

BARNSTABLE GORHAMS.

THE OLD HOUSE IN WHICH THEY LIVED, AND THEIR SERVICES IN THE COLONIAL WARS.

IN the eastern part of the town, on the north side of the road, and several houses west of the Yarmouth line, stands an old house, formerly owned by the Gorhams, now owned by Mr. Gilmore. Lt. Col. John Gorham, in his will dated 1716, says: "I give to Shubael the house in which he now lives, and the lands called Stony Cove lands." * Col. Shubael and his sons, Col. John and Lt. Col. Joseph Gorham, took part in the siege of Louisburg. † Among those who have lived in the old house were Col. David Gorham, brother of Col. John, and Dr. John Davis; also his son, Job C. Davis, Esq., for many years Register of Deeds. ‡ "It is," says Gustavus A. Hinckley Esq., "one of the most interesting relics of old times, that vandalism, under cover of improvement, has permitted to remain, interesting from its family associations and the style of the domestic architecture and interior finish." It is the oldest of four houses now standing which were built by the Gorhams in early times, all of them upon the farm once owned by Capt. John Gorham, who settled in Barnstable in 1652.

The Gorhams took a very important part in the Colonial wars. In volume 67, Massachusetts Archives, there is a letter § from Capt. John Gorham, written to Governor Winslow, in 1675. Capt. Gorham's son John was in his company of soldiers during the war with king Philip and his tribe. In volume 30, page 500, Massachusetts Archives, may be found the following letter:

"Barnstable, April Ye, 8, 1697.

"To Major Walley, Commissioner for war, these may certify that to my certain knowledge, one John Manassos, an Indian servant to Mr. Tho. Smith of Eastham, went out Eastward ye last Expedition with Major Church, and served under Capt. Jothro, an Indian until now returned to Boston again.

Jⁿ. GORHAM. ||

* Barnstable Records and Otis's Barnstable Families.

† Nova Scotia Archives.

‡ Barnstable Records, Otis's Barnstable Families.

§ I have given photographs of this letter to the N. E. H. G. Society and Mass. His. Society.

|| Mass. Archives. vol. 30, page 500. This letter had not been indexed or published before.