

Individual Narrative of William⁶ Gorsline [75] Son of Samuel Gorsline and Martha⁵ Leverich [23]

William Gorsline was born circa 1755 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York, probably the third child of Samuel Gorsline and Martha Leverich, who were married at Newtown 3 March 1750. In his will dated 25 May 1782, Samuel Gorsline of Dutchess Co, New York names his children Samuel, Martha, William, Elizabeth, Sarah, Ruth, James, Richard, and Jose. The context of the will suggests that the children were listed in birth date order. The 1755 birth date for William Gorsline is a calculated date accordingly.^{1,2}

During the Revolutionary War, the following individuals are listed as serving on the American side in the Second Regiment Dutchess Co, New York Militia: Samuel Gorsline, William Gorsline, Samuel Gosling, and William Gosling. It has not been possible to determine if there were two Samuels and Williams, or one each. There were multiple Samuel and William Gorslines living in the area at the time. It is probable, although not proven, that at least one of these individuals was Samuel Gorsline, husband of Martha Leverich, as well as William Gorsline, the son of Samuel and Martha.³

William Gorsline married Elizabeth (unidentified) circa 1776, probably in Dutchess Co, New York. The marriage date is an estimate based upon the birth date of their first child c 1777. Elizabeth's given name is based upon being named in the 1845 will of her son Joseph Gorsline. Elizabeth's maiden name has not been determined.^{4,5}

On 21 March 1785, William Gorsline advertised in the *New-York Packet*: "To be Sold at Public Vendue on Tuesday the 12th day of April next, or at private sale, any time before, the valuable FARM in Fish-Kill Town, about five miles from the Landing, late the property of Samuel Gorsline, deceased, containing about two hundred and eight acres of good land, and fifty five acres of which is excellent meadow land, sixty five acres of good woodland, the rest is very good plough land."⁶

William Gorsline of Dutchess Co, New York, or perhaps by 1790, Rensselaerwyck then part of Albany Co, New York, is not found in the 1790 U.S. Census.⁷

William Gorsline leased a farm in Rensselaerwyck, 131 acres, 29 December 1791. On 3 March 1793, he leased a farm in East Manor 10 acres, with addition of 35 acres. On 5 October 1803, William Gorsline leased a farm of 10 acres in Greenbush. Each of these locations were in Rensselaer County, NY which was created 7 February 1791 from Albany County, NY.⁸

Direct evidence is lacking that William Gorsline of Rensselaer Co, New York was the same person as William Gorsline, son of Samuel Gorsline and Martha Leverich of Dutchess Co, New York. Circumstantial evidence however supports this conclusion. In his will written in 1782 in Dutchess Co, Samuel Gorsline names as executors not only his sons Samuel, William, and Richard, but also his son-in-law George Adriance. In the 1800 U.S. Census of the Town of Greenbush in Rensselaer Co, William Gorsline, George Adriance, and Samuel Gorsline are all found living near each other.^{9,10}

William Gorsline was appointed a justice of the peace in Rensselaer Co, New York in the years 1792, 1802, and 1805. William appears on the County Civil List for Greenbush 7 April 1808, and for Sand Lake 2 April 1813. He was appointed an Inspector of Schools 19 June 1812.¹¹

William Gorsline witnessed the will of William Martin, yeoman of Greenbush, on 12 December 1792.¹²

William Gorsline was named an executor of the will of Henry Decker of Schodack, dated 21 August 1799, proved 31 August 1801.¹³

In 1799, the State of New York enacted legislation providing for the collection of taxes on real estate and personal property. William Goslin/Gorsling/Gorsline/Goosline appears on the tax list for the Town of Greenbush, Rensselaer Co, New York for the years 1799 to 1803. During this period of time, the assessed value of his real estate averaged \$2,000, and the assessed value of his personal estate averaged \$175. William's brother Samuel Gorsline appears on the tax lists in Rensselaer Co in 1800 Town of Greenbush, 1801-1803 Town of Schodack. William's brother-in-law George Adriance

appears in the tax lists in 1800-1803 in the Town of Greenbush. William's uncle, William Gorsline, appears on the tax lists for the same period of time in the neighboring Town of Half Moon in Saratoga County, New York.¹⁴

William Gorsline is recorded as a head of household in the 1800 U.S. Census of the Town of Greenbush in Rensselaer Co, New York. The census tallies include three males under the age of 25 (sons William, Richard, Joseph), 1 male over the age of 45 (William Sr.), 3 females under the age of 15 (daughters Elizabeth and Sally), 1 female age 26 to 44 (wife Elizabeth). Recorded nearby in the census is Henry Dunsback (future son-in-law), George Adriance (brother-in-law), and Samuel Gorsline (brother).¹⁵

William Gorsline was named an executor of the will of John Carmichael of Greenbush, dated 17 November 1806, proved 9 December 1808.¹⁶

William Gorsline is recorded as a head of household in the 1810 U.S. Census of Greenbush, Rensselaer Co, New York. The total household size is large at 16. There are 6 males under the age of 25 (probably includes sons Joseph, Richard, William). There are 7 females under the age of 25 (probably includes daughters Sally and Elizabeth). There is 1 male over the age of 45 (William Sr) and 1 female over the age of 45 (wife Elizabeth). There is also 1 male age 26-44 (possibly son John or son Samuel). If John or Samuel were living in the household, then the household may have included a wife and children.¹⁷

On 30 January 1812 W. Gorsline witnessed the will of Philip Feller of Greenbush.¹⁸

On 14 March 1815, W. Gorsline witnessed the will of John Strope of Sandlake.¹⁹

On 2 October 1815 W. Gorsline witnessed the will of John Lewis of Schodack.²⁰

No further record of William Gorsline is found. Therefore it is likely that he died after 1815 at Rensselaer Co, New York. No specific record of his death or burial has been located.²¹

Joseph "Goslin", mason of Greenbush, Rensselaer Co, New York made a will dated 17 January 1845. Joseph died 21 January 1845, and the will was proved on 28 April 1845. The will names his wife Mary, but no children. Also named is his mother Elizabeth and sister Sarah (Sally) LaDue of Brutus, Cayuga Co, New York. Other siblings named were: John Gorsline, living somewhere in Ohio; Samuel Gorsline, living somewhere in Canada; Richard Gorsline of Rochester, Monroe Co, New York; William Gorsline of Buffalo, Erie Co, New York; and Elizabeth Dunsbach of Dunsbach Ferry on the Mohawk River, Schenectady Co, New York.^{22,23}

No direct evidence has been found identifying the parents of Joseph Gorsline. Circumstantial evidence, primarily the shared location in Rensselaer Co, New York, suggests that Joseph was the son of William and Elizabeth Gorsline. The 1800 and 1810 U.S. Census tallies for William Gorsline support this theory, or at least do not rule it out. In both of these censuses, a Henry Dunsbach is listed adjacent to William Gorsline. Elizabeth Gorsline, a sister of Joseph Gorsline, married a Henry Dunsbach. Joseph's birth date c 1782 is in an appropriate range for a son of William Gorsline. Joseph has a brother named William. Joseph's other brothers, i.e. John, Samuel, and Richard, all carry given names that are common in the branch of the family headed by Joseph's probable grandparents, Samuel Gorsline and Martha Leverich.^{24,25,26,27,28}

John Beedle (Beadle, Bedle, Bedell) of Sandlake, Rensselaer Co, New York made a will dated 7 June 1817, which was proved 1 April 1820. The will names a granddaughter Mary Gorsline, as well as an Elizabeth Gorsline, no relationship specified. Also named in the will are sons Abraham and George, daughters Elizabeth Tidd and Aaltje Swarhout; daughter-in-law Sary Beedle, wife of John Beedle; grandson John LaDue; granddaughter Aliche Shants and her children Caty and Jeremiah; granddaughter Mary (or Sary) Rogers. Elizabeth Gorsline is probably the then widow of William Gorsline, and the mother of Joseph Gorsline. Mary Gorsline may have been the wife of Joseph Gorsline. Some researchers however associate Mary Gorsline as the wife of John Gorsline of Ohio, a brother of Joseph.^{29,30}

An Elizabeth Gorsline is found as a head of household in the 1820 U.S. Census of Johnstown, Montgomery Co, New York. The census tallies include one free white female over the age of 45, with the four remaining family members all under the age of 25. This might be Elizabeth Gorsline, widow of William Gorsline of Rensselaer County, New York.³¹

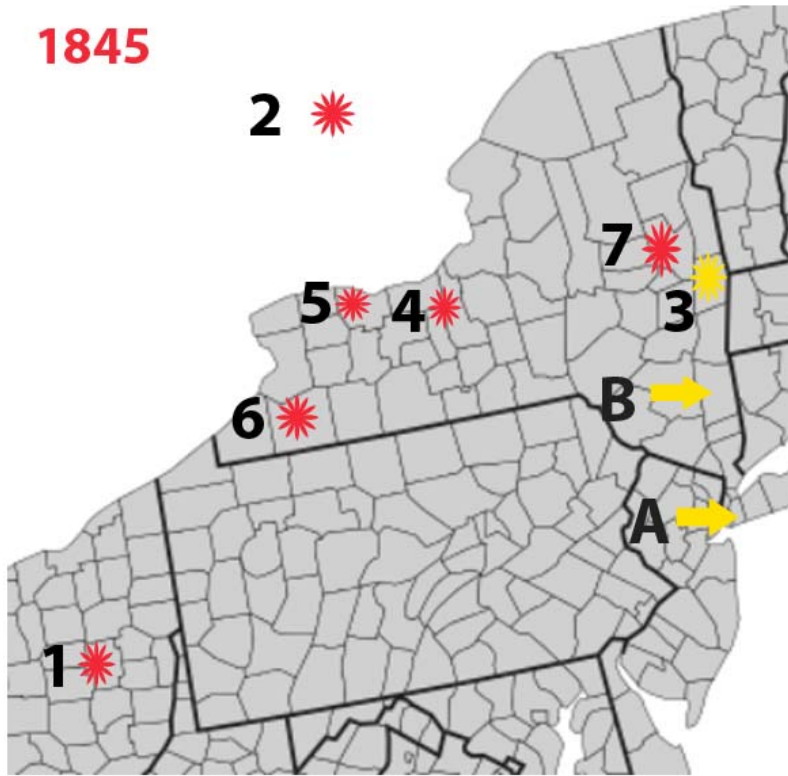
Elizabeth Gorsline, age 96 (hence born c 1754, in New York State) is recorded in the 1850 U.S. Census of the Town of Cato, Cayuga County, New York. Also included in the household is Elizabeth's daughter Sally Ladue, age 62. The head of household is Elizabeth's grandson Richard Ladue. The 1830 Census of Cato includes Sarah Ladue as head of a household that has a free white female age 50 to 59, possibly Elizabeth. The 1840 Census of Cato includes Abram Ladue as head of a household that has a free white female age 80 to 89, also possibly Elizabeth.^{32,33,34}

Elizabeth Gorsline does not appear in the 1855 New York State Census of Cato, Cayuga Co, New York with her daughter Sally, nor the 1860 U.S. Census of Cato. Therefore, it is likely that Elizabeth Gorsline, widow of William, died at Cato between 1850 and 1855. However, neither a specific date of death nor a place of burial has been found for Elizabeth.³⁵

Based upon the 1845 will of Joseph Gorsline of Rensselaer Co, New York, William and Elizabeth Gorsline had seven children.³⁶

- i. John Gorsline was born c 1777, probably at Dutchess Co, New York. The name of his wife, if he was married, is not known. John died after 1850, at which time he was living in the Town of Jefferson, Tuscarawas County, Ohio. In 1820, John is found at Niskayuna, Schenectady Co, New York. In 1830, John is found at Wells, Jefferson Co, Ohio. In 1840, John is found at Adams, Coshocton Co, Ohio.^{37,38,39,40,41}
- ii. Samuel Gorsline was born c 1779 probably at Dutchess Co, New York. Samuel was married to Fanny (unidentified). Samuel died after 1861, at which time he was living at Portland, Frontenac County, Ontario, then known as Canada West. In 1825, Samuel is found at Ernesttown, Lennox and Addington Co, Ontario. In 1851 Samuel is found at Tyendinaga, Hastings Co, Ontario.^{42,43,44}
- iii. Joseph Gorsline was born c 1782 probably at Dutchess Co, New York. Joseph was married to Mary (unidentified). Joseph died 21 January 1845 at Greenbush, Rensselaer Co, New York. Joseph is found in Greenbush in the 1820, 1830, and 1840 U.S. Censuses.^{45,46,47,48,49}
- iv. Sarah (aka Sally) Gorsline was born 11 April 1787 probably at Dutchess Co, New York. She was married to John Ladue. Sarah died 27 October 1878 at Cato, Cayuga Co, New York and was buried at the White Cemetery in Cato. John LaDue is found in the 1820 Census of Rensselaer Co, New York. John died in 1827. Sarah is subsequently found in Cato, Cayuga Co, New York in the U.S. Census from 1830 through 1870; also the 1855 New York State Census. Sarah's mother is living with her in the 1850 census, and most likely the 1830 and 1840 Census.^{50,51,52,53,54,55,56,57,58}
- v. Richard Gorsline was born c 1792, probably at Rensselaerwyck, then Albany Co, subsequently Rensselaer Co, New York. Richard was married to Aurelia Rice. Richard died 3 April 1870 at Rochester, Monroe Co, New York, where he was buried in the Mount Hope Cemetery. Richard Gorsline is found in the 1820 U.S. Census at Bloomfield, Ontario Co, New York. Richard is found in the U.S. Census 1830-1860 at Rochester, Monroe Co, New York.^{59,60,61,62,63,64,65,66,67}
- vi. William Gorsline (Jr) was born about 1794, probably in Rensselaer Co, New York. William married Eliza Ann (unidentified). William Gorsline died in September 1868 in Cattaraugus Co, New York. William Gorsline is found in the 1830 U.S. Census of Buffalo, Erie Co, NY. William is found in the 1840-1860 U.S. Census of Otto, Cattaraugus Co, NY; also the 1865 New York State Census.^{68,69,70,71,72,73,74,75}
- vii. Elizabeth Gorsline was born c 1796 in Rensselaer Co, New York. She was married to Henry Dunsbach. Elizabeth died 4 March 1863 and was buried at the Clifton Park Village Cemetery, Halfmoon, Saratoga Co, New York. Henry Dunsbach is found in the 1820-1840 U.S. Censuses of Halfmoon; with wife Elizabeth 1850-1860, as well as the 1855 New York State Census.^{76,77,78,79,80,81,82}

1845



Children of William and Elizabeth Gorsline of Rensselaer Co, NY

1. Tuscarawas Co, OH: John Gorsline
2. Frontenac Co, Ontario: Samuel Gorsline
3. Rensselaer Co, NY: Joseph Gorsline
4. Cayuga Co, NY: Sally Gorsline Ladue
5. Rochester, Monroe Co, NY: Richard Gorsline
6. Cattaraugus Co, NY: William Gorsline
7. Saratoga Co, NY: Elizabeth Gorsline Dunsbach

➡ A: Newtown, Queens Co, NY

➡ B: Fishkill, Dutchess Co, NY

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Prepared by:
Tom Leverich
28 Saratoga Drive
West Windsor, New Jersey 08550
tomaug12@aol.com
609-275-1239
www.leverichgenealogy.org

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- ⁴²1851 Canada West Census Ontario, Hastings Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. LAC, Schedule B, Roll C_11727, Sub-District Tyendinaga, page 117.
- ⁴³1861 Canada West Census Ontario, Frontenac Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. LAC, Roll C-1022, Town of Portland, page 22.
- ⁴⁴Legal document, Manuscript, 8 May 1825, <http://data2.archives.ca/pdf001/p000002179.pdf>, Library and Archives Canada, Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A ON4, Ernesttown, Lennox and Addington Co, Ontario.
- ⁴⁵1845 Probate Joseph Goslin, Rensselaer Co New York Surrogate, Liber 34, page 340.
- ⁴⁶Interments in Rensselaer County (NY) Cemeteries, New York GenWeb Rensselaer County.
- ⁴⁷1820 U.S. Census New York, Rensselaer Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M33, Roll 243, Town of Greenbush, page 22.
- ⁴⁸1830 U.S. Census New York, Rensselaer Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M19, Roll 105, Town of Greenbush, page 221.
- ⁴⁹1840 U.S. Census New York, Rensselaer Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M704, Roll 332, Town of Greenbush, page 141.
- ⁵⁰1845 Probate Joseph Goslin, Rensselaer Co New York Surrogate, Liber 34, page 340.
- ⁵¹1855 New York State Census, Ancestry.com, Town of Cato, Family No. 136.
- ⁵²Find A Grave, online www.findagrave.com, White Cemetery: Cato, Cayuga Co, New York; Memorial No. 68774342.
- ⁵³1820 U.S. Census New York, Rensselaer Co, Ancestry.com, Town of Sand Lake, page 67.
- ⁵⁴1830 U.S. Census New York, Cayuga Co, Ancestry.com, Town of Cato, page 428.
- ⁵⁵1840 U.S. Census New York, Cayuga Co, Ancestry.com, Abram Ladue, Town of Cato, page 272.
- ⁵⁶1850 U.S. Census New York, Cayuga Co, Ancestry.com, Town of Cato, page 17A.
- ⁵⁷1860 U.S. Census New York, Cayuga Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M653, Roll 728, Town of Cato, page 351.
- ⁵⁸1870 U.S. Census New York, Cayuga Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M593, Roll 910, Town of Cato, page 294B.
- ⁵⁹1845 Probate Joseph Goslin, Rensselaer Co New York Surrogate, Liber 34, page 340.
- ⁶⁰Find A Grave, online www.findagrave.com, Mount Hope Cemetery: Rochester, Monroe Co, NY; Memorial No. 32094368.
- ⁶¹Richard Gorsline will (1870), Volume 14, page 495; Monroe Co, New York Surrogate, Hall of Justice, 99 Exchange Place, Rochester, Monroe, New York 14614. Hereinafter cited as 1870 Probate Richard Gorsline.
- ⁶²William F. Peck, *History of Rochester and Monroe Co, New York* (New York and Chicago: The Pioneer Publishing Co, 1908), Volume 2, page 1213. Hereinafter cited as *History of Rochester and Monroe Co NY*.
- ⁶³1820 U.S. Census New York, Ontario Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M33, Roll 62, Town of Bloomfield, page 371.

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- ⁶⁴1830 U.S. Census New York, Monroe Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M19, Roll 94, Rochester Ward 2, page 213.
- ⁶⁵1840 U.S. Census New York, Monroe Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M704, Roll 298, Rochester Ward 5, page 367.
- ⁶⁶1850 U.S. Census New York, Monroe Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M432, Roll 531, Rochester Ward 7, page 334A.
- ⁶⁷1860 U.S. Census New York, Monroe Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M653, Roll 783, Rochester Ward 7, page 679.
- ⁶⁸1845 Probate Joseph Goslin, Rensselaer Co New York Surrogate, Liber 34, page 340.
- ⁶⁹1855 New York State Census, Cattaraugus Co. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Provo, Utah. New York State Archives, Town of Otto, page 56.
- ⁷⁰William Gorsline will (1868), Liber 3, page 503; Cattaraugus Co NY Surrogate, 303 Court St, Little Valley, Cattaraugus, New York 14755. Hereinafter cited as 1868 Administration William Gorsline.
- ⁷¹1830 U.S. Census New York, Erie Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M19, Roll 114, Buffalo, page 6.
- ⁷²1840 U.S. Census New York, Cattaraugus Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M704, Roll 267, Town of Otto, page 159.
- ⁷³1850 U.S. Census New York, Cattaraugus Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M432, Roll 479, Town of Otto, page 321A.
- ⁷⁴1860 U.S. Census New York, Cattaraugus Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M653, Roll 726, Town of Otto, page 936.
- ⁷⁵1865 New York State Census, Cattaraugus Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. New York State Archives, Town of Otto, page 7.
- ⁷⁶1855 New York State Census, Saratoga Co. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Provo, Utah. New York State Archives, Town of Half Moon, Family Number 371.
- ⁷⁷Find A Grave, online www.findagrave.com, Clifton Park Village Cemetery, Saratoga Co, New York; Memorial No. 93454945.
- ⁷⁸1820 U.S. Census New York, Saratoga Co. unknown repository, Provo, Utah. NARO, M33, Roll 79, Town of Half Moon, page 229.
- ⁷⁹1830 U.S. Census New York, Saratoga Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M19, Roll 108, Town of Half Moon, page 85.
- ⁸⁰1840 U.S. Census New York, Saratoga Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M704, Roll 336, Town of Half Moon, page 215.
- ⁸¹1850 U.S. Census New York, Saratoga Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M432, Roll 592, Town of Half Moon, page 58A.
- ⁸²1860 U.S. Census New York, Saratoga Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M653, Roll 856, Town of Halfmoon, page 605.