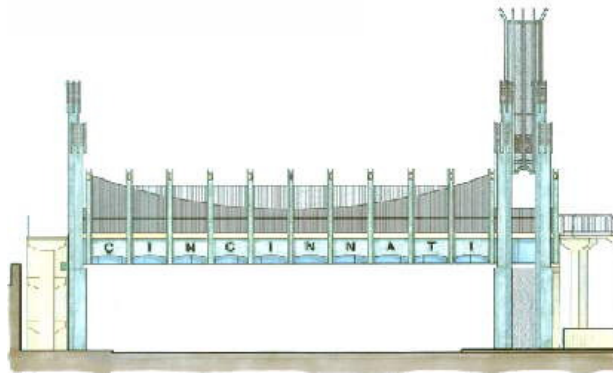


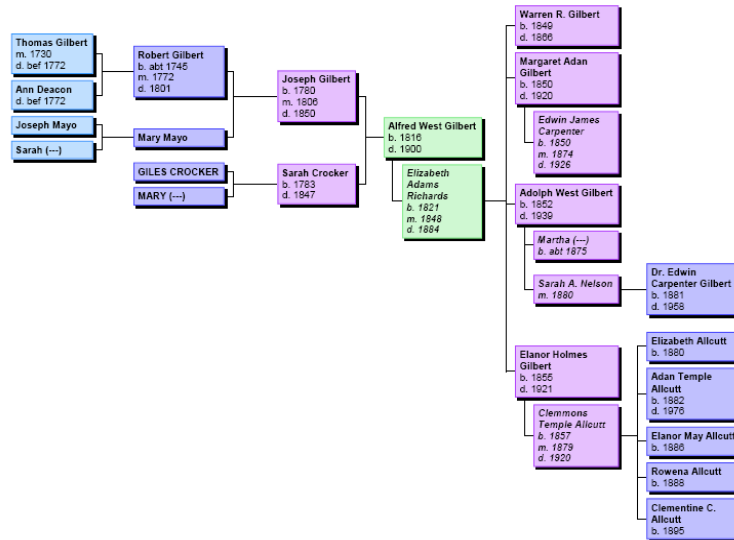
## Alfred West Gilbert



The city of Cincinnati Transportation and Engineering Department, along with the state of Ohio, has planned the Gilbert Avenue Gateway Program as part of the Cincinnati Gateway Program. Gilbert Avenue is named for Alfred West Gilbert, a Fairfield Township resident from the 1870s-1900. His home was previously built by his father-in-law Giles Richards in 1832. This presentation tells a historical and genealogical story of A. W. Gilbert. My name is Mark Gilbert and Alfred was my great, great grandfather's uncle.

# Alfred West Gilbert

Ancestors & Descendants of Alfred West Gilbert



Genealogy is my part time hobby. I have been doing genealogy on a part time basis for a little over ten years. This chart shows six generations of Gilbert descendants in an hour glass format with Alfred West Gilbert in the center. I have found all my Fairfield, Butler County, Ohio families have a rich American, Cincinnati and Butler County, Ohio heritage.

## Alfred West Gilbert

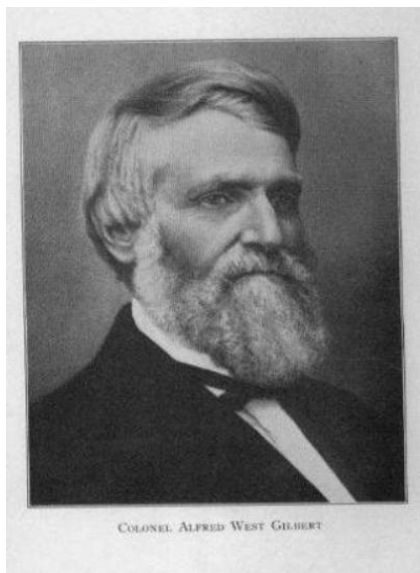


Photo from Colonel A. W. Gilbert, Citizen-Soldier Of Cincinnati, Edited by William E. and Ophia D. Smith, Cincinnati And Philosophical Society of Ohio, 1934, Cover Page Photo.

He began his first term as Cincinnati city surveyor in 1849, was appointed City Engineer within a year and served in this position until 1855. After an interim of four years he returned to the post but at the outbreak of the Civil War he resigned to become a founder of the 39th Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in 1861. He was so severely wounded in the Battle of Corinth in 1862 that he was retired with the rank of Colonel. In 1863 he became city engineer for the third time and served until 1867. Colonel Gilbert resigned his last official position July 1, 1873, and retired to his farm near Venice, Ohio, in Fairfield Township, where he died October 24, 1900.

## Alfred West Gilbert Fairfield Township Home Elland

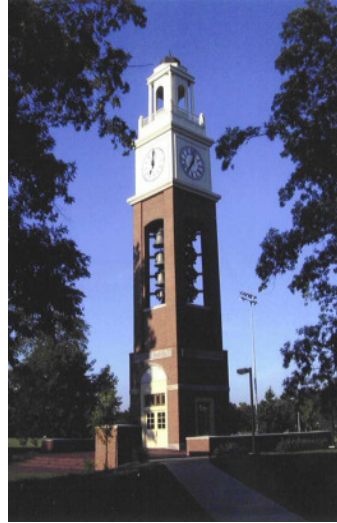


The picture on the left is from Todd Sutton of Lawrence, Kansas, a living descendant of Alfred West Gilbert. It is dated about 1893.

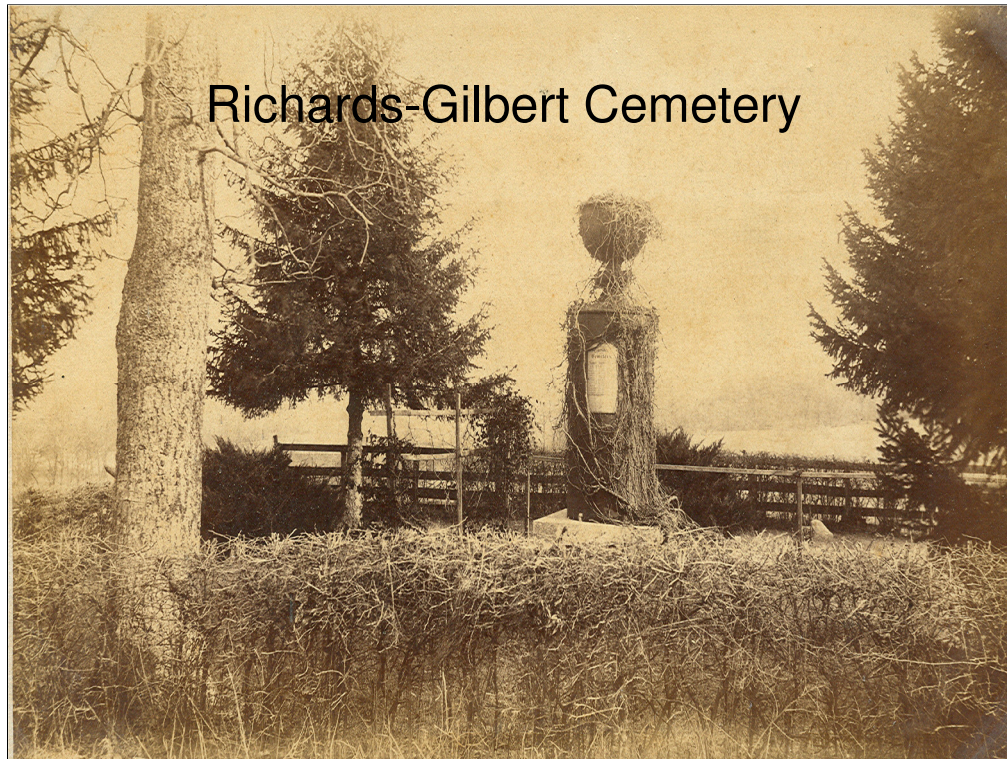
Photo on the right from Cincinnati Enquirer, 08/25/1935, page 6. This photo was also in the Colerain Pageant, Vol 29, No.2, April 1993.

English families had a tradition of giving a name to their homestead. Elland was the name of this homestead. Elland is located on East River Road in Fairfield Township on the border with Hamilton County. Giles Richards, Alfred's father-in-law had the house built in Butler County in 1832, moving his family from their Old Colerain residence. Alfred West Gilbert and Elizabeth Richards inherited/purchased the house in the 1870s. In a later slide will be a picture of the house from 1994. The house still exists today as a personal residence.

## Alfred West Gilbert



The Richards-Gilbert manuscripts are at Miami University, Oxford, Butler County, Ohio (right picture). Alfred was in charge of the initial construction of Cincinnati's Findlay Market in 1852.



Richards-Gilbert Cemetery overlooks the Great Miami River. This picture I acquired from Tod Sutton, a descendant in Lawrence, Kansas. This picture was taken about 1893. Jenn Gilbert Van Brunt of North Carolina has been a member of the Coleraine Township Historical Society for 22 years. She is Alfred's great, great granddaughter (Alfred West, Adolph and Edwin). The monument consists of two parts. Beneath the flower urn is a roller from the construction of the Cincinnati-Oxford-Brookville Turnpike. Some confusion and controversy over this cemetery occurred when historian Hazel Stroup of Butler County labeled this cemetery the Venice cemetery when she documented Butler County cemeteries. It is not the Venice cemetery, but the Richards-Gilbert family cemetery.



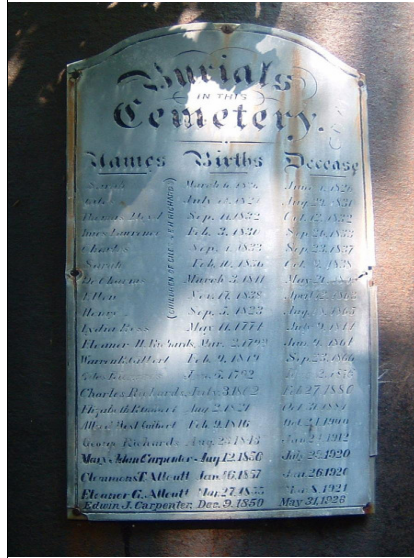
## Alfred West Gilbert 1994 Bicentennial pictures



Colerain Township Revisited, Ruth J. Wells, 1442 Cedar Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio, February, 1994, p13.

1994 was the bicentennial year for Colerain Township within Hamilton County, Ohio. These pictures are assumed to be taken in that year or the year before. Both the house and the cemetery exist today.

## Alfred West Gilbert



This Richards-Gilbert cemetery is in Fairfield township, Butler County, Ohio on East River Road near the border with Hamilton County, Ohio. The white sign can be seen from River Road. These pictures were taken by my daughter on a field trip with me during the Summer of 2005. We had made a previous trip to the cemetery in 1999, before everyday digital cameras were available. My pictures of this cemetery are on the Butler County, Ohio Genweb Internet Site. The cemetery was within the Elland homestead.



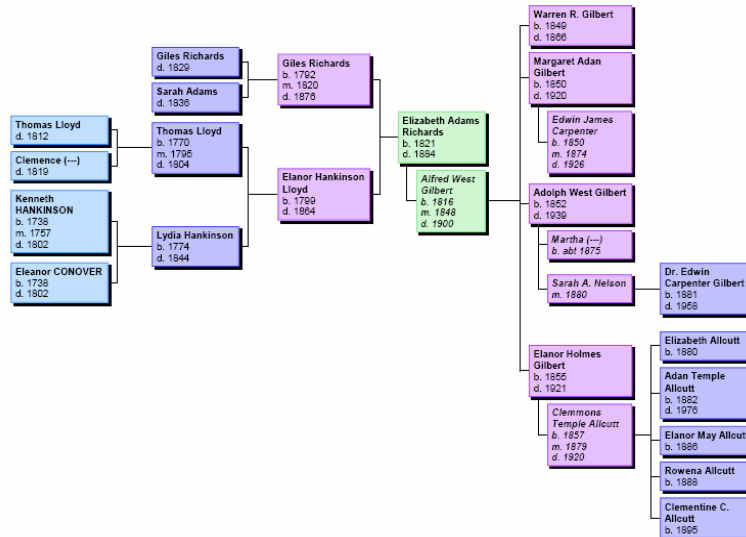
## Alfred West Gilbert



Alfred West Gilbert's ancestors came to America from England. They were Quakers and first settled in Philadelphia. This display is of a Quaker Friends Meeting House near Gracechurch Street in London, England. I have the actual marriage document from 1772 of Robert Gilbert that took place in this friends meeting house. The marriage document is two hundred thirty five years old and handed down eight generations. There is a blue stamp pressed on the document. [King's stamp from King George's Stamp Act was on the marriage document - we Americans fought a war over this stamp].

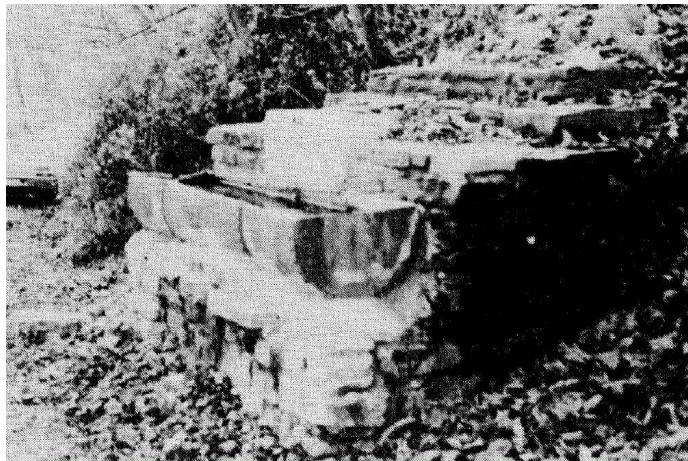
# Elizabeth (Richards) Gilbert

Ancestors & Descendants of Elizabeth Adams Richards



I am also just as diligent tracing maternal families back through history and that includes Alfred's wife – Elizabeth Richards. The Richards were from Boston, Massachusetts. Elizabeth's father, Giles, was a primary builder of Old Colerain located on the Miami River. Giles Richards is documented in the 1994 bicentennial publication of Colerain Township and also listed in the Colerain Township cemetery book.

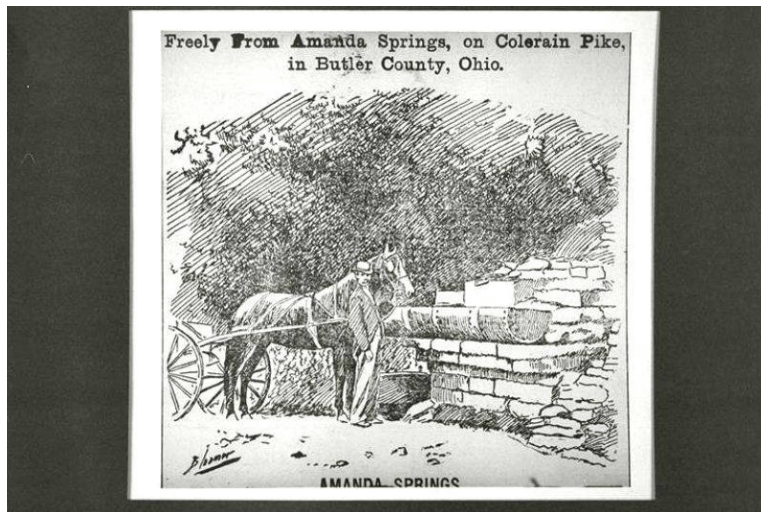
Alfred West Gilbert  
Giles Richards



The picture above is the natural spring donated by Giles Richards to the Old Colerain community. The trough is half a roller from the Cincinnati-Oxford-Brookville turnpike.

Colerain Township Revisited, Ruth J. Wells, 1442 Cedar Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio, February, 1994, p78. Old Colerain Water Trough Picture dated 1950.

## Alfred West Gilbert Giles Richards



Stranger and traveler drink freely and bestow a kindly thought on him who bade this fountain yet hath no other claim than as the minister blessing. In God's name, drink and in peace go. Amanda Springs is not in Butler County. It is south of the county line in Colerain Township in Hamilton County, between Ross (or Venice) and Dunlap. In 1868 N. G. French, Amand B. French and Giles Richards donated it as a public watering place along the Colerain Pike, one and a half miles south of Ross. The hillside spring-fed stone watering trough was a familiar site for travelers until U. S. 27 was rerouted over newly-built roadway in 1970.

The Trough - Another Horse Drawn Roller Used on the Cincinnati-Oxford-Brookville Turnpike Postcard dated 1900. It is not in Butler County, but is south of Old Colerain. Postcard property of the Lane Library in Butler County, Ohio.

## Gilbert Family - Places in History

Neighbors of Bing Crosby	Rancho Santa Fe, California	1930
Chapman Valve Company	Orchard Park, Massachusetts	1910
Gilbert Avenue	Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio	1900
Gilbert Ridge Road	Alexandria, Kentucky	1865
Findlay Market	Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio	1852
Richards-Gilbert Cemetery	Fairfield Twp, Butler County, Ohio	1840
Gilbert Cemetery	Reading, Hamilton County, Ohio	1838
	Covington, Kenton County, Kentucky	1828
Robert Owen/William McClure	New Harmony, Posey County, Indiana	1825
	Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania	1800
	Reading, Berkshire, England	1780
	London, England	1772
	Hanbury, Staffordshire, England	1760

Robert and Mary (Mayo) Gilbert came to America in 1799 with three boys all grouped around 20 years of age. They were not alone in the New World though. Robert had one or two sisters already living in Philadelphia. As well, Robert and Mary also had a daughter already living in Philadelphia.

Their son, Joseph Gilbert, married in 1806 in the Philadelphia Arch Street Society of Friends house. Joseph's family left Philadelphia in 1825, settled in Cincinnati for a brief period, but then lived in the utopian community of New Harmony, Indiana. Here, Joseph's eldest daughter was married. After the failure of this community, Joseph moved his family to Cincinnati, eventually settling in Covington, Kentucky by the 1830 census.

Joseph moved his family again by 1838 to Reading, Hamilton County, Ohio. Here is documented the Gilbert Cemetery by the Reading and Hamilton County Historical Society chapters.

The Richards-Gilbert cemetery is the resting place of Alfred West Gilbert. Gilbert Avenue in Cincinnati, Ohio is named after him. Alfred also oversaw the construction of Cincinnati's Findlay Market as Cincinnati City Engineer. You will find his name in the historical section of the Findlay Market web site.

Alfred's son lived in Massachusetts and retired in California. Both Alfred's son and grandson were Presidents of the Chapman Valve Company. Both of these men are also buried in the Richards-Gilbert cemetery. Alfred's son was cremated in 1939 and his remains were scattered at the Elland cemetery..



## Gilbert Family Civil War

Colonel Alfred West Gilbert

- **39th OVI**

Captain Henry Richards

- Company F 93<sup>rd</sup> Ohio Infantry
- Uncle of Alfred West Gilbert

Corporal George Richards

- 138<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry
- Uncle of Alfred West Gilbert



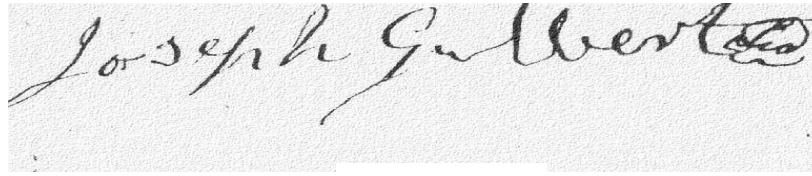
Alfred's immediate relatives in the Civil War. All three buried at the Richards-Gilbert cemetery.

## Gilbert Family Occupations

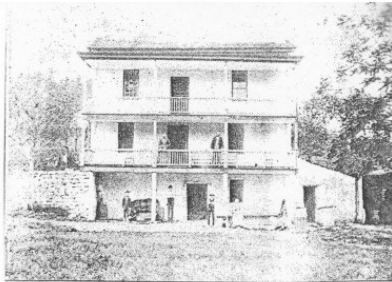
Edwin Carpenter Gilbert	President, Chapman Valve Company	1935
Adolph Gilbert	President, Chapman Valve Company	1910
Joseph Gilbert	Hamilton County Engineer	1861
Alfred West Gilbert	3 time Cincinnati City Engineer	1849
Giles Richards	Founder, Old Colerain	1830
Joseph Gilbert	Umbrella Manufactory, Philadelphia, PA; Tenant Farmer, Covington, KY	1820
Robert Gilbert	Cheesemonger, London, England	1772
Joseph Mayo	Shoemaker, Bristol England	1765

I enjoy this table. My ancestors cover the occupational spectrum – from Cheesemonger to City Engineer to company president.

## Alfred West Gilbert's Father



HISTORIC  
NEW HARMONY  
SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 364  
NEW HARMONY, IN 47631



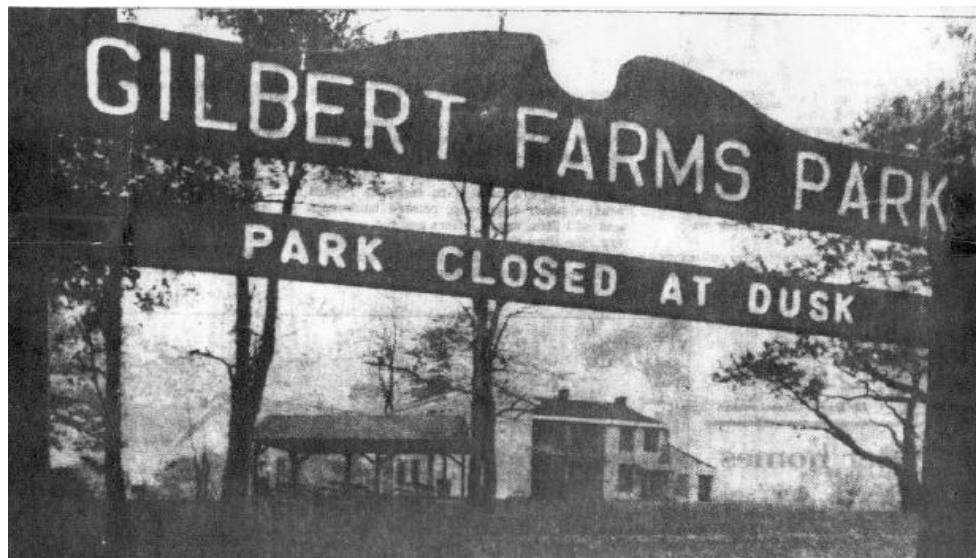
OLD FUHRMAN HOMESTEAD ON HUNT RD.  
ORIGINALLY BUILT BY JOSEPH GILBERT



OLD GILBERT BURIAL PLOT BEING INSPECTED  
BY MAYOR GERTZ

Alfred West's father, Joseph Gilbert, moved to Cincinnati, Ohio by 1830. The signature above I snagged from his Will. This was written in 1850. Notice the pride of being in Ohio in 1850. The 1951 Reading, Hamilton County, Ohio Centennial booklet in the Archives and Rare books department at the Hamilton County Library documents the Gilbert cemetery (picture lower right) and Joseph's house (picture lower left). Both do not exist today. Gilbert Family Cemetery was obliterated when the farm became the `Maplewoods Subdivision` of homes. This is also the family that experienced New Harmony, Indiana. Joseph's homestead was named Westland in the old English tradition.

## Alfred West Gilbert Nephew's Son – J.T.



Gilbert Farms is a city park within the city of Fairfield, Butler County, Ohio. The 175+ year old structure was the home of Alfred's nephew's son, J.T. Gilbert, for sixty years. This picture appeared in the Sunday, November 11, 1984 Home section of the Dayton Daily News.

## Alfred West Gilbert's Brother - Joseph



Alfred West Gilbert's brother Joseph was [Hamilton County](#) Surveyor from 1861-1869. His family later removed to Minneapolis, MN, gleaned from business papers from the Richards-Gilbert manuscripts at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio and verified by 1900 Census records and death records from Hennepin County. Joseph resided at Westland (Reading) and later Symmes Township [1880 Census, 1869 Hamilton County Atlas]. Joseph's son Alfred moved from Minneapolis to Seattle, Washington per Alfred's descendents.

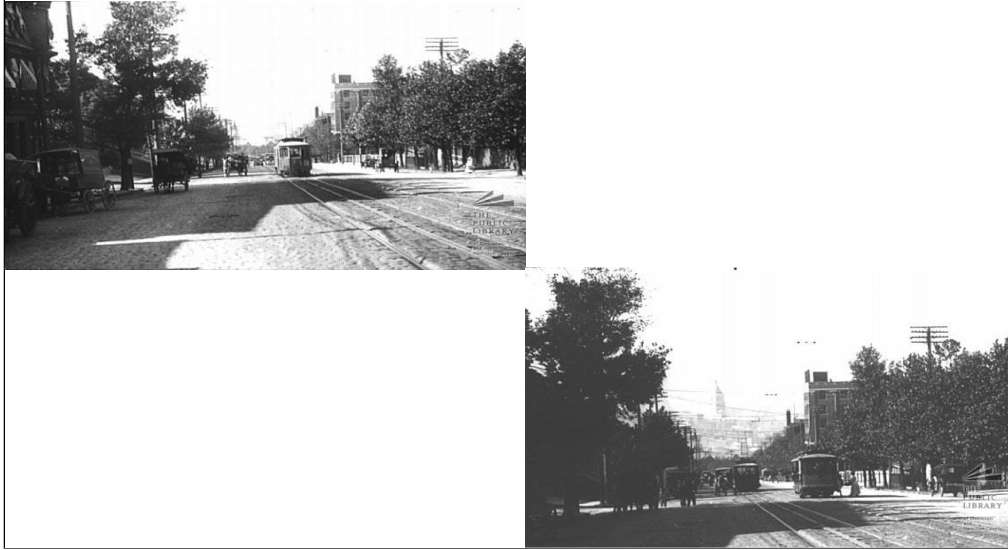


## Alfred West Gilbert's Son – Adolph West



Adolph was the president of the Chapman Valve Company in Orchard Park, Massachusetts. He retired in Rancho Santa Fe, California. In his early years he married Sarah Nelson while a resident of Bennington, Kansas. He and Sarah's father founded the Bennington State Bank which is represented by the wheat field.

## Alfred West Gilbert Gilbert Avenue



Reference: Cincinnati Enquirer, 01/07/1951, Section 3, Page 8, `Avenue Distinct - Gilbert Built To take Traffic To Peebles Corner`, By Harry Pence, The Enquirer Librarian. To Gilbert Avenue between Eighth Street and Peebles Corner, belongs the distinction of being the only arterial highway from downtown to the hilltops that was projected, surveyed and built for the purpose. The others are old trails and pikes paved and improved. Gilbert Avenue takes its name from its projector, Col. Alfred West Gilbert, who was city engineer and engineer in charge of sewer construction near the middle of the 19th century. Next to the street that bears his name Colonel Gilbert's most valuable service to the city was the construction of the Eggleston Avenue sewer which carried the runoff of the Miami and Erie Canal from Court Street to the Ohio River. The canal itself formerly flowed along what is now Eggleston Avenue to the river which accounts for the unusual width of that thoroughfare. Pictures are property of the Cincinnati and Hamilton County library.