



In-Depth First Settler Profile: *John Gill (1676) /* *Martha (Goodale) Gill*

Name: John Gill

Birth: October 15, 1647, Salisbury, Mass. (Massachusetts Vital Records to 1850; SAV)

Emigration: Born in Massachusetts Bay Colony; moved to Middletown, Conn. after his marriage.

Death: abt. May 1712, East Middletown, Conn. [Compiler's note: Inventory of estate of John Gill Senior taken on May 19, 1712. (MAN vol. 2, p. 204)]

Occupation and Public Service: Husbandman (MLR vol. 1, p. 69); on May 10, 1709, inventory of estate of Jonas Wright taken by John Gill, Sen., Shamgar Barn, James Ward and William Ward. (MAN vol. 2, p. 143)

Marriage: m. Martha Goodale, abt. 1673, Salisbury, Mass. (Torrey's New England Marriages Prior to 1700) (b. abt. 1652; d. unknown) She was the daughter of Richard and Mary Goodale who owned land in both Salisbury, Mass. and Middletown, Conn. [Compiler's note: Will of Richard Goodale of Salisbury, Mass. dated February 3, 1673 and proved November 14, 1676, "to my daughter Martha ye wife of John Gill twenty pounds in corne or cattle." (Probate Records of Essex County, Massachusetts vol. 3, p. 98-101); on December 4, 1676, inventory of estate of Richard Goodall of Middletown, Conn. was taken, "There was another parcel of Land recorded to him [Goodale], but was given to his son John Gill, as is Testified." (MAN vol. 1, p. 202)]

Parents: John Gill (abt. 1622-1690) and Phebe Buswell, m. May 2, 1645, Salisbury, Mass. (Massachusetts Vital Records to 1850) John Gill's will, dated September 1, 1690 and proved March 31, 1691, bequeathed five shillings to his eldest son John Gill. Phebe (Buswell) Gill was the daughter of Isaac Buswell of Salisbury, Mass., weaver. (*Ancestry of Charles Stinson Pillsbury and John Sargent Pillsbury* by Mary Lovering Holman, 1938)

Children: (BCVR; Massachusetts Vital Records to 1850)

(1) Richard Gill, b. March 24, 1673/4, Salisbury, Mass.; d. abt. 1757, Middletown, Conn.; m. Elizabeth Fox, July 9, 1724, Glastonbury, Conn. (1 child) [Compiler's note: On April 18, 1749, Richard Gill conveyed half of his land in Middletown to his son Isaac Gill (MLR vol. 13, p. 599); on December 24, 1757, Isaac Gill and Elizabeth Gill conveyed land "which did belong to Richd. Gill Decd. Father to me the said Isaac, and Husband to me the said Elizabeth." (MLR vol. 17, p. 471)]

(2) Joshua Gill, b. July 20, 1676, Middletown, Conn.; d. April 30, 1733, East Middletown, Conn.; m. Ann (Odell) Bacon, widow of Beriah Bacon, December 1, 1731, Middletown,

Conn. (no children). [Compiler's note: On August 3, 1732, "Ann Bacon, alias Gill, the relict of Beriah Bacon, late of Middletown, and her present husband Joshua Gill." (MAN vol. 3, p. 4); will of Joshua Gill dated April 26, 1733, "to my wife Ann ... to my brothers, Richard Gill & Ebenezer Gill." (MAN vol. 3, p. 52); "Joshua Gill, d. April 30, 1733, in 57th yr." (Cemetery Transcriptions from the NEHGS Manuscript Collections; Old Cemetery, Portland, Conn.)]

(3) Ebenezer Gill, b. March 10, 1677/8, Middletown, Conn.; d. January 12, 1751, East Middletown, Conn.; m. Lediah (Lydia) Cole, November 20, 1718, Wethersfield, Conn. (2 children) [Compiler's note: "Ebenezer Gill, d. Jan. 12, 1751, in 72d yr." (Cemetery Transcriptions from the NEHGS Manuscript Collections; Old Cemetery, Portland, Conn.)]

(4) Judith Gill, b. January 10, 1681/2, Middletown, Conn.; d. December 19, 1715, East Middletown, Conn. (unmarried). [Compiler's note: "Judeth, daughter of John & Martha Gill, d. Dec. 19, 1715, ae 34 yrs." (Cemetery Transcriptions from the NEHGS Manuscript Collections; Old Cemetery, Portland, Conn.)]

(5) John Gill, Junior, b. October 2, 1685, Middletown, Conn.; d. April 27, 1713, East Middletown, Conn. (unmarried). [Compiler's note: Will of John Gill, Jr., dated April 25, 1713, "to my eldest brother Richard ... to my 2 brothers, Joshua & Ebenezer ... to my sister Judith ... to my espoused friend Elizabeth Fox of Glastonbury." (MAN vol. 2, p. 205); "John Gill, d. Apr. 27, 1713, in 28th yr." (Cemetery Transcriptions from the NEHGS Manuscript Collections; Old Cemetery, Portland, Conn.)]

Residence/Property: On June 16, 1680, Mary Goodale of Salisbury, widow and executrix of Richard Goodale, mariner, deceased, in consideration of a twenty acre lot in Middletown made over to my son in law John Gill by my son Richard Goodale "which my husband Richard Goodale bought of the towne of midletowne afore sd" bounded south east & west on a highway and north on land which Richard Goodale my husband bought of John Hall (MLR vol. 1, p. 169); on June 16, 1680, Richard Goodale of Middletown conveyed to his brother in law John Gill of Middletown, "twenty acres of Land Sould to him by his mother mary Goodall" on the east side of the Great River (MLR vol. 1, p. 172); on January 28, 1684, Richard Goodall conveyed to John Gill sixteen acres on the east side of the Great River bounded north on John Gill south and west on highways and east on a brook (MLR vol. 1, p. 22); on May 24, 1693, John Hall senior with his wife Mary to John Gill seven acres on the east side of the Great River bounded west on a highway north on Nathaniel Bacon east on Edward Durant and south on said John Hall (MLR vol. 1, p. 69); on July 11, 1697, Richard Goodale to John Gill, two acres lying on the east side of the Great River bounded north and west on the lands of the said John Gill and east and south on highways (MLR vol. 2, p. 13); on December 30, 1698, Israhiah Wetmore to John Gill twenty acres of wood land commonly called the



John Gill (1676) / Martha (Goodale) Gill

Page 2-2-2

half mile lot on the east side of the Great River laid out to the Reverend Mr. Samuel Stow bounded west on Mr. Noadiah Russell north on land laid out for Mr. Giles Hamlin deceased east on remainder of the lot laid out for Mr. Samuel Stow and south on land laid out for Andrew Warner deceased (MLR vol. 2, p. 27); on June 21, 1704, Nathaniel White, Samuel Bidwell and John Warner Senior, townsmen, conveyed to John Gill Senior thirty acres of upland on the east side of the Connecticut River bounded south on Samuel Stocking west on Samuel Hall north on the highway and east on common land (MLR vol. 2, p. 183).

Will: Vol. 2, p. 204-205 (MAN). (Estate inventory taken May 19, 1712: 285-03-00, i.e., 285 pounds; also land within the bounds of Haverhill, in Massachusetts Province, valued at 70 pounds); agreement signed May 19, 1712, to Richard, the eldest son, 20 acre tract of land and land in Haverhill, Mass.; to Joshua, second son, 20 acres of land and land at Haverhill, Mass.; to Ebenezer, 20 acres with buildings; to John, 30 acres of land; to Judith the daughter, land at Haverhill, Mass.

Burial Location: Unknown

Notes:

(CAF): "Sketch of Portland ... The first two persons who settled in Portland were James Stancliff and John Gill. The former had a house on the bank of the river at the end of Portland street about 1690, perhaps a little earlier. The latter had a house nor far from him about the same time."

(SAV): "GILL, JOHN, Salisbury, m. 2 or 3 May 1645, Phebe, d. of Isaac Buswell, had Elizabeth b. 8 Jan. 1646; John, 15 Oct. 1647; Phebe, 6 Jan. 1650; Samuel, 5 Jan. 1652; Sarah, 27 June 1654; Moses, 26 Dec. 1656; Benjamin; and Isaac, 24 Apr. 1665. JOHN, Salisbury, s. of John of the same, by w. Martha had Richard, b. 24 Mar. 1674."

(HMC): "At a towne meeting November 18, 1679 ... it was voated be willing that a belle which is purchased by parte of the inhabtance of the towne ... that if they be willing that the sayd belle shall be hanged up in the meeting house," included John Gill for the amount of three shillings.

(Records of First Church of Christ, Congregational, Middletown, Connecticut, 1668-1870): On July 19, 1691, Martha ye wife of Jno Gill admitted to full communion (p. 40); on August 23, 1691, "Richard, Joshua, Ebenezer & Jno ye sons & Judah ye daughter of Jno & Martha Gill were baptized: The father & the oldest sons Richd & Joshua then owning ye covenant" (p. 41); on January 16, 1691/2, John Gill admitted to full communion (p. 41) [**Compiler's note:** John Gill joined the Church of Christ fifteen years after settling in Middletown.]

(MLR): On January 29, 1707/8, Joshua Gill of Middletown, in consideration of a half mile lot which the grantees purchased from John Clark and his wife of Farmington and also for four

pounds, sold to John Gill, Sr., George Stocking, William Cornel, Sr., Joseph Warner, Jonathan Smith, Ebenezer Smith, Francis Smith, Joseph Long, Jonathan Stedd, Jonas Wright, Thomas Wright, John Miller, Ephraim Wilcox, James Stancliff, Nathaniel Savage, Samuel Bidwell, Jr., Jacob Cornell, Jr., Thomas Buck, Ebenezer Hurlbutt, Richard Gill, Ebenezer Gill, John Gill, Jr., and the said Joshua Gill, eighteen acres on the east side of the Great River where also the above purchasers do now inhabit and dwell. (vol. 2, p. 218)

(HMC): "The oldest record now extant, kept by Samuel Hall, gives an account for the first meeting of the inhabitants on the east side of the river, March 2d 1710, for the building of a meeting house for the preaching of the gospel. A building committee was appointed, and 20 men pledged themselves to pay their equal proportion, according to their estates, in a bond of £20. This agreement was signed by John Gill, William Cornwall sen., Samuel Hall, Nathaniel Savage, Ebenezer Smith, Shamgar Barnes, Ephraim Wilcock, William Stancliff, Jonathan Gleed, Richard Gill, Coriah Bacon, Thomas Wright, John Begin, George Stocken, David Strickland, Thomas Buck, Joseph Warner, Ebenezer Hurlbut, and John Meer."

(HMC): "In March 1711, this petition was addressed to the mother town across the river: March 13th 1711 this Day being warned and appointed for a town meeting to agree for the settlement of the town school for the proper Use and benefit of the whole town in generall; we on the east side of the great River being also very sensible of the necessity of the upholding schooling and the benefit thereof and likewise the evil that doth ordinarily follow in the want therof, we do therefore propound these following things on our own behalf:--being very willing to agree in the most equitable and peaceable way with our loving neighbours of the town on the west side of the great River on both sides of the ferry Vizt that Is In all times coming annually that we on the East side keep a school among our selves so much of the yeare as the money Raised of an from our selves shall amount unto ... we think It a thing most Rationall, Loving neighbours, that our own money be Laid out upon our own children, and in charity we do believe and conclude that if your selves were in our sted you would desire the same, and If we were In your sted we should Readily grant ... hoping you will give just ground to subscrib our selves In token of Love and gratitude your Loving friends neighbours and bretheren &c. who are here unto subscribd. John Gill Senr., John Sledd, wiliam Cornwell senr., Jonathan Warner, Samll Hall, Jonathan Smith, Ebenezer Smith, Shamgar Barns, George Stocken, Thomas Buck, Thomas Wright, John Miller, Richard Jill, Richard Goodale, Ebenezer Hurlburt, Francis Smith, John Gill Junr., Ephraim Wilcox, Nathanell Savige."

(MLR): On April 2, 1714, Richard Gill "in consideration of a legacy which he was to pay to Elezibeth Fox of the town of Glasonbury given to her by her espoused friend John Gill deceased" conveyed to her seven acres on the east side of the Great River (vol. 3, p. 92); on April 2, 1714, Richard Gill to his brother Joshua Gill, twenty acres on the east side of the Great



John Gill (1676) / Martha (Goodale) Gill ***Page 3-3-3***

River given as a legacy to him from his father John Gill deceased (vol. 3, p. 93); on April 20, 1721, Ebenezer Gill to his brother Richard Gill, three acres in wongunk "it being that parcel of land which his father Jno Gill bought of Sargant Izrahiah Wettmore. (vol. 2, p. 408-409)

(CAF): "In May, 1714, 31 persons, who were doubtless generally heads of families, petitioned the General Court for parish privileges. The petition was granted and the parish was named East Middletown, a name which it retained until its

incorporation with most of Middle Haddam and East Hampton as a town, by the name of Chatham in Oct., 1767 ... The names of the petitioners were, Bariah Bacon, Shamga Barnes, John Bevin, Samuel and Nathaniel Bidwell, Thomas Bucke, William and Jacob Cornwall, Richard Sill (Gill?) John Gaines, Ebenezer and Joshua Gill, Richard Goodale, sen., Richard and Ebenezer Goodale, Thomas Hale, Samuel Hall, Walter Harris, Ebenezer Hurlbut, John Miller, Job Payne, Jnathan Slead, Nathaniel Savage, Jonathan and Ebenezer Smith, James and William Stancliff, Joseph Warner, Joseph and Nathaniel White, and Thomas Wright."

VERIFY - VERIFY - VERIFY

Abbreviation code used in SMFSD biographical sketches and in-depth profiles:

(MVR) Middletown Vital Records (originals at Middletown City Hall, Middletown, Conn.; also available on microfilm at Russell Library, Middletown, Conn.)

(BCVR) *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records* (original index at Connecticut State Library, Hartford, Conn.; printed index available from Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Md.; digitized index available on CD-Rom as part of *The Ricker Compilation of Vital Records of Early Connecticut*, Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Md.)

(MLR) *Middletown Land Records* (originals at Middletown City Hall, Middletown, Conn.; also available on microfilm at Russell Library, Middletown, Conn.)

(MAN) *Digest of Connecticut Probate Records*, Hartford District (Manwaring, Charles William. *A Digest of the Early Connecticut Probate Records*. Originally published 1904-1906; reprinted 1995. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1995.)

(CBRMC) *Commemorative Biographical Record of Middlesex County, Connecticut, Containing Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens, and Many of the Early Settled Families*. Chicago, Ill.: J.H. Beers & Co., 1903.

(MUH) *Middletown Upper Houses* (Adams, Charles C. *Middletown Upper Houses, A History of the North Society of Middletown, Connecticut from 1650 to 1800 with Genealogical and Biographical Chapters on Early Families*. New York, N.Y.: The Grafton Press, 1908.)

(FFS) Frank Farnsworth Starr ("The Settlers of Mattabeseck 1650-1660," *Middletown Penny Press*, Oct. 11, 1900; also published in the *Middletown Tribune* 250th Anniversary supplement.)

(CAF) *Centennial Address of Rev. David Field*. (Field, David D. *Centennial Address: With Historical Sketches of Cromwell, Portland, Chatham, Middle Haddam, Middletown, and its Parishes*. Middletown, Conn.: W.B. Casey, 1853.)

(GMB) *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633* (Anderson, Robert Charles, FASG. *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620-1633, Vol. I-III*. Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1996.)

(SAV) *Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England* (Savage, James. *A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England, Showing Three Generations of Those Who Came Before May, 1692, on the Basis of Farmer's Register*. Boston, Mass.: Little, Brown & Co., 1860-1862.)

(GFHC) *Genealogical & Family History of the State of Connecticut* (Cutter, William Richard. *Genealogical and Family History of the State of Connecticut: A Record of the Achievements of Her People in the Making of a Commonwealth and the Founding of a Nation*. New York, N.Y.: Lewis Publishing Co., 1911.)

(HMC) *The History of Middlesex County* (Henry Whittemore, ed. *The History of Middlesex County 1635-1885*. New York, N.Y.: J.H. Beers & Co., 1884)

(RPCC) *Records of the Particular Court of Connecticut, 1639-1663* (Adams, Arthur W., ed. *Records of the Particular Court of Connecticut 1639-1663*. Hartford, Conn.: Connecticut Historical Society, 1928.)

(HCCM) *Hartford County Court Minutes, 1663-1687* (Ullmann, Helen Schatvet, CG, FASG., ed. *Hartford County, Conn., County Court Minutes, Vol. 3 & 4, 1663-1687, 1697*. Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2005.)

(NEHGSR) *NEHGS Register (New England Historical and Genealogical Register)*. Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1847-2007.) (Online database available at NewEnglandAncestors.org)

(TAG) *The American Genealogist* (articles by Donald Lines Jacobus, ed., 1922-1971) (*The American Genealogist*. New Haven, Conn.: D.L. Jacobus, 1922-1971)