

G E N E A L O G Y

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## GENEALOGY OF THE GILBERT FAMILY.

It being thought desirable to obtain the records of the Gilbert Family of Pennsylvania, I have undertaken the task, hoping with the aid of my friends to collect a large amount of information.

The ancestor of this family was John Gilbert, who is said to have settled in Byberry about the year 1682. He is supposed to have been the John Gilbert who, during the persecution of the Quakers in England, was taken out of a meeting and sent to Launceston jail, 1663. Comparatively little is known at present of his actions after his arrival in this country. At the time of making his will he was a merchant residing in the city of Philadelphia, where he died 13th of 8th mo., (October,) 1711. His wife's name was Florence, and as far as is known, their children were John, Joseph, Sarah, Mary, Joshua and Abigail.

- 1 JOHN died in Philadelphia 7th of 1st mo., 1701-2, leaving a son John and other children whose names are unknown.
- 2 JOSEPH was married in 1699 to Rachel Livezey of Abington and settled in Byberry. He died 20th of 8th month, 1765; aged about ninety years.
- 3 SARAH married in 1702 Henry Elfreth, and died in 1728 leaving children.
- 4 MARY married ——— Ballard, and had children— Samuel, William, and perhaps others.
- 5 JOSHUA was born 10th of 6th month, 1684; married 19th of 8th month, 1707 to Elizabeth Oldman. They had one daughter, Elizabeth, who married William Parker. Joshua was a blacksmith in Philadelphia, where he died 19th of 7th mo., 1711.
- 6 Of ABIGAIL nothing further is known.

The children of Joseph and Rachel Gilbert whose names are known were as follows.

- 1 SARAH, born 21st of 4th month, 1700; married in 1725 to John Baldwin.
- 2 PHEBE, born 7th of 12th month, 1701; married 26th of 7th month, 1728 to Henry Comly of Moreland. She died 14th of 2nd month, 1773.
- 3 JOSEPH, born 13th of 10th month, 1703; died in 1730, unmarried.
- 4 REBECCA, married in 1735 to Patrick Ogilby of Long Island.
- 5 BENJAMIN, born in 1711; married first in 1731 to Sarah Mason, who died 6th of 12th month, 1759. He married again in 1761, Elizabeth (Walton) Peart, who was born 27th of 3d month, 1725, and died 5th of 8th month, 1810. In 1780 Benjamin Gilbert and a part of his family were taken captives from their home in Northampton County by unfriendly Indians who carried them to Niagara.

A narrative of their captivity and final release has been published. Benjamin did not live to return but died on the 8th of 6th month, 1780; and was buried on the banks of the St. Lawrence.

### Children of Benjamin and Sarah (Mason) Gilbert.

- 1 RACHEL, born 14th of 11th month, 1732; died 24th of 2nd month, 1791; married first Ezekiel Atkinson in 1754, and second, William Walton.
- 2 ABIGAIL, born 3d of 9th month, 1734; married Benjamin Walton.
- 3 SARAH, born 24th of 2nd month, 1737; died in infancy.

- 4 JOSEPH, born 40th of 12th month, 1738; died in 1807 unmarried.
- 5 BENJAMIN, born 31st of 1st month, 1741; died 11th of 1st month, 1809; married first in 1771, to Rebecca Watson, and second, Margaret Anderson.
- 6 JOHN, born 23d of 5th month, 1743; married in 1768, Ann Stackhouse.
- 7 SARAH, born 26th of 4th month, 1745; died 25th of 7th month, 1785; married Daniel Walton.
- 8 JOSHUA, born 19th of 12th month, 1747; died 18th of 6th month, 1833; married in 1771 to Mary, daughter of Nicholas Randall.
- 9 CALEB, born 19th of 9th month, 1754; married Martha Stackhouse.

Children of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Walton) Gilbert.

- 10 JESSE, born 4th of 5th month, 1761; died 10th of 3d month, 1829; married in 1780 Sarah Harding. They had eleven children.
- 11 REBECCA, born 1763; died 23d of 8th mo., 1842; married Joseph Rakestraw.
- 12 ABNER, born 2nd of 3d month, 1765; died 31st of 5th month, 1831; married 18th of 1st month, 1799, to Ann, daughter of George and Susanna Cooper and settled in Westmoreland County, Pa.. Ann was born in Lancaster County 7th of 7th month, 1768, and died 12th of 11th month, 1846. Their daughter Eliza married Joseph Cope (the writer's father).
- 13 ELIZABETH, born 14th of 9th month, 1767; died 26th of 12th month 1857; married in 1786 to David Webster of Abington.

I would respectfully request aid of all who can furnish information in regard to this family. It is desired to obtain as near as possible the following facts concerning each descendant of John Gilbert the settler, viz.:

The dates and places of birth and death; the occupation and residences through life: if married, to whom, when, and where. Of those who become members of the family by marriage, the times and places of birth and death, also the parents' names and residence at the time of or previous to said marriage.

Anecdotes or remarkable circumstances connected with the lives of any of the family would make a record of this kind more interesting and valuable.

As the records of the earlier members of the family have become scattered so as to render it uncertain where to look for them, I hereby request every one who is the possessor of information concerning the past generations, to forward the same to me.

The difficulty in obtaining the address of the different members of the family is perhaps the greatest obstacle to progress in an undertaking of this kind. If all could be written to at once it would be comparatively a short job, but instead of this, one letter depends on another, and this on a third, so that with a little, or as is often the case, a long delay in answering each, months and even years pass before some of the branches can be reached. I would therefore earnestly request every one to forward without unnecessary delay, the address of other members of the family within their knowledge, so that they in turn may be written to for their records. Each one can certainly give such information as he or she possesses with but a few minutes labor and attention. Remember it is substance that is wanted regardless of style. The descendants of our pioneer ancestor now amount to thousands, and the longer it is delayed the more difficult becomes the task of collecting their history, both from the increase in numbers and the gradual destruction of all records of the past. Until recently few persons have been interested in the subject of genealogies, yet the number is increasing, and there are now incorporated societies having as one of their main objects the collection and preservation of family records.

GILBERT COPE.  
West Chester, Penna..

Dec. 5, 1864.

I John Gilbert of the City of Philadelphia, in the Province of Pennsylvania, merchant, being sick and weak in body but of sound and perfect mind memory and understanding, and calling to mind the uncertainty of death, do make this my last will and testameat in manner and form following; that is to say, first, I will that all my just debts and my funeral expenses be discharged by my executor hereinafter named within a convenient time after my decease. ITEM. I give and bequeath unto my son Joseph, his heirs and assigns forever, all that my messuage or tenement and lot of land now in the tenure of Susanna Harwood, and latterly belonging to Daniel England, and bounded Northward by Chesnut Street, and Westward with Second Street in Philadelphia aforesaid. ITEM. I give and bequeath unto my daughter Sarah Elfreth, her heirs and assigns forever, all that my messuage or tenement and lot of land and appurtenances, lately belonging to Richard Sutton, situate on the West side of the front Street in Philadelphia aforesaid; the said lot of ground to extend two hundred feet back. ITEM. I give and bequeath unto my grandson Joseph Gilbert, his heirs and assigns forever, the said Joseph being the eldest son of my son Joseph aforesaid, all other my vacant ground between the front and second street aforesaid and west adjoining to the lot of ground herein last above mentioned. ITEM. I give and bequeath unto my grandchildren, the issue of Henry Elfreth and my daughter Sarah aforesaid, and to the survivors of my said grandchildren, and their heirs and assigns forever, all that my messuage or tenement and lot of land thereunto belonging, late in the possession of the said Henry Elfreth, and situate on the East side of Second Street aforesaid. ITEM. I give devise and bequeath unto my daughter Mary Ballard the sum of 20£ lawful silver money of Pennsylvania aforesaid, to be paid her by my executor after named within two years after my decease. ITEM. I give and bequeath unto my daughter Abigail Gilbert the like sum of 20£ of like money, payable as aforesaid. ITEM. I give and bequeath unto my grandson John Gilbert, the son of my eldest son John Gilbert, deceased, the sum of 5£ of lawful silver money aforesaid; to be paid him by my executor at the age of one and twenty years, if the said John then or thereafter demand it in his own proper person. ITEM. I give and bequeath unto each of my grandchildren, being other issue of my said son John, the sum of 5 shillings money aforesaid; to be paid them by my executor as they respectively attain the age of one and twenty years, if demanded as aforesaid in their own persons. ITEM. I give and bequeath unto each of my grandsons Samuel and William Ballard the children of my daughter Mary aforesaid, the sum of 5 shillings, to be paid as the last mentioned legacies. ITEM. I give and bequeath unto Elizabeth Gilbert, the daughter of my son Joshua, deceased, the like sum of 5 shillings, payable as aforesaid. ITEM. I give and bequeath unto my son Joseph aforesaid, and his heirs and assigns forever, all and singular the residue and remainder of my estate, both real and personal, wheresoever the same may be found, as well in lands, houses, money, goods &c., and I do also hereby nominate and appoint my said son Joseph sole executor of this my last will and testament; and I do hereby revoke, disannul, and disallow all former and other wills, legacies and bequests by me at any time heretofore named, willed or bequeathed by will or verbally, ratifying, allowing and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament; in witness whereof I the said John Gilbert have hereunto put my hand and seal the eighth day of the eighth month, October, in the tenth year of the reign of Queen Ann over Great Britain &c., Annoque Domini one thousand seven hundred and eleven.

JOHN GILBERT. seal

Witnesses — Thomas Batson, Joshua Hastings, John Parsons, John Cadwallader.  
Proven at Philadelphia Nov. 19th, 1711, coram Charles Gookin.

