



John Lillie Gillies was born in 1832 in Rothesay, Scotland to John Gillies and Isabella Lillie, one of their nine children. In his teens, after working in a bank and his father's

law office, John Lillie ran away to Australia. In 1852 the remaining family emigrated to Otago on the *Slains Castle*.

John Lillie worked as a stevedore, miner and station hand, before joining the *Geelong Advertiser*. With his wife, he then joined the rest of the family in Otago in 1855, and soon took over the management of their Tokomairiro Property.

J.L. Gillies won many medals at agricultural shows, was an elder of the Tokomairiro Church, encouraged Gabriel Read in his search for gold, chaired a committee to resolve disputes between miners, helped set up a church at Tuapeka and also edited the *Bruce Herald* for some years.

In 1861 he joined his elder brother on the Provincial Council, serving as provincial treasurer. He was re-elected to the Council several times and also the General Assembly 1873-75.

Having helped push through the Otago Harbour Board Empowering Bill, he became the first secretary of the Otago Harbour Board, which he remained until his death on 27 September 1897.

He is buried in Dunedin's Northern Cemetery.