

***LET'S GIVE
JOHN GILROY
A BREAK!***

by

CHUCK MYER, AICP

INTRODUCTION

The British and the Russians came and left, but it was a Scottish sailor who was the first to stay and establish his family tree in California, among the native and Spanish populations (and later American settlers) that inhabited the fertile land of Santa Clara County in the early 1800s.

One would think that such a courageous move would be recorded by historians with reverence and respect. Yet the recorded life history of John Gilroy is a checkerboard of derision, confusion, and conflicting facts, leaving the reputation of the tall Scotchman in shambles.

Herein is an attempt to set the oft-repeated story of John Gilroy in a different perspective.

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SUBMISSION TO THE
CALIFORNIA PIONEERS OF
SANTA CLARA COUNTY
ESSAY CONTEST - (ADULT)

LET'S GIVE JOHN GILROY A BREAK!

by

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Quick! Who was the first non-Spanish settler in California?

If you answered, "I don't know," you are correct.

Knowing that a city in Santa Clara County was named after this mystery man probably wouldn't help you guess. (Rudolph Cupertino? Don Gaspar de Monte Sereno?) Even those that knew Morgan Hill was a man and not a mountain and guessed him would be incorrect.

What John Gilroy needs is a P. R. agent.

Not only is John Cameron Gilroy's place in history as the first non-Spanish settler in California obscured and debated, it is heavily tarnished, as well. Not until the 1980s was a plaque ever laid in his memory, and even then the dubious inscription raised more objection than honor:

"John Gilroy arrived at Monterey in 1814 on one of the North-West Co. trading ships, "Isaac Todd," which he deserted. He then fled to the Santa Clara Valley, marrying Maria Clara Ortega, and settling on Rancho San Ysidro. His rightful name was John Cameron, but having run away as a minor, he changed it to avoid being arrested and sent back home.

"The City of Gilroy is named for this Scot who lived in idle contentment, squandered his wealth, and died destitute on July 26, 1869, age 77 years.

"Plaque placed with permission of the Gilroy Family."

"Dedicated June 13, 1981 Mountain Charlie Chapter No. 1850
E Clampus Vitus. Right Wrongs Nobody."

THE STORY BEHIND THE PLAQUE

And that's not all. The article in May 1981 announcing the plan for the installation of the monument in the local paper began: "He was gambler, chaser of women, a tightwad, and nobody like him. So intense was the dislike, that a monument to his memory is about to be erected..."²

Well, maybe right doesn't wrong nobody, but being immortalized as a deserter, runaway minor, idle liar, and destitute squanderer probably isn't the wording most people have in mind for their own epitaph.

Poor John Gilroy. History just doesn't seem to want to give him a break. OK, already, so he (allegedly) got scurvy, punched out an officer, went AWOL, took an alias, married into wealth, gambled it away, caught rheumatism and died destitute. Why can't we let him rest in peace?

Even the controversially worded memorial plaque couldn't get dedicated in peace. Although Gilroy's descendants evidently approved the original wording on the plaque, historians, civic leaders, researchers and authors were outraged at the tone and the inaccuracies of the inscription. A number of changes were requested by then-councilwoman Roberta Hugan (now mayor of Gilroy). As a result, the dedication ceremony was almost called off by the leader of the E Clampus Vitus chapter, Louis Bonesio (himself a legend as the world's longest living heart/liver transplant patient). A hastily-called meeting with city officials finally resolved the disputes. Some of the inaccuracies in the wording were corrected, including the erroneous reference to Gilroy's wife's name as "Isabel."³

But that wasn't the end of it. The concrete foundation laid at Gilroy's Christmas Hill Park by E Clampus Vitus (affectionately known as "The Clampers") wasn't even dry before vandals defaced it. The day after the adobe monument was set to commemorate his life, it was vandalized and covered with graffiti. Ironically, the name Maria, the correct first name of his Spanish heiress wife and a middle portion of his own baptismal name, was one of the names scrawled in the wet concrete. And to top it off, the festivities during which the plaque was dedicated were marred by an drunken brawl that exploded into violence when police tried to close the park.

WHY?

What did the stalwart Scot do to deserve all of this? Surely when he dropped his surname, Cameron, in favor of his mother's maiden name, he had no idea the future Garlic Capital of the World would someday be named after him. He ran hard to escape notoriety and ended up running headlong into it.

Where is the peace and justice for our first Justice of the Peace? What about his good traits? He was a tall, upright man, and an intelligent mathematician who served as alcalde (mayor) of the district prior to his judicial appointment by Commodore Stockton in 1846. He was skilled as a cattle rancher, soap-maker and millwright, and was frequently a generous host to travelers on the road to Monterey. In one sense, he was even a pioneer in the field of bilingual education!

Surely it was his positive traits that led John Gilroy to immortal fame as the town's namesake. Yet his shortcomings have always seemed to make the

headlines, and get be exaggerated due to their novelty. And there is certainly a lack of agreement about the details of his adventure-filled life. Perhaps we can learn more from the discrepancies in the tale of John Gilroy's life than from the substantiated facts. In so doing, we may shed light on the way we recount our own local history, and what is important to us in the process.

YOUNG ADULTHOOD - DISCREPANCIES

For example, what were the true circumstances that led to John Gilroy's settlement in Northern California in the first place?

Some facts seem sure. Born in Inverness-shire in the north of Scotland in 1794, John Cameron was an adventurous teenager, and he shipped out about the time his family moved to England.

Most of the vagueness concerns his maritime record. Even his ship is a mystery. Some sources say it was a trading ship, the Isaac Todd, which most accounts (other than the plaque) say was owned by the Hudson Bay Company. The North-West Co. crops up in other texts. Alley, Bowen & Co. discredits both claims, and says that Gilroy told fellow settler Julius Martin that it was a British warship.⁴

The reasons for his separation from his ship will forever remain in doubt. One story blames it on scurvy, one story says he jumped ship, another that he was banished after striking a midshipman. All of them could have a grain of truth, if the scurvy story was an excuse to avoid reprisal for insubordination.

Perhaps more questions should be raised about why he didn't return to the ship before it sailed. Had he known it was leaving? Had he not fully recovered? Did he hide until it left, escape from sick bay, or search for another way home? The odds of his deliberately intending to settle in the new land seem slim, especially since some reports have him watching the harbor in Monterey for another ship for years afterwards.

Accounts differ on the very existence of John Gilroy's sidekick and fellow escapee from the hospital in Monterey, known as "Deaf Jimmy." Was he, too, AWOL from Her Majesty's warship, the Isaac Todd? Did he, too, have scurvy, and thus seek the beef and vegetables that the mainland had to offer? We know only that he was a travelling companion and confidante. (We don't even know for sure that he was deaf.) One must dig through the archives to piece together that his real name was William Malcolm, and that, after watching Gilroy settle in Pleasant Valley, he migrated north to Sonoma where he died on the rancho of Juan Martin.⁵

MARRIAGE AND ACCULTURATION - DISCREPANCIES

In order to be allowed to remain in Alta California, John Gilroy and all subsequent settlers were forced to become baptized Catholics to swear allegiance to the Spanish crown. So John Gilroy soon became Juan Bautista Maria Gilroy by virtue of his baptism, which, depending on your source, took place at the mission in Carmel, or the mission in San Juan Bautista, or the mission in San Carlos. At any rate, it was at a mission.

There is no question whom he married. He married the San Ysidro land grant. Through his 1821 marriage (definitely at the mission in San Juan Bautista) to Maria Clara de la Asuncion Ortega, daughter of Don Ygnacio Ortega, a "soldado distinguido," he became a wealthy man.

When Don Ygnacio died in 1833, John Gilroy became a naturalized Mexican citizen, and inherited a square league. (This might sound like a sports franchise, but was actually a measurement of land amounting to about 4,460 acres.) Equal portions went to Gilroy's brother-in-law (and card-playing buddy) Quentin Ortega, and to his sister-in-law Ysabel Ortega and her husband Julian Cantua. John and Maria's land covered the rich farmland between Pacheco Pass and Leavesley Roads, lands later owned by such settlers as the Felloms, the Fergusons, the Wentzes, the Holsclaws, and Julius Martin, most recognizable now as hard-to-spell Gilroy street names.

(The group of buildings on the Gilroy land, along the current highway 152 from Ferguson Road to Frazier Lake Road, was then known as the village of San Ysidro. Today that area is sometimes referred to as "Old Gilroy," but is not generally recognized as the birthplace of the current city. E Clampus Vitus considered Old Gilroy, appropriately, as the site for its John Gilroy plaque, but chose instead Christmas Hill Park some three miles away.)

The residence of John Gilroy and Maria Clara no longer stands. But in its day, it was known as a hospitable place for travellers. Like his father-in-law, John Gilroy was a genial host, and learned to mix well with the indigent populations.

Known by all, and respected for his intelligence and his ability to socialize, John Gilroy served as alcalde of the district while it was under

Spanish rule. When the United States began to consider California as a territory, he was a natural for a judicial appointment. This was the high point of his career, and it came in the form of a letter posted at San Juan Bautista, August 28, 1846:

To John Gilroy, esq.
U.S. Justice

"You will receive accompanying this letter, your appointment of Justice of the Peace under the government of the United States -- It is needless to say you will discharge all the duties delegated to you in said commission with fidelity and honour to yourself. Should you need any information in the prosecution of the laws, I would advise your consultation with Justice Walter Colton at Monterey. I am sir, your (obedient servant..Commodore Robert Stockton.)⁶

The low point of his life came not long after. He was criticized through the years for his addiction to the card game known as Monte. He would play anyone and everyone, including his own family, no matter how much he lost. Many acres of his estate were sold to pay off gambling debts.

This, then, was his doom. His applications for the 19th century equivalents of welfare and unemployment were rejected. In fact, on February 10, 1865, about the time of his wife's death, John Gilroy made an application for financial assistance to the Society of California Pioneers, which was refused due to his not being a member of that association.⁷

The message here is clear. Pay your dues, folks.

In his arthritic old age and ill health, only the British Benevolent Society offered assistance. He died of rheumatism in 1869. (Although the plaque has him at "age 77," he couldn't have been more than 75 at death if his birthyear was 1794.) His body was laid in an unmarked grave in the old Catholic cemetery (which, like all monuments to John Gilroy, was also

vandalized). "Strange," said the Gilroy Advocate, "that the owner of a broad acreage who handled thousands of dollars in his time should have died without enough estate to buy a tombstone."

But was he really "destitute"? That was the belief in the 1870s and 1880s. The disgust over John Gilroy's life-style in later life may have led to many erroneous conclusions on the part of his neighbors. The ways of the Scottish sailor were probably as foreign to the other settlers (of East Coast/Puritan stock) as the Spaniards themselves were. His contemporaries described him as "reckless and extravagant," and believed he "wasted his substance in riotous living." But in fact, he actually left land valued at \$10,000, not a small sum in those days, a fact which may not have been fully revealed until this 1894 account:

"C.D. Wright has applied for letters of Public Administration Secord upon the estate of John Gilroy, who died in this county July 26, 1869. The estate consists of about 1,000 acres of land in this county, and the purpose of the proceedings is to quiet title to about eighty acres, which were not administered upon in previous proceedings. The heirs are William (dec. 1870), (O.N.) Jose Neofito (dec. 1877), (Caterina) Catarino, and (M.G.) Miguel (dec. 1873) Gilroy, children of the deceased, the ages and residences of whom are unknown. The 1,000 acres is of the probable value of \$10,000."⁸

DESCENDANTS

If nothing else, John Gilroy succeeded in leaving much progeny to populate the town which bears his mother's name, and the other agricultural valleys of the State. He and Maria Clara had no less than seventeen children (although eight died in infancy, and three others died childless).

In turn, twenty-five grandchildren lived to pass on the rich Scottish/Spanish heritage.

Of the children of John Gilroy, the last to die, Catarino (1832-1911), was the most well known, due to his large family and his renown as a cattle rancher and farmer. Catarino, Sr., however, also seems to have parted company with his own holdings. His obituary states that he "did not own a foot of soil that once belonged to his father or grandparents."⁹

Caterino's son, Caterino, Jr., lived only 30 years, dying only three months after his father. He fared a little bit better in his obituary in the Gilroy Advocate, which said, "He led a quiet, upright life and was popular with associates."¹⁰

Caterino, Jr.'s son Benjamin was born in a house on Chestnut Street in Gilroy in 1906, two-and-a-half months after his father's marriage to Delphine Martini. Ben Gilroy had a dream of regaining the Gilroy property lost to gambling debts a century before. In 1936, the dream came true: he started his dairy ranch on Pacheco Pass with 20 head of cattle. In 1945, he purchased the 53-acre Schrepfer ranch on Pacheco Pass and Ferguson Road, and five years later added the 113-acre Watson Ranch at Bloomfield Avenue and Frazier Lake Road. He was married to Angelina Bettencourt for 56 years before his death in 1985.¹¹

His son, Ben, Jr., took over the property, and today, the fifth and sixth generations continue farming hay on much of the same soil, in the tradition of their enigmatic ancestor. A bright-eyed and energetic great-great-great-granddaughter, Julie Gilroy Spier, became an employee of the City of Gilroy in 1982, serving, perhaps ironically, as senior citizen

activities coordinator. Of her historic maiden name, Spier says, "It was great for starting conversation."

OTHER GILROYS

In his capacity as public information officer for the City of Gilroy, and as a historian for the Gilroy Historical Society, the author has had an opportunity to meet several Gilroys who have come to the Garlic Capital of the World in search of their roots, herbal or otherwise. Each is referred to the Gilroy Museum staff, is given a chart of the Gilroy lineage (see appendix), and is left with a positive feeling about their possible ancestry. Museum Director Mary Prien continues to correspond with Alexander Gilroy of Scotland regarding the genealogy.

Though John Gilroy was undoubtedly of Scottish descent, another stalwart sailor, Matthew Gilroy, vice president of Northgate Exploration, Ltd. of Dublin, Ireland, came in search of his roots in 1984. Matthew's ancestors emigrated from Scotland to Ireland in the 1700s. One of Matthew's American friends describes him as "a true Gilroy: he gambled away land, too. He speculated in mining stock."¹²

Jim Gilroy, mayor of Cottage Grove, Oregon, visited Gilroy in September 1987, looking for his own legacy. Ironically, Jim Gilroy's father, a World War II veteran, had changed the family name from Kilroy. His visit brought new meaning to the meaningless expression, "Kilroy was Here."

Other visiting Gilroys contact or are referred current Gilroy family members in Gilroy, Hollister, or the Central Valley.

MORE RIGHTING OF THE WRONGED

John Gilroy did get a break from the Gilroy Chamber of Commerce's Hall of Fame Committee, which was charged in 1983 with honoring the area's pioneers since the date of the City's incorporation (1870). But since the City began with a board of trustees as early as 1868, the committee bent the rules to move its timespan back two years, making John Gilroy (1794-1869) just barely eligible. He became a charter enrollee and was added to the Hall of Fame plaque at Gilroy's City Hall in 1984.

Though the Gilroy name is slowly being cleared, a couple of other injustices have been glanced over by historians. What about "Deaf Jimmy"? Did anyone ever christen him as the second non-Spanish settler in the area? Or did anyone think about dedicating a plaque to him during the International Year of the Handicapped?

What about John Cameron's Scottish father and his clan? What reparations have been made to the man who was robbed of his rightful legacy as the Scottish patriarch of Cameron, California, home of Cameron Foods, etc.? Perhaps the only concession ever made to the Camerons was made by Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Gilroy, Jr., who in 1963, in the true spirit of "Right Wrongs Nobody," named their first son Robert Cameron Gilroy.

Still, John Gilroy remains one of the most misunderstood and unappreciated of our local ancestors. And despite the work of modern historians, the exaggerations abound, and we find ourselves faced with more and more misinformation and satirical derision as time goes on. Consider

this tasteless piece of work, originally presented in the "Garlic Speech" competition for the Miss Garlic Festival Queen Pageant in 1982:

John Garlic was born John Cabbage in 1794. As a young man, about the time he joined the Royal Navy, he changed his name, since his mother was a Garlic. In 1814, he sailed aboard the good ship La Della Catezzon, bound for the new world. When the ship landed at Monterey, John Garlic went AWOL, jumping ship with his friend Deaf Chili. Together, they walked north along El Camino Real to the Jack-in-the-Box at the corner of First and Monterey. Munching on an order of onion rings, they decided to build a city. They laid out the first street parallel to El Camino Real and called it Gourmet Alley.

John got a job working on a rancho for the wealthy Spanish landowner, Don Parmesano. Soon he fell in love with the don's lovely daughter, Maria Clara de las Onions. In 1821, they were married at the mission at San Juan Linguisa.

As a wedding gift, Don Parmesano gave the happy couple their own farm on Pacheco Pasta Road. Farming was tough but the Garlics clove to it. It wasn't long before they had a lot of their own little sprouts scampi-ing around the farmhouse.

Soon the Garlics became wealthy in their own right, and like good garlics they wanted to spread it around. Unfortunately, Garlic and his wealth were soon parted; he lost his riches playing "California Stud" and drowning his sorrows at the bar at Sandrino's. In his later years, even his characteristic aroma seemed to get worse and worse.

Nevertheless, John Garlic died, the town fathers decided to hold a festival in his honor. It was an immediate success. Each year they had to make the festival bigger and bigger, because so many people came, there wasn't mushroom.¹³

C'mon, folks. Let's give John Gilroy a break.

FOOTNOTES

1. Plaque inscription, E Clampus Vitus.
2. "Group plans monument to unlikely character," Foley, Jack, Gilroy Dispatch, May 8, 1981.
3. "John Gilroy Plaque Being Unveiled at Christmas Hill," Gilroy Dispatch, May 15, 1981.
4. Alley, Bowen & Co., 1881. The History of Santa Clara County, 273-274.
5. Alley, Bowen & Co., 1881. The History of Santa Clara County, 273-274.
6. White, George Willson, Gilroy's First Century of Incorporation, Dispatch Publishing, 1970; transliterated from original handwriting by Chuck Myer.
7. Alley, Bowen & Co., 1881. The History of Santa Clara County, 273-274.
8. Gilroy Advocate, September 15, 1894.
9. "Gilroy's namesake features on new monument," BONANZA Days Supplement, Gilroy Dispatch, May 27, 1981.
10. "San Ysidro settled first," Gilroy Dispatch, Centennial edition, Dec. 21, 1970.
11. "Ben Gilroy (obit.)," San Jose Mercury News, June 16, 1985.
12. "Gilroy meets Gilroy," Nancy McCarthy, Gilroy Dispatch, July 17, 1984.
13. Myer, Chuck, "The Adventures of John Garlic," oral presentation by Lupita Gaeta, Gilroy Garlic Festival Pageant, 1982, and "Backstages," Gilroy Dispatch, 8/3/82, 7/25/85

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- "____," "Gilroy's namesake features on new monument," BONANZA Days Supplement, Gilroy Dispatch, May 27, 1981.
- "____," "John Gilroy Plaque Being Unveiled at Christmas Hill," Gilroy Dispatch, May 15, 1981.
- "____," "San Ysidro settled first," Gilroy Dispatch, Centennial edition, Dec. 21, 1970.
- "____," "Vandals mar Gilroy Plaque Site," Gilroy Dispatch, June 10, 1981.

GILROY FAMILY

Jose Francisco Ortega b. 1734 Calajo Guanajuata, Mexico
 d. 1798 Mission Santa Barbara, Alta California
 m. Maria Antonia Victoria Carrillo b. 1741 Loreto, Baja California
 m. 1759 Loreto, Baja California
 d. 5-7-1803 Santa Barbara
 — 2c. Ygnacio Maria Ortega b. 1764 Loreto, Baja California
 d. 1829 Rancho San Ysidro, Alta California
 m. Maria Gertrudis Arce b.
 m. 1791
 d. 1821 Rancho San Ysidro, Alta California
 — 7c. Maria Clara de la Asuncion Ortega b. 1807 San Juan Bautista
 d. 1865 San Ysidro
 m. John Cameron Gilroy b. 1794 Scotland
 bapt. Juan Bautista Gilroy m. 3-2-1821 San Juan Bautista
 d. 7-26-1869 San Ysidro
 — c. Nicodemus Gilroy b. 8-3-1823 San Ysidro
 d. 11-14-1868 San Ysidro
 m. Maria de la Incarnacion Doke b. 5-24-1825 San Juan Bautista
 m. 1841 San Juan Bautista
 d.
 — c. Joseph Gilroy b.
 d. 12-23-1906 San Francisco
 m. Ramona Silvera b. 1852
 m. 9-29-1868 St. Mary's in Gilroy
 d. 10-15-1906
 — c. Maria Nicolusa Gilroy b. 9-10-1869 Gilroy
 d. 11-10-1951
 m. Fridolf Parsen 3-24-1889 Gilroy
 — c. Maria Parsen b. 5-28-1889 Gilroy
 — c. Joseph Parsen b. 9-2-1891 Gilroy
 — c. Bertha Undine Parsen b. 7-19-1893 Gilroy
 d. 5-22-1894 Gilroy
 — c. Frederick B. Parsen b. 9-10-1896 Gilroy
 d. 11-10-1896 Gilroy
 — c. Emelia Gilroy Iverson
 — c. Chona Incarnacion Gilroy Aceves
 c. William Aceves
 — c. Clotilda Erolinda Gilroy Shortridge
 — c. Nicodemus Gilroy II b. 5-10-1875 Gilroy
 — c. Louisa Gilroy b. 1875 San Ysidro
 d. 12-14-1963 San Jose
 m. Joseph Fagalde 6-29-1895
 — c. Son b. 11-7-1896 Gilroy
 — c. 3 others
 — c. Manuel Gilroy
 — c. Domitilla Gilroy
 m. Joseph Lewis 4-15-1899
 — c. Andrea Gilroy
 — c. Prescendaco Gilroy
 — c. Joseph Gilroy Jr. b. 2-26-1887 Gilroy
 — c. Jacob Gilroy
 — c. Charles Gilroy
 — c. Marie Gilroy
 — c. Manuel Gilroy b. 1853
 d. 3-21-1918 Gilroy
 — c. Isabel Gilroy b. 1855
 d. 5-25-1878 San Ysidro
 m. John Silvera b. 1846
 m. 8-29-1871
 d.
 — c. Juan Bautista Silvera b. 1871 San Felipe
 d. 12-29-1871 San Felipe
 — c. Child b. 1876
 d. 7-29-1878 San Felipe
 — c. Child b.d. 5-25-1878 San Ysidro
 — c. Cipriano Gilroy b. 8-19-1858 San Ysidro
 d. 11-15-1870 San Ysidro
 — c. Miguel Gilroy b. 9-30-1825 San Ysidro
 d. 8-17-1873 Gilroy
 — c. Jose Neofito Gilroy b. 1830 San Ysidro
 d. 8-8-1877 Gilroy
 m. Cecilia Doke b. 1841
 m.
 d.
 — c. Carolina Gilroy d. 5-8-1865 San Ysidro
 — c. Theodoro Gilroy
 — c. John Crisostomo Gilroy b. 2-27-1860 San Ysidro
 — c. Stanislaus Gilroy b. 5-3-1861 San Ysidro
 — c. Rebecca Gilroy b. 3-3-1865 San Ysidro
 d. 6-16-1865 San Ysidro

- c. Helena Paula Gilroy b. 6-22-1866 San Ysidro
d. 8-1-1866 San Ysidro
 - c. Francisco Gilroy b. 10-4-1867 San Ysidro
- c. Peter Gilroy b.
d. 9-21-1865 Gilroy
- m. Gertrude Espinosa b. 1841
 - m.
 - d.
 - c. Maria Vitala Toribia Gilroy b. 4-27-1857
m. Augustin Soto 9-23-1872 Gilroy
 - c. Clara Soto b. 1890 San Ysidro
d. 1-16-1898 San Juan
 - c. Elanova Gilroy b. 8-30-1858 San Ysidro
- c. Maria Gilroy b.
d. 8-14-1867 San Ysidro
- m. Ignacio Castro
 - c. Ignacio Castro b. 7-30-1865 San Ysidro
d. 1-13-1927 San Jose
 - c. Child b.d. 8-14-1867 San Ysidro
- c. Chona Gilroy b.
d. before 1860
- m. Jose Ramos
 - c. Isabel Ramos b. 1855 San Ysidro
 - c. Jose Maria Ramos b. 1857 San Ysidro
- c. Catarino Gilroy b. 11-17-1838 San Ysidro
d. 1-17-1911 Gilroy
- m. Maria Soledad Ortega b. 5-5-1849 San Ysidro
m. 1868
d. 1-21-1930 Old Gilroy
 - c. Juana Lorenza Gilroy b. 9-5-1870 San Ysidro
d. 5-21-1872 San Ysidro
 - c. Eliseo Gilroy b. 3-31-1872 San Ysidro
d. 6-24-1943 San Jose
 - m. Jennie Gonzales b.
m. 4-12-1914
d. 1920
 - c. George Gilroy
 - c. Ramon Eliseo Gilroy b. 9-10-1919 Gilroy
d. 11-14-1919 Gilroy
 - c. Caroline Gilroy Barraza
 - c. Carmen Anastia Gilroy b. 5-2-1874 San Ysidro
 - c. Alfred Louis Gilroy b. 1-8-1876 San Ysidro
d. 3-18-1953 San Jose
 - m. Adele Guadalupe Guinac b. 4-18-1885 King City
m. 8-15-1906 Gilroy div.
d. 8-31-1966 Campbell
 - c. Sarah Gilroy b. 5-18-1907 Gilroy
 - m. John Jensen
 - c. Wilma Jensen Travis
 - c. Juanita Jensen Carter
 - c. Janet Jensen Bononi
 - c. Eva Jensen Kohler
 - c. Inger Jensen
 - c. James Gilroy b. 5-1-1908 Gilroy
 - c. Henry Gilroy b. 7-11-1909 Gilroy
 - m. Margaret O'Donohue 1-5-1933 Gilroy
 - c. William Gilroy b. 10-29-1912 Gilroy
d. 3-20-1969 San Jose

- c. Irene Dorothy Gilroy b. 2-10-1914 Gilroy
d. 2-8-1915 Gilroy
- c. John Anthony Gilroy b. 10-8-1915 Gilroy
d. 8-20-1984 Campbell
- c. Adela Louise Gilroy b. 1-7-1918 Gilroy
- c. Alfred Louis Gilroy b. 1-7-1918 Gilroy
d. 1-21-1919 Gilroy
- c. Mary Ann Gilroy Brockhouse b.
- c. Ricardo Ramon Gilroy b. 11-15-1885 San Ysidro
d. 1-28-1915 Gilroy
- c. Catarino Gilroy Jr. b. 5-18-1880 San Ysidro
d. 4-20-1911 Gilroy
- m. Delpine Martini 7-14-1906 Gilroy
- c. Benjamin Robert Gilroy b. 10-2-1906 Gilroy
d. 6-14-1985 Gilroy
- m. Angelina D. Bettencourt b. 3-18-1913 Gilroy
m. 1-21-1929 Gilroy
d.
- c. Benjamin Gilroy Jr. b. 3-6-1930 Gilroy
d.
- m. Margery Meritt
 - c. Julie Gilroy Spier b. 3-5-1959 Gilroy
 - c. Marla Jean Gilroy Sternjacob b. 1-22-1960 Gilroy
 - c. Robert Cameron Gilroy b. 4-16-1963 Gilroy
 - c. Michael B. Gilroy b. 10-25-1965 Gilroy
- c. Mary Caroline Gilroy b. 12-13-1908 Gilroy
d. 7-28-1909 Gilroy
- c. Peter Gilroy b. 1885 San Ysidro
d. 7-17-1964 Gilroy
- c. Fredrick Gilroy b.
d. 1-28-1915
- c. Marcina Gilroy b. 11-12-1893 Santa Margarita
d. 5-11-1922 Gilroy
- m. Frank Salazar 12-20-1913 Gilroy
 - c. Ernesto Salazar b. 9-26-1914 Gilroy
 - c. Archibald Salazar b.
 - c. Henrietta Salazar b.
- c. Juan Bautista Gilroy Jr. b.
d. 5-29-1867 Gilroy
- c. Guillermo (William) Gilroy b.
d. 2-24-1870 Gilroy
- c. Eight others died in infancy or at birth