

# OLD BOSTON FAMILIES

NUMBER TWO

## THE GERRISH FAMILY

(FAMILY OF CAPT. JOHN GERRISH)

By

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### THE FAMILY OF CAPT. JOHN GERRISH

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A CONSPICUOUS Boston family of the eighteenth century was the family of Capt. John<sup>3</sup> Gerrish, merchant and ship-owner, a member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, and one of the original proprietors of Long Wharf. John Gerrish was a grandson of Capt. William<sup>1</sup> Gerrish, of Newbury in 1639 and of Boston from 1678,<sup>1</sup> and his first wife Joanna, daughter of Percival Lowle and widow of John Oliver. Of the Gerrish family in general no complete genealogy has ever been printed, a brief record by John J. Gerrish, published at Portland, Me., in 1880, and some valuable materials given in the *Essex Institute Historical Collections*, vol. 5, pp. 25-30, being the chief contributions towards a genealogy of this family that have as yet appeared.\*

Of the ten children of Capt. William<sup>1</sup> and Joanna (Lowle) Gerrish, John,<sup>2</sup> the eldest, born 12 Feb. 1645/6 (Bible record in REGISTER, vol. 51, p. 67), married 19 Aug. 1667 (*ib.*) Elizabeth Waldron, daughter of Maj. Richard of Dover, N. H., and settled at Dover, where in 1672 he was appointed captain in the militia, in 1683 was chosen high constable, in 1684 was elected a member of the special assembly convened by Gov. Cranfield, in 1689 and 1690 was representative from Dover to the convention that met after the overthrow of Andros, in 1692 was a royal councillor of New Hampshire, and in 1699 became assistant justice of the Superior Court. William,<sup>2</sup> the second son, born 6 June 1648, was a physician in Charlestown, Mass. Joseph,<sup>2</sup> the third son, born 23 Mar. 1649/50, was graduated at Harvard in 1669, married about 1670 Anna Waldron, sister of his brother John's wife, and in 1674 entered on a pastorate of forty-six years over the church at Wenham, Mass. He had six children, the eldest of whom was Elizabeth,<sup>3</sup> born 18 Dec. 1673, and married 16 Mar. 1698/9 to Rev. Joseph Green, who was born 24 Nov. 1675, was graduated at Harvard in 1695, and for eighteen years was minister of the church at Salem Village, now Danvers.† Another of his children was

\* See also REGISTER, vol. 6, pp. 258, 259; Lowell Genealogy, 1899, pp. 8-11; and the histories of various New England towns.

† Of the eight children of Rev. Joseph and Elizabeth<sup>3</sup> (Gerrish) Green, Joseph, the third, who was born 12 Dec. 1703, was a well-known merchant of Boston and owned a valuable estate on Hanover Street, which he purchased in 1734 for £3600 from Gov. Jonathan Belcher. His portrait was painted by Copley. His brother Benjamin, seventh in the family, who was born 1 July 1713, married 24 Nov. 1737 Margaret Pierce of Portsmouth, N. H., daughter of Joshua and Elizabeth (Hall) and sister of his brother Joseph's wife. Hon. Benjamin Green was at first a merchant in Boston, but in 1745 he acted as secretary, with military rank, to Sir William Pepperrell at Louisburg, remaining after the capture of that fortress in Cape Breton as Government secretary until the island was restored to France. In 1749 he removed with his family to Hali-

Samuel,<sup>3</sup> the well-known bookseller and town clerk of Boston, and register of deeds for Suffolk County. Benjamin,<sup>2</sup> the fourth son of Capt. William, born 13 Jan. 1651/2, became collector of customs at Salem, and founded an important family there. Moses,<sup>2</sup> the fifth son, born 9 May 1656, married Jane Sewall, sister of Chief Justice Sewall, and lived at Newbury. Many references to him will be found in Sewall's Diary.

The parents of Capt. John<sup>3</sup> Gerrish of Boston were Judge John<sup>2</sup> (William<sup>1</sup>) of Dover, N. H., and his wife Elizabeth (Waldron). Judge John<sup>2</sup> Gerrish left a family Bible, in which he had recorded in his own handwriting the births of his eleven children.\* Of the sons of this family, John<sup>3</sup>, as we have seen, settled in Boston; Richard lived at Portsmouth, N. H.; William lived in that part of Dover, N. H., which was later incorporated as the town of Somersworth; Nathaniel lived first at Berwick, Me., and then at Portsmouth, N. H.; Timothy settled at Kittery, Me.; Benjamin lived first in Boston, where in 1704 he joined the Old South Church, was a captain in the militia, was admitted to the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company in 1714, was made a sergeant therein in 1715, for a time served as clerk of the market, and then, about 1740, removed to Charlestown, Mass., where he died 23 June 1750, in his 64th year;† and Paul lived and died at Dover, N. H.

1. CAPT. JOHN<sup>3</sup> GERRISH (*John*,<sup>2</sup> *William*<sup>1</sup>), the eldest of the eleven children of Judge John and Elizabeth (Waldron) Gerrish of Dover, N. H., was born at Dover 21 Aug. 1668, "a bought 4 of y<sup>e</sup> Clocke in y<sup>e</sup> after noone," and in early life entered on a mercantile career in Boston. He married first, in Boston, 19 Apr. 1692, Gov. Simon Bradstreet officiating, LYDIA WATTS, probably a daughter of John and Lydia. John and Lydia Watts had a son John, born 22 Jan. 1668/9, and a daughter Rebecca, born 22 Feb. 1670/1. The exact date of Lydia (Watts) Gerrish's birth is unknown, but she died 8 Jan. 1697/8, and was buried in Copp's Hill Burying-Ground. Her epitaph reads: "Here lyeth buried y<sup>e</sup> Body of Lydia Garish y<sup>e</sup> wife of John Garish, aged about 27 years; dec<sup>d</sup> January y<sup>e</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 1697-8." (Copp's Hill Epitaphs, p. 30.) Another epitaph in Copp's Hill Burying-Ground is the following, which is probably that of Lydia (Watts) Gerrish's mother: "Here lyeth buried y<sup>e</sup> Body of Lydia Watts, aged 55 years, dec<sup>d</sup> September y<sup>e</sup> 29, 1700." Capt. John Gerrish married secondly, on or before 28 Apr. 1699, SARAH HOBBS, third child

fax, there being admitted to the Council. In 1757 he was appointed military secretary to the commander-in-chief of H. M. forces and colonel of the Nova Scotia Militia. Later he became treasurer of the Province, and at one time as senior councillor he administered the government. He died at Halifax in 1772, his eldest son, Benjamin, Jr., succeeding him in the treasurership. His widow died in 1779. (REGISTER, vol. 15, pp. 105-109; Percival and Ellen Green, by Samuel Abbott Green, M.D.; Nova Scotia Archives, vol. 1.)

\* REGISTER, vol. 51, pp. 67, 68, where this record, communicated by Mrs. Lucy Hall Greenlaw, is printed. The Bible containing the record was given at some time by a member of the family in New Hampshire or Maine to the late Mr. William Gerrish of Chelsea, Mass., from whom it passed to one of his sons. Unhappily it was burned in the Chelsea fire of 1908.

† Benjamin Gerrish of Boston and Charlestown m. (1) 28 June 1716 Martha Foxcroft, daughter of Francis of Cambridge, who died 14 Apr. 1736; m. (2) 22 June 1738 Abigail Bunker, who died 10 Mar. 1749, aged 70.

of Richard and Elizabeth (Page or Paige), who was baptized in St. Bartholomew's Parish, Crewkerne, co. Somerset, England, but came to live in Boston with her uncle Nicholas Page or Paige and his wife Anna, who were residents of Rumney Marsh, then belonging to Boston, but later a part of Chelsea. Richard Hobbes and Elizabeth "Pagge" were married at Crewkerne 13 June 1671, and the baptisms of the following children born to them are recorded there: John, 16 July 1673; Margaret, 20 Oct. 1674; Sarah, 14 Nov. 1676; Elizabeth, 4 Oct. 1678. Mrs. Nathaniel Oliver of Boston, whose Christian name was Martha, was a niece of Nicholas Paige and probably a sister of Sarah (Hobbes) Gerrish. (Somerset Parish Registers, vol. 5, p. 40, and information obtained from Crewkerne by Prof. Barrett Wendell; Chamberlain's History of Chelsea, vol. 1, pp. 659-660, vol. 2, p. 75.)

Concerning the family of the first wife of Capt. John Gerrish information has been difficult to obtain. John Watts, her father, was probably a sea-captain living at the north end of Boston, and it is likely that it is he whom Pasco Palmer mentions in a deposition, 8 Aug. 1677, as owning the barque *Prosperous*, in which Palmer had shipped as master, Watts accompanying him, on a fishing voyage to Cape Sable. (Suffolk Court Files, MS.) Lydia Watts, probably mother of Lydia (Watts) Gerrish, was a witness to the will of Samuel Shrimpton, 5 June 1697, there being probably some connection between the Wattses and the Shrimptons. (REGISTER, vol. 43, pp. 161, 162.) John Watts was not of the Chelsea Watts family, for that was founded by Edward Watts and his wife Rebecca, who came in 1710 from the parish of St. Botolph, Aldgate, London, to Winisimmet. (Chamberlain's History of Chelsea, vol. 1, pp. 352, 353.) It is yet to be discovered whether or not John Watts, merchant, of Boston and Arrowsic Island, Me., who married Elizabeth, daughter of Peter Butler, built a large brick house at Arrowsic, and removed thither from Boston in 1714, was John Watts, Jr., brother of Lydia (Watts) Gerrish. It is, however, significant that John and Elizabeth (Butler) Watts, who had three children, had a daughter Lydia baptized 15 Dec. 1717, shortly after her father's death. John Watts of Arrowsic was a partner in business with John Penhallow of Portsmouth, and was attorney in New England for Sir Bibye Lake, Bart., who was probably a relative of his wife. After John Watts's death, which occurred 26 Nov. 1717, John Penhallow married Watts's widow Elizabeth, who bore him three children. When Elizabeth died, Penhallow married secondly Ann, daughter of Jacob and Sarah (Oliver) Wendell, by whom he had no children. From the will of this John Watts we learn that he owned property not only at Arrowsic but also at Charlestown, Mass., and also in the parish of "Westharrock," co. Essex, England. (REGISTER, vol. 21, pp. 47-51; Suffolk Co. Probate Records; Penhallow Genealogy.)

Col. Nicholas Paige, merchant, uncle of Sarah Hobbes, second wife of Capt. John Gerrish, was in Boston as early as 1660, and again in 1665, coming from Plymouth, co. Devon, England. In Boston he became colonel of the Suffolk Regiment and a commander in the Ancient and Honorable Artillery. He had a valuable property, and his social position is indicated by references to him in Sewall's Diary. In the building of King's Chapel he was one of the largest contributors. He married Mrs. Anna (Keayne) Lane, daughter of Benjamin Keayne and granddaughter of Capt. Robert Keayne, whose valuable estate at Revere became Anna's property. On her mother's side Mrs. Anna Paige was a granddaughter of Gov. Thomas

Dudley, and niece of Gov. Joseph Dudley. She died 30 June 1704, and Col. Page died 22 Nov. 1717. (Sewall's Diary, vol. 2, p. 109; Chamberlain's History of Chelsea, *passim*.)

The 5th June 1700 Nicholas and Anna Paige, "in consideration of a marriage lately had and solemnized between John Gerrish of Boston, aforesaid, gun smith, and Sarah his present wife, our beloved kinswoman, formerly Sarah Hobbs, and for the advancing of a marriage portion with her," conveyed to John Gerrish "all that our messuage or tenement with the appurt<sup>ces</sup> and all the land whereon the same doth stand and is thereunto belonging and adjoining, scituate lying and being over against the Exchange in Boston aforesaid now or late in the tenure and occupation of Alexander Bulman and Samuel Bill." At a town-meeting held 19 Dec. 1709 proposals were offered by Dr. Oliver Noyes, Daniel Oliver, James Barnes, John George, John Gerrish, and Anthony Stoddard, concerning the building of a wharf "from the Lower end of King Street, down to Low Water marke," and the selectmen were appointed a committee to consider these proposals and make report. The report was presented at a town-meeting held 13 Mar. 1709/10, and was accepted, the gentlemen named above engaging at their own cost to build the wharf. This was the origin of Boston's well-known "Long Wharf." (Boston Town Records, 1700-1728, pp. 66, 67.) In June 1734 a petition to be allowed to extend the wharf from ten to fourteen feet was signed by James Allen, Samuel Sewall, Thomas Fitch, Jacob Wendell, Andrew Faneuil, William Blin, John Gerrish, James Bowdoin, Jr., Thomas Hill, Andrew and Peter Oliver, Habijah Savage, and S. Boutineau. In 1736 we find John Gerrish's name in the long list of subscribers to Prince's Chronological History of New England.

Capt. John Gerrish died intestate 21 Feb. 1737/8 (REGISTER, vol. 51, p. 68), and 3 Mar. 1737/8 administration on his estate was granted to his son-in-law Daniel Henchman and his elder living son Joseph Gerrish. His estate included a large amount of property belonging to him personally and a large amount belonging to the firm of John and Joseph Gerrish, of which he was the senior partner. The inventory of his personal estate included his mansion-house on King Street, valued at £2500, his "warehouse and interest on the Long Wharfe," £1250, land at Nottingham, N. H., valued at £300, a third of a farm called Davenport's Farm, £140, half the ship *Cæsar*, £2750, three-sixteenths of the ship *Greyhound*, £468. 15.0., a fifth of the sloop *Raven*, then at Nantucket, £100, a stock of gun-maker's tools and firearms, and a large stock of household furniture. His partnership inventory comprised chiefly a stock of dry-goods. The total value of his personal estate was £8661.4.0.; of his partnership estate £4591.7.2.

John Gerrish with his family lived, as we have seen, on King Street, and worshipped at the South Church. The property on King Street on which his mansion-house stood was probably acquired by Capt. Gerrish for £440 by deed from William Holberton, mariner, and his wife Mary, dated 1 Feb. 1711. The property transferred by this deed is described as "all that their moyety or easterly half part of a certain brick messuage or tenement and of the land appertaining thereto, belonging, lying, scituate in Boston aforesaid, being parcel of the mansion house of the late Honoble. John Leverett, Esq., deceased, which they lately purchased of Ann Hubbard, widow, one of the daughters and coheirs of the said John Leverett . . . 120 feet in depth to be measured from the front of the house abutting north upon King Street, and so backwards southerly, the whole house

measuring in length at the front fifty-one feet, eight inches, little more or less from the outside of both the end walls, and in the rear fifty-four feet, three inches little more or less, and in breadth about thirty-five feet, butted and bounded easterly by the land of Simeon Stoddard, southerly by a lane or passage way of ten feet wide, laid out within a foot of the said Stoddard's land into Leverett's Lane, so named."

At what date John Gerrish and his son Joseph entered into partnership we do not know, but soon after the death of the father the business must have been closed.

The title "Captain," which John Gerrish commonly bore, designated his rank in the militia; in the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, to which he was admitted in 1700, he was made third sergeant in 1702/3, ensign in 1712/13, and lieutenant in 1714/15.\*

Children by first wife:

- i. ELIZABETH,<sup>4</sup> b. 19 Oct. 1693; m. 14 Jan. 1713 DANIEL HENCHMAN, b. in Boston 21 Jan. 1689, d. 25 Feb. 1761, merchant (bookseller) of Boston, lieut.-col. of the militia, capt. of the Artillery Company, and deacon for many years of the South Church. Daniel HENCHMAN, "the most eminent and enterprising bookseller that had appeared in Boston, or indeed in all British America, before the year 1775," was son of Hezekiah and grandson of Capt. Daniel HENCHMAN. In 1728 he established at Milton the first paper-mill in Massachusetts, and in 1749 he caused the first edition in America of the English Bible to be printed, but "with a false title page, to evade the right of the King's printer." Child: 1. *Lydia*,<sup>5</sup> b. 4 Oct. 1714; m. 5 Nov. 1731 Thomas HANCOCK, b. 13 July 1703, son of Rev. John and Elizabeth (Clark), who became one of the wealthiest merchants in Boston; no issue. (REGISTER, vol. 6, p. 374; History of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, vol. 1, pp. 381, 382.)
- ii. JOHN, b. 22 Jan. 1695; admitted to the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company in 1718; bur. 20 Dec. 1719 in King's Chapel Burying-Ground, where his epitaph reads: "Here lyes y<sup>e</sup> body of JOHN GERRISH son to John & Lydia Gerrish aged 24 years dec<sup>d</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 1719."
- iii. WILLIAM, b. 28 Dec. 1697; d. 20 Jan. 1698.

Children by second wife:

- iv. ANNA, b. 14 Aug. 1700; m. (1) 19 Mar. 1718/19 SAMUEL APPLETON, 4th, of Ipswich, Mass.; m. (2) 17 Apr. 1734, as his second wife, REV. JOSHUA GEE, who from Dec. 1723 until his death in 1748 was pastor of the Second Church (on Hanover St.), Boston, in direct succession to Rev. Cotton Mather, D.D. Her portrait by Smibert is in the possession of the Massachusetts Historical Society. Children by first husband: 1. *Samuel*,<sup>5</sup> b. 3 Apr. 1720; d. 5 Apr. 1720. 2. *Mary*, b. 9 Dec. 1722; d. 29 Dec. 1722. 3. *Samuel*, b. 15 Aug. 1726; m. 25 Oct. 1758 Mary Wentworth, daughter of John and Sarah (Hall) of Portsmouth, N. H. Their eldest child Ann, b. at Portsmouth in 1760, m. at Portsmouth in 1777 Capt. Thomas Storrow, previously of the British Army, from whom descend the Storrows of Massachusetts. (Appleton and Wentworth Genealogies.)
- v. RICHARD, b. 21 Nov. 1702; d. 23 June 1718; bur. in King's Chapel Burying-Ground, where his epitaph reads: "RICHARD GERRISH son to John & Sarah Gerrish aged 15 years & 7 mo Dec<sup>d</sup> June y<sup>e</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> 1718."
- vi. SARAH, b. 27 Aug. 1704; d. young.

\*In Mr. Oliver Ayer Roberts's valuable History of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts many notices of the Gerrish members of the Company appear.

- vii. MARGARET, b. 30 Aug. 1705; m. 13 Jan. 1731 GILES TIDMARSH, who was junior warden of Christ Church, Boston, in 1752, and senior warden in 1753. Gyles Dulake Tidmarsh of Boston, uncle of Giles above, probably an Englishman, made his will 23 Nov. 1737. In displeasure at his nephew he leaves him "one shilling and no more," this, however, in his mind being too much. How early Giles and Margaret (Gerrish) Tidmarsh settled at Halifax, N. S., we do not know, but in 1776 we find Giles one of the magistrates there. Children, born in Boston: 1. *William*,<sup>5</sup> b. 30 May 1733; A.B. (Harvard College) 1749; reported to have been lost at sea. 2. *Margaret*, b. 1 Mar. 1734. 3. *John*, b. 28 Jan. 1736.\*
- viii. WILLIAM, b. 9 July 1707; d. young.
2. ix. JOSEPH, b. 29 Sept. 1709.
- x. SARAH, b. 23 July 1713; d. 9 Feb. 1798; m. 3 June 1731 JOHN BARRETT, son of Samuel and grandson of William, b. 12 June 1708, d. 9 Sept. 1786, merchant in Boston, and "one of the committee of six, appointed by the merchants of Boston, in 1768, to resist the imposition by Parliament upon the Colonies of the onerous duties on sundry articles of commerce." He was for many years a deacon of the New North Church. His portrait by Copley represents him as dressed in a suit of olive-colored cloth and seated beside a table, his right hand holding a pen and his left hand resting on his knee. Mrs. Barrett's portrait also was painted by Copley, and she is represented by the artist "as wearing a robe of olive brown brocaded damask, with a dark green cloak ornamented with scarlet. The dress is cut square in the neck, over which is thrown a muslin kerchief; embroidered muslin sleeves, a muslin cap and a pearl necklace complete the costume." John and Sarah (Gerrish) Barrett had eleven children, whose names are given in REGISTER, vol. 42, p. 263. Among these children were: *Samuel*,<sup>5</sup> b. 17 Jan. 1738; graduated at Harvard in 1757; m. (1) Mary Clarke, dau. of Richard Clarke, the noted Boston tea merchant and agent of the East India Company, her sister Susannah Farnum becoming the wife of John Singleton Copley; m. (2) Elizabeth Salisbury. A miniature of Samuel Barrett was made by Copley. Sarah, only surviving child of Samuel and Mary (Clarke) Barrett, m. Hon. Samuel Cabot of Boston. *Ann*, b. 8 Mar. 1740; m. Henry Hill; a crayon portrait of her was made by Copley. *John, Jr.*, youngest son, b. 9 Oct. 1750; d. 15 Nov. 1810; m. Elizabeth Brown, and had a son, Nathaniel Augustus, who m. Sally Dorr, and whose daughter, Mary Bertodi, became the wife of Jacob Wendell, Esq., of New York, and mother of Prof. Barrett Wendell. *Elizabeth*, fifth daughter, b. 27 Sept. 1745; d. 20 Mar. 1821; m. William Cunningham, merchant of Boston; their daughter, Sarah Barrett, m. Ebenezer Odiorne, and had a daughter, Elizabeth Cunningham, who m. George Livermore, and became the mother of Col. William Roscoe Livermore, an officer of U. S. Engineers and writer on military subjects. A miniature of Mrs. Elizabeth (Barrett) Cunningham was made by Copley. (For the early generations of this Barrett family see REGISTER, vol. 42, pp. 262-264. See also Livermore Genealogy, and, for Cunningham, REGISTER, vol. 55, pp. 423, 424.)
- xi. NATHANIEL (twin), b. 11 Oct. 1714; d. young.
- xii. WILLIAM (twin), b. 11 Oct. 1714; d. 18 June 1724, his epitaph in King's Chapel Burying-Ground reading: "Will<sup>m</sup> Gerrish son to Mr John and M<sup>rs</sup> Sarah Gerrish Dec<sup>d</sup> June The 18<sup>th</sup> 1724 in ye 10<sup>th</sup> Year of His Age."
3. xiii. BENJAMIN, b. 19 Oct. 1717.

2. HON. JOSEPH<sup>4</sup> GERRISH (*John*,<sup>3</sup> *John*,<sup>2</sup> *William*<sup>1</sup>), born in Boston 29 Sept. 1709, married first, at Newport, R. I., 10 Apr. 1740 (Trinity

\* A James Tidmarsh was a member of the dry-goods and groceries firm of Moody and Tidmarsh at Halifax in 1798, and a Robert Tidmarsh was buried in St. Paul's Churchyard there in 1837.



Church, Newport, records), MARY BRENTON, eldest daughter and fourth child of Hon. Jahleel and his first wife Frances (Cranston), who was born 10 July 1721, and died, it is supposed, at Halifax, N. S., after 1754; \* and secondly, at Halifax, 3 Sept. 1768, MARY CRADOCK, eldest daughter of Hon. George and Mary (Lyde) of Boston, who was born 18 May 1723. The *Boston Gazette* for Monday, 10 Oct. 1768, has the following notice: "Halifax, September 8, Saturday last was married Hon. Joseph Gerrish, Esq. to Miss Mary Cradock, of Boston; a lady possessed of every agreeable accomplishment necessary to make the married state happy." (Reprinted in REGISTER, vol. 8, p. 28.)†

After Joseph Gerrish's death Mrs. Mary (Cradock) Gerrish was married, 6 Sept. 1779, as his second wife, to Rev. John Breynton, D.D., who was chaplain on an English warship at the first siege of Louisburg, and from 1753 until 1789 was rector of St. Paul's Church, Halifax, the mother Anglican church of Canada. In Sept. 1785 Dr. Breynton and his second wife, previously Mrs. Joseph Gerrish, sailed for England, and although Dr. Breynton retained the rectorship of St. Paul's for almost five years longer, he never came back to Halifax, and both he and his wife died in England.‡

Mary (Cradock) Gerrish bore no children to either husband.

At the time of his father's death Joseph<sup>4</sup> Gerrish was his partner in business. He was commissioned ensign, 14 Feb. 1744, in the Third Massachusetts Regiment, of which Hon. Jeremiah Moulton was colonel, and with this regiment he went to the siege of Louisburg in 1745. In this same regiment was also Joseph Fairbanks, who like Mr. Gerrish, after the siege, instead of returning to New England, settled in Nova Scotia. In the winter of 1746-7 Joseph Gerrish was at Minas, King's Co., N. S., and in an engagement there with the French received a severe wound. For a short time after this he was perhaps in Boston, but in 1760 his name appears on the plan of an intended town at Horton, King's Co., he having drawn land there. Before 1759 he was appointed naval storekeeper

\* Hon. Jahleel Brenton of Newport, R. I., had twenty-two children, fifteen by his first wife, Frances Cranston, and seven by his second wife, the widow Mary (Neargrass) Scott. This second wife of Hon. Jahleel Brenton was the Mary Neargrass who with her sister Susanna was baptized in Trinity Parish, Newport, 26 Nov. 1721, Mary marrying (in Trinity) 10 Aug. 1732 George Scott, and Susanna marrying 3 July 1735 Daniel Ayrault, Jr. They were probably daughters of Edward and Rebecca Neargrass or Newgrass, who, it is believed, were Huguenots and originally named Nieu-grass, Nieugros, or even Nieucroix. Rebecca, the mother, was born about 1687, and married (1) Edward Neargrass, and (2) 17 April 1737 Daniel Ayrault, Sr., father of Daniel, Jr. (Rhode Island Vital Records, vol. 10, pp. 517, 462.) Jahleel Brenton, Jr., son of Hon. Jahleel and brother of Mrs. Mary (Brenton) Gerrish, became a rear-admiral in the Royal Navy, and had a son, Jahleel, 3d, born at Newport 22 Aug. 1770, who was knighted. Mrs. Gerrish's half-sister, Susannah, born 22 Apr. 1747, was married 4 Jan. 1767 to Dr. John Halliburton, who settled as a Tory refugee at Halifax, and had a son, Hon. Sir Brenton Halliburton, Kt., the eighth Chief Justice of Nova Scotia. Sir Brenton married at Halifax 19 Sept. 1799 Margaret Inglis, elder daughter of the Rt. Rev. Charles Inglis, the first Bishop of Nova Scotia, and his wife Margaret (Crooke). (See Eaton's History of King's County, N. S., and his monograph on the Inglis family.)

† Important notes on the Cradock family may be found in REGISTER, vols. 8, 9, 10, 17, 19.

‡ When Miss Sarah Cradock of Boston, Mrs. Breynton's sister, made her will, 10 July 1798, Dr. Breynton and his wife were living in Edgeware Road, Marylebone, London. In her will Miss Cradock leaves to "Rev. Dr. John Breynton, of Great Britain," a mourning-ring of the value of two guineas, and to her sister Mary, Dr. Breynton's wife, a mourning-ring and half of all her wearing apparel. In Dec. 1799 Dr. Breynton was dead.

at Halifax, with a salary of a hundred pounds a year and a clerk at fifty pounds. On 16 Aug. 1759 he was made a member of His Majesty's Council, and 5 Apr. 1760 was also appointed a judge of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas for Halifax.\*

He died at Halifax 3 June 1774, and was buried three days later in St. Paul's Churchyard. The inscription on his tombstone reads: "Beneath this stone lies interred the body of Joseph Gerrish, Esq., late Naval Storekeeper of his Majesty's Navy Yard at Halifax, N. S., and for many years member of his Majesty's Council for the said province, and judge of the Court of Common Pleas. He departed this life June 3, 1774, in the 66<sup>th</sup> year of his age. His widow and children have erected this monument as a testimony of their affection and gratitude, and his [*The rest of the inscription is broken off.*]"

An admirable portrait by Copley, which was in the possession of the late Maj. S. C. Barrett of Chicago, is probably a portrait of Hon. Joseph<sup>4</sup> Gerrish.

The will of Hon. Joseph Gerrish was proved at Halifax 8 June 1774. All his real estate in Nova Scotia or elsewhere he leaves to his well-esteemed friends, Hon. Henry Newton and Messrs. John Burbidge and Philip Knaut, in trust for his heirs. His wife Mary is to have one-third of his estate in lieu of dower, during her life; and the remainder is to go, one-third to his grandchildren, the children of his daughter Mary Gray and his son-in-law Joseph Gray, namely, Elizabeth Brenton, Joseph Gerrish, Mary, Amelia Ann, Benjamin Gerrish, Lydia Hancock, and such other children as they may have, for their use, support, maintenance, and education, and the remaining third to his daughter Susannah, wife of Ephraim Stannus, for her and her children's use and support. After his wife's decease her share of the estate is to go, one-half to the children of his daughter Mary, share and share alike, when the youngest has attained the age of twenty-one years, or after the decease of their parents, and the other half to his daughter Susannah and her heirs. To his wife he leaves his negro man, Joe, and his gold watch. To William Nesbitt he leaves £50 for the latter's kind offices. The executors, who are the aforementioned trustees, also receive sums of money.

Children by first wife:

- i. MARY,<sup>5</sup> b. 27 June 1741; bapt. in Trinity Parish, Boston, 19 July 1741; m. at Halifax, N. S., 1759, JOSEPH GRAY, son of Joseph and

\* "About 1764, Mr Joseph Gerrish, of His Majesty's Dockyard, laid out an extensive garden in the north suburbs [of Halifax] and imported fruit trees at great expense. This was a private enclosure, extending from Lockman Street to the beach, south of the Dockyard; his dwelling house stood in the centre and faced the harbour. Part of the old wall a year or two since was to be seen in Lockman Street." (Akins's History of Halifax City, in *Collections of the Nova Scotia Historical Society*, vol. 8, 1895, pp. 218, 219.) Gerrish Street, in Halifax, begins at Water Street, at or about the site of the above-mentioned Gerrish property, whence the name of the street. A building on this street known as Gerrish Hall was built early in the nineteenth century by Rev. Mr. Jackson, an evangelist, who held meetings there for several years. Subsequently the hall was purchased by the Free Church, Presbyterian, and was used as an academy and college for that body. After the union of the various Presbyterian bodies in Canada the hall was bought by St. John's Presbyterian Church and used as a Sunday-school house. Later it became the headquarters of the Presbyterian Divinity School, and so remained until "Pine Hill" was purchased by the Presbyterian Synod.

Rebecca (West)\*, b. in Boston 19 July 1729, bapt. the next day, d. either at Halifax or at Windsor, N. S., 1803, "aged 74." He is said by Sabine to have been a Loyalist, but this is incorrect; he went to Halifax some time before the Revolution, and seems to have been successively of the firms of Proctor and Gray, and Gerrish and Gray. Children (list probably complete): 1. *Mary*,<sup>6</sup> b. 14 Jan. 1760; d. young. 2. *Rebecca*, b. Jan. 1761; d. young. 3. *Elizabeth Brenton*, b. 24 Dec. 1761; m. John Fraser. 4. *Joseph Gerrish*, b. 31 Jan. 1763; drowned 20 July 1785. 5. *Mary Gerrish*, b. 4 May 1765; m. Loftus Jones. 6. *Amelia Ann*. 7. *William Spry*, bapt. 13 Dec. 1767. 8. *Benjamin Gerrish*, D.D., a well-known Anglican clergyman at Halifax, N. S., and St. John, N. B., b. 22 Nov. 1768; m. Mary Thomas, dau. of Nathaniel Ray Thomas, a mandamus councillor of Massachusetts and a refugee in Nova Scotia. 9. *Lydia Hancock*. 10. *Ann Susanna*, bapt. 4 July 1773; bur. 4 Oct. 1775. 11. *William*, b. 1777. 12. *Sarah*, bapt. 12 Jan. 1779; bur. 3 Apr. 1781. 13. *Alexander*, bapt. 18 Sept. 1780.

ii. THOMAS, b. 22 Aug. 1742; doubtless d. young.

iii. SUSANNAH, m. EPHRAIM STANNUS; according to her father's will she had children, but their names are unknown. Her husband was no doubt the Ephraim Stannus who received his captaincy in the 64th British Regiment (serving in America) 12 Nov. 1768. (REGISTER, vol. 49, p. 166.)†

3. HON. BENJAMIN<sup>4</sup> GERRISH (*John*,<sup>3</sup> *John*,<sup>2</sup> *William*<sup>1</sup>), born in Boston 19 Oct. 1717 and baptized the next day (records of the Old South Church), married in Boston (intention 19 Apr. 1744) REBECCA DUDLEY, who was born 28 May 1726, daughter of Hon. William and Rebecca (Davenport), granddaughter of Gov. Joseph, and great-granddaughter of Gov. Thomas Dudley. He was settled at Halifax, N. S., before July 1752, for the census of that date gives him as a resident of the town. He became at Halifax a prosperous merchant, the head of the firm of Gerrish and Gray. He was appointed, 31 May 1760, captain of a company of Halifax Militia, was admitted to the Council, 27 June 1768, and a member of the Council he remained for the rest of his life. He was also a judge of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas, and from 1760 commissioner for Indian Affairs.

He owned property in different parts of Nova Scotia, acquiring it either by grant or by purchase. One of the most important of his acquisitions was a farm at Windsor, Hants Co., where he erected a house, known as Gerrish Hall. The street running directly from the front door of this house to the entrance to Judge Haliburton's grounds was known as Gray Street. As has been said, one of the four parallel streets of Windsor is named Gerrish Street. Mr. Gerrish's property was later owned by Hon. Judge Wilkins, and later still Dr. D. B. Fraser erected a large house on the site of the old one, calling it also Gerrish Hall. This house was burned in the Windsor fire of Oct. 17-18, 1897.

Of the birth or death of any child of Benjamin and Rebecca

\* Joseph Gray and Rebecca West were married in Boston by Rev. John Webb 22 Aug. 1728. Rebecca West, b. at Bradford, Mass., 20 June 1706, was fifth daughter and fifth child of John and Mary (Webster) West. She was admitted to the church at Bradford 1 Aug. 1724, to the North Church in Boston, by dismissal from the church at Bradford, 25 May 1729, and to the Old South Church, Boston, 22 Sept. 1734. She died before 1762.

† Stannus bought property in Windsor, N. S., settled there, and gave his name to a street in the town. Windsor's four parallel streets are named, respectively, King, Gerrish, Stannus, and Albert.

(Dudley) Gerrish no record has been found, but in Boston Town Records, Miscellaneous Papers, it is stated that Benjamin Gerrish, his wife and daughter, and a servant, arrived 24 Oct. 1765 from Halifax. If Benjamin Gerrish had a daughter, she must have died young; but we venture the supposition that the "daughter" referred to in this record was a niece or some other relative of Mrs. Gerrish, and not her daughter.

From the Boston records we also learn that Mrs. Benjamin Gerrish arrived 3 May 1763 in the schooner *Dove* from Halifax, and that Mr. Benjamin Gerrish, gentleman, arrived 4 July 1766 from London in the brigantine *Lydia*. During all his Halifax career Mr. Gerrish evidently kept in close touch with Boston, and when the Congregational churches of Nova Scotia were helped by the Boston churches, he and Mr. Malachy Salter, another Boston merchant settled in Halifax, were asked to distribute the money. Both these gentlemen were no doubt prominent members of the Congregational church called Mather's Church, founded in Halifax very soon after the city began. (Eaton's History of King's County, N. S., p. 275; *Collections of the Nova Scotia Historical Society*, vol. 16, p. 166.)

Hon. Benjamin Gerrish died at Southampton, England, 6 May 1772, and was probably buried in England. His widow, with Giles Tidmarsh as her attorney, in 1773 settled her husband's estate. Mrs. Rebecca (Dudley) Gerrish was married secondly, at Halifax, 14 Oct. 1775, to John Burbidge, Esq., M.P.P., a native of Cowes, Isle of Wight, who with his first wife came to Halifax in 1749, and after living there a few years removed to Cornwallis, King's Co., N. S., where he was for many years a person of the highest importance. (Eaton's History of King's County, N. S., pp. 473-476.) He was one of the most liberal patrons of St. John's Church, Cornwallis, and in the old churchyard of that church he and presumably both his wives were buried. Mrs. Rebecca Burbidge died at Concord, N. H., while on a visit there, 30 Jan. 1809. Mr. Burbidge died at Cornwallis 11 Mar. 1812.\*

A portrait of Mrs. Rebecca Gerrish was owned in 1892 by Mrs. H. H. Bradlee. Hon. Benjamin Gerrish's portrait was painted by Copley, and from his sister, Mrs. John Barrett, who owned it after her brother's death, it passed to her youngest son John. The portrait is of life-size and of three-quarters length (30 inches long by 25 inches wide). It represents the sitter in a brown coat, with laced cravat and ruffles, and wearing a powdered wig. The date of the painting of this portrait is not known.

Mr. Gerrish's will was made in Boston, 1772, and proved in Boston 7 Aug. 1773. The witnesses were Samuel Quincy, Samuel Clap, and Increase Sumner, Jr. The chief part of his estate he devised to his wife Rebecca, his nephew Benjamin Gerrish Gray, however, to receive his farm in Falmouth, Hants Co., known as Dudley Park Farm, consisting of a thousand acres, a grant to him from the Nova Scotia Government, and sundry pieces of land lying near it, including sixty acres of marsh which he had dyked at his

\* One of Mrs. Rebecca Burbidge's sisters, Ann Dudley, was married to John Lovell, the Boston Tory schoolmaster, and although Ann herself died in Boston in 1775, her husband and children removed as Loyalists to Halifax.

own expense. Legacies of more or less value he leaves to his sister Margaret Tidmarsh and her husband Giles, his brother Joseph, his sister Sarah Barrett, and his grand-nephew Benjamin Gerrish Barrett, son of his nephew Nathaniel of Boston. He requests his wife at her death to remember his poor relations.



#### OLD BOSTON FAMILIES

No. 1.—THE DE BLOIS FAMILY

No. 2.—THE GERRISH FAMILY

