

Somewhere near Winchester, Virginia about 1786, Gilly was captured by the Indians when he was about six years old and taken to the Ohio territory. It is presumed that the capture followed the massacre of his family of white settlers. It is a well known fact that white young males were taken by the Indians and raised as their own. Some of these children remained and took up the ways of Indians, but not Gilly.

While in captivity Gilly matured and was trained as a hunter. He became an excellent marksman as an adolescent. Part of his responsibilities in the Indian community was to furnish game. At first he went along with the Indians and helped them secure game. Later, after the Indians began to trust him to hunt alone, Gilly only used part of the powder and part of the lead given to him to kill his game. The remainder he hid carefully for the time he would escape and return to his people. When he accumulated enough shot and powder to sustain him for the return trip, Gilly seized the opportunity and left his captors. Gilly was approximately 15 or 16, around 1795 or 1796 at the time of his escape.

Instead of going southwest towards Virginia, Gilly went North and East away from the area where he was captured. He felt that the Indians would trail him to the Winchester, Virginia area. He arrived in the Ebensburg area near New Castle, Pennsylvania. Originally, this was part of Beaver County, it later became Lawrence County, Pennsylvania.

During Gilly's lifetime, he avoided Winchester, Virginia area. Gilly married twice and had sixteen children. He served in the 35th Pennsylvania Regiment, Christy Raiders, during the war of 1812 and fought at the Battle of Lake Erie. Gilly continued his existence as a hunter rather than become a farmer. Even as an old man crippled with arthritis, Gilly would take to the woods to hunt. He would lay on his back and shoot the squirrels out of the trees.

When he was about 100 years old Gilly walked from Raymilton, Venango County to Erie, Pennsylvania for the reunion of Perry's Victory on Lake Erie about 70 miles. Wherever Gilly went his ever present jug of whiskey went along. Twice a morning and evening, he would take two tablespoons of whiskey flavored with "tansy" a peppermint flavoring.

As an old man, Gilly lived with his younger son Andrew Jackson McMullen in the Sandy Lake area, Pennsylvania.

His parents were ; Galbreath McMullen born feb. 1750 and Margaret Lukens.

Gilly's first wife was Rebecca Angell married 1809 their children were, John A, Margaret, Ellen, Elizabeth, Sarah, Hannah, Galbreath, baby, and James McMullen born apr 1817.

Gilly's second wife was Mary Park born feb 1804 married 1824, their children, Samuel, Archie, Joseph, William, and Andrew Jackson born 29 aug 1832 in Edenburg, Pennsylvania.