

Individual Narrative of Martha⁶ Gorsline [74] Daughter of Samuel Gorsline and Martha⁵ Leverich [23]

Samuel Gorsline was the husband of Martha⁵ Leverich [23]. They were married 3 March 1750 at the Newtown Presbyterian Church, Queens County, New York.¹

Samuel Gorsline, a farmer of Rombout Precinct, Dutchess Co, New York made a will dated 25 May 1782. The will stipulated: "I leave my eldest son Samuel the choice of a horse for his birthright. All the rest of the estate I leave to my children Samuel, **Martha**, William, Elizabeth, Sarah, Ruth, James, Richard and Jose. My son Richard is to have one year's schooling at the expense of my estate, and my son Jose is to have three years' schooling." The text of the will suggests that the children are named in birth order from oldest to youngest. This would make Martha Gorsline the second child born to Samuel and Martha.²

Therefore Martha Gorsline was likely born circa 1752, probably at Newtown, Queens Co, New York.³

Frank J. Doherty, in *The Settlers of the Beekman Patent*, identifies Martha Gorsline, daughter of Samuel Gorsline and Martha Leverich, as "Martha, born 23 January 1763, married James Gorsline her cousin." No sources are cited in support of this identification.⁴

A Martha Gorsline was born 23 January 1763, as it appears in the records of the First Dutch Reformed Church at Rochester, Ulster County, New York. As a result, this Martha is likely too young to be the same Martha, daughter of Samuel and Martha.⁵ Joseph Gorsline, a younger brother of Samuel Gorsline, married Sarah⁵ Leverich [26], sister of Martha⁵ Leverich [23] who was married to Samuel. Joseph Gorsline made a will dated 14 August 1813. Among his heirs, Joseph identifies his "daughter Martha, wife of James Gorsline". Therefore, Martha Gorsline daughter of Samuel and Martha was not the wife of James Gorsline.⁶

Martha Gorsline was presumably alive in 1782 at the time she is mentioned in her father Samuel's will. The will does not specify married names for any of Samuel's daughters, although a son-in-law George Adriance (husband of Elizabeth Gorsline according to other sources) is mentioned without identifying which of the daughters was his wife. So Martha may or may not have been married in 1782. Subsequent to that time, no further record of Martha has been found. A husband has not been identified, nor a death date nor burial place.⁷

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Gorsline, Samuel 1784 Probate. Ancient Documents File No. 10953 and 10986. Dutchess County New York Surrogate, Dutchess County Archives, 22 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, Dutchess, New York 12601.

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 10018, Marriages, 1750. Hereinafter cited as "Newtown Presbyterian Records."

²Samuel Gorsline will (1782-1784), 1784 Probate Samuel Gorsline Ancient Documents File No. 10953 and 10986: Dutchess County New York Surrogate, Dutchess County Archives, 22 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, Dutchess, New York 12601. Hereinafter cited as 1784 Probate Samuel Gorsline.

³Newtown Presbyterian Records, Marriages, 1750.

⁴Frank 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), Volume 5, page 698. Hereinafter cited as *Settlers Beekman Patent*.

⁵*New York Births and Christenings 1640-1962*, Family Search Index, online <https://familysearch.org>), First Dutch Reformed Church, Rochester, Ulster Co, NY: Film No. 823668: birth 23 January 1763.

⁶Joseph 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.

⁷1784 Probate Samuel Gorsline Ancient Documents File No. 10953 and 10986.