

## Thomas Pleasant Gillespie

Thomas Pleasant Gillespie was born about 1844 in Lafayette, Missouri. He was the fourth of six children of David Gillespie and Mary Lewis Tyree.<sup>1</sup> He was a brother to Richmond Tyree Gillespie, the mine superintendent in Silver Reef, Utah. The family was living in Weston, Platte, Missouri in 1850 and 1860.<sup>2</sup>

In 1869, Thomas was working for the "US Ex Co", staying in a hotel in Leavenworth, Kansas.<sup>3</sup> In 1879, Thomas was absent and not voting at legislature sessions in Topeka, Kansas (The Weekly Commonwealth, 27 February 1879, p. 3). In 1880 living in St Louis, Missouri, assayer & miner, with siblings and mother in home of bro-in-law.<sup>4</sup>

Thomas married Caroline May Atchison in 1880 in Leeds, Washington, Utah. They had five children. He served as an election judge for Leeds precinct, Washington, Utah, in 1882<sup>5</sup> and as a school board trustee and clerk in Silver Reef, Washington, Utah, from 1889-1893.<sup>6</sup>

In 1894 he was living in Montana,<sup>7</sup> but by 1896 he was the superintendent of the Sterling Mining and Milling Company at Montgomery, Nevada. He was shot and killed on 18 October 1896 by an unknown assailant while riding in a buckboard on the road between the Johnny and Chespa mines at Nye, Nevada. Gillespie must have thought his life was in danger because he left a letter with an acquaintance instructing him to forward the letter to a friend in Utah if anything should happen to him. He was about 60 years old, quiet but very quick to resent any effort at intimidation. He left a widow and two children. The body was taken to Manvel, the nearest railroad point, as they thought the company would want the remains shipped to Salt Lake City where his family lived; but the company telegraphed to have him buried at Vanderbilt.<sup>8</sup>

His wife, May C Gillespie, was a defendant in an action suit to recover a final salary of \$433.33 due her deceased husband.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Unites States Census, 1850, 1860, 1880.

<sup>2</sup> Unites States Census, 1850, 1860.

<sup>3</sup> The Leavenworth Times, 5 June 1869, p. 4; The Leavenworth Times, 1 October 1869, p. 4.

<sup>4</sup> United States Census, 1880.

<sup>5</sup> The Salt Lake Herald, 22 Oct 1882, p. 10.

<sup>6</sup> Minutes of Silver Reef School Board.

<sup>7</sup> Salt Lake Tribune, 4 August 1894, pp. 2, 8.

<sup>8</sup> The Weekly Sun (San Bernardino, California), 7 November 1896, p. 6; The Islander (Friday Harbor, Washington), 5 November 1896, p. 1; Los Angeles Herald, 28 October 1896, p. 1; The San Bernardino County Sun, 3 November 1896, p. 3; Weekly Journal-Miner (Prescott, Arizona), 4 November 1896, p. 2; Lincoln County Leader (Toledo, Oregon), 5 November 1896, p. 6; Salt Lake Tribune, 3 November 1896, p. 8; Los Angeles Herald, 3 November 1896, p. 7; Salt Lake Tribune, 6 November 1896, p. 6.

<sup>9</sup> Salt Lake Herald, 2 November 1900, p. 2.