

JOSEPH GILSON

Of the history of Joseph Gilson previous to his marriage, in Chelmsford, Mass., the writer can obtain no information from County or Town Records, here or in England. He married in Chelmsford Mass., (by Capt. Johnson, of Woburn) Nov. 18, 1660, Mary Caper. He removed from Chelmsford to Groton, Mass., previous to March 5, 1665-6. At a town meeting held in Groton, March 5, 1665-6, the town agreed with several of the inhabitants to build a common pound, viz., Joseph Gilson, Joseph Page, and Daniel Pierce.

I find by the history of Groton, (published in 1848, by Caleb Butler, for which I am indebted for much valuable information) that at the period of King Philip's War, in 1675 and 1676, those inhabitants of Groton who had not taken their families to the garrisons, or block houses, had removed to some safer locality. The names of those who availed themselves of the protection of the garrisons are given, and as the name of Joseph Gilson is not on the list, he had probably removed to Concord, Mass., in the fall of 1674, or spring of 1675. Joseph died in Concord, in April or May 1676, as I find by the inventory of his estate returned from Concord, and recorded in Middlesex Probate Records at Cambridge. The widow and children which is now Stow, (incorporated in 1683) for some time. The date of her death is unknown. Two of the sons of Joseph, viz.: Joseph and John, returned to Groton, as the births of their children are recorded there.

What became of Timothy is not known. The records of Groton gave the births of two children of a Timothy Gilson and wife Percis, viz.: Jonathan, born Dec. 15, 1726, and Timothy, born Oct. 29, 1730, (perhaps a son of Timothy). Joseph, Sen., was one of the original proprietors of Groton. The name has ever prevailed in town to the present time. They have resided in those parts of the town set off to Pepperell and Dunstable, and in the northerly and easterly parts, as it is at present. Joseph located in what is now a part of Dunstable, set off from Groton in 1793.

FIRST GENERATION

Mary, b. in Chelmsford, Mass., Nov. 17, 1662; m. in Concord, Mass., (by Justice Minot) Oct. 17, 1700, Nath'l Gates; both of Stow.

Timothy, b ?; m. in Concord (by Justice Minot) Nov. 17, 1700, Rebecca Gates both of Stow.

1. **Joseph**, b. in Groton Jan. 8, 1667
Sarah, b. in Groton, June 25, 1669
2. John, b. in Groton, Feb. 23, 1674; d. in Groton, Sept 10, 1707

SECOND GENERATION

Joseph, (a farmer) resided on a part of his father's estate in Groton. His will, which is dated Aug. 20, 1735, shows that he had children, whose births are not recorded. Abstract of his will : To his wife, Elizabeth, sixty pounds out of his estate, also the use and improvement of all his estate, both real and personal, so long as she remains his widow. To daughter, Elizabeth Moors, over what he had given her, fifty pounds, to be paid within one year after his death. To son, Jonas, thirty pounds, with what he now owes me by bond. To his daughter, Mary Farwell, twenty pounds, besides what he had already given her, to be paid in three years after his decease. To his daughter, Eunice, the wife of Ebenezer Sprague, ten pounds, together with all that is due to me from the said E. Sprague by bond, to be paid in three years after his death. To his grandchildren, the children of his daughter, Anne Chamberlain, deceased, the sum of thirty pounds, to be paid in three years after his death. To son Isaac, all his real estate, and rights in common lands after the death of his wife. Isaac to pay the bequests to the heirs; Elizabeth (his wife) executrix. (The names of Joseph and Eleazer Gilson are among the list of his heirs when the estate was settled) Joseph m. for his first wife, Hepsibah __; m. for second wife, Elizabeth __. There is no record of either marriage extant. (no marriages were recorded in Groton between 1686 and 1706).

Children by his first wife.

1. Anne, b. in Groton, Oct. 22, 1690.
2. Joseph, b. ?
3. **Eleazer**, b. ?
4. Jeremiah, b. in Groton, Jan. 10, 1696
5. Sarah, b. in Groton, Dec 25, 1698

Children by his second wife.

6. Elizabeth, b. ?
7. Mary, b. in Groton, Feb. 8, 1703
8. Isaac, b. ?
9. Jonas, b. ?; d. in Lunenburg, Mass., Oct. ?, 1739
10. Eunice b. ?

THIRD GENERATION

Eleazer (a farmer) His will, which is dated Feb. 13, 1754, gives to his eldest son, Eleazer, a tract of land in Pepperell, and other estates. To Samuel, his second son, a tract of land, with the buildings in Pepperell. To Simon, his third son, a tract of land in Pepperell. To his youngest son, Peter, all his land and buildings in Groton, (which is the homestead). To daughter Hannah Page, thirteen pounds, six shillings and eight pence. To Hannah, his wife, all the provision he had already made for her, to be done and performed by his son Peter; Hannah, his wife, appointed executrix. In 1742, seven places for schools were appointed in Groton, one at the house of Eleazer Gilson, in the east part of the town, and one at John Gilson's at the south part of the town. Eleazer probably resided in that part of Groton set off to Dunstable in 1793. He m. Hannah Farwell, May 6, 1719. Their children.

1. **Eleazer**, b. Feb. 19, 1721
2. Hannah, b. March 7, 1723; m. Simon Page
3. Esther, b. July 30, 1724
4. Eunice, b. Nov. 8, 1726; m. Benjamin Blood
5. Samuel, b. Jan. 7, 1729; d. in Pepperell, Sept. ?, 1779

6. Simon, b. Dec. 22, 1730
7. Peter, b. Feb. 3, 1733; d. in Groton, Dec. ?, 1760
8. Lydia, b. Sept. 17, 1735

FOURTH GENERATION

Eleazer (a farmer and carpenter) He was called by his townsmen, Cornet Gilson. His house in Pepperell was entirely consumed by fire on the night of Sept. 18, 1767. They could save but little of the household stuff. Church contribution on account of the fire, L5. In 1769, he built the new meeting house in Pepperell, and as a part compensation had the old one, which he removed to his farm and used as a barn. It was afterwards burned. (History of Groton) His will is dated June 10, 1777, in which his children are all mentioned; wife Sybil, executrix. He m. July 21, 1748, Mary Hall; m. for second wife, Oct. 30, 1758, Sybil, daughter of John and Lydia Lakin, who was born Oct. 16, 1739. Resided in Pepperell.

Children by first wife.

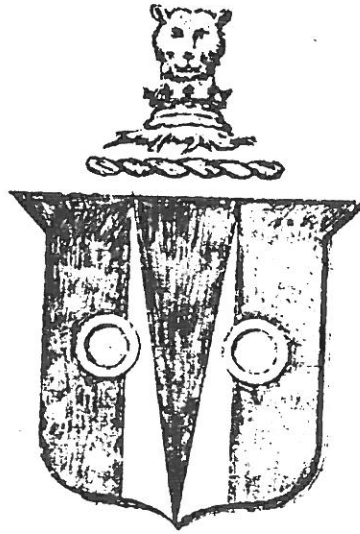
1. Mary, b. Oct. ?, 1749; m. Feb. 15, 1770, Joseph Leslie, of Hollis, N.H.
2. Catharine, b. Nov. ?, 1751
3. Lydia, b. Dec. ?, 1753
4. **Eleazer**, b. March ?, 1756; d. in Brookline, Hillsboro Co., N.H., Dec. 21, 1852. He was a soldier of the Revolution, a Deacon in the church, and one of the selectmen of Brookline for several years. He m. Hannah, daughter of Isaac Shattuck, of Pepperell, who was born in 1762, and died in Brookline, May 15, 1834.

Children by first wife:

- i. Eleazer, b. Oct. 1, 1780, who m. for his first and second wives, Mary and Abigail, two daughters of Gen. Center, of Vermont.
- ii. Isaac S., b. Aug. 30, 1782 who m. Eliza Cunningham.
- iii. **Hannah, b. Dec. 14, 1784, who m. Prescott Wright.**
- iv. Ephraim, b. Jan. 16, 1787, who m. Lydia Barrett.
- v. Hepsibah, b. Nov. 19, 1789, who m. Robert Seaver.
- vi. Samuel, b. April 6, 1792, who m. May 9, 1813, Rebecca Wright.
- vii. John, b. June 9, 1794, who m. in Lynn, Mass., June 20, 1819, Genett Orr, and d. Feb. 11, 1845.
- viii. William, b. May 28, 1796; m. first wife, L. Floyd; m. second wife, Huldah Newall, of Lynn, Mass., and d. Dec. 23, 1845.
- ix. Lemuel, b. Oct. 10, 1798, who m. Nancy Tuttle, and d. in 1837.
- x. Mary, b. Dec. 14, 1800, who m. John Hemphill
- xi. Betsy, b. Oct 15, 1802, who m. Thomas Averhill.

Children by second wife.

- xii. Nathaniel, b. Sept. 17, 1759; m. ___ Tarbell, of Vermont
- xiii. Elizabeth, b. Feb. 9, 1762
- xiv. Peter, b. Feb. 28, 1764
- xv. James, b. April 4, 1766; went to Hartland, Vt.
- xvi. Sybil, b. Aug. 31, 1768
- xvii. Hannah, b. Jan. 8, 1770
- xviii. Susannah, b. Aug. 8, 1772
- xix. Anna, b. Jan. 19, 1776



Crest - A Leopards head erased, erm. Ducally gorged, az.
 Shield - Vert, on a pale ar. between two annulets, or. a pile, gu.

Explanation

Erased	- forcibly torn from the body.
Ermine	- white
Gorged	- encircled round the throat
Azure	- blue, depicted by longitudinal lines
Vert	- green, depicted by lines from the Dexter Chief to the sinister
Base	
Argent	- silver, expressed by the shield being plain
Annulets,	- rings
Or.	- Yellow
Pile	- representing a pile used in military bridges
Gu.	- red