

## **Individual Narrative of Joseph<sup>8</sup> Henry Gorsline [247] Son of Grace<sup>7</sup> Riker Leverich [126] and Andrew Gorsline Never Married**

Joseph Henry Gorsline was born on 11 March 1826 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York, the son of Gertrude Riker Leverich and Andrew Gorsline.<sup>1,2</sup>

During the early part of his life Joseph was engaged in farming, but when about 45 years of age he retired from active life and removed to Corona, then called West Flushing, Queens County, where he resided during the remainder of his life.<sup>3</sup>

Though possessing a large fortune, Joseph never married, and being very much adverse to display of any kind, he always lived a very quiet, simple life, in which his chief pleasure was a day now and then spent in fishing, of which sport he was very fond. He possessed a very charitable disposition, and his kind deeds among the poor and needy were many, but his great dread of publicity prevented the larger part of them every being known except to the recipients. He was noted for his fondness for children, and he always carried an ample supply of goodies and little knick-knacks loved by the little ones among whom he was found scattering them with a lavish hand in his daily walks. He was fondly known to them and to the older ones as "Uncle Joe."<sup>4</sup>

Joseph had characteristics not often found combined in the same individual. Possessing a strong business acumen, which caused him to make many wise and shrewd investments that resulted in ample and many-fold financial returns, he also possessed a simple, childlike nature and pure and humble ideals that caused him to make friends and associates among the poor and lowly, rather than among the rich and influential.<sup>5</sup>

Joseph Gorsline was recorded in the 1900 U.S. Census, age 74, identified as a capitalist, and boarding at 1 Grand Avenue in Ward 2 of Queens County, New York, which was the residence of Margaret Schnitgen.<sup>6</sup>

Joseph Henry Gorsline died on 10 April 1914 at Corona, Queens Co, New York, at age 88. The Monday prior to his death Joseph accidentally fell in his bedroom and sustained severe injuries to his right hip. He was cared for by Dr. Doughty of Corona. The shock, together with his advanced age caused his death. Funeral services were held from the home of Mrs. Schnitgen at 26 East Grand Street where Joseph was a boarder, and were conducted by the Rev. W. Jay Peck, pastor of the Corona U.E. Church, and the Rev. E. A. Campbell of Corona. Joseph was buried at the Cedar Grove Cemetery in Flushing, ELM Lot: 34 Line: Grave: 6/7A.<sup>7,8,9,10</sup>

Joseph did not leave a will. On 21 May 1914, his sister Cornelia Ann Brinckerhoff of Brooklyn was appointed administrator of Joseph's estate, which amounted to \$80,476 (approximately 1.6 million in 2022 dollars), \$33,000 of which was in bonds of the Brooklyn City Railway Company. Joseph's heirs included his sister Cornelia; the descendants of Jesse Gorsline, a deceased brother, i.e.: Robert Gorsline of Flushing, Anna Randolph or Harris of Metropolitan; the children of Frederica Bailey, a deceased daughter of Jesse Gorsline, i.e.: Suetta Bailey of Brooklyn and Gertrude Turnbull of New Jersey; a child of Andrew Gorsline, a deceased brother, i.e.: Edith Clark of Brooklyn; the children of Ellen Louise Hoppock, a sister i.e.: Moses Allen Hoppock of Westfield New Jersey, Arthur W. Hoppock of Winatchee Washington State, Louise Ellen Hoppock of Sienna Italy; and grandchildren Caroline Hoppock and Ernest Leverich Hoppock of Brooklyn and William Hendry Hoppock of New Haven Connecticut.<sup>11,12,13</sup>

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Joseph Henry Gorsline; New York, US, Wills & Probate Records, 1659-1999, (Queens County), 22 September 1914; Case Number 646; Mixed Proceedings, Case #0643-0661.

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## Endnotes

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<sup>1</sup>Gorsline, Joseph H. Death Certificate, #1358, 10 April 1914; New York City Municipal Archives, 31 Chambers St, Room 103, Manhattan, New York, New York 10007.

<sup>2</sup>Find A Grave, online <[www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)>, Memorial Number 91606608. Hereinafter cited as Find A Grave.

<sup>3</sup>*Newtown Register*, Newtown, Queens Co, New York, 1873-1918. Hereinafter cited as *Newtown Register*, 16 April 1914, page 5.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid.

<sup>6</sup>1900 U.S. Census New York, Queens Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, T623, Roll 1148, Ward 2, page 13, ED 656.

<sup>7</sup>Gorsline, Joseph H. Death Certificate, #1358.

<sup>8</sup>*Newtown Register*, 16 April 1914, page 5.

<sup>9</sup>New York, New York City Municipal Deaths 1795-1949, online <[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)>, Family Search Reference ID 1358.

<sup>10</sup>Find A Grave, online [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com), Memorial Number 91606608.

<sup>11</sup>*Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, Brooklyn, Kings Co, New York, 1841-1955, 1960-1963. Hereinafter cited as *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, 21 May 1914, page 4.

<sup>12</sup>*Brooklyn Daily Star*, Brooklyn, New York, 189?-1933. Hereinafter cited as *Brooklyn Daily Star*, 24 July 1914.

<sup>13</sup>Joseph Henry Gorsline; New York, US, Wills & Probate Records, 1659-1999, (Queens County), 22 September 1914, Case Number 646; Mixed Proceedings, Case #0643-0661.