

## Individual Narrative of Sarah<sup>5</sup> Leverich [26] Wife of Joseph Gorsline

Sarah Leverich was born circa 1730 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York. Sarah was the daughter of William Leverich and Martha Way, who were married in 1722. Sarah's birth year is a calculated estimate based on her parents' marriage year, and assumed birth order. Circumstantial evidence suggests that Sarah was likely the fourth born of four daughters. Sarah is named fourth in a deed selling the family farm in 1758.<sup>1,2</sup> A deed was executed on 20 April 1758 selling the 105 acre William Leverich farm at Hellsgate to Halimous Wycoff, yeoman of Newtown. The grantors were Martha Leverich, widow of William Leverich, Samuel Gorsline and Martha his wife, Richard Penfold and Mary his wife, Ruth and Sarah Leverich, all of Newtown. The deed was recorded on 3 January 1759.<sup>3</sup>

Sarah Leverich married Joseph Gorsline, son of Jose Gorsline and Elizabeth Alburtis, in 1759 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York. Their specific marriage date has not been found, but Sarah and Joseph received a marriage license on 2 October 1759. The marriage is not recorded at the Newtown Presbyterian Church. Joseph Gorsline was born about 1735, the son of Jose Gorsline and Elizabeth Alburtis of Newtown.<sup>4</sup>

The Newtown, Queens County, New York Census of 1771 records as a head of household "Joseph Goslang.<sup>5</sup>" On 9 November 1772, Joost Gorsline of Newtown prepared his will, which was proved 2 December 1772. The will named his wife Martha, and children Samuel, Jacob, John, William, **Joseph**, James, Daniel, Elizabeth wife of Francis Way, Judith, Thomas, and Benjamin. The will also named children of deceased son Richard, and children of deceased daughter Mary, the wife of Thomas Swarouth.<sup>6</sup>

New York City and Long Island, including Queens County, were occupied and controlled by British military authorities for the duration of the war of independence. Historian Henry Onderdonk Jr observed that "the King being now in possession of Queens county, and his soldiers scattered over it, the leading Whigs having been thrown in prison, and the property of those who fled seized by the enemy, the remainder were constrained to join the Loyalists in petitioning the King's Commissioners that Queens County might be restored to Royal Favor." The petition, issued on 21 October 1776, requested "And we humbly pray, that your Excellencies would be pleased to declare this county at the peace of His Majesty, and thereby enable us to receive the benefits flowing from his most gracious protection." Joseph Gorsline was among the residents signing this petition.<sup>7</sup>

On 22 December 1783, the first Newtown town officers were chosen in the name of the people of the State of New York. Joseph Gosline and John Morrell were chosen trustees.<sup>8,9</sup> A 1786 Tax List of Newtown, Queens Co, New York includes Joseph Goslin and his likely son-in-law Abraham Morrell.<sup>10</sup>

The 1790 U.S. Census records two "Joseph Gosing's" in Newtown, Queens County, New York. These are presumably Joseph Gorsline Sr and his wife Sarah Leverich, and their son Joseph Gorsline Jr. One of the Joseph's with a family size of 7 is recorded between the names Nathan Woodhull and Nathaniel Hunt, the other Joseph with a family size of 5 is recorded between John Wilcox and Jacob Miller.<sup>11</sup>

A subscribers list dated 1 May 1790 for the Rev. Mr. Woodhull of the Newtown Presbyterian Church included Joseph Goslen and Joseph Goslen Jr.<sup>12</sup> On 10 April 1791 the following individuals were baptized at the Newtown Presbyterian Church: Joseph Goslin Sr, his sons Joseph Goslin Jr and William Gosline, and daughter Elizabeth Morril.<sup>13</sup> Mary, second wife of John Hamilton, was baptized at the Newtown Presbyterian Church on 15 February 1799. Mary was the eldest child of Joseph Gorsline and Sarah Leverich.<sup>14</sup>

In 1799, the State of New York enacted legislation providing for the collection of taxes on real estate and personal property. Joseph Gorsline Sr, husband of Sarah Leverich, as well as their son Joseph Gorsline Jr, are recorded on the tax assessment roles at Newtown, Queens Co, New York for the period 1799-1800. The property of Joseph Sr was valued at \$2900.00 during this period of time.<sup>15</sup>

The 1800 Census of Newtown, Queens Co, New York includes two Joseph Goslin's, presumably Senior and Junior, as well as William Goslin.<sup>16</sup> Mrs. William Gorsline became a member of the Newtown Presbyterian Church in 1801. Joseph Gorsline became a member of the Church in 1803.<sup>17</sup>

Sarah Leverich Gorsline died on 6 May 1801 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York,, according to the records of the Newtown Presbyterian Church. A burial record for Sarah has not been found, but she may be buried at the Presbyterian churchyard.<sup>18</sup>

Sarah Leverich and Joseph Gorsline had seven children, all born at Newtown.

- i. c 1760 Mary Gorsline. Newtown, Queens Co, New York. Died 1814. 2<sup>nd</sup> wife of John Hamilton.
- ii. c 1763 Martha Gorsline. Ulster Co, New York. Married James Gorsline, son of James Gorsline <brother of Joseph> and Kezia Thurston.
- iii. c 1764 William Gorsline. M-1 Elizabeth Tucker. M-2 Catherine Ann < ? >. Died 1854. Flatlands, Kings Co, New York.
- iv. c 1765 Joseph Gorsline, Jr. Married Helena Conselyea. Died 1812. Newtown, Queens Co, NY.
- v. c 1767 Elizabeth Gorsline. Married Abraham Morrell. Newtown, Queens Co, NY.
- vi. c 1769 Sarah Gorsline. Married < ? > Jones <per Gorsline Family Chart, undocumented>. Father's will mentions daughter Sarah and her sons Richard and Abraham, but does not identified a married name.
- vii. c 1771 Betsey Gorsline. Married Richard Gorsline.<sup>19</sup>

The Newtown historian James Riker, in his manuscript notes, quotes his Grandfather Riker: "Joseph and Jacob Gosline. Joseph, daughters, loose women; one married a Leverich, shoemaker in Newtown". This may be a reference to out of wedlock children by Mary and Sarah, daughters of Joseph Gorsline and Sarah Leverich.<sup>20</sup>

Mary Gorsline had a son Edward Leverich Junior, born in 1780, by her cousin Edward Leverich Senior. Edward junior was likely raised in the household of his grandparents Joseph Gorsline and Sarah Leverich. Edward Leverich Junior married Hannah Underhill, a daughter of Edward's step grandmother Hannah Hyatt and her husband Jonathan Underhill. Mary Gorsline became the second wife of John Hamilton of Newtown, but it is not known if they had any children. Edward Leverich Jr named a daughter Mary Hamilton Leverich.<sup>21,22,23,24</sup>

Sarah Gorsline had two sons, Abraham and Richard, named in their grandfather Joseph Gorsline's will, but without their father being identified. Sarah's burial record at the Hoffman Blvd Cemetery in Queens gives her name as Sarah Jones.<sup>25,26</sup>

The "daughter" who married a Leverich was more likely a step granddaughter, Sarah Maria Schenck, daughter of Rebecca and Moses Schenck, who married Berrien Leverich in 1832. Rebecca was the daughter of Hannah Hyatt and Jonathan Underhill. Sarah Maria and Berrien had a son Moses Edgar. Sarah died in childbirth in 1838, and Moses was raised by his Schenck grandparents, taking their surname when he came of age.<sup>27,28,29,30,31</sup>

Many on-line family trees identify, incorrectly, a Richard Gorsline who married Elizabeth Wood as a son of Joseph Gorsline and Sarah Leverich. Joseph's will does not identify a son Richard, although the will does identify a Richard Gorsline as a son-in-law, husband of daughter Betsey Gorsline. Joseph's will also specifies legacies based upon 1/7 of the estate, indicating that there were seven children, not eight. Richard Gorsline who married Elizabeth Wood was more likely the son of James Gorsline, brother of Joseph, and his wife Kezia Thurston of Dutchess County, New York.<sup>32,33</sup>

On 13 November 1803, Joseph Gorsline married for a second time Hannah Hyatt, widow of Jonathan Underhill. There were no children born of this marriage.<sup>34</sup>

On 9 March 1809 Joseph Gorsline advertised in the *New York Public Advertiser* land for sale at Newtown, opposite the lower end of Blackwell's Island, adjoining Jacob Bennett's farm, containing about 20 acres, belonging to the subscriber, with a convenient two story house and kitchen, and a cellar under the whole. Also a good barn and a cellar under the whole. The property also contained orchards and a fishery.<sup>35</sup>

The 1810 Census of Newtown, Queens Co, New York includes 2 Joseph Goslin's, each with a family size of 9, and a male > 45. One Joseph is listed between Mary Rapelye and John Rapelye. The other Joseph is recorded between Ann Ledyard and John Borrows.<sup>36</sup>

On 9 February 1814 Joseph Gorsline, Executor, advertised in the *Mercantile Advertiser*, a farm for sale formerly occupied by the widow Mary Penfold, who was Joseph's sister-in-law. The farm is listed as being on the banks of the East River at Hurlgate, containing about 80 acres.<sup>37</sup>

The 1820 Census of Newtown, Queens Co, New York records Joseph Goslin (presumably "Senior", since Joseph Goslin Jr had died in 1814). The household consists of 6 persons, 4 of which are slaves. Joseph is listed between Nathaniel Hunt and Margaret Van Wickle. The remaining two persons in the household are presumably Joseph and his second wife Hannah.<sup>38</sup>

Joseph Gorsline died 30 March 1822, age 85 years, 8 months, according to the records of the Newtown Presbyterian Church. A burial record of Joseph has not been found, but he likely was buried at the Presbyterian churchyard.<sup>39</sup>

Joseph Gorsline prepared his will on 14 August 1813, with a codicil dated 21 March 1820. The will names his wife Hannah; grandson Edward Leverich Jr, and his mother Mary Hamilton; daughter Martha, wife of James Gorsline; grandson Joseph Gorsline, son of Joseph Gorsline Jr; daughter Elizabeth, wife of Abraham Morrell; son William and his wife Elizabeth, maiden name Tucker; daughter Sarah Gorsline and her children Richard and Abraham. The codicil names granddaughter (actually step granddaughter) and her mother Rebecca Schanck (daughter of Hannah, 2nd wife of Joseph, and her first husband Jonathan Underhill). Richard B. Leverich, William L. Penfold, (grandson) Edward Leverich Jr, and (grandson) Joseph Gorsline were named executors. The will was witnessed by Daniel Lawrence, W. Ashfield, and Maria L. Taylor. The will was proved 3 April 1822.<sup>40</sup>

The following notice was published on 3 May 1822 in the *New-York Daily Advertiser*. "Farm for Sale at Newtown, Long Island. That valuable farm, late the property of Joseph Gorsline, deceased, distant from New York about eight miles, will be sold on the premises by auction on Tuesday the 30th inst. at 2 o'clock. It is in the village of Newtown, within half a mile of four places of public worship, and in point of situation, is a very desirable place. The premises comprises 59 acres of land, more or less, 10 of which are wood, and 1 turf meadow; is well fenced, & planted with two orchards of the best grafted fruits. There is a good dwelling house, and other necessary out buildings, with every convenience for a small farm. Terms will be made easy, and for further particulars apply to Rapelye & Purdy, 27 Burling-slip, or to Rich B. Leverich, Edwd. Leverich, Joseph P. Gosline, Executors N. Town, L. Island. N.B. There may be purchased to advantage a lot, containing 43 3-4 acres, attached to the above property."<sup>41</sup>

A map of Queens County, showing land ownership about the year 1800, cites the transfer of 101 acres of land in 1828 by the heirs of Joseph Gorsline to Peter Remsen.<sup>42</sup> Riker recorded interviews of local individuals c 1848-1849. His manuscript notes include the following reference: "The earliest dweller now on the place of Wm Leverich (he says) was Joseph Gosline, who is believed to have built the oldest part of the house now standing computed to be says Mrs Leverich 120 years old. His old well was down back of the house in the low ground. Wm L laterly discovered it but knew before that it was somewheres there." The Joseph Gorsline referred to was likely Jose Gorsline, father of Joseph, in light of the date about 1728. The William Leverich quoted was likely William Leverich III, the grandson of Jesse Leverich.<sup>43</sup>

Mrs. Gorsline, widow of Joseph Gorsline, died in May 1829, according to the records of the Newtown Presbyterian Church.<sup>44</sup> Hannah Gosline, widow of Joseph Gosline of Newtown, prepared a will on 6 January 1826. The will names her son William (no surname given), and daughters Sarah, Hannah, Mary, Nancy, Elizabeth Ann, Rebecca. Also named is grandson James Harmon Lott. Brother Cornelius Hyatt and friends William Howard and Daniel Lawrence are named executors. The will was witnessed by Thomas Hunt, Daniel Morrell, and Thomas H. Betts. The will was proven on 9 June 1829.<sup>45</sup>

James Riker, in his *Annals of Newtown*, incorrectly states the family of Joseph Gorsline. "Joseph Gorsline married successively Sarah Leverich, and widow Hannah Underhill ... his sons were James and John, the last of which married Helen Conselyea and was the father of the present Andrew and Peter." There were no sons James or John, and the grandsons Andrew and Peter were the sons of Joseph Jr.<sup>46</sup>

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Prepared by:

Tom Leverich

28 Saratoga Drive

West Windsor, New Jersey 08550

tomaug12@aol.com

609-275-1239

[www.leverichgenealogy.org](http://www.leverichgenealogy.org)

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## Endnotes

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- <sup>1</sup>Arthur 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 10018, Marriages 1722. Hereinafter cited as "Newtown Presbyterian Records."
- <sup>2</sup>Newtown Town Records 1753-1850 Book 289: page 117, New York City Municipal Archives, 31 Chambers St, Room 103, Manhattan, New York, New York 10007. Hereinafter cited as Newtown Town Records 1753-1850 Book 289.
- <sup>3</sup>Ibid.
- <sup>4</sup>Kelby, Robert H. and Scott, Kenneth; *New York Marriages Previous to 1784, a reprint of the original edition of 1860, with Additions and Corrections* (1860; reprint Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1968), page 231. Hereinafter cited as *NY Marriages Previous to 1784*.
- <sup>5</sup>Harry Macy, "Newtown Queens 1771 Census," *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* Volume 117, No. 1 (1986): pages 8-9. Hereinafter cited as "Newtown Census."
- <sup>6</sup>William S. Pelletreau, compiler, *Abstracts of Wills in the Surrogate's Office, City of New York, Volumes 1-17, 1665-1801* (New York, New York: Collections of the New York Historical Society, 1893-1909), Volume 8, pages 83-84. Hereinafter cited as *Abstracts Wills Surrogate New York City*.
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- <sup>8</sup>Newtown Town Records 1753-1850 Book 289: page 268.
- <sup>9</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 222. Hereinafter cited as *Annals of Newtown*.
- <sup>10</sup>Henry Onderdonk Jr, transcriber; *Newtown Tax List 1786*, 1940, Brooklyn Historical Society, 128 Pierrepont St, Brooklyn, New York 11201, hereinafter referred to Newtown Tax List 1786.
- <sup>11</sup>1790 U.S. Census New York, Queens Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M637, Roll 6, Newtown pages 19 and 20.
- <sup>12</sup>*Newtown Presbyterian Records - Original*; Newtown Presbyterian Church:54-05 Seabury St, Elmhurst, NY 11373. LDS Microfilm Number 497549 (Item 21), Subscribers List Rev. Mr. Woodhull, 1 May 1790. Hereinafter cited as *Newtown Presbyterian Records - Original*.
- <sup>13</sup>Newtown Presbyterian Records, Baptisms 1791.
- <sup>14</sup>Ibid., Baptisms 1799.
- <sup>15</sup>New York Tax Assessment Rolls of Real and Personal Estates, 1799-1804. New York State Archives, Albany, New York; Series B0950, Reel No. 17, Box 39, Folders 5, 11, 17, 23, 29. Ancestry.com, 360 West 4800 North, Provo, Utah 84604, Reel No. 17, Box 39, Folders 5, 11, 17, 23, 29. Hereinafter cited as New York Tax Assessment Rolls 1799-1804.
- <sup>16</sup>1800 U.S. Census New York, Queens Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M32, Roll 25, Newtown page 655.
- <sup>17</sup>Newtown Presbyterian Records, Members 1801, 1803.
- <sup>18</sup>Ibid., Deaths 1801.
- <sup>19</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>20</sup>Cora Snapp, *Historical Notes of Newtown, a Transcription of the James Riker Papers at the New York Public Library*; LDS Film 17805 (Jamaica, New York: Queens Borough Public Library, 1941), 4 Volume Typescript, Volume 4, page 439. Hereinafter cited as *Riker Papers, Snapp Transcription*.
- <sup>21</sup>1822 Probate Joseph Gorsline E-59.
- <sup>22</sup>Newtown Presbyterian Records, Baptisms 1799; Marriages 1807.
- <sup>23</sup>Charles U. Powell - Compiler and Alice H. Meigs - Editor, *Description of Private and Family Cemeteries in the Borough of Queens Compiled by the Topographical Bureau* (Jamaica, New York: Long Island Collection, Queens Borough Public Library, 1932), page 17. Hereinafter cited as *Description Private and Family Cemeteries Queens*.
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- <sup>25</sup>1822 Probate Joseph Gorsline E-59.

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- <sup>27</sup>1822 Probate Joseph Gorsline E-59.
- <sup>28</sup>Hannah Gosline will (9 June 1829), F-249. Queens County, New York Surrogate, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York 11435. Hereinafter cited as 1829 Probate Hannah Gosline.
- <sup>29</sup>*Long Island Star*, Brooklyn, Kings Co, New York, 1809-1820. Hereinafter cited as Long Island Star, 9 February 1814, page 3.
- <sup>30</sup>Newtown Presbyterian Records, Marriages 1832, Deaths 1838.
- <sup>31</sup>Frost, *Underhill Genealogy*, pages 181-182, 378-381.
- <sup>32</sup>1822 Probate Joseph Gorsline E-59.
- <sup>33</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. Volume 5.* (Pleasant Valley, New York: Published by the author, 1999), page 704. Hereinafter cited as *Settlers Beekman Patent*.
- <sup>34</sup>Newtown Presbyterian Records, Marriages 1803.
- <sup>35</sup>*Public Advertiser*, New York, New York, 1807-1813. Hereinafter cited as Public Advertiser, 9 March 1809, page 4.
- <sup>36</sup>1810 U.S. Census, New York, Queens Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M252, Roll 34, Newtown, pages 285 and 281.
- <sup>37</sup>*Mercantile Advertiser*, New York, New York, 1798-1820. Hereinafter cited as Mercantile Advertiser, 9 February 1814, page 4.
- <sup>38</sup>1820 U.S. Census, NY Queens Co. unknown repository, Provo, Utah. NARA, M33, Role 78, Newtown, page 49A.
- <sup>39</sup>Newtown Presbyterian Records, Deaths 1822.
- <sup>40</sup>1822 Probate Joseph Gorsline E-59.
- <sup>41</sup>*New-York Daily Advertiser*, New York, New York, 1817-1836. Hereinafter cited as New-York Daily Advertiser, 3 May 1822, page 4.
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- <sup>44</sup>Newtown Presbyterian Records, Deaths 1829.
- <sup>45</sup>1829 Probate Hannah Gosline F-249.
- <sup>46</sup>Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, page 346.