

Geary Register Report

This is one of those families for whom the many variations on the surname in the records make research a nightmare. For example, while this branch of the family is commonly known as "Geary", another branch spawned Elbridge Gerry of "Gerrymander" fame and still a third became Gary. Kudos must go to the folks who put the Massachusetts Vital Records to 1850 on CD-ROM, it is really the ONLY way to find nearly all the permutations of a family in the early records in less than many months' time. Name variations I have found thus far include: Gare, Garey, Gary, Gearie, Geare, Geary, Geere, Geerie, Geri, Gerre, Gerry & Greare. I am sure that this list is by no means comprehensive.

First Generation

1. William¹ GEARY died on 13 November 1672 in Wenham, Essex co., MA as "Geare, William"^[1,2,3]. Based upon his estimated marriage date of before 1637, William was probably born circa 1610/1615.

We currently know nothing of William's migration from England to America. However, William was "of Salem", Essex co., MA in 1639, where he made Freeman and was granted 200 acres in 1649. He later moved the family to Wenham, Essex co., MA and was admitted to the Wenham church in 1644. William served as a Deacon of this church. He also served the town of Wenham as selectman in 1658/9 and a commissioner to end small cases. In addition, he was a trusted member of the community and called upon the inventory several Essex co., MA estates in the 1660s. William was able to read and write; he signed his legal documents & books were included in his inventory.

As "William Greare", he and Walter Fayerfeld took inventory of the estate of "the Widow Haffil" [Martha Haffield] on 30 March 1668^[5]. In the same matter, "John Dodge, Walter Fayerfield and William Geare declared to the court on Mar. 30, 1668, at the request of Serg. Thomas White, that in their judgment he was worthy of 22li. per year for the keeping and attending of his mother^[6]." William Clarke and William Geare took inventory of the estate of Mr. Charles Gott, Sr. of Lynn, Essex co., MA on 26 January 1667^[7].

"Administration on the estate of Wm. Geare, intestate, granted Mar. 25, 1673, to Triphany Geare, relict, and the ordering of the estate is recorded with the inventory. [*Ipswich Quarterly Court Records, Vol. 5, page 193.*]

Inventory of the estate of William Geare of Wenham, deceased Nov. 13, 1672, taken 10d: 1m: 1673, by Tho. Fiske and Richard (his R H mark) Huttn:

howse & land therunto belonging, £36
one horse, £4
Neate Carle, £9
swine, £1 10s.
Corne, £2 10s.
plows & some other Utensels, £3
Books, 12s.
Brass & Iron ware, £2 8s.
Beding & Bedstead, £8
sheets & some other lining, £3
Chests & Boxes, £1 4s.
spining whels, 10s.
warmeing pan, 6s.
houshold Utensels, £3 18s.
wolen yarne, 10s.
Debts, £9 6s.; more, 6s.
total, £86 10s.
Debts due from the estate, £6

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Attested to in Ipswich Court Mar. 25, 1673 by Tripheny relict of Wm. Geare; there being two daughters the court ordered the estate to remain to the widow for the present and if she marry then to give her two daughters 20li. each, if she dies a widow the estate left, to be divided equally between them. [Essex County Probate Files, Docket 10701.]^[4]

Before 1637 William married **Tryphenia/Triphenia [surname not known]**, in Salem, Essex co., MA^[1,8,9,10,11]. Their record can be found in Torrey under "Geere". Tryphenia died on 15 October 1671 in Wenham, Essex co., MA.

They had the following children:

- | | | |
|----------|------|---------------|
| 2 | i. | Thomas |
| 3 | ii. | Samuel |
| 4 | iii. | Mary |
| 5 | iv. | John |
| 6 | v. | Ephriam |
| 7 | vi. | Sarah |
| 8 | vii. | Triphena |

Generation: G9 Grandparents

Person Numbers: 3672/3673

Second Generation

Family of William GEARY (1) & Tryphenia [surname not known]

2. Thomas² GEARY (*William¹*) was born in 1638 in Wenham, Essex co., MA^[1]. This birth year is estimated from a 1662 deposition in which he is 24 years old. Thomas died in Goff's Falls, NH in November 1690; he was 52^[1,12]. He was returning from a military expedition in Canada when he died there.

Beware of the tale of Thomas' "migration" told in Silas Dean's History of Stoneham (1870) (and probably repeated in subsequent genealogies!), which claims that "Thomas Gerry, the immigrant ancestor, is said to have been of Irish ancestry. He was a boatswain on an English man-of-war. When in Boston he fell in company with Patrick Hay, a Scotchman, and they decided to settle in this country. He was allowed to leave his ship on condition that he return to the service if war with France broke out". Sounds cool, huh?! So sorry...this is only fanciful 19th century embellishment and is bald-faced wrong. Yeah, I know. I hate finding what appear to be nifty family tales only to discover they are complete and total rot, too.

Thomas lived in Reading, Middlesex co., MA. He apparently also lived in Stoneham, Middlesex co., MA and Wenham, Essex co., MA. He applied to the town of Charlestown for land in Charlestown End on 4 May 1675 and apparently got it -- he was also taxed in Charlestown, Suffolk co., MA in 1688^[12]. Thomas' estate was inventoried at £159. His house alone was valued at £70^[12].

Circa 1668 when Thomas was 30, he married **Sarah LEFFINGWELL**, in Reading, Middlesex co., MA or Charlestown, Suffolk co., MA^[1,12,13]. Unlike his father, you can find his record in Torrey under "Garey". Sarah was born in 1647^[1], and died sometime after 19 May 1676 when her youngest son was born. Chances are she died rather soon after this since she was only 29 years old on that date -- well within child-bearing years -- yet there were no more children after Shuball. Other variations on her surname include Lepingwell & Epingwell.

They had the following children:

- | | | |
|-----------|------|-----------------|
| 9 | i. | Benjamin |
| 10 | ii. | Thomas |
| 11 | iii. | Shuball |

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Generation: G8 Grandparents
Person Numbers: 1836/1837

3. **Samuel GEARY** (*William*¹) was born in 1641 in Salem, Essex co., MA and was baptized there on 14d:1m(March):1641 under "Geere, Sam[ue]ll"^[14]. On 6 December 1669 when Samuel was 28, he first married **Elizabeth PARKER**, in Roxbury, Suffolk co., MA^[1]. On 19 June 1677 when Samuel was 36, he second married **Martha CLARK**^[1]. In both cases, you can find his Torrey entry under "Gary".
4. **Mary GEARY** (*William*¹) was born in 1643 in Salem, Essex co., MA and was baptized there on 14d:3m(May):1643 as "Geere, Mary"^[14].
5. **John GEARY** (*William*¹) was born in 1644 in Salem, Essex co., MA and was baptized on 23d:4m(June):1644 as "Geere, John"^[14].
6. **Ephriam GEARY** (*William*¹) was born in 1647. Ephriam died in Wenham, Essex co., MA on 15 October 165[8?]; he was 11^[2], as "Geare, Ephriam". Ephriam was baptized in Wenham, Essex co., MA in 1647.
7. **Sarah GEARY**. (*William*¹) On 26 March 1666 Sarah married **John FAIRFIELD**, in Wenham, Essex co., MA^[15]. Their marriage record reads "Geare, Sarah and John Fairefield".
8. **Triphena GEARY** (*William*¹) married **Daniel KILLAM**.

Third Generation

Family of Thomas GEARY (2) & Sarah LEFFINGWELL

9. **Benjamin**³ **GEARY** (*Thomas*², *William*¹) was born circa 1672 and died before 6 March 1734, when his will was administered; he was 52. Benjamin first lived near his father on the Reading line. He later moved to Farm Hill in Charlestown End (now Stoneham), Middlesex co., MA. Wyman says that he lived in Lynn, Essex co., MA. In Charlestown, Suffolk co., MA, he bought 13 acres of land from Joseph Phipps in 1700. This deed was recorded in 1713/14. At that time, he sold the same property to Thomas Poole. *That* deed wasn't recorded until 1733. He also bought 20 acres of land in Charlestown from his father in 1708/9^[12]. Supposedly, he also acquired land in Reading & Stoneham, both in Middlesex co., MA.

Benjamin's will was administered on 6 March 1734, with his son Thomas named as the sole heir and administrator. [*Essex Probate*]^[12]

On 15 May 1693 when Benjamin was 21, he married **Abigail GOULD**, daughter of **John**² **GOULD** & **Abigail BELCHER**, in Charlestown, Suffolk co., MA^[1,16,17,18]. Their Torrey entry reads: "Garey/Gerry?, Benjamin, Lynn & Abigail Goold". Meanwhile, Wyman calls him "Benjamin Gary" They were married by the Reverend Charles Martin/Morton, clerk.

They had the following children:

- | | | |
|-----------|------|----------------|
| 12 | i. | James |
| 13 | ii. | John |
| 14 | iii. | Benjamin |
| 15 | iv. | Abigail |
| 16 | v. | Thomas |

Generation: G7 Grandparents
Person Numbers: 918/919

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10. Thomas GEARY (*Thomas², William¹*) was born circa 1674 and died on 10 April 1701; he was 27. On 10 April 1701 when Thomas was 27, he married **Hannah STREETER**, in Charlestown, Suffolk co., MA^[23]. Their marriage record reads "Gare, Thomas of Charlestown and Hannah Streeter...at Charlestown".

11. Shuball GEARY (*Thomas², William¹*) was born on 19 May 1676 in Wenham, Essex co., MA as "Geare, Shuball"^[22].

Fourth Generation

Family of Benjamin GEARY (9) & Abigail GOULD

12. James GEARY (*Benjamin³, Thomas², William¹*) married **Sarah [surname not known]**.

13. John GEARY (*Benjamin³, Thomas², William¹*) married **Elizabeth WYMAN**.

14. Benjamin GEARY (*Benjamin³, Thomas², William¹*) was born on 8 March 1694/5 in Charlestown, Suffolk co., MA^[12] and married **Elizabeth DAMON**.

15. Abigail⁴ GEARY (*Benjamin³, Thomas², William¹*) was born on 2 March 1696/7 in Charlestown, Suffolk co., MA^[12]. The Genealogical History of the town of Reading claims that she was "Abigail Gerry of Stoneham"^[24]. Her death is not recorded in the Concord, Middlesex co., MA vital records, although they were living there at what should be the time of her death. She died sometime after 1732, when her last child was born. Her husband is buried in The Hill Burying Ground in Concord, Middlesex co., MA; perhaps she is, too.

On 19 January 1713/4 when Abigail was 16, she married **Thomas HODGMAN**, son of **Josiah HODGMAN & Elizabeth [surname not known]**, in Reading, Middlesex co., MA^[26]. Their marriage record in the Reading, Middlesex co., MA vital records reads: "Garey, Abigail of Charlestown". Wyman says they married "Jan. 12 (or 19) 1714-15" and recommends the Hodgman article in Savage^[25]. They settled in West Parish, near and south of Prescott place in Reading, Middlesex co., MA^[24]. After the birth of their son John in 1732, everyone in the family disappears from the Reading, Middlesex co., MA vital records. They are not in the vital records of Wilmington or Woburn, Middlesex co., MA -- which are the towns which grew out of the West Parish of Reading -- either. By the 1730s-40s, the family is found in the vital records of Concord, Middlesex co., MA.

They had the following children (*surnamed HODGMAN*):

- i. **Elizabeth**
- ii. Josiah
- iii. Benjamin
- iv. Jonathon
- v. Thomas
- vi. David
- vii. Timothy
- viii. John

Generation: G6 Grandparents

Person Numbers: 458/459

16. Thomas GEARY (*Benjamin³, Thomas², William¹*) was born on 20 October 1700 in Reading, Middlesex co., MA as "Geary, Thomas"^[29] and married **Abigail WYMAN/VINTON**.

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Sources

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23. "Reading, Middlesex co., MA Vital Records," [ReadingVR], 348.
24. ????, Genealogical History of the Town of Reading, ????, [ReadGen], 93.
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27. *Ibid.*
28. "Concord, Middlesex co., MA Vital Records," [ConcordVR], 432.
29. "Reading, Middlesex co., MA Vital Records," [ReadingVR], 105.