

**Gillette Family History**  
by  
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(Granddaughter of John A. Gillette)

It was passed down in the family history that the Gillettes came from Virginia to the White Oak River and I believe this is probably the case. The Gillettes appeared in Craven and Jones Counties in the early 1700's. This was about the same time as the Dudleys and other families known to have come from Virginia. There were Gillettes (Gillets) in Virginia as early as 1623. There was a John Gillet who had patents for thousands of acres on the Rappahannock River and he died around 1660, leaving a plantation called Nimcock to his widow Jane, who married three more times.

I have found almost all of the family verbal history to be true.

The first Gillette in the eastern part of North Carolina proven to be our ancestor was John Gillet of Craven County. He is mentioned in Brown's Onslow County History as being part of a delegation of twelve of the most prominent citizens of the area in 1728. Though he was living in Craven County, his land must have been near the Onslow line because he registered "flesh marks" for his sons in Onslow County in 1734. Flesh marks were a combination of brands and cuts used to mark livestock which was allowed to roam free until the 1920's when the fence law passed. Hogs fattened on acorns and chestnuts and cattle became wild and woolly enough to tree children on their way to school.

John gave plantations to each of his four sons, John, Moses, Patterson, and Anderson and died around 1749 in Craven County. His son John settled in Carteret County and married Sarah Dudley, a sister of Christopher Dudley. He died around 1754 leaving two daughters, Sarah and Elizabeth (Betty).

I don't know what happened to Moses and Patterson, but Anderson moved to Onslow County and took a land grant on Chappel Branch in 1773. He died in 1784 leaving a widow named Philany and nine children: John, Thomas, Alexander, Seth, Elizabeth, Mary, Anna, Sarah, and Eleanor. The mother of Eleanor may have been a Hadnot because "Elenor Gillet" is mentioned in the wills of William Hadnot (died 1761) and his widow Rachel (died 1777) as their granddaughter. They left her 400 acres and a good deal of cattle.

Within a few years of Anderson's death, Philany moved to Jones County with her sons Thomas and Seth. Thomas established a large plantation there that was later the site of a Civil War skirmish.

John died around 1794. He didn't leave a will but there is evidence in his estate settlement that he was probably the husband of Elizabeth Gillett who then married Brooks McKenny. When Elizabeth died she left her estate to her sons, Lemuel and Isaac Gillett.

Lemuel died in 1830, leaving a widow also named Elizabeth and four sons: John A, who would later become the great grandfather of K.B. Hurst, Seth, Solomon,

and Anderson, all of them under twenty one. Anderson died in childhood but the other brothers raised families. Solomon married Irena Gray ( Gary) and had at least two children, Eliza and Solomon. Seth married Huldah Jones and fathered William I., who would later become the father of Col. George Gillette, John H., Robert J., Indiana M. Mary Agnes and Lucretia.

**John A. Gillette** was the patriarch of our clan. He was known to us all as "Grandpappy John". He married three times and was the father of twelve children who reached maturity. His first wife was Mary Ann Barber. She was nearly fourteen when she married John and she had their first son Lemuel before she was fifteen. She was also the mother of George Atmore, Sallie Ann, K.B.Hurst's grandmother, and Julia A. She died in 1856 at the age of twenty four. In March of 1857, John married Harriet Coston. They had Isaac Filmore, Catherine, and John Harriet. She died in 1862 at the age of twenty six. Then John married her sister, Catherine Jane Coston in August of 1862. She was the mother of David, Martha E., Mary Ann, Lular (who died young), and twins, Hermus and Hubbard. "Grandpappy John" died in 1883. He left each child a 300 acre farm.

Lemuel Gillette married Sarah Ann Wilson who was the daughter of Urban Frazer Wilson and the granddaughter of Josiah Wilson. Granny Gillette was a skilled weaver and she transported her loom to neighboring farms and stayed there weaving cloth. We feel this is how she met Lemuel. They had three children; Annie Eliza, Erbin J. and Daniel. Erbin( **Bud Jay**) had no children but **Daniel** married twice and had several children. Family history says that he was over 70 when he married for a second time and had three sons from this marriage. It was Granny Gillette and her two sons that raised the **children of Jackson Aman and his wife Annie Eliza** when they both died young.

Annie E. Gillette married Jackson Lee Aman, the son of Rev. David Franklin Aman and his wife Eliza E. Petteway. The Amans are descendants of the religious refugees who came to Craven County with the Baron De Graffenreidt in 1709-1710. They were leaving behind them religious persecution in Switzerland and the Palatinate of the Rhine.

Annie and Jackson had the following children: Guy and Clare( twins), Sarah McDaniel, William Albert Stephenson, Annie Elizabeth (Aunt Pinkie) and Lemuel Gillette. There were two other children, one of them was Lemuel's twin and the other was Ethel who did not survive.

This account was prepared by Betsy Taylor Killian, granddaughter of Clare, on July 20, 1984 from family records, the N.C. Archives and Federal Census records, and verbal accounts of family history.