

Barnstable Gochams

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Barstable Gorhams.

Memorandum written the 1. 1675

Thank you my Son with all due respectfull humble profection to your self
and unto the Rest of the Council hoping of your helpe I have not bold to
trouble you with these few lines to give your honore an account of our progress
in your Jurisdiction. Arriving unto your lower order and Determination June
at Monum with fifty men and the next day Left for the place and arrived with
thirty eight men and the day following we found our selves together and
Marched in pursuit to find our Enemy. but God hath bin pleased to direct
us any opportunity therein: though with much labor and travell we
have endeavored to find them out which I left w^{ch}ham hath given you
a more particular account: our Soldiers being weary must needs
have my horse in the field this fortnight weeks and little hope of finding
the Enemy now and this day returning towards our Council: but as for my
own part I shall be ready to serve God and the Country in this just
warre so long as I have life and health Not Eld to trouble you I left
young to serve in what I am able.

John Gorton.

BARNSTABLE GORHAMS.

The Old House in which they lived, and their Services in the Colonial Wars.

A Paper read 6 February, 1895, at a Court of the Society of
Colonial Wars in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

BY

FRANK WILLIAM SPRAGUE, Esq.

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W. S. W. W. W.

Barnstable April 2th 1697
So major Walley Comissioner for Warre these may Certifie
that to my Certain knowledge one John manasset an Indian
servant to Mr Tho Smith of Eastham went out Eastward
in last Expedition with major Church & served under Capt
Johnes an Indian untill wee returned to Boston Againe

J^o Garbarr

BARNSTABLE GORHAMS.

THE OLD HOUSE IN WHICH THEY LIVED, AND THEIR SERVICES IN THE COLONIAL WARS.

IN the eastern part of the town, on the north side of the road, and several houses west of the Yarmouth line, stands an old house, formerly owned by the Gorhams, now owned by Mr. Gilmore. Lt. Col. John Gorham, in his will dated 1716, says: "I give to Shubael the house in which he now lives, and the lands called Stony Cove lands." * Col. Shubael and his sons, Col. John and Lt. Col. Joseph Gorham, took part in the siege of Louisburg. † Among those who have lived in the old house were Col. David Gorham, brother of Col. John, and Dr. John Davis; also his son, Job C. Davis, Esq., for many years Register of Deeds. ‡ "It is," says Gustavus A. Hinckley Esq., "one of the most interesting relics of old times, that vandalism, under cover of improvement, has permitted to remain, interesting from its family associations and the style of the domestic architecture and interior finish." It is the oldest of four houses now standing which were built by the Gorhams in early times, all of them upon the farm once owned by Capt. John Gorham, who settled in Barnstable in 1652.

The Gorhams took a very important part in the Colonial wars. In volume 67, Massachusetts Archives, there is a letter § from Capt. John Gorham, written to Governor Winslow, in 1675. Capt. Gorham's son John was in his company of soldiers during the war with king Philip and his tribe. In volume 30, page 500, Massachusetts Archives, may be found the following letter:

"Barnstable, April Ye, 8, 1697.

"To Major Walley, Commissioner for war, these may certify that to my certain knowledge, one John Manassos, an Indian servant to Mr. Tho. Smith of Eastham, went out Eastward ye last Expedition with Major Church, and served under Capt. Jothro, an Indian until now returned to Boston again.

Jⁿ. GORHAM. ||

* Barnstable Records and Otis's Barnstable Families.

† Nova Scotia Archives.

‡ Barnstable Records, Otis's Barnstable Families.

§ I have given photographs of this letter to the N. E. H. G. Society and Mass. His. Society.

|| Mass. Archives. vol. 30, page 500. This letter had not been indexed or published before.

Lieut. Governor Stoughton, in his instructions to Major Church, Aug. 12, 1696, says: "You are to advise as you can have occasion with Capt. John Gorham, who accompanies you in this expedition and is to take your command in case of your death." Lt. Col. John Gorham was second in command in the fourth and fifth expeditions against the French and Indians. His monument is near the Unitarian meeting house in Barnstable. June 1, 1744, a joint committee of war was called with William Pepperrell of Kittery, President of the Council, at its head, five hundred men were impressed, two hundred were dispatched to reinforce Annapolis, which was understood to be threatened by the Indians.

Nov. 9, 1744, Governor Shirley reported to the Duke of Bedford that the French officer DuVivier had retreated from before Annapolis, upon Capt. Gorham's arrival with his company of Indian rangers from New England, and that Gorham had so used his command that the garrison was now entirely free from alarm.*

In 1745 Capt. Gorham was sent from Annapolis to Boston to raise troops. While there he was induced to join the expedition then fitting out against Cape Breton. He was appointed Lt. Col. of the 7th Massachusetts regiment, commanded by his father, Col. Shubael Gorham, and on the death of his father at Louisburg was promoted by Pepperrell to be a full colonel. After the capture of Louisburg he returned to Annapolis and was placed by Governor Shirley in command of the Boston troops sent to Minas with Col. Noble.† In July, 1749, he was a member of the Governor's Council in Nova Scotia. His brother Joseph was a lieutenant of rangers under Governor Cornwallis in 1749, and later held the rank of Lieut. Colonel in the regular army.

In 1749 Col. John Gorham was sent to England to explain the state of military affairs in the colonies. Governor Shirley, in a letter written to the Duke of Bedford, Oct. 13, 1749, says: "Capt. Gorham's activity and usefulness in his Majesty's service I cannot too much commend to your grace." Colonel Gorham and his wife, Elizabeth Allen, were presented at court. She was one of the most accomplished women of her day.

The following letter copied from the Massachusetts Historical Society, is one of several written by him to Sir William Pepperrell:

"In the Camp, May 7, 1745.

"Hon. Sir:—I beg the party from the grand Battery may be as private as possible in getting their boats ready and cannot be willing to proceed without Shaw, to be my pilot. If he is not come by land should choose to send a boat for him immediately and also the city may have as warm a

* This Col. John Gorham was son of Shubael and grandson of Lt. Col. John, of Church's expeditions, 1696.

† See Year Book for 1895. Society of Colonial Wars.

From the Camp near 7th 1745—

I beg the party from the Grand
Batterey may be as private as
possible In Getting their boats Ready
and cannot be willing to proceed
without Shaw to be my pilot if
he is not come by land should choose to
send a boat for him immediately and
also the City may have as warme
a Fire as we can Give them In
Different places untill one Clock or two
and then a cessation untill they hear
us Engaged Hope to have all Ready
I pray for Shaw for your most obedient
Humble servant In^o Godham
J. C. C.

LETTER WRITTEN TO SIR WILLIAM PEPPERRELL.

fire as we can give them in different places, until one o'clock or two and then a cessation until they hear us engaged. Hope to have all ready, pray send Shaw.

"Sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

"JOHN GORHAM." *

Miss Louisa Low of Stamford, Connecticut, daughter of the late John Gorham Low of Gloucester, owns a portrait, painted by Copley in 1762, † of Elizabeth Gorham Rogers, daughter of Col. John Gorham and his wife Elizabeth Allan. The subject of this portrait was born in 1739 in the old Gorham house, still standing in Barnstable. This portrait was on exhibition in the "Loan Collection" at Copley Hall.

In Minister Chandler's diary of the First Church in Gloucester, (Babson's History), are the following notes :

"Jan. 20, 1754, I drank tea at Capt. John Stevens, his new wife came on Tuesday, she was the widow of Col. John Gorham of Barnstable."

Minister Chandler also says :

"The widow of Col. John Gorham brought with her to Gloucester, besides three beautiful daughters, one son, Solomon Gorham." "Nov. 6, 1759, I visited Eastern point, further end; married Daniel Rogers and Elizabeth Gorham." ‡

The Gorhams were descended from four of the pilgrims on the Mayflower, namely: John Tilley and his wife, Bridget Van De Voide. §

John Howland and his wife Elizabeth Tilley. The first John Gorham married Desire Howland, one of the first born in Plymouth.

I have some encouragement that the "Old Gorham House" in Barnstable will be marked by the "Old Colony Commission."

¶ This article has been gleaned from Massachusetts Historical Society, Nova Scotia Archives, Palfrey's History of New England, Otis's Barnstable Families, Gustavus A. Hinckley, Esq., of Barnstable, Major Nelson Gorham, of Fulton, New York, Babson's History of Gloucester, Minister Chandler's Diary, 1754 and 1759, Gorham Rogers, Esq., of Boston.

* Dr. Samuel Abbott Green gave me permission to copy and to publish this letter.

† The portrait hung in one house in Gloucester for 90 years. Gorham Rogers, Esq. of Boston, gave me valuable assistance in looking up the history of this portrait.

‡ Minister Chandler's Diary.

§ Goodwin's Pilgrim Republic.

"CHATEAU DE GORRON."

While making a trip through northern France, in July, 1891, I visited Gorron ("Gorram"). It is in the Province of Maine, about twelve miles from the city of Mayenne, nine miles from the railroad, and is a quiet little farming village. Very near the White Pigeon Hotel stand the ruins of the ancient "Chateau de Gorron," built in 1199. Enough remains to show the outlines of it. Houses and shops have been built so close to the old walls that from the road and little stream running through its grounds not much can be seen, except the fragments of one corner tower that stands perhaps forty feet high, topped by a modern roof, and contains two rooms; the lower one with its ancient fireplace has never been restored, the upper room being the only one now used. A small portion of another corner remains, only a rough ivy-covered wall.

At la Tannière, I was shown the site of an earlier "Chateau de Gorron," which is now occupied by a modern church.

"Giles de Gorham, son of William, took the cross from the hands of William Bishop of Mans, in company with Geoffrey, son of Juhell II., Lord of Mayenne, and one hundred and eight other knights, in the Church of St. Mary of Mayenne, A. D. 1158. He returned with only thirty-five of his company from the Holy Land, November 7, 1162, the rest having died in Sinai for the faith. In this latter year, probably as a pious acknowledgment of his preservation from the Infidels, he made grants to Savigny Abbey of lands in la Tannière."

(A fac-simile of his seal, representing a knight in armor, is given by Rev. George C. Gorham, in his notes, vol. v.)

ST. ALBANS CATHEDRAL AND GORHAMBURY HOUSE.

"Some of this family must have followed the Conqueror into England; for, at the time of the Domesday survey, 'William, son of Gorham,' was a tenant of land in Cippenhall, near Fresingfield, Suffolk, held of Hervey of Bourdeaux."

"The de Gorrams can be traced in Brittany to the beginning of the twelfth century. Their castle was situated on a small rivulet called the Futaye, at la Tannière, seven miles west from the town of Gorram ("from which place doubtless the family name originated") and twenty miles northwest from Mayenne."

"The castle of Gorram, now called Gorron, was granted in 1135 by Geoffrey Plantagenet, to Jubel II., Lord of Mayenne."

"Geoffrey de Gorham was descended from a noble family of Caen, Normandy. He was sixteenth Abbott of St. Albans, Hertfordshire. He was elected Abbott, A. D. 1119. He built the

(first) Manor House in Gorhambury park. His tomb is in St. Alban's Cathedral.

"John de Gorham, the last of the Hertfordshire family of that name, who possessed the manor of Gorhambury. In 1307 the aforesaid John and his wife, Isabella, sold the revision (after the decease of the survivor of either). The estate of Gorhambury thus passed out of the Gorham family, which appears to have been extinct in Hertfordshire in the early part of the fourteenth century. Gorhambury continued with the Abbey of St. Albans till the dissolution. It was granted by Henry VIII. to Ralph Rowlett, Esq. From him it passed to Sir Nicholas Bacon, father of Lord Bacon. It is now owned by the Earl of Verulam. It is situated in the midst of a beautiful park, and contains a good collection of portraits.

William de Gorham, the last possessor of that name of the manor of Churchfield, in the parish of Oundle, Northamptonshire, was living in 1338."

Oundle is very near Benefield, the place from which John Gorham emigrated to Plymouth, Mass., in 1635. "He came in the *Philip*, Capt. Richard Morgan."

Authorities.—"Northampton Wills, from 1510 to 1520, book A, page 161, will of Richard Gorham." "Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica, vols. v., vi., viii." "Clutterbuck's History of Hertfordshire." "Dictionnaire de la France, Department of Mayenne." "Rev. George C. Gorham, B. D., Minister of Maidenhead Parish" (1839-1841).