

ELSIE'S ARSENAL: GILBERT WAS A DRUNK

Little did my British grandmother know that marrying Gilbert would have its challenges. It started out rosy in their rented Akron, Ohio home (framed image below – half blurred to represent his drunken vision) but she soon realized he was an angry drunk. It fell on her to protect their three children. This she did with the most mundane household objects like her screwdriver showcased in the small frame below. Eldest daughter Joan helped with the defense. It was she who threw scissors at Gilbert's ankle and watched in horror as his sock turned crimson.

The five porcelain objects with glaze are hand built except for the rolling pin handles, which were pulled from a rum bottle cast. While tools kept them safe to a certain extent, it wasn't long before Elsie divorced Gilbert, found full-time employment and raised the kids on her own. Not an easy feat in the early 1900's.