother, age 28 OH, office clerk, single; Anna GILL, sister, age 32 OH, single, librarian.

1920 Census, East Cleveland, Ward 2, Cuyahoga Co OH, 1822 Vassar Rd, Dwelling 58; William C. GILL, age 43 OH, parents born OH, dermatologist physician; Eleanor S GILL, wife, age 43 Canada, came to US 1900, naturalized 1905, father born Ireland, mother born Canada; William S GILL, son, age 11 OH, father born OH, mother born Canada; Margaret A GILL, daughter, age 10 OH, father born OH, mother born Canada; John C. GILL Jr, son, age 8 OH, father born OH, mother born Canada; John C. GILL Sr, father, age 84 OH, parents born Isle of Man; Anna GILL, sister, age 41 OH, single, parents born OH, librarian.

Death Record: John Corlett GILL died 20 Sep 1921 at Euclid, Cuyahoga Co OH. Born 13 Aug 1835 in OH. Age 86 yrs 1 m. 7 dys. Widowed. Retired Physician. Burial Lake View, Cleveland OH. Father John GILL born England. Mother Mary A. GILL born England. Informant: Wm C. GILL, 1110 Euclid Ave.

Research by Susie Holderfield, 2001-2016
120researcher@gmail.com