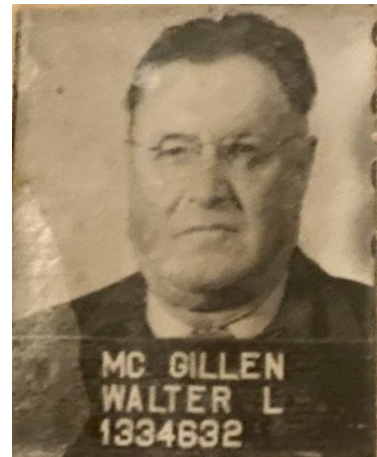


Biography of Walter Louis McGillen



Walter Louis Mc Gillen (of unknown ancestry; 22 December 1895-28 January 1970) was a career Army Sgt. in the U.S. military who served from 1916 – 1944. He retired in Omaha, Nebraska at the age of 48 with his wife, Mabel Clara (38) and son, William Louis (14). In retirement he and his family lived on a hobby farm at 8407 Decatur Street, Omaha, NE 68114. They raised chickens, ducks, and rabbits, and also had a thriving vegetable garden. They built their own home without a bathroom, but had a barn with a bathroom. They also had a camper trailer on the property that was previously used to travel from base to base between 1941 and 1944.



Born: 22 December 1895 **Note:** When he joined the Army in Sep 1916, he was three months shy of his 21st birthday, which was the legal age to join the Army. He also did not have a parent written consent form, so he falsified his birth date. This is why his military ID has 22 Dec 1894 as his birth date. (See his final military ID in photo section).

Place of birth: Louisville, KY

Died: 28 January 1970 (74)

Cause of death: Heart Failure

Place of death: Omaha, NE

Place of burial: Omaha, NE Forest Lawn Cemetery, Gravesite Section Apostles, Lot 65, Grave #3

Wife: Mabel Clara Stoney Burris McGillen (30 Aug 1906-19 Jul 1993)

Son: William Louis McGillen (25 Mar 1930-21 Mar 2023) **Note:** Adopted 24 May 1930 Omaha, NE

Father: Jacob Vernon McGillen (21 Apr 1875-4 Jun 1928)

Mother: Eva May Pretty Crumley (30 Nov 1875-31 May 1949)

Siblings: **George Vernon Mc Gillen** (Rose Pearl Widmer) Married in St. Louis, MO 5 Nov 1918 (31)

Born 17 Jul 1897 Died: 18 Feb 1954 (56) Los Angeles, CA

Irene Katherine Mc Gillen (Wiford John Little) Married 16 May 1924 Los Angeles, CA (23)

Born: 29 Jun 1901 Hamilton, Butler County, OH Died: 25 Feb 1992 (90) San Bernardino, CA

Estelle Marie Mc Gillen Elsworth Dolby Smith Holguin

Born: 22 Jun 1906 Louisville, KY Died: 11 Apr 1983 Roseville, CA (76)

Married Homer Elsworth Dolby in 1922 (16)

Married Claude Smith (?) in about 1947 (~41) Estelle was listed as widowed on the 1950 census

Married Roque Holguin (67) 31 Aug 1976 Reno Nevada (70)

Allegiance: United States of America

Military Service: U.S. Army **Service years:** 1916-1944 **Rank:** Master Sergeant

Conflicts: WWI 6 April 1917-11 November 1918

WWII 7 December 1941 – 8 May 1945

What was Louisville, Kentucky, like when Walter Louis was born?

Population: 160,000–190,000

Key industries: tobacco warehouses, distilleries, meatpacking, rail shops, river trade.

Major transport: Louisville & Nashville Railroad, Ohio River steamboats, streetcars.

Public works: expanding water system, paved streets in central areas

Historical Facts: In Kentucky, women worked in factories, domestic service, and schools; lacked voting rights.

Key Inventions: Battery-operated telephone switchboard; Motion picture film; Flaked Cereal: Dr. John Harvey Kellogg accidentally created flaked cereal by toasting boiled wheat.

Census Records

The U.S. census counts each resident of the country, where they live on April 1, every ten years ending in zero. The Constitution mandates this to determine how to apportion the House of Representatives among the states. Census records are released every 72 years. The 1950 census was released to the public in April, 2022. The 1960 census will be released in April, 2032.

1880: Walter's grandfather, **George Mc Gillen**, was an Ice Wagoner. **Address:** 314 Portland Ave. Louisville, KY.

1890: Destroyed in a fire at the U.S. Department of Commerce Building in Washington, D.C.

1900: Walter's father, **Jacob Vernon Mc Gillen** (25), was a Milk/Dairy deliveryman. **Address:** 1408 South Shelby Street Louisville, KY also known as Louisville City, Ward 3, Jefferson County

Eva May Pretty Mc Gillen, wife (24)

Walter Louis Mc Gillen, son (4)

George Vernon Mc Gillen, son (1) **Note:** Highest grade completed 4th grade

1910: Destroyed in a fire at the U.S. Department of Commerce Building in Washington, D.C.

1920: Walter's brother, **George Vernon Mc Gillen** (22) Head of Household Machinist; **Address:** 2905 Macklind Ave. St. Louis, MO

Walter's father, **Jacob Vernon Mc Gillen** (44) was a Lathe Hand. He claimed to be widowed. **Note:** Irish Catholics were not permitted divorce, so they invented the **informal Irish divorce**. An informal Irish divorce is defined as a situation where a married couple separates and lives completely separate lives without ever obtaining a legal divorce.

Irene Katherine Mc Gillen (18)

Estelle Marie Mc Gillen (13) **Note:** Highest grade completed was 6th grade

Eva May Pretty Mc Gillen Crumley (43), wife of William Crumley (39) Auto Mechanic

Address: Mad River Township, Clark County, OH

1930: Walter's father, **Jacob Vernon Mc Gillen** (53) died 4 Jun 1928 in Solano, CA

Walter's brother, **George Vernon Mc Gillen** (32) Machinist Welder **Address:** 513 Montebello, Los Angeles, CA

Rose Pearl Widmer Mc Gillen (29)

Vernon Wesley (9)

Ruth (8)

Jack Walter (7)

Irene Katherine Mc Gillen Little (28)

Wilford J. Little (46) was a sawyer (cuts lumber) **Address:** 2435 Illinois Street, Los Angeles, CA
Leslie (4)

Dolores (7 months)

Estelle Marie Mc Gillen Dolby Married (23) Head of Household

Mary (1)

Note: Estelle was married to Homer Elsworth Dolby at age 16 in 1922; he was 22.

Note: Homer was jailed in San Quentin prison for 2nd degree burglary 3 April 1932. He was paroled 7 September 1934 and released from parole 3 July 1934.

Eva May Pretty Mc Gillen Crumley (49) Lodger/Housekeeper for William H. Clark (77)

Address: Mill Rd. Mad River Township, Clark County, OH (Still married, but living separately from William Crumley)

1940: George Vernon Mc Gillen (43) Machinist 515 South Belden Ave. Los Angeles, CA

Rose Pearl Widmer Mc Gillen (39)

Vernon Wesley (20) In school

Ruth (18) In school

Jack Walter (17) In school

Irene Katherine Mc Gillen Little (38)

Wilford J. Little (56) construction laborer East California Street, San Bernardino, CA

Leslie (14)

Dolores (10)

William (7)

Charles (1)

Estelle Marie Mc Gillen Dolby (33) Married Head of Household (Income from "other" source) rent cost \$16/month: 823 Rush, Los Angeles, CA

Mary Dolby(11)

Leo J. Dolby(9)

Claude Dolby(8)

Eva May Pretty Mc Gillen Crumley (59) Divorced; Lodger/Housekeeper for Wilbur Clark (49), actor in a circus, at RFD1, Springfield Mad River, OH

1950: George Vernon Mc Gillen (52) Machinist 515 South Belden Ave. Los Angeles, CA

Rose Pearl Widmer Mc Gillen (49)

Ruth Mc Gillen Garrison (28) and Woodford Garrison (38) Butcher

Rose Marie Garrison (8)

Louis G. Garrison (2)

Irene Katherine Mc Gillen Little(48)

Wilford J. Little (66) was a farmer 928 Buck Creek Lane Moorfield, OH

Note: Wilford died on 13 November 1952

William (17)

Charles (11)

Estelle Marie Mc Gillen Dolby Smith (43) Widowed Head of Household Housework/Private Family 11704 Sheldon Street, Los Angeles, CA

Leo J. Dolby Smith (20) Gardener/Private Family

Claude Dolby Smith (18) Cement Laborer

Susie Smith(2)

Eva May Pretty Mc Gillen Crumley died 31 May 1949 Springfield, OH She was a lodger at a home owned by Wilbur Clark **Buried:** Enon cemetery Clark County OH

Timeline & Historical Events

1895-1905

Family Chronology

1895 Born 22 December

1897 (1): Birth of brother George Vernon Mc Gillen 17 Jul

1901 (5): Birth of sister Irene Katherine Mc Gillen 29 Jun

Historical Events/Inventions

Presidents: Grover Cleveland **D** (1893-1897) First Democrat president in 29 years since the Civil War
William McKinley **R** (1897-1901) Shot 6 Sep 1901 – died 14 Sep 1901
Theodore Roosevelt **R** (1901-1909)

1895: (0) Wilhelm Conrad Rontgen discovered X-rays which allowed doctors to see inside the body without surgery.

1896 (1) January 4 Utah admitted to the U.S.

1898 (3) Spanish-American War – It began with the sinking of the USS Maine in Havana Harbor in Cuba, and resulted in the U.S. acquiring sovereignty over Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines, and establishing a protectorate over Cuba.

1901 (6) President William McKinley was shot 6 Sep 1901 – died 14 Sep 1901

1902 (7) Willis Carrier invented the first modern electrical air conditioning unit.

1903 (8) Wright brother designed and successfully flew the first airplane.

1904-1914 (9) Panama Canal Construction – U.S. military presence was used to secure the construction of the canal. The Panama Canal project was crucial for U.S. trade and military strategy, requiring a strong military presence to protect American interests and ensure the project's completion.

1906-1916

Family Chronology

1906 (10) Birth of sister Estelle Marie Mc Gillen 22 June

1907 (11) 16 November Oklahoma admitted to the U.S.

1912 (16) 6 January New Mexico Utah admitted to the U.S.

1912 (16) 14 February Arizona Utah admitted to the U.S.

1916 (20) Joined U.S. Army Columbus as a private, OH 9 September 1916 when he was aged 20. At the time, the age requirement to join the military was 21, and written parental consent was required to join early. Because he could not get parental consent, he claimed to be born 22 December 1894. His military retirement ID still had the 22 December 1894 birthdate. At the time of enlistment, he was living with his mother at Springfield, Clark County, Ohio.

1916 – 1920 (20-24) Ft. Reno Remount Depot, Oklahoma

Historical Events/Inventions

Presidents: William Howard Taft **R** (1909-1913)
Woodrow Wilson **D** (1913-1921)

1906 (10) Theodore Roosevelt became the first American to win the Nobel Peace Prize for mediating the Russo-Japanese war

1908 (12) Henry Ford introduces the Model T car

1913 (17) First Electric Refrigerator

1914 (18) 28 Jul WWI begins in Europe following assassination of Austrian Archduke Frenz Ferdinand on

28 June 1914.

1914 (18) August Panama Canal officially opens

1916 (20) Creation of the National Park Service

1916 (20) Election of first Congresswoman (Jeannette Rankin (R) Montana

1916-1917 (20-21) Mexican Border Military actions against Mexican revolutionary forces, including Pancho Villa. The Mexican Border Period involved U.S. troops responding to cross-border raids and instability caused by the Mexican Revolution

1917-1927

Family Chronology.

1920 (24) 25 September promoted to Private 1st Class Fort Reno Remount Depot Oklahoma

1920 – 1923 (24-27) Jefferson Barracks, MO

1923-1928 (27-32) Panama Canal

Historical Events/Inventions

Presidents: Warren G. Harding **R** (1921-1923) Died of a heart attack 2 Aug 1923 during term

Calvin Coolidge **R** (1923-1929)

1917 (21) 6 Apr United States enters WWI

1918 (22) 11 Nov end of WWI on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month

1919 (23) 4 June the 19th Amendment granted American women the legal right to vote nationwide. It was passed by Congress on 4 June, 1919 and ratified on 18 August 1920.

1920-1929 (24-33) Roaring Twenties – was a period marked by significant economic prosperity and cultural change.

1920s The first commercial radio broadcasts were initiated.

1920s Helicopter – The first practical use of the helicopter was developed.

1925 (29) Widespread electrical wiring in about 50% of U.S. homes

1927 (31) Television – Early experiments in broadcasting began to take shape.

1927 (31) The iron lung was invented by Phillip Drinker and Louis Agassiz Shaw. The device was designed to assist individuals who could not breathe on their own, particularly those affected by polio in the 1950s.

1928-1938

Family Chronology

1928 (32) Death of father Jacob Vernon Mc Gillen 4 Jun (53)

1928-1940 (32-45) Fort Omaha, NE

1929 (33) 9 August Marriage to Mabel Clara Stoney Burris (22) Fremont, Dodge County, Nebraska

Witnesses: Bernice Rainey and Charles H. Yost (Friends)

1930 (34) Birth of son William Louis McGillen 25 March; adopted 24 May

1931 (38) 4 March promoted to Sgt Fort Omaha, NE

Historical Events/Inventions

Presidents: Herbert Hoover **R** (1929-1933)

Franklin Delano Roosevelt (**D**) (1933-1945) Died of cerebral hemorrhage during final term

1928 (32) Penicillin discovered by Alexander Fleming: This antibiotic revolutionized medicine and treatment of bacterial infections.

1928 (32) The first clinical use of the iron lung

1929 (32) First Quartz Crystal watch: This innovation marked a significant advancement in timekeeping

technology.

1929-1938 (32-42) The Great Depression – was a severe worldwide economic downturn which began with the Wall Street crash of 1929.

1939-1949

Family Chronology

1940-1941 (44-45) Ft. Des Moines, IA & Camp Forrest, TN

1940 (44) 20 December promoted to Staff Sgt Washington, DC

1941 (45) TDY to Camp Breckinridge, KY; 898th Ordnance Heavy Maintenance Company (Q)

1941 (45) TDY Camp Lee Virginia; Quarter Master Replacement Training Center

1941-1944 (45-48) Camp Roberts & Fort Ord, CA

1941 (45) 7 July promoted to Tech Sgt Camp Forrest, now Arnold AFB Tennessee

1942 (46) 1 May MSgt Stripes earned Fort Lewis, Washington State

1944 (48) 30 November Retired with physical disability in line of duty (Honorable); Returned to Omaha, NE. Temporarily stayed at Tower Tourist Court at 78th & Dodge Street near Peony Park. Later purchased land at 8407 Decatur Street, Omaha, NE 68114. Built a home and used the land for hobby farming.

1945 (49) 27 March Retired

1949 (53) Death of mother Eva May Pretty Mc Gillen Crumley 31 May (73)

Historical Events/Inventions

Presidents: Harry S. Truman **D** (1945-1953)

1939 (43) 1 Sep WWII Begins in Europe when Germany invaded Poland.

1941 (45) 7 Dec Japanese surprise military attack on Pearl Harbor

1941 (45) 11 Dec United States officially enters WWII

1945 (49) 2 Sep WWII ends

1947 (51) Start of polio vaccine trials

1948-1955 (52-59) several polio epidemics occurred

1955 (59) Polio vaccine developed by Dr. Jonas Salk

1950 - 1960

Family Chronology

1950-1960 (54-65) Continued living at 8407 Decatur Street, Omaha, NE

1954 (58) Death of brother George Vernon Mc Gillen 18 Feb (56)

Historical Events/Inventions

Presidents: Dwight D. Eisenhower **R** (1953-1961)

1950 (54) 25 Jun Korean war began when North Korea attacked South Korea, supported by Russia and China

1953 (57) 27 Jul Korean war ends

1955 (59) Vietnam War officially begins

1959 (63) 3 January Alaska admitted to the U.S.

1959 (63) 21 August Hawaii admitted to the U.S.

1960 (64) Nearly all homes were connected to electricity

1961-1970

Family Chronology

1961-1970 (65-74)-Continued living at 8407 Decatur Street, Omaha, NE

1970 Death 28 January (**74**) Cause of death: Heart Failure

Forest Lawn Cemetery: Buried 30 Jan 1970 in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Omaha, Nebraska. Gravesite is located in Section: APOSTLE, LOT: 65, GRAVE # 3. Military Honors

Historical Events/Inventions

Presidents: John F. Kennedy **D** (1953-1961) Assassinated 22 Nov 1963

Lyndon B. Johnson **D** (1963-1969)

Richard M. Nixon **R** (1969-1974) Resigned 9 Aug 1974

1961 (65) April, Bay of Pigs – failed military landing operation launched by the CIA on the southwestern coast of Cuba

1962 (66) October, Cuban Missile Crisis – 13- day confrontation between the U.S. and the Soviet Union

1963 (67) 22 November 1963 President John F. Kennedy assassinated

1965 (69) U.S. troops begin to arrive in Vietnam in large numbers

1969 (73) 20 July Apollo 11 spacecraft, commanded by Neil Armstrong was the first person to walk on the moon.

Continued Family Chronology

1983: Death of sister Estelle Marie Mc Gillen Dolby Smith Holguin 11 Apr (76)

1992: Death of sister Irene Katherine Mc Gillen Little (Wilford John Little) 25 Feb (90)

1993: Death of wife Mabel Clara Stoney Burris Mc Gillen 19 Jul (86)

1993: Death of wife Mabel Clara Stoney Burris Mc Gillen 19 Jul (86)

Forest Lawn Cemetery: Marker Only She was not buried 19 July 1993 in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Omaha, Nebraska. Gravesite is located in Section: Garden of Apostles, LOT: 65, GRAVE # 4.

Marker only: She was never buried.