

**Individual Narrative of Betsy<sup>6</sup> Gorsline [97]**  
**Daughter of Joseph Gorsline and Sarah<sup>5</sup> Leverich [26]**  
**Wife of Richard Gorsline**

Betsy Gorsline was born circa 1771 at Newtown, Queens, New York, the daughter and youngest child of Joseph Gorsline and Sarah Leverich. The birth date is a calculated date based upon assumed birth order of the children as listed in the will of Joseph Gorsline in 1813.<sup>1</sup>

Betsy Gorsline married Richard Gorsline, presumably a cousin, circa 1790 at New York. Joseph Gorsline in his will dated 1813 mentions his daughter Betsy, wife of Richard Gorsline.<sup>2</sup>

Jose Gorsline of Newtown, Queens Co, New York (1701-1772) was the grandfather of Betsy Gorsline. Jose had thirteen children by two wives, Elizabeth Alburtis and Martha Smith. Nine of the thirteen children were sons. At least four of the sons had a son Richard Gorsline, each of whom would have been a first cousin to Betsy.<sup>3,4,5,6</sup>

- Richard Gorsline, born c 1765, was the son of Samuel Gorsline and Martha Leverich. This Richard married twice, Anne Southard and Levina Scherer, and lived in Columbia County, then Greene Co, in New York.
- Richard Gorsline, born c 1755-1760, was the son of William Gorsline and Martha Thurston. This Richard married Elizabeth Swartwout, and lived in Columbia Co, New York.
- Richard Gorsline, born c 1775, was the son of James Gorsline and Kezia Thurston. This Richard married Elizabeth Wood, lived in Ulster Co, New York, and died as a soldier in the War of 1812, at the Battle of Queenston, Ontario, Canada.
- Richard Gorsline, born c 1761, was the son of Richard Gorsline who died in St. Croix U.S. Virgin Islands in 1772, and Elizabeth Alburtis. This Richard Gorsline married Margaret North and lived in Ontario Co, New York and New Brunswick, Canada.
- Richard Gorsline, born 1792, was the son of William Gorsline, the grandson of Samuel Gorsline and Martha Leverich. This Richard married Aurelia Rice, and lived at Bloomfield, Ontario Co, and Rochester, Monroe Co, New York.

Clearly, none of the above Richard Gorsline's could have been the husband of Betsy Gorsline. Richard, husband of Betsy, may have been a descendant of Jacob, John, or Samuel Gorsline, all brothers of Jose, but who left little or no trace of descendants except possibly for a Richard Gorsline found in the 1790 Census of Bucks Co, Pennsylvania. More likely, Richard may have been the son of John Gorsline and Judith Reeder or Daniel Gorsline and Elizabeth Grandy. John and Daniel were both sons of Jose Gorsline, and they both lived at Dutchess Co, New York.<sup>7,8,9</sup>

A Richard Gorsline appears in the 1790 U.S. Census of Fishkill, Dutchess County, New York. The census tallies include 1 free white male over the age of 16 and 1 free white female over the age of 16. This could have been the recently married Betsy Gorsline and Richard Gorsline, and lends support to the theory that Richard might have been the son of John Gorsline or Daniel Gorsline of Dutchess Co, New York.<sup>10</sup>

A Richard Gorsline is listed as a head of family in the 1800 U.S. Census of Manhattan, Ward 7, New York Co, N.Y. The census tallies record 2 free white males under the age of 10, 1 free white male age 26 to 44, and 1 free white female age 16 to 25. This could have been Betsy and Richard Gorsline, and two sons.<sup>11</sup>

No Richard Gorsline is listed in the New York City Directory for the years 1800, 1802, 1803, and 1805. A Richard Gorsline is listed in the New York City Directory in the following years.

- ❖ 1801: milkman, Grand St
- ❖ 1804: boatman, 69 East George
- ❖ 1806-1807: 28 U. Reed
- ❖ 1808: 10 Magazine.<sup>12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20</sup>

The Manhattan Water Works published a notice in the *American Citizen* on 4 September 1806: "The Superintendent informs the public that the scanty supply of water of a few days past ... is now repaired, and the usual supply will be given ... All necessary repairs in the lateral pipes will be promptly attended to by Richard Gosline (who is in the company's employ) on the most reasonable terms possible."<sup>21n</sup>

*The Minutes of the Common Council of the City of New York* record on 22 February 1808: "The following persons were appointed Firemen the Chief Engineer certifying correspondent vacancies: Richard Gorsline, Plumber, 28. Reed Street, vice William Hillyard, resigned."<sup>22n</sup>

The records of the New York City Almshouse include the following entry: "Maria G. Smallwood", natural child of Elizabeth Smallwood and Richard Gosline, aged 5 months (April 1809). At nurse with the mother, no. 20 Bedlow St." It has not been determined which Richard Gosline this record pertains to.<sup>23</sup>

A Richard Gorsline is listed as a head of family in the 1810 U.S. Census of Manhattan, Ward 3, New York Co, N.Y. The census tallies record 1 free white male under age 10, 1 free white male age 10 to 15, 1 free white male age 26 to 45, 1 free white female under age 10, and 1 free white female age 26 to 45. This could have been Betsy and Richard Gorsline, two sons and a daughter. A second record for Richard Gorsline is found in Ward 6 with the exact same tallies. This would suggest that Richard moved during the year 1810 and was recorded in the census twice. This theory is supported by New York City Directory entries for Richard Gorsline.<sup>24,25</sup>

Based upon U.S. Census record tallies 1790, 1800, and 1810, Richard Gosline was likely born between 1766 and 1774.<sup>26,27,28</sup>

*The Minutes of the Common Council of the City of New York* record on 13 May 1811: "The following persons were appointed firemen the chief engineer certifying the corresponding vacancies: Samuel Davis, Painter No. 236 Duane St 5th Ward v. Richard Gosline gone to sea."<sup>29n</sup>

1807 William Bridges Map <1871 Reissue>



**New York City Directory - Manhattan**

- 1. 1809-1810: Richard Gosline, Plumber, 65 Barclay St (Ward 3)**
- 2. 1812-1813: Richard Gosline, Plumber, Cross St corner Mulberry St (Ward 6)**  
**1820-1821: Widow Gosline, Market Woman**
- 3. 8 Norfolk St near Grand St (Ward 7)**
- 4. 210 Division Street (Ward 7)**
- 0. 1806-1807: Richard Gosline, 28 U. Reed - Plumber (Ward 6)**

A Richard Gorsline is listed in the New York City Directory in the following years.

- ❖ 1809: Plumber 65 Barclay
- ❖ 1809: Widow of Richard, 10 Magazine
- ❖ 1810: Plumber 65 Barclay and 28 Vesey (Ward 3)
- ❖ 1811: Mariner, upper end of Cross St (Ward 6)
- ❖ 1812: Plumber, Cross corner of Mulberry (Ward 6)
- ❖ 1813: Plumber, Cross corner of Mulberry.<sup>30,31,32,33,34</sup>

Richard Gorsline does not appear in the New York City Directory for the years 1814 through 1823. Widow Elizabeth Gosline is listed in the 1817 New York City Directory residing at 102 Cross St. Widow Gorsline, market woman is listed in 1819 at 32 Mulberry, in 1820 at 8 Norfolk, and in 1821 at 210 Division. Widow Gorsline does not appear in the New York City Directory thereafter.<sup>35,36,37,38,39,40</sup>

Since Richard Gorsline does not appear in the New York City Directory after 1813, and widow Elizabeth Gosline is listed in the 1817 New York City Directory residing at 102 Cross St, this suggests that Richard Gorsline died in Manhattan, New York County, New York c 1814-1816. Neither a specific date of death, nor a burial location, have been identified for Richard Gorsline. No probate record has been found for Richard.<sup>41,42,43,44</sup>

Betsy Gorsline died after 1821 at Manhattan, New York, New York. Since Widow Gosline appears in the New York City Directory in 1817, 1819, 1820, and 1821, but not thereafter, this suggests that Betsy Gorsline had either died after 1821, or was living in the household of one of her children. Neither a specific date of death or a place of burial has been identified for Betsy Gorsline. No probate record has been found for Betsy.<sup>45,46,47,48</sup>

U.S. Census tallies for 1800 and 1810 suggest that Betsey and Richard Gorsline may have had three children, two sons and a daughter. The New York City Directory records a Robert Gosline, weaver, between 1810 and 1823; and a Jacob Gosline, carpenter, 1815-1821. Robert and Jacob could have been sons of Betsey and Richard, although evidence to confirm this relationship has not yet been found. The 1820 U.S. Census of Manhattan records a Jacob Gosline in Ward 10 and a Mr. Goslin in Ward 6.<sup>49,50,51,52,53</sup>

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## Endnotes

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<sup>1</sup>Joseph Gorsline will (3 April 1822), E-59; Queens County, New York Surrogate, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York 11435. Hereinafter cited as 1822 Probate Joseph Gorsline.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Frank J. Doherty, *The Settlers of the Beekman Patent, Dutchess County, New York: An Historical and Genealogical Study of All the 18th Century Settlers in the Patent*. (Pleasant Valley, New York: Published by the author, 1990-2013), nopage citation. Hereinafter cited as *Settlers Beekman Patent*.

<sup>4</sup>Samuel Gilbert Gorsline. Typed Family History Chart. Battle Creek, Michigan 10 December 1942. NYGB Fam 2008-1839, Folder 1, New York Public Library, Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, Irma and Paul Milstein Division of U.S. History, Local History and Genealogy, 5th Avenue and 42nd Street, Manhattan, New York, New York 10018.

<sup>5</sup>Lyle A. Gorsline, Descendants of Jacob Gorsline: online <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/g/o/r/Lyle-A-Gorsline/FILE/0001page.html>.

<sup>6</sup>Lyle Gorsline, Gorsline Family - the Canadian Branch: online <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/g/o/r/Lyle-A-Gorsline/index.html>.

<sup>7</sup>James Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown in Queens County, New York: Containing Its History from its first Settlement* (New York: D. Fanshaw, 1852), page 346. Hereinafter cited as *Annals of Newtown*.

<sup>8</sup>Doherty, *Settlers Beekman Patent*, no page citation.

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<sup>10</sup>1790 U.S. Census New York, Dutchess Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M637, Roll 6, Town of Fishkill, page 84.

<sup>11</sup>1800 U.S. Census, New York, New York Co, Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M32, Roll , Manhattan, Ward 7, page 907.

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<sup>13</sup>*New York NY City Directory 1801* (New York, New York: David Longworth, 1801). Hereinafter cited as *New York NY City Directory 1801*.

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<sup>16</sup>*New York NY City Directory 1804* (New York, New York: David Longworth, 1804). Hereinafter cited as *New York NY City Directory 1804*.

<sup>17</sup>*New York NY City Directory 1805* (New York, New York: David Longworth, 1805). Hereinafter cited as *New York NY City Directory 1805*.

<sup>18</sup>*New York NY City Directory 1806* (New York, New York: David Longworth, 1806). Hereinafter cited as *New York NY City Directory 1806*.

<sup>19</sup>*New York NY City Directory 1807* (New York, New York: David Longworth, 1807). Hereinafter cited as *New York NY City Directory 1807*.

<sup>20</sup>*New York NY City Directory 1808* (New York, New York: David Longworth, 1808). Hereinafter cited as *New York NY City Directory 1808*.

<sup>21</sup>*American Citizen*, New York, New York, 1802-1810. Hereinafter cited as *American Citizen*, 4 September 1806, page 3.

<sup>22</sup>A. Everett Peterson, editor. *Minutes of the Common Council of the City of New York* (New York, New York: City of New York, 1917), Volume 5, page 20. Hereinafter cited as *Minutes Common Council City NY*.

<sup>23</sup>Charles Farrell, "Children of the New York City Almshouse, 1807-1810," *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* Volume 130 (October 1999): page 298. Hereinafter cited as "Children of the New York City Almshouse, 1807-1810."

<sup>24</sup>1810 U.S. Census New York, New York Co, Ancestry.com, Manhattan Ward 3, page 64.

<sup>25</sup>Ibid., Manhattan Ward 6, page 460.

<sup>26</sup>Ibid.

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- <sup>27</sup>U.S. Census, New York, New York Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARO, M32, Roll 23, Manhattan Ward 7, page 907.
- <sup>28</sup>1810 U.S. Census New York, New York Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M252, Roll 32, Manhattan Ward 6, page 460.
- <sup>29</sup>Peterson *Minutes Common Council City NY*, Volume 6, page 589.
- <sup>30</sup>*New York NY City Directory 1809* (New York, New York: David Longworth, 1809), Richard Gosline, Widow Gosline. Hereinafter cited as *New York NY City Directory 1809*.
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- <sup>41</sup>*New York NY City Directory 1814*, No Richard Gorsline.
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- <sup>44</sup>*New York NY City Directory 1817*, widow Elizabeth Gosline.
- <sup>45</sup>*Ibid.*
- <sup>46</sup>*New York NY City Directory 1819*, Widow Gosline.
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- <sup>49</sup>*New York NY City Directory 1810*, Robert Gosline.
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