

Individual Narrative of Martha⁶ Gorsline [92]
Daughter of Joseph Gorsline and Sarah⁵ Leverich [26]
Wife of James Gorsline Jr, son of James Gorsline and Kezia Thurston

Martha Gorsline was born on 23 Jan 1763 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York. Martha's birthdate is recorded in the records of the Rochester Reformed Church in Accord, Ulster Co, New York. Martha, identified as the wife of James Gorsline, was baptized there as an adult on 12 April 1803.¹

Martha Gorsline was the daughter of Joseph Gorsline Sr and Sarah Leverich of Newtown. She is identified in her father's will, dated 14 August 1813, as the wife of James Gorsline.² She married James Gorsline on 25 Jul 1784 at Jamaica, Queens Co, New York, at the Presbyterian Church.³

Some researchers have identified James Gorsline as the son of Samuel Gorsline and Martha Leverich of Dutchess Co, New York. Although Samuel had a son James, it is more likely that James Gorsline, the husband of Martha Gorsline, was the son of James Gorsline (the loyalist) and his wife Kezia Thurston, also of Dutchess Co. In either case, James Gorsline and Martha Gorsline were first cousins, since Samuel, James, and Joseph Gorsline were all brothers.

If James were the son of Samuel and Martha, then James and Martha would have been double first cousins, their respective fathers being brothers and their respective mothers being sisters. If however James were the son of James and Kezia, then James and Martha would have been single first cousins. The latter circumstance would appear to be more likely.

The birth order and naming pattern of the children of James and Martha Gorsline suggest that James was likely the son of James rather than Samuel. Children 1 and 2 (i.e. Joseph and Sarah) would appear to have been named for Martha's parents. The next son born is named James, likely for the paternal grandfather. Samuel is the last born child, likely named for his uncle.

These children were all baptized at the Rochester Reformed Church in Ulster Co, New York between the years 1788 and 1802. Samuel Gorsline and Martha Leverich were married in 1750, hence the birth range for grandchildren would be circa 1770-1790. James Gorsline and Kezia Thurston were married in 1760, hence the birth range for grandchildren would be circa 1780-1800.^{4,5,6}

James Gorsline Jr was born about 1763, assuming he was at least age 21 when married in 1784. Based upon the age tallies in the 1800 Census of Ulster Co, New York, when James was age 26 to 44, James could have been born as early as 1756. James was likely born in Dutchess Co, New York.^{7,8}

An account of James Gorsline Sr, husband of Kezia Thurston, in Frank J. Doherty's *The Settlers of Beekman Patent*, describes James as a "noted Tory" living in Dutchess Co, New York during the War of the Revolution. He is described as having refused to sign the *Articles of Association*, and to have been imprisoned on several occasions, subsequently signing the *Articles of Association* in 1777, presumably to obtain his release and allow him to care for his family. All trace of James Gorsline Sr disappears after the war. It is possible that he went to Nova Scotia or New Brunswick in Canada, although his children removed to Ulster Co, New York.⁹

James Gorsline is found in the 1790 U.S. Census in the Town of Rochester, Ulster Co, New York. The census tallies include 1 free white male under the age of 16 (son Joseph), 1 free white male over the age of 16 (James), and 2 free white females (wife Martha, daughter Sarah).¹⁰

James Gorsline is listed as a freeholder in the Town of Rochester, Ulster Co, New York in 1798. A freeholder was defined as an individual under the age of 60 with an estate of at least sixty pounds.¹¹

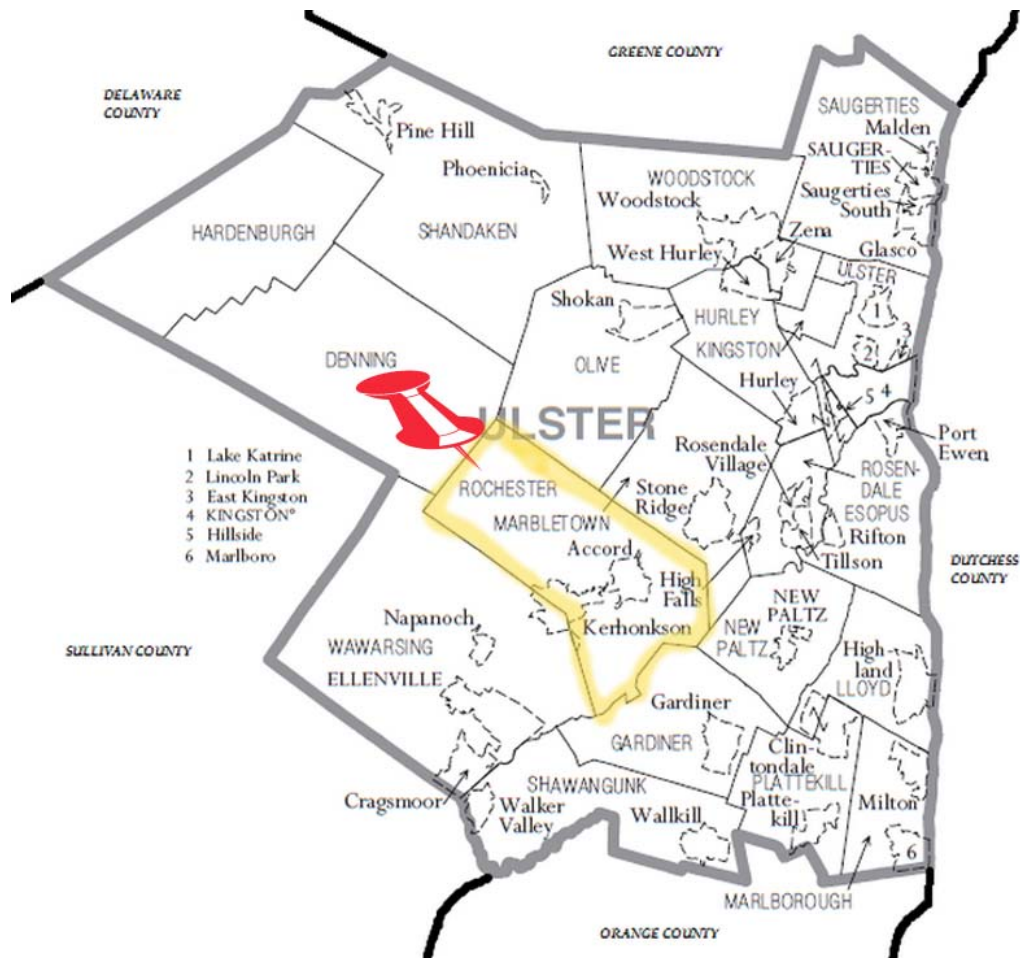
James Gorsline is found in the 1800 U.S. Census in the Town of Rochester, Ulster Co, New York. The census tallies include 2 free white males under the age of 10 (sons James and John), 1 free white male age 10 to 15 (son Joseph), 1 free white male age 26 to 44 (James), 1 free white female age 10 to 15 (daughter Sarah), 1 free white female age 16 to

44 (wife Martha). James is listed adjacent to his brother-in-law George P. Frost, widower of James' sister Elizabeth who died in 1797.^{12,13}

In 1799, the State of New York enacted legislation providing for the collection of taxes on real estate and personal property. James Gorsline is recorded on the tax assessment list for the years 1799 to 1803 at Rochester, Ulster Co, New York. The average assessment of his real estate was \$1950, and his personal estate was \$60. The 1800 assessment list specifically notes that the assessment is made on house, mill, and farm.¹⁴

Sylvester's *The History of Ulster County* mentions James Gorsline as associated with the Reformed Church of the Clove in 1798 and 1807. This congregation was closely associated with the Rochester Reformed Church.¹⁵

James Gorsline is found in the 1810 U.S. Census in the Town of Rochester, Ulster Co, New York. The census tallies include 1 free white male under the age of 10 (son Samuel), 2 free white males age 10 to 15 (sons James and John), 1 free white male age 16 to 25 (son Joseph), 1 free white male over the age of 45 (James), 1 free white female over the age of 45 (wife Martha). There is no tally corresponding to daughter Sarah, age 20, who had married in 1809. Brother-in-law George P. Frost is again listed adjacent to James.¹⁶



**James and Martha Gorsline
Town of Rochester, Ulster County, New York**

Neither a specific date of death nor place of burial has been determined for Martha Gorsline, daughter of Joseph Gorsline, and wife of James Gorsline. Martha probably died between the year 1813, when she is mentioned in her father's will, and the year 1830, when letters of administration on the estate of James Gorsline are granted to his widow "Margaret", presumably a second marriage for James.^{17,18} Joseph Gorsline of Newtown, Queens Co, New York made a will dated 14 August 1813. Among his children Joseph names daughter Martha, wife of James Gorsline. The will was proved 3 April 1822.¹⁹

James Gorsline witnessed the will of Peter H. Jansen, dated 22 December 1819, of Rochester, Ulster Co, New York.²⁰

James Gorsline is found in the 1820 U.S. Census in the Town of Rochester, Ulster Co, New York. The census tallies include a free white male under the age of 10 (perhaps a grandchild), 2 free white males age 16 to 25 (sons John and Samuel), 2 free white males age 26 to 44 (sons Joseph and James), 1 free white male over the age of 45 (James), 1 free white female under the age of 10 (perhaps a grandchild), 1 free white female age 26 to 44 (daughter Sarah, or a daughter-in-law), 1 free white female over the age of 45 (wife, Martha or Margaret). Again, George P. Frost is listed adjacent to James Gorsline.²¹

In a deed dated 29 April 1829, recorded 30 April 1829, Ulster Co, New York, grantors James Goslin Jr (his x mark), John H. Goslin, Samuel Goslin, Sarah Hoffenstedt (her x mark), all of the town of Rochester, Ulster County sold a farm of 100 acres bordered Cocksing Kill to grantee John H. Barnehart of New Paltz, Ulster Co. The grantors are all children of James Gorsline and Martha Gorsline, except for eldest son Joseph who is not mentioned in the transaction.²²

In a deed dated 6 March 1830, recorded 16 September 1830, Ulster Co, New York Margaret Gorsline (her x mark) grantor sold 15 acres of land to grantee Martinus Merritt, both of New Paltz, in consideration of \$1.00. The price suggests that Martinus is a relative, probably a son by an earlier marriage or a son-in-law.²³

James Gorsline, widower of Martha Gorsline, died about the year 1829, probably prior to 29 April of that year. On 15 April 1830, letters of administration on the estate of James Gorsline of New Paltz, Ulster Co, were granted to Margaret Gorsline, his widow.^{24,25}

James Gorsline and Martha Gorsline had five children surviving to adulthood.^{26,27}

- i. Joseph Gorsline was born about 1788 in Ulster County, New York. He was baptized in 1790 with his sister Sarah at the Rochester Reformed Church in Ulster Co. Joseph is recorded as a member of the Rochester Reformed Church on 29 May 1820, and on 21 May 1825, Sally Glasby wife of Joseph Gorsline became a member of the Church. Joseph appears in the 1830 and 1840 U.S. Census in the Town of Rochester, and in 1850 in the Town of Marblehead, Ulster Co. Joseph died sometime after 1850. He is not found in the 1855 New York State Census or the 1860 U.S. Census.^{28,29,30,31}
- ii. Sarah Gorsline was born 24 May 1790 in Ulster Co, New York. Sarah was baptized in 1790 at the Rochester Reformed Church. Sarah Gorsline was married to Abraham Hoppenstedt on 20 November 1809 at the Marblehead Reformed Church. Sarah Hoppenstedt, apparently a widow, is listed in the 1850, 1860, and 1870 U.S. Census in New Paltz, then Gardiner, Ulster Co, living with her son James Hoppenstedt. Sarah died 28 March 1871 and was buried at the New Paltz rural cemetery.^{32,33,34,35,36,37,38}
- iii. A James Gorsline was born 3 April 1795 and baptized at the Rochester Reformed Church, Ulster Co, New York. This James may have died as an infant, since a second James Gorsline is baptized at the Marblehead Reformed Church 26 March 1797. James appears in the 1840 U.S. Census in the Town of Wawarsing, Ulster Co. In 1850 James is living alone in the Town of Rochester, the census record indicating that he was blind. James was probably not married. James died sometime after 1850. He is not found in the 1855 New York State Census or the 1860 U.S. Census.^{39,40,41,42}
- iv. John Hambleton Gorsline was born 31 July 1799 in Ulster Co, New York. He was baptized at the Rochester Reformed Church on 12 April 1803, along with his mother Martha Gorsline and his brother Samuel. John may have been named after Martha's brother-in-law John Hamilton of Newtown, Queens Co, New York, the husband of Martha's sister Mary. John was married and had six children born between 1821 and 1836, but the name of his wife and the date of his marriage have not been identified. John is found in the 1830 and 1840 U.S. Census in New Paltz, then Rochester, Ulster Co. John died about 1843. Letters of administration on his estate were granted to his son Evirt 11 March 1843 in Ulster Co.^{43,44,45,46,47}

- v. Samuel Gorsline was born 13 January 1802 in Ulster Co, New York. He was baptized at the Rochester Reformed Church on 12 April 1803, along with his mother Martha Gorsline and his brother John H. About 1821, Samuel was married to Sarah Burger according to Sarah's 1879 obituary. The 1912 death certificate of Mary Gorsline Van Wagoner identifies her parents as Samuel Gorsline and Sarah Berger. Samuel appears in the 1830, 1840, and 1850 U.S. Census in the town of Rochester, Ulster Co. Samuel died 31 August 1853 and was buried in the "Frost Ground" in Rochester Township.^{48,49,50,51,52,53,54,55,56,57}

Printed on: 30 March 2020

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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