

Individual Narrative of Margaret⁸ Douglas Gorsline [316] Daughter of Sarah⁷ Leverich [145] and Peter Gorsline Jr.

Margaret Douglas Gorsline was born on 9 December 1855 at Newtown, Queens County, New York.¹ Margaret was baptized 28 September 1856 at the Newtown Presbyterian Church.²

Margaret D. Gorsline, age 4, was recorded in the 1860 U.S. Census of Flushing, Queens County, New York. Margaret's household included her parents Peter and Sarah Gorsline, ages 27 and 26 respectively, and her sister Anna L. Gorsline, age 6. Also included was her aunt Anna Leverich, age 30.³

At some point during the family's tenure in Queens County, Margaret D. Gorsline's family lived in a house located at Shell Road and Junction Avenue.⁴

Margaret D. Gorsline, age 14, was recorded in the 1870 U.S. Census of Elizabeth Ward 5, Union County, New Jersey. Her household included her parents Peter and Sarah Gorsline, ages 34 and 30 respectively and her sister Anna L. Gorsline, age 16.⁵

By 1879 Margaret's family may have returned to Queens County, New York. The 1878-1879 Long Island Directory lists a Peter Gorsline living at Amity Street in Flushing. Neither Margaret D. Gorsline nor her father Peter Gorsline are found in the 1880 U.S. Census of Queens County or Union County, New Jersey, or anywhere else in the 1880 census.^{6,7}

By 1891, Margaret D. Gorsline and her sister Anna L. Gorsline had opened a retail shop selling "fine goods and notions". See advertisement below. The sisters would maintain this business for over twenty years later relocating on Park Avenue near Second street. They sold the shop to Mrs. Irving Bisinger circa 1913-1914.^{8,9}



Margaret Gorsline and her sister Anna L. Gorsline were boarders at 510 Madison Avenue in the 1900 U.S. Census of Plainfield Ward 3, Union County, New Jersey. Both were listed as "Dealer in Notions."¹⁰

Margaret Gorsline and her sister Anna L. Gorsline are renters at 122 Madison Avenue in the 1910 U.S. Census of Plainfield Ward 4, Union County, New Jersey. They are both associated with "Fancy Store". Anna is identified as "employer". Margaret is identified as "wage earning sales lady."¹¹

Anna L. Gorsline died 9 March 1914 at Plainfield, Union County, New Jersey.^{12,13}

Margaret D. Gorsline, age 64, was recorded living at 331 East South Street in the 1920 U.S. Census of Plainfield, Union County, New Jersey. She is living alone except for one lodger Adeline Robinson, a minister.¹⁴

Margaret D. Gorsline, age 74, was recorded living at 313 Franklyn Place in the 1930 U. S. Census of Plainfield, Union County, New Jersey. She was an inmate in what appears to be a nursing home.¹⁵

Margaret Douglas Gorsline died on 28 Jan 1940 at Plainfield, Union County, New Jersey, at age 84.¹⁶ Margaret D. Gorsline was never married. She died at the Catherine Webster Home, 313 Franklyn Place. Funeral services were held at the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church. She was buried at the Hillside Cemetery in Scotch Plains, Union County, New Jersey.^{17,18}

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1870 U.S. Census New Jersey, Union Co. NARA, M593, Roll 890. Ancestry.com, 360 West 4800 North, Provo, Utah 84604.

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1900 U.S. Census New Jersey, Union Co. NARA, T623, ED 091. Ancestry.com, 360 West 4800 North, Provo, Utah 84604.

1910 U.S. Census New Jersey, Union Co. NARA, T624, Roll 909. Ancestry.com, 360 West 4800 North, Provo, Utah 84604.

1920 U.S. Census New Jersey, Union Co. NARA, T625, Roll 1069. Ancestry.com, 360 West 4800 North, Provo, Utah 84604.

1930 U.S. Census New Jersey, Union Co. NARA, T626, ED0114. Ancestry.com, 360 West 4800 North, Provo, Utah 84604.

Find A Grave. Online www.findagrave.com.

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Plainfield (NJ) Daily Press, Plainfield, Union Co, New Jersey, 1887-1917, Ancestry.com.

The Courier-News, Bridgewater, New Jersey, 1884-date, Newspapers.com.

White, Arthur. "Newtown Presbyterian Church Records." 1922, Transcription. 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. Originally Published in the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record: 55 (1924) 162-167, 281-291, 383-400; 56 (1925) 73-83, 173-187, 353-359. Subsequently published in *Collections NY G&B Society*, Volume 8. Original transcript is part of the NYG&B Manuscript Collections, which are now held by the New York Public Library, Archives Division. The original Church records remain at the Church, 54-05 Seabury Street Queens Blvd and 54th Avenue, Elmhurst, Queens County, New York.

Endnotes

¹Arthur White, "Newtown Presbyterian Church Records," 1922, Transcription, 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; Baptisms 1856. Hereinafter cited as "Newtown Presbyterian Records."

²Ibid.

³1860 U.S. Census New York, Queens Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M653, Roll 843, Flushing, page 568.

⁴*Newtown Register*, Newtown, Queens Co, New York, 1873-1935. Hereinafter cited as Newtown Register, 12 March 1914, page 5.

⁵1870 U.S. Census New Jersey, Union Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M593, Roll 890, Elizabeth Ward 5, page 503A.

⁶*Long Island Directory 1878* (Brooklyn, New York: Lain & Co, 1878). Hereinafter cited as *Long Island Directory 1878*.

⁷1880 U.S. Census. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, T9.

⁸*Plainfield (NJ) Daily Press*, Plainfield, Union Co, New Jersey, 1887-1917. Hereinafter cited as Plainfield (NJ) Daily Press, 27 June 1891.

⁹Ibid., 9 March 1914, page 1.

¹⁰1900 U.S. Census New Jersey, Union Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, T623, ED 091, Plainfield Ward 3, ED 127, page 219B.

¹¹1910 U.S. Census New Jersey, Union Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, T624, Roll 909, Plainfield Ward 4, ED 098, page 216A.

¹²*Plainfield (NJ) Daily Press*, 9 March 1914, page 1.

¹³*The Courier-News*, Bridgewater, New Jersey, 1884-date. Hereinafter cited as Courier-News, 9 March 1914, page 1.

¹⁴1920 U.S. Census New Jersey, Union Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, T625, Roll 1069, Plainfield Ward 2, ED 124, page 104A.

¹⁵1930 U.S. Census New Jersey, Union Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, T626, ED0114, Plainfield Ward 2, ED 20-110, page 84B.

¹⁶*Courier-News*, 30 January 1940, page 15.

¹⁷Ibid.

¹⁸Find A Grave, online <www.findagrave.com>, Memorial Number 118735939. Hereinafter cited as Find A Grave.