Individual Narrative of William⁶ Gorsline [93] Son of Joseph Gorsline and Sarah⁵ Leverich [26]

William Gorsline was born circa 1764 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York, the son of Joseph Gorsline and Sarah Leverich. 1,2,3,4

William Gorsline was married three times. William Gorsline married for the first time Elizabeth Tucker (aka Teer) circa 1788 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York. The marriage date is an estimate based upon the approximate birth date of their first child Sarah in 1790. In his will dated 14 August 1813, William's father Joseph Gorsline Sr of Newtown names his son William and his wife Elizabeth, maiden name Tucker. Letters of Administration on the estate of William Gorsline were granted in Kings Co, New York in 1855. The probate record lists the children and heirs of William, including Sally Ross of Newtown. The 1850 U.S. Census of Newtown, Queens Co, New York lists a Sarah Ross, age 60 (hence born about 1790). Representation of the same street of the

William Gorsline (aka Goslin, Gosline) was baptized as an adult 10 April 1791 at the Newtown Presbyterian Church. Also baptized on the same date were William's father Joseph Gorsline, Sr, as well as his siblings Joseph Gorsline Jr and Elizabeth Morrell.⁹

Martha, daughter of William Gorsline, was baptized 9 June 1793 at the Newtown Presbyterian Church. 10

Tempuel Skidmer, child of William Gorsline and Elizabeth Tucker (Teer), was born 19 March 1795 and baptized the same year at the Rochester Reformed Church in Ulster County, New York. William's sister Martha Gorsline and her husband James Gorsline had a child James, born 3 April 1795, baptized also the same year at the same Church. Martha and James Gorsline remained in Ulster County, whereas William Gorsline returned to Newtown, Queens Co, NY.¹¹

Mary, daughter of William Gorsline, was baptized 27 May 1800 at the Newtown Presbyerian Church. 12

William Gorsline is recorded in the 1800 U.S. Census of Newtown, Queens Co, New York, listed adjacent to Joseph Gorsline, likely his father but possibly his brother. The census tallies record 1 male under the age of 10 (son Joseph), 1 male age 26 to 44 (William), 3 females under the age of 10 (daughters Sarah, Martha, and Mary), and 1 female age 16 to 25 (hence born c 1775-1784). This female was presumably William's first wife Elizabeth Tucker (Teer). If Wiilliam and Elizabeth were married in 1788, this would make Elizabeth age 13 at the time of the marriage. However, it remains possible that the census taker recorded Elizabeth in the wrong age category, age 26 to 44 being more likely. Elizabeth therefore may have been born about 1774. ¹³

In 1799, the State of New York enacted legislation providing for the collection of taxes on real estate and personal property. William Gorsline is recorded on the tax assessment list for the years 1801 to 1803 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York. William's assessment counted no real estate, and an average personal estate of \$30.00. This further suggests that William was living on his father Joseph's farm.¹⁴

William Gorsline is recorded in the 1810 U.S. Census of Brooklyn, Kings Co, New York. The census tallies record 1 free white male under the age of 10 (son Thomas), 1 free white male age 10 to 15 (son Joseph), 1 free white male over the age of 45 (William), 1 free white female age 16 to 25 (daughter Sarah). There is no tally corresponding to William's first wife Elizabeth Tucker, but she is mentioned in the 1813 will of her father-in-law Joseph Gorsline. The census tallies suggest that several children died young prior to 1810, i.e. Martha (born 1793), Tempuel (born 1795), and Mary (born 1800). 15,16

William Gorsline married for a second time Mary Johnson between 1814 and 1819 at Brooklyn, Kings, New York. Mary Johnson is named as the wife of William Gorsline and the mother of George W. Gorsline, born about 1820, in George's death certificate in 1909. The death of William's first wife Elizabeth Tucker, and William's second marriage, must have taken place during the period 1814 and 1819, representing the period of time between the 1813 will of William's father Joseph Gorsline and the 1820 birth of son George. Based upon the census tallies from the 1820 and 1830 Censuses, Mary Johnson would have been born between 1781 and 1790. 17,18,19,20

William Gorsline is recorded in the 1820 U.S. Census of Bedford, Kings Co, New York. The census tallies record 4 free white males under the age of 10 (sons Thomas, Stephen, George, and 1 unidentified), 1 free white male age 10 to 15 (son Joseph), 1 free white male age 16 to 25 (unidentified, perhaps a hired farm hand), 1 free white male over the age of 45 (William), and 1 free white female age 26 to 44 (second wife Mary Johnson). Six slaves are also recorded in the household.²¹

William Gorsline is recorded in the 1830 U.S. Census of Brooklyn, Kings Co, New York. The census tallies record 1 free white male under age 5 (unidentified), 2 free white males age 5 to 9 (son James, unidentified), 2 free white males age 10 to 14 (son George, unidentified), 2 free white males age 15 to 19 (sons Thomas and Stephen), 1 free white male age 60 to 69 (William); 1 free white female age under 5 (daughter Mary Elizabeth), 1 free white female age 40 to 49 (2nd wife Mary Johnson).²²

Mary Johnson, second wife of William Gorsline, most likely died between 1825 (birth of daughter Mary Elizabeth) and 1834 (date of William's third marriage). 23,24

William Gorsline married for a third time Catherine Ann Blawer on 7 Mar 1834 at the Dutch Reformed Church of Flatbush, Kings Co, New York. Based upon census records as described below, Catherine was born between 1808 and 1815.²⁵

William Gorsline is recorded in the 1840 U.S. Census in the Town of Flatlands, Kings Co, New York. The census tallies record 1 free white male under the age of 5 (son William H. Gorsline), 1 free white male age 20 to 29 (son James), 1 free white male age 60 to 69 (Willliam), 1 free white female age 10 to 14 (daughter Mary Elizabeth), and 1 free white female age 30 to 39 (third wife Catherine Ann Blawer). There is no tally corresponding to daughter Catherine Ann born c 1834. Recorded nearby as heads of household are sons George and Stephen, as well as neighbor Isaac Skidmore and neighbor William Johnson (who may have been related to William Gorsline's second wife Mary Johnson). 26,27

William Gorsline, gardener, born c 1764, is listed in the 1850 U.S. Census at Flatlands, Kings Co, New York. The household includes his wife Catherine A, born c 1810; Catherine Gorsline, daughter born c 1834; and William H. Gorsline, age 11, presumably a son. William H. Gorsline presumably died prior to 1852 when his father made his will, since William H. is not named in the will, although daughter Catherine is named. 28,29

William Gorsline died on 15 Aug 1854 at Flatlands, Kings Co, New York. William Gorsline made a will dated 16 November1852, proved 1 November 1854, Elias Watts and William Suydam both witnesses and executors. Subsequently, on 15 January 1855, letters of administration on William's estate were granted to his widow Catherine Gorsline of Flatlands and Abraham Lott. These records identify widow Catherine; sons Thomas, James, George, Joseph, and Stephen; daughters Elizabeth wife of Henry Young and Catherine Ann wife of William Hoyt; all of Flatlands, except James living in Brooklyn. Also named is son Joseph, living in Farmingdale, Suffolk Co, New York; and daughter Sally Ross, residing in Newtown, Queens Co, New York.³⁰

An advertisement in the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* 22 January 1855, published by Catherine Gorsline and Abraham Lott, administrators of the estate of William Gorsline of Flatlands, deceased, announced the auction of land belonging to the estate, described as follows. "All that certain piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being at Canarsie, Town of Flatlands, Kings County, butted and bounded as follows, viz: southeasterly by the road leading to Canarsie landing; northeasterly by land belonging to Isaac Skidmore; northwesterly by land belonging to George Terry, and southwesterly by land belonging to Wyckoff". Isaac Skidmore (dwelling/family no. 26-31) is found near William Gorsline (dwelling/family no. 23-26) in the 1850 Census. Also nearby are William H. Hoyt (dwelling/family no. 24-28), Stephen Gorsline (dwelling/family no. 28-33), and Henry Young (dwelling/family no. 30-35).^{31,32}

William Gorsline and his first wife Elizabeth Tucker (Teer) had the following children, all born at Newtown, Queens Co, New York, except Stephen who was probably born in Brooklyn.³³

- i. Sally (Sarah) Gorsline was born about 1790 in Newtown, Queens Co, New York. She married a man named "Ross". A "Sarah Ross", age 60, appears in the 1850 U.S. Census of Newtown. She died after 1855, perhaps at Newtown. She died after 1855, perhaps at Newtown.
- ii. Martha Gorsline was baptized at the Newtown Presbyterian Church 9 June 1793. Martha likely died young between 1800 and 1810. She is not named in her father's 1852 will. 36,37,38,39

- iii. Tempuel Skidmer Gorsline was born 19 March 1795 and baptized at the Rochester Reformed Church in Ulster Co, New York. Tempuel probably died as an infant prior to 1800. Tempuel is not named in the father's 1852 will. 40,41
- iv. Joseph Gorsline was born about 1798 at Newtown, Queens County, New York. He married 26 February 1823 Sarah Darby at the Christ's First Presbyterian Church, Hempstead, Queens Co, New York. Joseph is found in the 1830 Census of Flushing, Queens Co; 1840, 1850, and 1860 at Huntington, Suffolk Co; and 1870 at Oyster Bay, Queens Co. Joseph died at Oyster Bay 27 November 1872. 42,43,44,45,46,47,48
- v. Mary Gorsline was baptized at the Newtown Presbyterian Church 27 May 1800. Mary likely died young between 1800 and 1810. She is not named in her father's 1852 will. 49,50,51,52
- vi. Thomas Gorsline was born about 1802 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York. Thomas married the first time Mrs. Nancy Johnson at the Flatbush Dutch Reformed Church on 3 September 1837. Thomas married a second time before 1850 to Lavina (unidentified) who is recorded in the 1850 U.S. Census. Thomas married a third time to the widow Mary Denton, who appears in the 1855 New York State Census. Thomas is recorded in the 1840, 1850, 1870, and 1880 U.S. Census, and the 1855 and 1875 New York State Census, all in Flatlands, Kings Co, NY. Thomas Gorsline died at Flatlands 24 July 1891.
- vii. Stephen Gorsline was born about 1809, probably at Brooklyn, Kings Co, New York. Stephen married 18 July 1838 Catherine Morrison at the Flatbush Dutch Reformed Church. Stephen is listed in the 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, and 1900 U.S. Census; as well as the 1855, 1865, 1875, and 1892 New York State Census all at Flatlands Township, Kings Co, New York. Stephen Gorsline died 10 January 1901 and was buried at Canarsie Cemetery, Flatlands Township, Kings Co, NY. 63,64,65,66,67,68,69,70,71,72,73,74,75
- William Gorsline and his second wife Mary Johnson had the following children, all born at Flatlands, Kings Co, New York. 76
- viii. George Washington Gorsline was born about 1820 in Bedford, Kings Co, New York. George married 19 April 1840 Sarah Jane Morrison at the Flatbush Dutch Reformed Church. George is listed in the 1840, 1850, 1870, 1880, and 1900 U.S. Census, and the 1855, 1865, and 1875 New York State Census, all in Flatlands Township, Kings Co. George W. Gorsline died on 19 November 1909 and was buried at the Canarsie Cemetery in Flatlands. 77,78,79,80,81,82,83,84,85,86
- ix. James B. Gorsline was born about 1822 at Bedford, Kings Co, New York. James married Anna E. Dempstead (aka Dempster) 6 December 1843 at the Greene Street Methodist Church in Manhattan, New York Co, New York. James is listed in the 1860 U.S. Census in Brooklyn, Ward 4, District 2; and the 1855 and 1865 New York State Census in Brooklyn. His widow Anna Gorsline is found in the 1870 U.S. Census in Brooklyn, Ward 10. James' sister-in-law Marion S. Dempstead (aka Dempster) is found in 1880 U.S. Census, a Caretaker in an Orphan Asylum in Manhattan, New York Co. James B. Gorsline died 15 June 1869 in Brooklyn, and was buried in Canarsie. 87,88,89,90,91,92,93,94,95,96,97
- x. Mary Elizabeth Gorsline was born about 1825, probably in Brooklyn, Kings Co, New York. She married about 1846 William Henry Young. Mary Elizabeth and William Henry are identified as the parents of Charles Edgar Young on his death certificate issued in 1937. Mary Elizabeth and William Henry are listed in the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 U.S. Census at Flatlands, Kings Co; also the 1855, 1865 and 1892 New York State Census at Flatlands. Elizabeth Young is listed in the 1900 U.S. Census in Brooklyn. Elizabeth Young died 14 January 1904 at Brooklyn and was buried in Canarsie. 98,99,100,101,102,103,104,105,106,107

William Gorsline and his third wife Catherine Blawer had the following children, all born at Flatlands, Kings Co, New York. 108

- xi. Catherine Ann Gorsline was born 11 December 1834 at Flatlands, Kings Co, New York. Catherine married c 1853 William H. Hoyt, probably at Flatlands. Catherine is recorded in the 1860, 1870, 1880, and 1900 U.S. Census; and the 1855, 1865, 1875, and 1892 New York State Census; all at Flatlands, Kings Co, New York (except 1860 Manhattan, New York Co, NY). Catherine Ann Gorsline died 4 April 1907 at Brooklyn, Kings Co, New York and was buried at the Canarsie Cemetery in the Town of Flatlands. 109,110,111,112,113,114,115,116,117,118
- xii. William H. Gorsline was born about 1839, probably at Flatlands, Kings Co, New York. William is recorded in the 1850 U.S. Census, age 11, at Flatlands. William likely died about 1850-1852, since he is not mentioned in his father's will in 1852. 119,120

Widow Catherine Gorsline is recorded as head of family in the 1865 New York State Census, age 50, Flatlands, Kings Co, New York.

The household includes her daughter Catherine Hoyt, her son-in-law William Hoyt, and two grandchildren. The household includes her daughter Catherine Hoyt, her son-in-law William Hoyt, and two grandchildren.

Catherine Gorsline is recorded in the 1870 U.S. Census, age 60, Flatlands, Kings County, New York, a member of a household that included her daughter Catherine Hoyt, her son-in-law William Hoyt, and four grandchildren. 122

Catherine Gorsline is recorded in the 1875 New York State Census, age 65, Flatlands, Kings County, New York, a member of a household that included her daughter Catherine Hoyt, her son-in-law William Hoyt, and four grandchildren. 123

Catherine Gorsline, "grandmother" age 72 is recorded in the 1880 U.S. Census of Flatlands, Kings County, New York in the household of John Davenport, his wife Catherine, and one child Lilli Davenport. 124

Catherine Gorsline, widow of William Gorsline, died 17 January 1898, and was buried at the Canarsie Cemetery in Flatlands Township, Kings County, New York. 125,126

On 14 April 1898 in Kings County, New York Surrogate Court, Letters of Administration were granted on the estate of Catherine Gorsline to her daughter Catherine Ann Hoyt, a resident of East 92nd Street near Skidmore Lane. 127

Trucklemans Lane (contemporary); northwestern boundary of land formerly owned by William Gorsline, so mentioned in 1919 deed En Dr.D.Ames Standard Contemporary); northwestern boundary of land formerly owned by William Gorsline, so mentioned in 1919 deed En Dr.D.Ames Standard Contemporary); northwestern boundary of land formerly owned by William Gorsline, so mentioned in 1919 deed En Dr.D.Ames Standard Contemporary); northwestern boundary of land formerly owned by William Gorsline, so mentioned in 1919 deed En Dr.D.Ames Standard Contemporary); northwestern boundary of land formerly owned by William Gorsline, so mentioned in 1919 deed En Dr.D.Ames Standard Contemporary); northwestern boundary of land formerly owned by William Gorsline, so mentioned in 1919 deed En Dr.D.Ames Standard Contemporary of land formerly owned by William Gorsline, so mentioned in 1919 deed En Dr.D.Ames Standard Contemporary of land formerly owned by William Gorsline, so mentioned in 1919 deed En Dr.D.Ames Standard Contemporary of land formerly owned by William Gorsline, so well as a second contemporary of land formerly owned by William Gorsline, so well as a second contemporary of land formerly owned by William Gorsline, so well as a second contemporary of land for land f

Flatlands, Brooklyn, Kings Co - 1873 Johnson's Map

1913 Map of Flatlands, Brooklyn, Kings Co, NY



Trucklemans Lane, nortwestern boundary of land formerly owned by William Gorsline, so mentioned in 1919 deed

A legal notice published 6 October 1919 in the *Brooklyn New York Standard Union*, announced the auction of property in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings. The property description included in part Trochelmann's Lane running east of Rockaway Parkway, which is also the northwesterly boundary line of land formerly belonging to William Gorsline. The contemporary location is Trochelmann's lane running east and west, one block south of Flatlands Avenue, and one block east of Rockaway Parkway, i.e. from Rockaway Parkway, to East 98th and East 99th Street.¹²⁸

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