

State Historical Society of Iowa
Iowa Freedom Trail Grant Project - Biographical Form

Name of Individual or Family: George Temple Gibbs

African Americans

- Slave
- Freedom Seeker/Runaway Slave
- Free Black
- Contrabands
- Unknown Status
- UGRR Station Master
- UGRR Conductor/Agent
- Associated with John Brown

European Americans

- UGRR Station Master
- UGRR Conductor/Agent
- Abolitionist
- Anti-Abolitionist/Proslavery
- Associated with John Brown
- Antislavery
- Unknown Status

Birth date: 4 Apr 1836

Birth place: Sullivan Twp, Lorain County, Ohio

Death date: 19 Nov 1917

Buried at: Lakeside Cemetery, Canon City, Fremont County, Colorado

Death Place: Canon City, CO

Pictures of Tombstone Source: <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=GI&GSpartial=1&GSbyrel=all&GSst=7&GSctry=4&GSsr=521&GRid=33223726>
&

Marriage to:

1. Rachel Rankin Johnston
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Location:

- Burlington Junction, Nodaway, Missouri

Date:

- 11 Oct 1871

Profession: farmer

Education: common school

Church Membership: Congregational

Public Offices: _____

Local: _____

State: _____

National: _____

Political Party: _____

Military Service: _____

Civic Organizations: _____

Parents:

Father

Elijah Gibbs

Birth date:

20 Aug 1801

Death Date:

26 Nov 1884

Birth place:

Dummerston, Windham, Vermont

Buried at:

Jerauld, Aurora County, South Dakota

Mother

Amanda Clark

Birth date:

18 Jun 1799

Death Date:

Birth place:

Lunenburg, Essex County, Vermont

Buried at:

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15 Dec 1870

College Springs, Page County, Iowa

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Children:	Birth date:	Birth place:
<u>John Gibbs</u>	<u>14 Jul 1872</u>	<u>Iowa City, Wright County, Iowa</u>
<u>Amanda Gibbs</u>	<u>13 Dec 1874</u>	<u>College Springs, Page County, Iowa</u>
<u>Elizabeth Gibbs</u>	<u>12 Feb 1878</u>	<u>College Springs, Page County, Iowa</u>
<u>George Richard Gibbs</u>	<u>27 Nov 1882</u>	<u>Aurora, South Dakota</u>
<u>Edith Gibbs</u>	<u>28 Dec 1883</u>	<u>South Dakota</u>
<u>Nancy Gibbs</u>	<u>15 Nov 1886</u>	<u>Plankinton, South Dakota</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Locations of Individual or Family:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. <u>Sullivan Twp, Lorain County, Ohio</u> | Dates Present:
<u>1836-</u> |
| 2. <u>Lindenwood, Illinois</u> | <u>1851 - 1856</u> |
| 3. <u>College Springs, Page County, Iowa</u> | <u>1856 - 1861</u> |
| 4. <u>4th Iowa Infantry Civil War campaign</u> | <u>Aug. 1861 - Aug. 1865</u> |
| 5. <u>College Springs, Page County, Iowa</u> | <u>1865 - 1878</u> |
| 6. <u>Aurora, Plankinton South Dakota</u> | <u>by 1882</u> |
| 7. <u>Stanley, Costilla, CO 1900, Canon City, Fremont County, Colorado</u> | <u>? - 1917</u> |

References:

Year: 1850; Census Place: Sullivan, Ashland, Ohio; Roll: M432 658; Page: 464A; Image: 171

Year: 1870; Census Place: Amity, Page, Iowa; Roll: M593 414; Page: 393B; Image: 50; Family History Library Film: 545913

Year: 1900; Census Place: Stanley, Costilla, Colorado; Roll: 122; Page: 8B; Enumeration District: 0011; FHL microfilm: 1240120

Year: 1910; Census Place: Canon Ward 4, Fremont, Colorado; Roll: T624 119; Page: 6B; Enumeration District: 0066; FHL microfilm: 1374132

Ancestry.com. Missouri, Marriage Records, 1805-2002 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2007.

Ancestry.com. Web: Colorado, Find A Grave Index, 1855-2012 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012.

Notes for Daniel Clark Gibbs, brother of George T Gibbs, alaricbrub originally shared this: <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/5402894/person/-238232728/mediax/f080af4c-22c2-4c25-8aec-9a189e246dfe?oid=f080af4c-22c2-4c25-8aec-9a189e246dfe&otid=82452127&opid=44463565165&msgparams=83967227504&pg=32782&pgpl=pid>

Lydia Gibbs obituary. Posted on Ancestry Family Tree by Keithanddarla, 31 March, 2012.

Images of Individual or Family

Portraits: _____

Photographs: of wife Rachel Rankin Johnston.

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Associated Properties or Places

Historic Property Name: _____

Address: _____ (If rural, please provide Section, Township and Range)

Is the property or place extant? Yes No

Iowa Site Inventory Number: _____

Archaeological Site Number: _____

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places: Yes No Date Listed: _____

Photographs, Drawings, and Portraits: _____

Notes: _____

Underground Railroad Activities

Participant with Clark Smith, Isaac Felth, Martin Bisbee, and Stover Hilton to escort fifteen slaves from near St. Joseph, Missouri to Page County.

References:

.Smith, Clark T. Boyhood Recollection Connected with The Early History of Amity, Iowa. Knox College Archives, Galesburg, Illinois. pp. 20 A - 20G.

Abolitionist or Antislavery Activities

Participated in raids into Missouri to liberate slaves. Gibbs was part of an abolitionist family., and married Rachel Rankin Johnston whose family was solidly abolitionist.

References:

Smith, Clark T. Boyhood Recollection Connected with The Early History of Amity, Iowa. Knox College Archives, Galesburg, Illinois. pp. 20 A - 20G.

Email from David Westfall, Johnston family historian regarding Rachel Rankin Johnston's family to Carol Bohl 8/7/2015

Letter from Nannie (Nancy Gibbs) to David Westfall August 24, 1969 concerning her great-grandfather George Johnston

Anti-Abolitionist or Proslavery Activities

References:

Notes

George Temple Gibbs was born 4 April 1836 in Sullivan Township, Lorain County, Ohio, which lies on Lake Erie, and includes Oberlin. He was the sixth of nine children born to Elijah Gibbs (1801 - 1884) and Amanda Clark (1799 - 1870.) Elijah and Amanda were both born in Vermont and married there in 1824 before moving west first to New York, and then to Ohio. George grew up in Ohio before moving with the family to Lindenwood, Illinois in 1851. The family then moved in 1856 to Amity, College Springs, Page County, Iowa. The family was an active art of the anti-slavery community. Clark Smith tells of one specific incident in 1859 in

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which George Gibbs took part. In the spring of 1859, a runaway slave appeared in Amity asking for help to return some sixty miles into Missouri to bring out family and friends. Clark Smith, son of Rev. Ammi Smith, and four others including George Gibbs, impulsively agreed to undertake this precarious adventure with a team, wagon and four on horseback. They set out without either food nor water for themselves nor the horses. They arrived at the Missouri farm at night and silently led out 15 enslaved, many of them small children, and put them in the wagon. In addition, "there rode on a milk white steed whose flowing silken mane fell below his knees... a young colored man and his dusky sweetheart." The horse had been shipped from France by way of New Orleans and cost \$1,000. This made the group very conspicuous, but the area was sparsely settled, and they encountered nobody. They also were not expecting so many enslaved, and enacted a plan. "Assisting in the escape of so many slaves was serious enough in itself" so the posse agreed George Gibbs would command the group. "George Gibbs upon whose judgment, courage and ability we could absolutely rely, was chosen as the 'Marshal Foch' of the occasion. Gibbs rode a quarter of a mile ahead of the wagon." The horses and men became jaded without food nor water, and the group realized they could not make Amity before nightfall. Clark Smith decided to take the white horse and ride ahead of the group. "I rode ahead to advise Transportation Manager Felch of my plan." Arriving home, Rev. Smith spread the word to the neighborhood to bring food for the travelers, so when they arrived they were served. The contraband quickly moved on to the next stop. Gibbs enlisted in Company K, 4th Iowa Infantry 31 August, 1861 and served with the unit as a Private until August 1865. The Unit fought at Pea Ridge, and the Vicksburg and Chattanooga campaigns, then the Atlanta and Carolinas campaign. George survived and in later years was a member of the GAR Greenwood Post 10 in Canon City, Colorado.

Returning home, he resumed life as a farmer and married Rachel Rankin Johnston 11 October 1871 in Burlington Junction, Nodaway County, Missouri. The Johnston family were strong abolitionists from Ohio. Rachel's grandfather, George Johnston had left Virginia as he disapproved of slavery, and maintained an underground railway station in Ohion until his death in 1849. George Gibbs and Rachel had six children, the first three born in Iowa: John (1872-1918), Amanda (1874-1959), Elizabeth (1878-1954), and three born in Aurora County, South Dakota: George Richard (1882-1918), Edith (1883-1885) and Nancy (1886-1970). Elijah and Rachel moved on to Colorado, first by 1900 to Stanley, Costillo, Colorado, and by 1910 to Canon City, Fremont County. Rachel died 12 July, 1909, and George 19 November, 1917 and both are buried in Canon City.

References:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/4th_Iowa_Volunteer_Infantry

<http://armysw.com/fourthia/fourthia.htm>

<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/13860981/person/20386021177/media/1?pgnum=1&pg=0&pgpl=pgNum>
Smith, Clark T. Boyhood Recollection Connected with The Early History of Amity, Iowa. Knox College Archives, Galesburg, Illinois. pp. 20 A - 20G.

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Letter from Nannie (Nancy Gibbs) to David Westfall August 24, 1969 concerning her great-grandfather George Johnston Year: 1850; Census Place: Sullivan, Ashland, Ohio; Roll: M432 658; Page: 464A; Image: 171 Year: 1870; Census Place: Amity, Page, Iowa; Roll: M593 414; Page: 393B; Image: 50; Family History Library Film: 545913

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Lydia Gibbs obituary. Posted on Ancestry Family Tree by Keithanddarla, 31 March, 2012.

Connections

Isaac Felth, Clark Smith,

References:

Smith, Clark T. Boyhood Recollection Connected with The Early History of Amity, Iowa. Knox College Archives, Galesburg, Illinois. pp. 20 A - 20G.

Association with John Brown

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References:

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Researchers

Information in File Compiled By:

Name(s)	Date:
<u>Carol Bohl</u>	<u>8/7/2015</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

Updates

Information:

Name(s)	Date:
_____	_____

Information:

Name(s)	Date:
_____	_____

Information:

Name(s)	Date:
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Name(s)

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Date:
