

Gorham Chronology – Virginia

(Comments are added in italics)

Headrights: The Gorham name is relatively rare in early Virginia. A **John Gorram** was a single headright in a 1694 patent by John Keyton in Nansemond County [Virginia Patent Book 8, p340] Another **John Goram** was one of 21 headrights of Stephen Cocke for a 1693 patent in James and Charles City counties [Virginia Patent Book 8, p300]. Neither person appears in any subsequent records. Hotten reports a 1635 English order to transport several persons, including **Thomas Gorham** (age 19) and **John Gorham** (age 18), to Virginia [Hotten, The Original Lists of Person of Quality, 1600-1700, p94] although whether they actually arrived or not is unknown.

Miles Gorham does not appear among the recorded headrights.

21 Jan 1660/1 Deed: Hugh Lee of Northumberland County to Mathew Rhodon, 393a granted to Lee adjoining Capt. John Rogers “called Coll. Mottran’s land”, Col. John Mottran, John Trussell, James Claughton... a swamp of Kings Creeke... Release by Hannah Lee. Witness: **Miles Goreham** (Northumberland County Deeds & Wills 1658-1662, p51.)

Miles Gorham is living on the west bank of the Yeocomico River, on 200a of land for which I could not find an acquisition record.

10 Feb 1662/3 **Miles Gorham** witnesses a release by Mary Sech for sale of land adjacent to above. (Ibid., p86)

21 Dec 1664 William Thomas and Frances his wife deed to **Miles Goreham**, 100a...land of Richard Holding...land that we now live on...Witness: James Robinson, Henry Pratt. (Westmoreland County Deeds & Wills 1, p305.)

This was part of a 1657 patent to William Bacon, which he assigned to William Thomas. The land was on the south side of the Potomac, in Sandy Point, on the west bank of the mouth of the the Yeocomico River where it runs into the Potomac, bordered by the Yeocomico River, which forms the border between Northumberland and Westmoreland counties. Knott’s Creek was evidently a branch of the river, probably what is now called the northwest branch. The land Miles Gorham owned in Northumberland (see below) was on the opposite side of the Yeocomico in Northumberland County.

20 Jan 1664/5 **Miles Gorham** ordered to be paid as a witness for Robert Hitchcock. (Northumberland County OB 1652-1665, p408.)

20 Nov 1668 **Miles Gorham** acknowledges debt to William Rust of 960 lb. tobacco. (Fleet, Volume 1, p601.)

23 Jan 1668/9 **Miles Goreham** bond to Hugh Statham, of three cows and calves, to protect Statham from damages if Goreham fails to pay debt to William Rust. Witness: William Rust, John Oldham. (Northumberland County Deeds & Wills 1666-1670, p74.)

Statham was the surety for Goreham's debt. Miles Gorham apparently is living on the opposite bank of the Yeocomico in Northumberland County, as the suit would have had to be brought in his county of residence.

-- Dec 1670 **Miles Gorham** a witness to deed by Andrew Gray. (Northumberland County Deeds & Wills 1670-1672, p151.)

10 Jan 1670/1 **Miles Goreham** mortgage to Richard Lynney of James Cittie, 1,075 pounds tobacco, pledges 200a in a neck commonly called Jericho in Northumberland...adjoining Robert Sech, Samuel Griffins, Richard Cox...Witness: John Roberts, Richard Pierce. Miles Gorham appoints John Roberts his attorney to acknowledge. (Northumberland County Deeds & Wills 1670-1672, p147.)

"Jericho" was one of the many spellings of "Yeacomico". This is on the Northumberland side of the river.

23 Jan 1670/1 **Miles Gorham** witnesses dower release of Mary Colton in sale by her husband Benjamin Colton to Thomas Shoosley. (Northumberland County Deeds & Wills 1670-1672, p150.)

27 Feb 1670/1 **Miles Goreham** witness to assignment of a servant from Simon Richardson to Thomas Chetwoode, recorded in Somerset County, Maryland (Maryland Archives, Volume 87, p97)

This is the only citation I could find for a Gorham in Maryland. It might explain where Miles Gorham was during his absences from Virginia.

28 Apr 1671 **Miles Goreham** and **Alice Goreham** his wife of Northumberland deed to Robert King of Westmoreland, 100a on a creek formerly called Knott's Creek...adjoining Widow Hull and Samuel Bonam. Witness: John (x) Browne, Richard Smith. Alice (x) Gorham appoints John Browne attorney to release dower. Witness: Thomas Colton, John Oldum. (Westmoreland County Deeds & Wills 1, p377.)

This is apparently the land purchased from William Thomas in 1664, located on Sandy Point on the west side of the Yeocomico River at its mouth.

18 Oct 1671 **Miles Goreham** a witness to sale of patent of Thomas Towers. (Northumberland County Deeds & Wills 1670-1672, p201.)

- 15 Nov 1671 **Miles Goreham** a witness to sale of patent of Jonathan Howes to William Hill. (Northumberland County Deeds & Wills 1670-1672, p203.)
- 18 Jan 1671/2 **Miles Goreham**, cooper, and **Alice Goreham** his wife, of Northumberland, deed to John Eveines, 200a "...head of Bever Dam Swampt issuing from Kings Creeke...oak upon a branch of Mattapony..." adjoining Richard Cooke, John Oldham. Witness: Thomas Colton, Samuel Poole, Edward Elleit, John Nicholes. 20 February 1671/2 Alice Goreham appoints Samuel Poole attorney to release dower. Witness: Abigail Oldham, Thomas Colton. (Northumberland County Deeds & Wills 1670-1672, p225.)

This is the same land mortgaged a year earlier to Richard Lynney. But how did Goreham acquire it?

- 2 July 1675 Samuel Earle deed to Thomas Sanders, both of Cople Parish, Westmoreland County., land on Yoacomaco Neck know by the name of Nicholas Denialls plantation...between Nich. Jones and Mr. Robt. Jadwin... Witness: **Miles Goreham, Susannah (x) Goreham**. (Westmoreland County Deeds & Wills 1, p240a.)
- 16 Apr 1676 "Whereas Capt. John Rogers hath kept **John Goreham**, sonne to **Miles Goreham** sometime & the father of the said child hath absented himself out of this country with the consent of the said John..." the court orders that John Goreham serve the Capt. John Rogers until he reaches the age of 21. (Northumberland County OB 1666-1678, p134.)
- 21 Aug 1678 "Whereas **Miles Gorham** petitioned this court to hand his child, who pretends he was bound to Capt. John Rogers in the absence of him the said Gorham..." ordered referred to the next court (Northumberland County OB 4, 1678-1698, p3.)
- 16 Oct 1678 "Whereas (at the last court) **Miles Goreham** did present a petition whereon he complained that Capt. John Rogers did binde his son **John** to him without his privity or knowledge and prayes that he might have his son again, whose cause was referred to this court..." Said Miles Gorham did pray that he might have his sonn, & did make oath within six months after he was bound...court orders the son delivered to Gorham by Capt. Rogers. (Northumberland County OB 4 1678-1698, p8.)

The son John Gorham must have been bound to Rogers after July 1675 (when Miles Gorham witnessed the deed above) but before April 1676. The court record states that the son John gave consent to his apprenticeship. Although children normally had to be 14 to bind themselves, the law permitted orphans and poor children aged 10 or older to bind themselves out as apprentices. In this case, for his apprenticeship to benefit his family, John was probably a teenager.

- 28 Jul 1680 **Miles Goreham** on jury. (Westmoreland County Order Book 1675-1688, p187.)
- 22 Feb 1681/2 **Miles Goreham** ordered to pay debt of 800 lbs tobacco to Daniel Ocany. (Westmoreland County Order Book 1675-1688, p247.)
- 10 Jan 1682/3 Thomas Youle order against **Miles Goreham** for one levy paid by Youle. Gorham to reimburse 300 lbs. John Garner indebted to **Miles Goreham** for cooper's work, 414 lbs. (Westmoreland County Order Book 1675-1688, p274.)
- The "levy" apparently refers to a tithable paid by Youle, although 300 lbs. of tobacco is an extraordinarily high assessment for the time. The tithable must have been for June 1682.*
- 24 Sep 1684 **Miles Goreham** vs. John Garner for 214 lbs, for 3 days attendance as a witness for Garner. (Westmoreland County Order Book 1675-1688, p358.)
- 9 Feb 1683/4 Deeds referenced: Elionias and Margaret Moore sold to **Miles Goreham** 9 February 1683/4...**Miles and Susannah Goreham** sold to Stephen Bailey 13 September 1684. Land between Yeocomico and Nominy in Westmoreland County. (see 5 Feb 1733/4 entry below)
- 24 Nov 1686 **Miles Goram**, cooper, of this county "lately ran away and left behind him his wife and several of his children in great necessity and poverty, and his wife **Susannah Goram** did by contract made with Robert King binde over **Michael Goram** her son with **Susannah** her daughter unto King for a term of years 5 November 1686 being by order of this court recorded" Court orders Michael and Susannah serve their term under King "notwithstanding any claim that shall be made by their father **Miles Goram**." (Westmoreland County Order Book 1675-1688, p528.)
- Same date. Attachment of **Miles Goram** estate by William Paine. Goods of Miles Goram returned by Sheriff...consisting of cooper's tools...sheriff to deliver goods or value in tobacco to William Paine. Appraisal dated 19 October 1686, valued at 170 lbs. tobacco. (Westmoreland County Order Book 1675-1688, p529.)
- 23 Feb 1686/7 **Miles Goreham** vs. William Twineing and **Miles Gorham** vs. Southall & Twineing, both suits referred to next court. Goreham apparently represented by an attorney, not clear if he was in court himself. Both suits dismissed at court of 27 April 1687. (Westmoreland County Order Book 1675-1688, p557-8, p571.)
- 27 Apr 1687 "Miles Goram of this County lately run away out of this County and left behind him his wife and **Mary Goram** a small child in great necessity and poverty and his wife by contract made with Henry Wharton bind over Mary Goram her

daughter unto Henry Wharton for a term of ten years 10 March 1686/7 until she arrives at the age of 17 years or she shall be legally married, not withstanding any claim that shall be made by her father Miles Goram..." (Westmoreland County Order Book 1675-1688, p561.)

13 Jul 1687 **Francis (x) Gorhum** witness to power of attorney to Richard Gibson by August and Mary Kneton to acknowledge their deed to William Mansbridge. (Stafford County Deeds & Wills 1686-1689, p57.)

There are no other references to this person – this may be a mistranscription by the clerk.

31 Aug 1687 **Miles Goreham** vs. James Johnson for two days attendance as witness. The suit was heard at this court. (Westmoreland County Order Book 1675-1688, p595.)

29 Jan 1690/1 Samuel Griffin vs. **Miles Goreham**, suit dismissed. At same court, John Newton issues order for nonappearance of **Miles Goreham** to answer plea of debt. (Westmoreland County Order Book 1690-1698, p6a, 8a.)

30 Jul 1691 **Miles Goreham** arrested to answer Nathaniel Pyecroft "„covenants broken to damage of 1,000 pounds (tobacco)" Pyecroft did not appear, and Goreham prayed a non-suit. Similar entry at same court for suit of Henry Wharton... William Paine, attorney for Goreham, prayed a non-suit. (Westmoreland County Order Book 1690-1698, 36.)

This is the last appearance of Miles Gorham in the records. Whether he was actually in court this date is unclear, but he was clearly alive.

27 Sep 1693 **Winifred Goreham** granted administration of the estate of her husband **Miles Goreham**. Thomas Walker bondsman. The court ordered an inventory and an appraisal by Robert Smith, John Bailey, and Francis Self. At same court, dower releases by Joanne Butler and Margaret Rust recorded, both witnessed by **John Goreham** – deeds were dated in December 1692. (Westmoreland County Order Book 1690-1698, p105, p104.)

27 Sep 1693 Deed of gift, Thomas Moore to **John Goreham**.

This deed is not in the Westmoreland deed books (or I could not find it), but is referenced when the land is sold (See entries for 14 January 1740 and 27 June 1709.) However, the following is dated this day.

Deed of gift of land from Thomas Moore to Thomas Walker bearing date 27 September 1693 acknowledged in court on 29 November 1693 (Westmoreland Order Book 1690-1698, p111.)

Thomas Walker is apparently the trustee for John Goreham, who was about ten years old at the time. One theory is that John Goreham's father had married a daughter of Thomas Moore, perhaps one who was deceased by this date, and Thomas Moore was gifting part of his estate to his grandson. Thomas Moore's will (dated 5 February 1709 and proved 5 January 1713) leaves his estate to his sons William and Thomas and a daughter, Margaret Moore, and appoints his wife Margaret executrix. It's questionable if Thomas Moore had a daughter old enough to have had a 10-year old child in 1693. An alternate theory is that John Goreham was the son of a sister of Thomas Moore.

29 Nov 1693 **John Goreham** a witness to deed recorded this court. **Winifred Goreham** records inventory and appraisal of Miles Goreham. (Westmoreland County Order Book 1690-1698, p111.)

28 Feb 1699/00 Will of **John Goreham** proved by David Thomas, and probate granted to William Butler "executor in the will named." (Westmoreland County Order Book 1698-1705, p72a.)

This is the court record only. Unfortunately, there are gaps in the Westmoreland records, including missing wills in the period 1699-1701, and this will is apparently among the missing records. However, there being no other Gorhams in the neighborhood (or in all of Virginia for that matter) this is clearly the son of Miles Gorham and father of John Gorham II. The witness, David Thomas, was living on land owned by William Carr in 1703 when Carr mentioned him in his will. William Butler, the executor, is tough to identify – there were several of them. John Goreham II was about 16 at this time, old enough to choose a guardian. There is no court record of any guardianship, but I'd guess Thomas Moore is a likely candidate.

1704 Virginia Rent Rolls: Westmoreland County rent roll is not preserved. There are no Gorhams in any other county of Virginia.

Note on Gowen/Going and Gorin Families:

There are some names in Virginia which are similar to Gorham. By 1700 there are people named Gorin (Goran, Goring) and Gowen/Going (Goin, Goins, Goen) located in the general Westmoreland area, and later in Prince William, Stafford, Fairfax, and Loudoun counties. Although they appear to be completely different and unrelated families, they can easily be confused with the Gorhams. In at least three cases I've seen, records of these people were mistranscribed in print as "Gorham" or some variant. John Gowen/Going, a mulatto, was in Westmoreland County by 1693, with perhaps brothers named William and James. They and their descendants followed a similar migration path, to Stafford, Prince William, and Fairfax counties.

27 Jun 1709 Thomas Moore deed to John Froud, 10a on a branch...by the name of great hole...oak marked by Thomas Moore for his son William Moore...line between

land of the gift (sic) to **Goreham** and Moore... Witness: **John Goreham**, Robert Sparrow. (Westmoreland County Deeds & Wills 5, p226.)

This is John Gorham II making his first appearance other than the 1693 deed of gift, and signing with his distinctive mark.

21 July 1716 John Pyecraft, planter, deed to **John Gorum**, carpenter, both of Westmoreland County, 60a in the forest of Nominy ...near dwelling houses of Peter Smith and John Pyecraft...adjoining Thomas Walker and James Smith...part of 150a purchased by Nathaniel Pyecraft (father of John Pyecraft) from William and Susannah Webb on 25 August 1692, part of the western half of a 500a tract to Edward Witherington and William Webb of 1679...originally patented to William Baisely and Edward Hawley in 1665. Witness: Sampson Damouvel, Hugh (x) Dunnahaw, Richard (x) Hamack. (Westmoreland County Deeds & Wills 5, p574.)

When he acknowledged the deed at July court, the seller's name was written as Pyecroft.

10 Jan 1716/7 John Pyecroft deed to James Coleman, 100a adjoining the land of Peter Smith, Thomas Walker and Richard Tidwell, and of Wm. Harper and **John Goreham**. (Westmoreland County Deeds & Wills 6, p134.)

24 Sept 1717 Patty Haile and Sarah his wife deed to John Froud, 66a between the two main branches of Nominy Creek commonly called Red Cross Tavern Branch...Witness: Thomas Harper, **John (I) Goreham**, John Lamkin. (Westmoreland County Deeds & Wills 6, p174.)

This is the first record I've viewed in the original in which John Gorham used his distinctive mark, which clearly identifies him as the John Gorham who later lived in Loudoun County and died there ca1769.

22 Feb 1723/4 **John (I) Goreham**, carpenter, deed to George Walker, planter, both of Westmoreland, 60a in the forest of Nominy adjoining Peter Smith, Richard Coleman...purchased by deed of sale bearing date 25 July 1716. Witness: Peter Smith, Joshua Williams. Personally acknowledged by John Goreham in court on 29 April 1724. (Westmoreland County Deeds & Wills 8, p10.)

The clerk scrupulously recorded dower releases, so the absence of one here indicates that John Gorham II was not married in 1716 when he acquired this land.

1 Oct 1729 **John Gorum** paid by estate of Captain John Morton, according to an estate accounting filed this date. (Richmond County Account Book 1724-1751, p30.)

Richmond County is just south of Westmoreland and Morton, who was quite

wealthy, had interests in both counties. Probably being paid for carpentry work, perhaps a casket.

- 20 June 1730 Richard Coleman deed to John Bailey Jr., 100a on branches of the Nominy, part of 1665 patent to Beasley and Halley “bounded by the lands late of ... **John Goreham**”. (Westmoreland County Deeds & Wills 8, p143.)
- 3 Sept 1733 Nicholas Smith of Prince William deed to John Lamkin of Westmoreland, 50a
Witness: **John (I) Goram**, John Brown, William (x) Fryer.
- 5 Feb 1733/4 James Bailey Sr. deed to his son James Bailey Jr., both of Westmoreland, 50a in the forest between Yoacomaco and Nominy...where Edward Young now lives...adjoining Richard Dunahaw...part of 250a...which 50a was formerly vested in Richard Searles who sold to Elionias Moore 17 January 1679/80...Elionias and Margaret Moore sold to **Miles Goreham** 9 February 1683/4...**Miles and Susannah Goreham** sold to Stephen Bailey 13 September 1684...Stephen Bailey devised by will dated 8 December 1697 to his son John Bailey. Witness: John Sutton, Garland Moore, Robert (x) Moore. (Westmoreland County Deeds & Wills 8, p228.)
- 4 Mar 1733/4 **John Goram** paid by estate of Mathew Thornton, according to an estate accounting filed this date. (Richmond County Account Book 1724-1751, p69.)
- 18 Nov 1737 Will of John Lamkin of Westmoreland County witnessed by **John (I) Goram** and William Grove. Will proved 31 Jan 1737/8 by oath of William Grove alone. The will names only “my two daughters” Wenefrett Howell (wife of John Howell) and Jane Moor (wife of Samuel Moor). (Westmoreland County Deeds & Wills 8, p328a.)

This is the last of the three records in which Lamkin and Goreham appear together. It's a real stretch, but John Lamkin's wife in a 1693 court record is "Susanna", perhaps Gorham's aunt? Why did Sanford Gorham name a son Lamkin? The connection may be a different one, as there were Lamkins living in Loudoun County several years later.

- 1 Oct. 1740 Willoughby Newton of Westmoreland lease to **John Gorum** of Prince William, planter,...by a certain contract between them dated 11 October 1739... for 200a in Prince William County... whereon Paul Howell formerly built a small house... on a branch that makes out of Bull Run commonly called "Little Rocky" and is part of a tract of 1719 acres... granted Willoughby Newton... rent free for three years and in 1743 rent should be paid...Willoughby Newton doth lease to farm let to **John Gorum** and **Mary**, his wife, and **Thomas Gorum**, his son, ... annual rent 530 lb. tobacco... Signed Willoughby Newton, John (I) Goram. Witness: Fielding Turner, George Duren, Jacob Remy. (Fairfax County Deed Book A, pp45)

Willoughby Newton had received the patent only 12 days earlier (Northern Neck Patent Book E, p172) so it is likely that the lease was delayed until Newton received title to the land. Willoughby Newton leased part of the same patent to Richard Omahundro, second husband of Ann Sanford, and another part to Joseph Brown (see later). The land was at this time in Prince William County, but fell into Fairfax County at its formation in 1742. (The lease was not recorded until 19 May 1743, when it was Fairfax County.) In 1757, Loudoun County was created, with the eastern border being Little Rocky, and the Gorham land lay just on the Loudoun side. This part of Loudoun was returned to Fairfax County in 1798, so that it appears on modern maps as part of Fairfax County.

*The plat for this patent actually shows “**John Gorum’s house**” (located on the western bank of Little Rocky Run) as well as the houses of Jacob Remy, Richard Omahundro, Joseph Taylor and others.*

c1740 Virginia in 1740: A Reconstructed Census (TLC Genealogy, 1993) mentions **John Gorham**, drawn from two citations: King George County Court Orders 1735-1751, and Westmoreland County Court Orders 1739-43. The latter is the proving of the deed immediately below on 30 June 1741. I have not read the former, but I suspect it would be similar to the entries above for neighboring Richmond County (King George’s predecessor).

14 Jan 1740/1 **John (I) Goreham** of Cople Parish, Westmoreland County deed to James Baley of same, 60a “being the land which Thomas Moore gave to said John Goreham by deed of gift bearing date the 27 September 1693” adjoining James Baley, Thomas Moore, and Benjamin Walker. Same date, a bond to James Baley for indenture above. Witness: William Grove, Garland Moore, Robert (x) Moore, Robert (x) Smith. Proved 30 June 1741. (Westmoreland County Deeds & Wills 9, p161.)

Not sure why he is described as “of Westmoreland” when he had already signed the lease above. Again the mark is his distinctive “I”.

William Grove, who witnessed this deed and the will of John Lamkin, was the first sexton of the Little Rocky (Anglican) Church, built in 1747 very near John Gorham’s land which he had leased from Willoughby Newton. Newton donated land for the church and recommended Grove for the job.

June 1749 **Jno. Goreham** – 1 white tithable. Fairfax County.

This is the only one surviving tithable list for Truro Parish, Fairfax County. John Gorham is living on the leased land, as he is in the part of Truro that shortly became Cameron Parish. If the tithable is for himself, he has no sons who are yet 16.

- 20 June 1753 **John Gorham** recovered 1£ 15s 7½p and costs in a suit first mentioned in 1749. [Courtesy of James Gorham, reading Fairfax Order Book p368 and p407.]
- 12 Sep 1754 John Bailey Sr. deed to his son John Bailey Jr., sells same land (now 50a) purchased from **John Gorham** in 1741...”corner tree of John Self’s and John Goreham’s”...stony spring branch...cross tavern run...(Westmoreland County Deeds & Wills 12, p211.)
- Obviously, the description is from an old survey.*
- June 1760 Tithables, Loudoun County:
Thomas Gorham, overseer for Wm. Bronough (Francis Peyton’s list)
John Gorham, John Gorham Jr. – 1 tithable (James Lane’s list)
- John Gorham, Sr. is evidently exempted due to age. There was no automatic exemption for age or infirmity. The amendment of 1748, still in effect at this time, required all males over 16 be taxed “excepting such only as the county court, for charitable reasons appearing to them, shall think fit to excuse.” There are only 70 households on James Lane’s list, seven of them in Fairfax County. Among them are Willoughby Newton and Jacob Remey. Thomas Gorham is located on Brounough’s land on Goose Creek about 20 miles northwest, in what would eventually become the eastern edge of Shelburne Parish.*
- June 1761 Tithables, Loudoun County:
Thomas Gorham, overseer for Capt. Wm. Bronough (added later by court order)
John Gorrum, John Gorrum Jr., Sanford Gorrum – 2 tithables (James Lane’s list)
- June 1762 Tithables, Loudoun County:
Thos Gorham, overseer for Capt. Wm. Bronaugh (Charles Tyler’s list)
John Gorham, John Gorham Jr., Sanford Gorham – 2 tithables (James Lane’s list)
- George Vandiver is on same list in 1761 and 1762, consecutive with the Gorhams in 1762.*
- 15 Dec 1762 **John (I) Goram** “age 79 or thereabouts” deposition in Loudoun County. Three depositions were recorded this date in support of a deed of gift in 1757 of slaves from Thomas Brown to his son Joseph Brown. Adam Mitchell and William Landrum also deposed. John Goram “aged seventy nine years or thereabouts deposeth that he has long been a near neighbor to Thomas Brown and was at his house in or about the month of October 1758...” He signed with his distinctive “I” mark.

The distinctive mark used to sign this deposition is identical to the mark used by the John Gorham in Westmoreland County. If he is indeed the same person, he must have been the John Gorham given the deed of gift by Thomas Moore in 1693. All four persons named in this case are on the tithables lists of James Lane for this period. It may be a coincidence, but there is a "Gorham Brown" living in Halifax (later Pittsylvania) County, Virginia as early as 1760. Perhaps there was some other relationship between these two families.

21 Mar 1763 Willoughby Newton deed to George Vandiveer, 3a in Cameron Parish, Loudoun County on the Mountain Road..." (Loudoun County Deed Book C, p531.)

*This may be the location of the ordinary (tavern) operated by George Vandiver and later by **Sanford Gorham**.*

June 1764 Tithables, Loudoun County: 8 of the 10 lists are missing this year, but a court record adds **Thomas Gorham** to the 1764 tithables. (Loudoun County OB B, p437.) A Chancery Court case (M2491) includes lists which are some of the tithables for 1764 or 1765, and a list of receipts by Charles Tyler shows **John Goreham** paying a single tithe.

16 Aug 1764 Will of George Vandiveer, proved 9 October 1764. Ann Vandiver to have house and land during her life, then to son Edward. Personal property divided equally among "my four children" Edward, Sarah, Tabitha, and Amenthia. Witness: William Smith, John Tyler, John Field, Johan Spencer, James Hall. (Loudon County Will Book A, p120) Ann Vandiver renounces executorship in favor of James Lane (Will Book B, p474)

George Vandiver owned 216a near Thomas Gorham at his death, as well as a small plot neighboring John Gorham's leased land. Vandiver had operated an ordinary (tavern) at his house 1761-4. Edward Vandiver was baptized on 21 January 1753 in Prince George's County, Maryland. Either he or Sarah was the eldest. A fifth child, George Vandiver Jr., was born posthumously.

June 1765 Tithables, Loudoun County:
Thos Gorham, James Dennison – 2 tithables (Francis Peyton's list)
John Gorham Jr. – 1 tithable (William Carr Lane's list) *Same precinct as earlier*

A receipt showing that **Jno. Goreham** paid one tithe is in Surviving Cameron Parish Records, Loudoun County, Virginia, Tithable List of 1765, June Whitehurst Johnson (Willow Bend Books, 2001), p4. This is apparently not the same list as William Carr Lane's. On p12, **Thomas Goreham** appears on a copy of one of the 1765 tithables lists.

12 May 1766 **John Goram Junr.** appointed constable from Cub Run to the Ox Road Fairfax and Fauquier lines. [Loudoun County Order Book C, p76, from Historian's

Guide to Loudoun County, Virginia: Volume 1, Colonial Laws of Virginia and County Court Orders, 1757-1766, John T. Phillips II (Goose Creek Publications, 1996), p---.

The 1766 tithables are lost, but he is not listed in this district in the 1767 tithables. The district in which he is constable is the one in which his father lived.

11 Aug 1766 Zachariah Jenkins, 10 years old last April, and Elizabeth Barrett, 6 years old next October, bound to **John Goram**, shoemaker. [Loudoun County Order Book C, p148, from Phillips, p361.]

This is probably not John Gorham Sr., who was about 83 at the time, and who had been identified yeas earlier as a carpenter. It is probably John Gorham Jr. There is a Zachariah Jenkins who was about 6 years older according to tithable records, and who is listed as a tithable for a variety of people in the area from 1767 onward – including a tithable of Thomas Gorham in 1774 and of William Cotton in 1775.

June 1767 Tithables, Loudoun County:
Sanford Gorham, negro Sarah – 2 tithables (James Hamilton's list)
Thomas Gorham, James Dennison, Bartholomew Connelly – 3 tithables (Levin Powell's list)

1 June 1767 William and Jane Gladden of Loudon deed to William Triplett of Fairfax, 245a granted to Gladden 7 January 1767. Witness: **John Gorham Jr.**, Edward Bland, William Carr Lane. (Fairfax County Deed Book G, p271.)

John Gorham Jr. may have been living on the other side of Little Rocky in Fairfax County, accounting for his absence from the Loudoun tithables. Gladden does not appear on Loudoun tithables through 1767, though the two other witnesses do.

23 Mar 1768 Accounting of estate of Christopher Neale includes a 1765 debit to “Mrs. **Ann Gorham** for making breeches” (Fairfax County Will Book C, pp19)

This apparently the wife of Sanford Gorham, married by 1765. I would note than an earlier accounting, in 1764, listed payments to George Vandiver.

June 1768 Tithables, Loudoun County:
Sanford Goreham – 1 tithable (William Carr Lane's list)
Thomas Gorham, Barthol Connelly – 2 tithables (Levin Powell's list)

Thomas Barden is listed consecutively with Thomas Gorham in this list.

- 13 Feb 1769 **Sanford Gorham** witnesses deed of land and a mill from James and Martha Dozer to James Lane and William Carr Lane. (Prince William County Deed Book R, pp97.)
- June 1769 Tithables, Loudoun County:
Sanford Gorham, Edward Vandiver, negro Will – 3 tithables (William Carr Lane’s list)
Thomas Gorham, Bartholomew Connelly, Jno. Mason – 3 tithables (William Carr Lane’s list)
- This year, only three households separate these entries, though the position in the list is not necessarily meaningful. Sanford Gorham may have married the widow of George Vandiver, which would account for his paying the tax for Edward Vandiver from 1769 (when Edward turned 16) through Sanford Gorham’s death.*
- June 1770 Tithables, Loudoun County:
Sanford Gorham, Edward Vandever – 1 tithable (William Carr Lane’s list)
- Sanford Gorham is listed as a county patroller exempted from tax. Thomas Barden again listed consecutively.*
- Thomas Gorham**, Bartholomew Connelly, John Mason – 3 tithables (Levin Powell’s list)
- 1770 **Sanford Gorham** a witness to renunciation of estate by Ann Lane, widow of William Carr Lane. (Loudoun County Deed Book H, p159.)
- 13 May 1771 Inventory and estate sale of **John Gorham Sr.** recorded. “Pursuant to an order of the worshipful court of Loudoun County bearing date 10 October 1769...we the subscribers being first duly sworn have valued and appraised all and singular the estate of **John Gorham Senr.** deced as was presented to our view...” valued at 40 pds, 19s, 3p... Enoch Grigsby, Wm. Buckley, Thos. Cockerill. (Loudoun County Will Book A, p312.)
- Sale of the estate of **John Gorham** totaling 30 pds, 17s, 2 ½ p recorded same court: Buyers included **Mrs. Mary Gorham, Thomas Gorham, Sanford Gorham**, Jacob Remy Jr, Charles Eskridge, William Carr Lane, William Lane Sr., Paul Turley, John Morris, Edward Smith, Robert Thomas, William Lane Summers, Frederick Nichols...most household goods purchased by widow. The estate included “a parcel of old books”. An accounting by **Sanford Gorham** follows, dated “1769” with payments listed to Sanford Gorham, Alexander Sanderson, Thomas Gorham, Jeremiah Cockerill, Charles Eskridge, and a local merchant. (Loudoun County Will Book A, pp314.)

June 1771 Tithables, Loudoun County:
Sanford Gorham, Edwd Vandever, Jno Kelley – 2 tithables (Simon Triplett’s list)

Sanford Gorham again listed as a county patroller exempted from tax.

Thos Gorham, Bartholomew Cornely, John Mason – 3 tithables (Levin Powell’s list) Shelburne Parish.

Shelburne Parish was formed in late 1769 from Cameron Parish, and encompassed everything west of Goose Creek, but didn’t begin operating until 1771. Thomas Gorham was in eastern part of Shelburne Parish well before its formation and appears in Shelburne Parish tithables 1771 and after. Sanford Gorham appears in Cameron Parish, on or near his father’s land.

June 1772 Tithables, Loudoun County:
Sanford Gorham, Edward Vandiver, John Kelsey, negro Toby – 3 tithables (Samuel Love’s list)

Sanford Gorham listed as a county patroller exempted from tax.

Thomas Gorham, Jno Mason, negro Guy – 3 tithables (Levin Powell’s list)

9 Oct 1772 Will of **Sanford Gorham**, proved 25 January 1773. The will directs that “all my stocks of every kind be sold...also to dispose of all my household goods exclusive of 1 bed & furniture which I give my daughter Sarah Vandiver as her choice...” but to “keep sufficient of corn & meat for the support of my wife & family and dispose of the remainder of every kind, also my crop of tobacco.” Servant John “Kelsie” also to be sold. Any surplus after paying debts to be applied to support of wife and children. “My negroe wench Aive belonging to my wife Ann Gorham...” to wife Ann and at her death to be given to “my sons Lanken, William, and Harving Gorham...” Wife Ann Gorham and friend Simon Triplett executors. Signed by Sanford Gorham. Witness: William Millan, John Orr, Jane (x) Millan, Sarah (x) Vandiver. Ann Gorham qualified as sole executor. (Loudoun County Will Book B, p29)

It is impossible to tell from this document alone if there were one or two Sarah Vandivers. If Sarah Vandiver were a daughter, she could not have legally witnessed the will. However, if she were a stepdaughter, her witness would have been perfectly legal since she would not have had an interest in the estate beyond the specific bequest. Either way, the daughter was clearly old enough to have had a use for a bed and furniture.

30 Nov 1772 **Thomas Gorham** paid 872 pds tobacco by Shelburne Parish as “assignee of (Valentine) Corngiver” [The Anglican Parishes of Loudoun County,

Virginia...1736-1804, Margaret Lail Hopkins and Nancy Hopkins Phillips (Willow Bend Books, 1997), p86.]

13 Sep 1773 Inventory and appraisal of **Sanford Gorham** recorded. The servant John “Kelcher” was valued at 25 pounds, more than a quarter of the total of 93 lb, 2s, 4p. The inventory consisted of farm tools, livestock, 3 beds and furniture, and an “old pray book and testament”. (Loudoun County Will Book B, p48.)

The will and inventory show that Sanford Gorham owned no land, yet had several cows, horses, and hogs, as well as a crop of tobacco. Either he was renting land or he was living on the land left to his wife by George Vandiver’s will.

June 1773 Tithables, Loudoun County:
Ann Gorham, Edward Vandiveer, John Kelcher – 2 tithables (Samuel Love’s list)
Thos Gorham, John Mason, negroes Sam, Guy, Betty – 5 tithables (Thomas Lewis’s list)

16 Nov 1773 **Thomas Gorham** paid 712 pds tobacco by Shelburne Parish (Hopkins & Phillips, p88.)

This and the 1772 reference are among the only surviving records of the parish. Thomas Gorham must have been performing some small regular service to the parish.

June 1774 Tithables, Loudoun County:
Ann Gorham, Edward Vandiver, John Kelsher, William Cox – 3 tithables (Samuel Love’s list)
Thomas Gorham, Zachariah Jenkins, John Mason, negroes Sam, Guy, Betty – 6 tithables (Levin Powell’s list)

June 1775 Tithables, Loudoun County:
Ann Gorham, John Ketcher, William Cox – 2 tithables (George Summer’s list)

Edward Vandiver listed in his own household this year.

Thomas Gorham, John Mason, negroes Sam, Guy, Betty – 5 tithables (Thomas Lewis’s list)

1 Jun 1775 **Thomas Gorham** a witness to the will of William McClellan. (Loudoun County Will Book B, p269). Also entry for 23 Sep 1775 inventory and appraisal of William McClellan by **Thomas Gorham** and others. (Loudoun County Will Book B, p136.)

- 19 Mar 1776 William Lane Jr. lease to “Edward Vandivere, Helena Vandivere his wife, and Sarah Vandivere his daughter”. (Loudoun County Deed Book L, p191.)
- Nov 1776 Date of inventory and appraisal of Thomas Barden by **Thomas Gorham** and others. (Loudoun County Will Book B, p166.)
- See entry of 13 March 1782 below.*
- 18 Dec 1776 William Lane Jr. lease to Joseph Frost, Tabitha Frost his wife, and “**Harvin Goreham**, orphan of **Sanford Goreham** deceased”. Edward Vandiver a witness. (Loudoun County Deed Book L, p294)
- Harvin Gorham, probably aged 10 or under, is apparently in the care of the Frosts. Tabitha Frost was a daughter of George Vandiver.*
- June 1777 Tithables, Loudoun County:
Thomas Goreham, negroes Sam, Guy, Betty – 4 tithables (Levin Powell’s list)
- 16 May 1778 **Thomas Gorham** an appraiser of the estate of William Musgrove.
- June 1778 Tithables, Loudoun County:
Thomas Goreham, John Goreham, negroes Sam, Guy, Tom, Betty – 6 tithables (Simon Triplett’s list)
- This list is actually undated, but appears to be for 1778. It generally matches the 1779 list and 1778 is the only year for which Simon Triplett’s list is otherwise missing.*
- 14 Dec 1778 **Thomas Gorham** appointed surveyor of road from Little River to Canby’s Mill. (Loudoun County Order Book G, part 1, p137.)
- 6 Mar. 1779 **Thomas Gorham**, Charles Pullen, John Tyler, and John Alexander are appraisers of the estate of Wm. Musgrove. (Loudoun County Will Book B, p269)
- June 1779 Tithables, Loudoun County:
Thomas Goreham, John Goreham, negroes Sam, Guy, Tom, Betty – 6 tithables (Thomas Lewis’s list)
- Docr. Gustavs Richard Brown’s Qtr, William Mitchell (overseer), **John Goreham**, James Richardson, 4 negroes – 8 tithables (also on Thomas Lewis’s list)
- This appears to be two different John Gorehams, as there is no court record of a duplicate tithe. Dr. Gustavus Richard Brown was from Maryland, the brother of the Dr. Gustavus Brown who was the friend and physician of George*

Washington. William Mitchell, the overseer, was apparently the same William Mitchell who was the son of Adam Mitchell mentioned in the 1762 deposition.

- June 1780 Tithables, Loudoun County:
Thomas Goram, John Goram, negroes Sam, Guy, Tom, Betty – 6 tithables (Cuthbert Harrison’s list)
- John Lewis, **John Goram**, 3 slaves – 5 (John Lewis’s list)
- This person may actually have been “John Gorin”, as he is listed the following year with John Lewis as “John Goran”. He may have been one of the Gorin/Gowen family members in Loudoun.*
- June 1781 Tithables, Loudoun County:
Thomas Gorham, negroes Sam, Guy, Tommy, Billy – 6 tithables (William Bronaugh’s list)
- 12 Mar 1782 Revolutionary claim: **Thomas Gorham** allowed 612 pounds of beef supplied to the troops by the Loudoun court (Loudoun County Minute Book 1780-1783, p73, two entries.)
- The original DAR application based on this claim was filed 30 May 1944 (National #34655) by Mary Schooler Gorham, with the assistance of genealogist Mrs. W. B. Ardery.*
- 13 Mar. 1782 Miles Barden, orphan of Thomas Barden, dec’d. comes into court and makes choice of **Thomas Gorham** for his guardian. (Loudoun County Minute Book 1780-1783, p108)
- The estate of Thomas Barden, his father, was not settled until 1802, when Miles Barden was administrator. Thomas Barden probably married Thomas Gorham’s sister. His wife was Elizabeth, who remarried to John Wells according to 1782 and 1795 court records. There were four Barden children: Thomas, Mary, James, and John. Miles Barden was named “Miles Gorham Barden” in a 1786 estate accounting (Will Book C, p216) and in the 1786 tithables.*
- 8 July 1782 On the motion of **Thos. Gorham**, ordered that John Wells and Elizabeth, his wife, administrators of Thos. Barden, be recommended to settle their account of the administration of the estate of the said Thos. Barden. (Ibid.)
- ca1778-83 *The children of George Vandiver all move to Camden (later Fairfield) District, South Carolina, apparently taking Harvin Gorham and William Gorham, sons of Sanford Gorham, with them. Edward Vandiver last appears on the 1777 tithables, and according to his Revolutionary pension application (R10845) he enlisted in Camden District in 1779. His brother George and his sisters*

apparently followed him within a few years. Interestingly, Edward Vandiver named two of his sons Sanford and Lamkin. The Vandivers are in Pendleton by the 1800 census, while Harvin Gorham is in Chester County.

Note: The following item is actually a citation for Kentucky, and is included here as a transition. Kentucky was part of Virginia until 1792, so this reference is among Virginia's records.

14 Aug 1786 Patent to **Thomas Goarham** for 500 acres in Fayette County, in consideration of a treasury warrant dated 15 October 1779. Survey dated 23 March 1784. The land lay "on the ridge between Grassy Lick Creek and the middle prong of Kingston's (sic) Fork" adjoining Temple Smith, John Darnal, James Hardage Lane. (Virginia Land Office Grants No. 4, p346)

Note that all three adjoining landowners were from Loudoun County. This land is located in the northern part of what is now Montgomery County, Kentucky. At the time, it was in Fayette County, Virginia, which became Kentucky in 1792. Also note that this is a purchase-money grant, not a grant for military service.

30 Jun 1787 Will of William Cotton, dated 30 June 1787 and proved 9 June 1788. Names wife Mary, sons William and John Cotton, daughters "**Margrett Ghoram**" and Frances Spurr. The daughters each received "a mourning ring of the value of thirty shillings". (Loudoun County Will Book C, p345.)

Both sons, William and John Cotton, died in Fayette County, Kentucky. Both daughters had moved to Kentucky within a year or so of the will date.

11 Feb 1788 Richard Spurr and wife Franky (signed as Frances) of Loudoun County deed to **Thomas Gorham** of Loudoun County, 100lbs, one-third of 800a tract in Fayette County, District of Kentucky (then part of Virginia). Witness: William Cotton III, Eliza Cotton, Ann Cotton. (Bourbon County, Kentucky Deed Book A, p196.)

[For continuation of Kentucky references, see the Kentucky Chronology page.](#)

The following two items are not really part of a Virginia Chronology, but I add them here as a sort of transition.

1880 Letter written by a granddaughter of Thomas Gorham in 1880: "...My grandfather, **Thomas Gorham** crossed the ocean from England with two brothers; one of them a lawyer with one arm, the other a farmer. They settled in Virginia, from there they moved to Pennsylvania and lived there until it was made a free state. An unknown brother sold his slaves and went to Massachusetts and Thomas Gorham went to Loudoun Co., Virginia with his slaves..."

I would note that the author of this letter could not have known either of the “two brothers” nor is it likely that she knew her grandfather, except as a young girl. This is an excellent illustration of the accuracy of family legends – there is some truth to it, but also considerable fiction. One wonders if Sanford was the one-armed lawyer.

1930s

A great-great-grandson of **Thomas Gorham**, writing in the 1930s, stated that his great-grandfather “**Jack Gorham** (a son of Thomas Gorham), was one among the pioneer settlers of Fayette County, Kentucky it was either 1767 or 1776 when he came there from Lonadall (sic) County, Virginia...”