



CS 71:  
G 668  
1896

## CAPTAIN JOHN GORHAM'S ESTATE.

*Transcribed from the Original Records,*

BY GEORGE ERNEST BOWMAN.

CAPT. JOHN GORHAM died at Swansea, but the exact date of his death is not known. The date of his burial is entered on the Swansea town records as follows: "Cap: John Goram was buried the 5<sup>th</sup> day of february 1675"\* This date in new style would be 15 February, 1676. The record of his inventory shows that he was a resident of Yarmouth at the time of his death. His widow Desire, the eldest daughter of John Howland, must have removed to Barnstable immediately, as in the bond of the administrators, dated 9 March, 1675/6, she is called "of Barnstable." On the seventh of March she and her sons James and John had been appointed administrators and their bond is the only original paper connected with the settlement of Capt. Gorham's estate of which I have learned. It is preserved in the "Scrap Book" at the Registry of Deeds at Plymouth, and the half-tone reproduction shows that it is in excellent condition. It bears the autograph signatures of Desire (Howland) Gorham and her sons James and John.

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[Court Orders, V : 131]

March the 7<sup>th</sup> 1675

In reference unto the estate of M<sup>r</sup> Gorum Deceased The Court have appointed M<sup>r</sup> hinckley M<sup>r</sup> Chipman and M<sup>r</sup> huckens to take Care that such p<sup>te</sup> of the said estate which belongeth unto his youngest Children be p<sup>r</sup>served and Disposed to them as they Come to be of age; according to the agreement;

Lres of Adminnestration were Graunted by the Court unto mistris Desire Gorum, James Gorum, and John Gorum, to ad-minnester on the estate of Captaine John Gorum Deceased

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### BOND OF THE ADMINISTRATORS.

Know all men by these p<sup>r</sup>sents that wee Desire Gorum widdow of the Towne of Barnstable in the Jurisdiction of New

\* Book A, p. 147.

Plymouth; and James Gorum and John Gorum planters of the Towne aforesaid in the Jurisdiction aforesaid Doe acknowledge our selves to be bound and feirly oblidge unto the Gov<sup>r</sup>: and Court of Plymouth aforesaid in the penall sume of a eight hundred pounds, for the payment wherof well and truely to be made wee bind our selves our heires executors and adminnestrators; Joynly and severally feirly sealed and Given this ninth of March Ann<sup>o</sup>: Dom one thousand six hundred seaventy and five;

The Condition of the above written obligation is such that wheras the above bounden Desire Gorum; James Gorum and John Gorum; have obtained Letters of Adminnestration to Adminnester on the estate of M<sup>r</sup> John Gorum Late Deceased; if therfore the above bounden Desire Gorum James Gorum and John Gorum Jun<sup>r</sup> Doe pay or Cause to be payed all Due Debts and legacies Due and owing to any from the said estate; and keep a faire and true account of their adminnestration; and be redy to give in the same unto the Court when by them required; and save and keep harmles and undamnified the said Gov<sup>r</sup>: and Court from any Damage that may acrew unto them; by there said adminnestration; That then the above written obligation to be void and of non effect or otherwise to remaine in full force strength and vertue;

Signed sealed and Delivered  
in the p<sup>s</sup>ence of  
beniamen hammond  
Sammuell Nash

desier gorham (Seal)  
James Gorham (Seal)  
John Gorham (Seal)

[Plym. Col. Wills, III : I : 162-164]

[p. 162] An Inventory of the estate of Capt : John Gorum of yarmouth iate Deceased taken and apprised by Willam Crocker Barnabas Laythorpe John Thacher and John Miller the 29<sup>th</sup> of ffebruary 1675 and exhibited to the Court held att Plymouth the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 1675 on the oathes of mistris Desire Gorum widdow and James Gorum and John Gorum Jun<sup>r</sup>: as followeth

Imp <sup>r</sup> . 1 bed and the furniture belonging to it	07 01 00
Item 1 bed and what belonges to it	03 15 00
Item old beding	01 01 00
Item 1 bed and what belonges to it	03 19 00
Item his wearing Clothes	007 07 00
Item 1 blankett with feathers in it	00 15 00
Item 2 Chistes	00 08 00
Item 5 Cushens	00 05 00
Item to yerne flax and Cotton woole	05 11 00

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*Captain John Gorham's Estate.*

Item to Iron tooles and Cart rope	01 00 00
Item 3 wheeles and Cardes	01 02 00
Item 13 bushells and halfe of Corne	02 00 06
Item 1 bushell of wheat	000 05 00
Item an other p'sell of Iron tooles in and about the mill	03 00 00
Item meate salt and the Caske the meat is in	04 00 00
Item brasse	02 10 00
Item pewter	02 00 00
Item 2 paire of stilliyards scales and waights	01 10 00
Item 4 Chaires	00 15 00
Item Iron potts kettles pothangers frying pans all Iron	02 00 00
Item 9 sheets	02 10 00
Item table Cloth and Napkins of Diaper	00 15 00
Item a smale Table Cloth and 2 Dosen of Napkins	01 16 00
Item 6 pillowbeers	00 17 00
Item linnine of his	00 15 00
Item powder and bullets	00 05 00
Item 2 paire of sterrup Irons & Gertts	00 05 00
Item twine and paper	00 03 00
Item 2 Chestes and one box	00 18 00
Item wooden ware and seives	00 17 00
Item old barrells	00 07 00
Item in earthen ware and other smale lumber	01 05 00
Item 2 pound of fine Cotten yerne	00 04 00
Item a feirkin of sope	00 15 00
Item a brake and flax	00 14 00
Item bolts boards square timber and Grindstone	06 06 00
	sume 68 11 06
Item 3 horses 1 mare	04 05 00
Item 10 swine	03 15 00
Item 4 oxen	12 00 00
Item 8 Cowes	18 00 00
Item 2 steers 2 yeers old	03 00 00
Item 3 heiffers 3 yeer old	06 00 00
Item 5 yeerlings	02 10 00
Item 1 bull 1 heiffer three yeer old	06 00 00
Item 18 sheep	06 00 00
Item the mills and Dwelling house land and Meddow ad- joyning	150 00 00
[p. 163] Item 1 Caske of Tallow	00 05 00
Item the ballences of accoumpt in the booke Due	46 08 01
Item the Tan fats the barke mill and the 2 houses the tooles belonging to the taning	30 00 00
Item 1 Copper	02 10 00
Item 2 Gunes	03 06 00
Item the barrell of a blunderbusse	00 05 00
Item more Iron tooles	01 03 06
Item andjrons	01 00 00
Item 2 horspistoles & holsters	01 00 00

Item old Iron	00 10 00
Item more Iron tooles	01 09 00
Item 1 brasse kittle	00 16 00
Item 4 Chaires	00 18 00
Item 1 longe Table and bedsted & Curtaines	03 00 00
Item 1 bedsted	01 00 00
Item an Iron pott kettle skillett pothookes	01 07 00
Item 1 Chest	00 08 00
Item 1 paire of tonggs & pothangers	00 06 00
Item 1 Cubberd	01 00 00
Item 13 sydes of lether	06 10 00
Item 1 bedsted	00 15 00
Item a bed bolster Coverlidd & blanketts	06 05 00
Item a bed bolster rugg and blanketts	04 10 00
Item 1 settle 1 old Chaire	00 07 00
Item 1 (*) att	10 00 00
Item 1 Gould ringe	01 00 00
Item 1 Cubbert Cushen	00 15 00
Item 1 Cabbanitt	00 15 00
	<u>337 18 07</u>
Item a prsell of linnine	02 05 00
Item 1 Chest and a Childs blankett	00 08 00
Item 5 sheets	02 00 00
Item 1 Chest and box	00 14 00
Item old lumber	00 05 00
Item Due from John Gorum Juni <sup>r</sup> for hydes hee received of his father and on his accoumpt att 3 <sup>d</sup> pr pound	52 18 06
Item a Cart takeling and plow tacklinge & old Grindstone	03 00 00
Item a hatchell	00 10 00
Item a horse in John Gorums hands	01 10 00
Item 1 smale Table	00 03 00
Item 1 Negro man	
Item more Due on the booke	01 06 09
Item Due by bill in Cash	16 00 00
Item in Cash	84 00 00
Item in plate and a watch	10 00 00
Item 2 Cards of Cloake buttons	00 05 00
Item the farme that is to say the Dwelling house barne upland and meddow and all the land in the Comon feild	450 00 00
Item Due from the Country for service Done in the warr by Capt : Gorum about	
Item a Graunt of a p <sup>s</sup> ell of Land att Papasquash necke	
	<u>The sume Total : is 710 04 03</u>
By us Willam Crocker	John Thacher
Barnabas Laythorpe	John Miller

\* This item was not filled in.

[p. 164] In Reference to the settleing of the estate of Captaine John Gorume Deceased between the Mother and the Children ; The Court haveing taken into Consideration and haveing respect p<sup>t</sup>ely to what hath bine the Declared minde of the said Captaine Gorum in his life time and p<sup>t</sup>ely to the mutuall Consent of the sonnes whoe are of age as well as to what of equitie Doth, otherwise, to this Court appeer Doe order as followeth : viz :

Imp<sup>r</sup> : That Desire the Relict of the said Capt : Gorum have the proffitts of one third of all the Lands housing and mill Dureing her Naturall life ; and after all Just Debts being first payed out of the moveables ; shee to have one third p<sup>r</sup>te of the rest of the moveables, to her owne Dispose ; and libertie to Dwell in her Now Dwelling house ; and have Improvement of the Negro Dureing her life ;

2 That James Gorum have the Dwelling house that hee now lives in, with the barne and halfe the upland belonging to the said farme

And John Gorum to have the tan vaults barke mill ; and the utinsills therunto belonging and soe much stocke as may make the said tanvaults to amount to the vallue of fifty pounds and alsoe to have the other halfe of the upland belonging to the said farme begining next to the lands of Andrew hallott, onely Deducting forty acres out of that his halfe ; To be allowed to Joseph Gorum ; who is to have his forty acres lye next Joseph hallotts on the upersyde of the high way, and a p<sup>r</sup>sell of meddow about three or four acres ; bounded between a Creeke Comonly Called wells his Creeke and a smale Creeke Called Bacons brooke ; which with the thirty pounds hee hath alreddy received of his father, is vallued, att threescore pounds ; and to be for his p<sup>r</sup>te of the said estate att p<sup>r</sup>sent ;

And James Gorum to have the meddow lying between the said Wells his Creeke ; and the place where formerly the mill stood ; and with the house above said a longe table bedsted and two Chaires belonging therunto ; and the rest of the Marsh or meddow to be equally Devided between the said James and John Gorum ; as their respective p<sup>r</sup>tes of the said estate onely that p<sup>r</sup>sell of land lying att stony Cove is p<sup>r</sup>ticularly to be equally Devided between them and it is agreed that John Gorum is to have the use of one halfe of the land that lyeth between the said Dwelling house and the tanyard, During all the time hee shall keep taning in that place, and noe longer, and if that p<sup>r</sup>te of the land within the ffence falling to James his p<sup>r</sup>te shalbe Indifferently vallued worth more then soe much

of the lands without, it shalbe made-up by allowing soe much of the Greater p<sup>te</sup> of the lands to John without as may Counter-vaile the same;

3 That all the rest of the estate shalbe equally Devided between the rest of the Children viz: To Jabez Mercye Lydia hannah & Shubaall Gorum, in five equall p<sup>tes</sup>, excepting fifty pound in Mony first Taken out of the said estate to bringe up Shubaall to scoole, as his mother shall see fitt over and above his fift equall p<sup>te</sup> as aforesaid, provided that incase the p<sup>tes</sup> of the said five Children last Named shall amount to more then forty pounds apeece; which the three 3 Daughters alreddy Marryed have alreddy received or are to have made up to any of them; then such overplusse of the estate to be equally Devided between those eight Children, and provided alsoe that incase any other lands belonging to the estate of Capt: Gorum by graunt from the Court or otherwise shalbe possessed, such lands shalbe equally Devided between the the sonnes that have noe lands yett assigned them, soe as incase their respective Devissions therof together with what other portions they have received amount to more then what the other sonnes have received; then such overplusse shalbe equally Devided amongst all the sonnes to make each of their p<sup>tes</sup> equall; onely the eldest son James to have a Double portion of the said overplusse of lands;

It is alsoe ordered that Care be taken in the Devision of the estate that each respectively Concerned therin shall have the sure estate Devided equally to them, and each to have his or her p<sup>te</sup> in the Desparate:

this following relates unto the Inventory of Capt: Gorums estate before entered;

John Gorum seni<sup>r</sup> Disbursed for the souldery under his Comand as followeth

ffor food att Sandwich	00 07 06
ffor Syder att Captaine huchensons farme	00 08 06
my selfe with horse and furniture sixteen weekes	
a horse for my son Joseph a fortnight	
Expended upon the souldiers att severall times	01 14 00
Disbursed for three souldiers suppers att James Coles	00 01 06
John Whetston fifteen Dayes horse bridle and saddle	
Things omitted to be Charged in the Inventory	
Item a paire of bootes a paire of shooes 2 sakes 1 sheete	
2 pitchforkes	00 18 00
for Clothes left att m <sup>r</sup> Brownes	
Debtes omitted to be substracted out of the estate of	
Elisha hedge	03 03 00
Debts att Boston not well knowne not haveing time but	} 18 00 00
by but by Discourse with my husband	