

THE GLEASON FAMILY
OF ANDOVER

Thomas Gleason took the oath of Fidelity at Watertown, before William Bond, June 1, 1652. As he was then a man of 41 or 45 years of age, married, with several children, it is extremely probable that the oath was taken very soon after his arrival in this country, as at that time the authorities were very prompt in calling upon strangers to take the oath, because of troublesome situations that might arise, questioning their authority over persons who did not expressly recognize it.

The name was spelled LESON by Bond, and this spelling without the "G", seems to have been the popular mode down to 1700, and was used frequently down as far as the Revolution, although in Court records and formal documents the "G" was used.

From affidavits in the County records it appears that Thomas was born either in 1607 or 1611. His wife was Susanna Page, born 1616, a sister of William Page of Watertown. They had eight children recorded and possibly were the parents of Susanna Gleason, b. 1639.

The family continued to live in Watertown until 1655 or 6, when they removed to Cambridge, just a short distance over the line. In 1657 Thomas rented the Dunster farm on Massachusetta Ave., west of Alewife Brook or Menotomy River, as it was then called. In 1659, he rented from Capt. Scarlett the Major Gibbons farm or Squa Sachem reservation, which he occupied until 1665. In the winter of 1665-6 he returned to Cambridge where he lived until his death, either in 1686 or 1687. Susanna probably died in Jan. 1690/1. Among their children were :-

- Susanna (2), b. 1639.
- Thomas (2)
- Joseph (2)
- John (2)
- Mary (2) b. in Cambridge, Oct. 31, 1657.
- Isaac (2), b. ---; was in Falls Fight, 1676; lived at Enfield.
- William (2), b. in England, 1651 or 1652; was in expedition against Philip in 1675 and was in Narragansett or Swamp Fight; m. Abiah ---, in 1678; lived in present Arlington; he d. Jan. 1690; she m. 2nd., Hugh Day.

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William(2) Gleason (Thomas (1) and wife, Abiah, had:-

William (3), b. April 15, 1679; lived in Brookline; d. 1742.

Joseph (3), bapt. April 10, 1687; b. in Cambridge, 1684; bapt. in Watertown.

John (3), b. 1682 in Cambridge; bapt. April 10, 1687 in Watertown; d. 1717 in Suffolk, Conn.

Elizabeth (3), b. in Cambridge, 1686; bapt. in Watertown, Apr. 10, 1687; m. Samuel Randall.

Esther (3), b. Sept. 13, 1688; d. Sept. 27.

Isaac (3), b. 1690; bapt. Dec. 7, 1690; in Watertown; m. in Boston, Ann Earthy, Dec. 30, 1714; she d. in Brookline, Jan. 28, 1718; he m. 2nd., Mary---; his 3rd wife was Elizabeth Harrington, whom he m. June 26, 1740; he d. probably in Burlington, after 1754; left Burlington farm to son, John.

Isaac(3)Gleason(Wm.(2)Thos.(1) and wife, Ann Earthy, had:-

Elizabeth(4), b. in Brookline, Sept. 24, 1716.

Isaac (4), b. " " , Jan. 7, 1718; probably d. y.
 by 2nd wife, Mary:-

John(4), b. in Brookline; bapt. Feb. 21, 1720; m. Dorothy Gidding; moved to Woburn, North Parish, now Burlington.

David (4), b. in Brookline, Dec. 4, 1721; m. Mercy Perry; d. in Boston, 1758.

Josiah (4), b. in Woburn, 1724; d. in Chelsea, Nov. 11, 1784.

Susanna (4), b. in Woburn, June 8, 1727; m. in Woburn, Joseph Pierce, Feb. 21, 1751.

William (4), b. in Woburn, Jan. 2, 1730; m. 1st., Mary Leger; she d. Oct. 5, 1776 at 45; he m. 2nd., widow Mary Goss; he d. in Billerica, Feb. 2, 1818.

Isaac (4), b. in Woburn, Feb. 10, 1734; was a Capt.; lived in Waltham; d. Mar. 18, 1791.

Joseph (4), b. in Woburn, June 10, 1736; d. in French War.

Wm. (4) Gleason (Isaac(3)Wm.(2)Thos.(1) and 1st wife, Mary Leger, had:-

William (5), b. Aug. 21, 1756; d.y.

Mary (5), b. Aug. 17, 1758; m. Mark Pitman; lived in Maine.

Hanna (5), b. Dec.10, 1760; m. ^{Dec.9,1753;} Tim Walker, son of Joseph; he was b. July 27, 1758 ; moved to Brownfield, Maine.

William (5), b. Feb. 13, 1763; m. Feb.11, 1795, Sally Bacon of Bedford, she d. Dec.16, 1852 at 81; he d. Sept.26, 1844. (Me.)

Rebecca (5), b. Dec.10, 1765; m. Feb.28, 1786, Joseph Haywood or Harwood,

of Brownfield, Maine. Had:-

Joseph (6), b.1800; m. 1821, Maria Dana of Fryeburg, dau. of Judah Dana; he was Judge of Supreme Ct.

Joseph (5), b. Feb.5, 1768; m. May 31, 1798, Sara Cook, dau. of Sears ; he d. March 21, 1849; she d. May 21, 1851.

Ruth (5), b. May 2, 1770; d.---

Sara (5), b. Aug. 13, 1772; m. 1801, Wm. Honus of Boston; had:-

William (6).

Lucy (6)

Augustus (6)

Aaron (6)

Francis (6)

Lucy (5), b. March 21, 1776; d.y.

Lucy (5) 2nd., bapt. July 7, 1782.

William (5)Wm.(4)Isaac(3)Wm.(2)Thos.(1) and wife, Sally Bacon, had:-

Sara (6), b. Aug. 1, 1797; m. 1826, June 1, Robert Ames of Woburn.

daughter (6) b. and d. Feb.20, 1799.

William (6), b. Jan.11, 1801; d. March 1, 1801.

Mary (6), b. April 13, 1803.

Elizabeth (6), b. Oct.8, 1805; m. Dec.1³¹, 1831, Jeremiah Goldsmith of AND-OVER,

Abigail Harriet, (6), b. Jan.22, 1808; m. George Crosby of Boston, son of Michael.

Wm. Legar (6), b. Nov. 1, 1809; m. June 1, 1842, Mary Baker, daughter of John. had:-

Sara (7), b. July 13, 1843.

Louise (6), b. Feb.3, 1812; m. May 15, 1844, Dan Richardson of Woburn. daughter (6), b. and d. Nov. 9, 1814.

Josia Bacon (6), b. July 13, 1816; m. Mary Hartwell; lived in Lexington;- Henry (7); Josia(7); Fred Eugene (7).

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John (4) Gleason (Isaac (3) Wm. (2) Thos. (1) and wife, Dorothy Godding:-

Jonas (5), b, Feb. 6, 1747; m/ 1st, Ruth Bacon of Lexington, dau. of Nath'l and Abigail (Wyman) Bacon, April 30, 1771; she d. Apr. 3, 1793 at 46 years. He m. 2nd., Abigail Danforth; she d. Sept. 5, 1815; he d. Feb. 1815. Had 7 children.

Benjamin (5), b. Dec. 25, 1748; m. Feb. 4, 1772, Deborah Beard, dau. of Jonathan and Deborah (Buck) Beard, of Wilmington; lived in ANDOVER and Reading. She was b. in Wilmington, Oct. 31, 1749; d. in Bedford /Aug. 23, 1839./

Thomas (5), b. Nov. 29, 1751; of Bedford.

Elizabeth (5), b. Nov. 25, 1753.

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Jonas (5) Gleason (Jn. (4) Isaac (3) Wm. (2) Thos. (1) and 1st wife, Ruth Bacon:-

Rhoda (6), b. Sept. 28, 1777; m. her cousin, Ben (6) Gleason, Jr., Ant. March 10, 1803; m. May 22, 1803; they lived in Andover; he was a mason.

Ruth (6), bapt in Lexington, Sept. 20, 1772.

Hannah (6), b. in Bedford, Sept. 17, 1775.

Jonas (6), b. Feb. 12, 1780;

Simeon (6), b. July 15, 1782; m. Susannah Parker Jones, May 29, 1804.

Dorcas (6), b. Aug. 13, 1786; d. June 16, 1787.

by 2nd wife, Abigail Danforth :-

Jeremiah (6), b. Feb. 10, 1796.

Charles (6), b. March 14, 1798

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Benjamin (5) Gleason (Jn. (4) Isaac (3) Wm. (2) Thos. (1) and Deborah Beard:-

Dolly (6), b. in Wilmington, Feb. 10, 1774; lived with brother Joel, in Bedford: unm.

Joel (6), b. in Woburn; 2nd Parish; 1776; m. Lydia ---.

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Children of Benjamin (5) Gleason and wife, Deborah Beard, (cont.) :-

John (6), b. 1785; was a mason; m. Feb.22,1815,Tamesin Shattuck ; he d. in Andover, Dec.29, 1849; she d. April 4, 1831.

Jonathan (6), b. ; m. 1st,Lettice, -- --; she d. here Sept. 26, 1800; had dau. Lavinia (7), b. Sept. 23,1800. He m. 2nd., May 19, 1803, Sarah Foster; he joined South Church/^{from Reading} ~~in 1813~~ ing, 1813; in 1826 was set off to West Parish. he did not die here.

Joseph (6), b. about 1782;m. Lucy Bancroft of Gardner, 1807; she d. Feb. 24, 1837, age 54, in Reading, where they went to live in 1829. They had made their home on the Stephen Abbott estate in Scotland District.He was in War of 1812, a Captain of Andover Artillery, stationed on Dorchester Heights. He lost his property in Andover, through endorsing a note for a friend. He died in Tewksbury Sept. 21, 1846 age 65; is buried at Reading

Benjamin (6)b. about 1780; in Burlington; m. his cousin Rhoda Gleason, dau. of Jonas (5) and wife Ruth (Bacon) Gleason, May 22,1803; he d. in Andover, Feb.12, 1852. Ben lived in the Jackson place built on a Parish lot which he bought at auction 1810;he sold it to the Trustees of P.A. 1815. (Now the home of Prof.Stone at Main Street and Wheeler Ave.(1935) Rhoda d. here Nov.20, 1857.

Benjamin(6)Gleason(Ben(5)Jn.(4)Isaac(3)Wm(2)Thos.(1)and wife Rhoda, had:

Rhoda (7), b.Oct.31,1804; d. Sept. 12,1805.

Rhoda (7) 2nd., b. March 27, 1808; m. Ephraim Everson,Jan.29,1834;he came from Plymouth and with others, set up a machine shop in Andover; he joined South Church 1834 and was dismissed to help found Free Church in the Anti-Slavery controversy,1846; he was a deacon.

Children of Benjamin (6) Gleason and wife, Rhoda, (cont.) :-
Justus(7), also called JUSTIN, b. July 5, 1806; d. Nov. 14, 1842.

Damaris (7), b. Sept. 15, 1810; m. Thomas H. Kimball, May 14, 1829; (I presume the Kimball Book has her but I distrust that collection in places, as there are grave errors. The author did not live to complete it himself.)

Gamaliel (7), b. April 26, 1812; m. Hannah M. Morse of Alexandria, Va., she d. May 27, 1863 at 41; Nov. 1, 1826, he m. 2nd., Margaret Moore, widow of Samuel A. White of Bedford, N.H. She was dau. of Wm. Moore and w. Martha Holmes; she had a son, Moses White, by her 1st husband. Gamaliel and his first wife lived near Phillips Academy in a house later occupied by a club of students. He then moved to the brick house near Smith & Manning's grocery store. He was a mason. He d. March 24, 1879, tenderly cared for by his 2nd wife. She was devoted to the church and a zealous worker for the Women's Relief Corps; was very hospitable and was loved by all the Gleasons.

Hobart (7), b. March 29, 1814; was named for Hobart Clark the post-master, a friend of Ben Gleason; he d. Feb. 21, 1817.

Moses (7), b. July 26, 1816; d. unm., May 22, 1843.

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John (6) Gleason (Ben (5) Jn. (4) Isaac (3) Wm. (2) Thos. (1) and James Shattuck :-

(Wyman was an overseer here in Nathan Frye's woolen mill for many years. This is now owned by the Stevens family of North Andover.)

Wyman (7), b. Dec. 3, 1816; m. Elizabeth Manning of Tewksbury; he d. Sept. 15, 1872.

twins (7), b. Feb. 23, 1819; not named; one d. same day.

William (7), b. March 29, 1821; m. Jan. 2, 1851, Sarah P. Needham, 24, dau. of Ben Needham and w. Nabby; (Abigail); she d. in Boston, March 4, 1862 at 35.

John W. (7), b. about 1825; a mason; d. unm. in Boston, Jan. 30, 1874.

George (7), b. Sept. 19, 1827; went to Minn. with explorers; prob. killed by Eliza Ann (7), b. Nov. 3, 1830, m. a Mr. Shattuck. She / Indians. /
 --- was a beauty; a fine singer, also. ---

Jonathan (6) Gleason (Ben (5) Jn. (4) Isaac (3) Wm. (2) Thos. (1) and Sarah Foster:

Sarah (7), b. Dec. 8, 1805; m. March 5, 1860, John Smith, as his 2nd wife; he was 63; son of Peter Smith and wife, Henrietta; was a flax manufacturer of Scotland; his career and bequests to the Town of Andover are well known; see Bailey's Historical Sketches; he was greatly attached to his wife, Sarah, who was a very charming and superior woman, indeed; she outlived him, and was greatly beloved by her step-children.

Allanda (7), b. Oct. 14, 1807; also called AMANDA; m. Nathan Frye, April 4, 1833; he made a snug fortune in the mill business in the Civil War. He sold the business to Stevens; died after a long illness. Left 2 children.

Horatio (7), b. June 1, 1810; m. Sarah D. French, May 15, 1834; married a very lovely girl who d. July 16, 1840, a few years later; left:-

Horatio (8) who was adopted by his uncle Justin; went on the B. and M.R.R.; later had charge of the farm up country owned by Furber of the Board of Directors. b. July 23, 1839;

Sarah (8) was adopted by Benjamin Pynchard of Andover, who had no children; she was a famous beauty; m. a Mr. Baldwin of New York.

Justin (7), b. July 2, 1812; lived in Lawrence; m. a Miss McNaughton of Newburyport; adopted his nephew, Horatio and a girl named Emery; a very fine, rare character and well married.

Foster (7), b. April 28, 1816; d. Oct. 3, 1819.

Gordon (7), b. Sept. 6, 1818.

Capt. Joseph (6) Gleason (Ben (5) John (4) Isaac (3) Wm (2) Thos. (1) and Lucy Bancroft
 Gilman (7), b. Nov. 5, 1809.

John William (7), b. Dec. 10, 1811.

Joseph H. (7), b. July 5, 1814; was alive 1907 in Reading.

Albert (7), b. Sept. 28, 1816; lived in Reading.

Edward B. (7), b. 1821.

Gamaliel (7) Gleason (Ben (6) (5) Jn. (4) Isaac (3) Wm. (2) Thos. (1) and Hannah Morse:

Rhoda Matilda (8), b. Jan. 1, 1835; d. August 10.

Hannah Virginia (8), b. July 14, 1839; d. Dec. 20, 1844.

Caroline (8), b. not recorded; d. Jan. 30, 1843 age 19 mo.

Benjamin G. (8), b. May 28, 1844; college graduate; had a business in Philadelphia at one time; was a mason here; m. Elizabeth Grosvenor, dau of James Grosvenor and w. Elizabeth Hindle; her father, James Grosvenor was ticket agent here at B. and M.R.R. for years; her mother was a relative of Mrs. Punchard and was wealthy. Ben and Elizabeth eloped. He died Aug. 22, 1898; she lived in West Andover until death.

Moses V. (8), b. in Newburyport about 1846; was a mason; m. Marietta Cook of Newburyport, March 14, 1871; she was dau. of Moody and Eliz. Cook; they had no children; he was an invalid for many years; d. in Andover, Sept. 4, 1902.

Frank A. (8), b. about 1845; d. Nov. 6, 1852 age 7.

Scillin Nesbit (8), b. about 1860 d. in Wilton, N.H., Oct. 11, 1862.

Wyman (7) Gleason (Jn. (6) Ben (5) Jn. (4) Isaac (3) Wm. (2) Thos. (1) and Eliz. Mann-
ing:-

Alfred (8), b. 1859; d. April 12, 1863.

Frank Edward (8), b. 1864; m. in Lowell, Sept. 10, 1891, Mary E. Blood of ANDOVER; she was 26, an heiress, daughter of Marshall Blood and wife Mary Cornell. Frank E. was a coal dealer here, succeeding her uncle, John Connell in business;

Lila (8) - ; kept books for her brother.

Charles (8) -

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Ben G. (8) Gleason (Gamaliel (7) Ben (6-5) Jn. (4) Isaac (3) & Eliz. Grosvenor :-

Ben G. (9), b. in Scranton, Pa.; d. in Lawrence, Aug. 4, 1872, age 2 yrs.

Charlotte Kimball (9), b. in Andover, July 12, 1884; m. May 11, 1905,

Wm. T. Law of North Reading; he was son of Frederick and Mary

(Brown) Law, b. in Boston.

Nesbit G. (9), b. Nov. 11, 1872; m. June 7, 1894, Alice Christie; she was

b. in Scotland, dau. of Wm. Christie and w. Alice Watson; he

worked for the American Express Co. Later with Am. Woolen Co.
They had :-

Elsie Grosvenor (10) b. March 15, 1895.

(Nesbit G. was Town Auditor, 1901; Member of the House, 1916-7.)

James (9), b. ; was with Am. Express Co. awhile; went to Boston

and married there.

Other Gleasons here were :-

Ben W. Gleason, merchant of Boston, with a wife Louisa, had :-

Ellen Augusta, b. June 18, 1834.

Ben Franklin, b. Aug. 26, 1838.

Charles Whitney, b. April 9, 1841.

Stillman A. b. Aug. 12, 1843.

Joseph, b. Feb. 28, 1845.

Ben F. probably 2nd., b. 1847; d. in North Parish, Aug. 25, 1848 at 10 mo.

Margaret L. Gleason, 27, b. in Colebrook, N.H., dau. of Edward and
Sophronia, married, April 30, 1833, **David Stiles of North Andover**; he was
age 40, a shoemaker, son of Elijah and Tabitha.

Frank E. Gleason of Barnard, Vt., resident of Boston, age 28, son
of Jn. W. Gleason and w. Keziah P. Moore, m. Feb. 13, 1890, Margery Low,
23, Scotch, dau. of James C. Low and w. Margaret White.

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A

Ames, Robert3

B

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 " , Sally3
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 Beard, Deborah4
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C

Christie, Alice9
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D

Dana, Maria3
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E

Earthy, Ann2
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 " , Rhoda5
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H

Harrington, Elizabeth2
 Hartwell, Mary3
 Haywood, Joseph3
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 Honus, Wm.3

J

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K

Kimball, Thos. H.6

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N

Name- LESON1
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P

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 Perry, Mercy2
 Pierce, Joseph2
 Pitman, Mark3

R

Richardson, Dan3

S

Shattuck, Mr.-6
 " , Tamesin5.....6
 Smith, John7
 Stiles, David9

W

Walker, Tim3
 White, Margaret (Moore)6

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