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GENERAL JAMES IRISH

1776-1863



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GENERAL JAMES IRISH



A SKETCH OF THE LIFE

OF

GENERAL JAMES IRISH

OF GORHAM, ME.

1776—1863

BY

LYNDON OAK

BOSTON  
LEE & SHEPARD  
1898

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1883



1883

TO THE  
DESCENDANTS OF GENERAL JAMES IRISH AND  
HIS WIFE REBECCA CHADBOURNE  
THIS SHORT SKETCH  
IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED



## P R E F A C E .

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**T**HE writer of the following brief sketch of the life of a former citizen of Gorham has been aided by Williamson's History of Maine and Judge Godfrey's Annals of Bangor. But he is mainly indebted to the diary of the subject of the sketch, which briefly alludes to some of the more important facts in his eventful life.

GARLAND, ME., January, 1898.



## ILLUSTRATIONS.

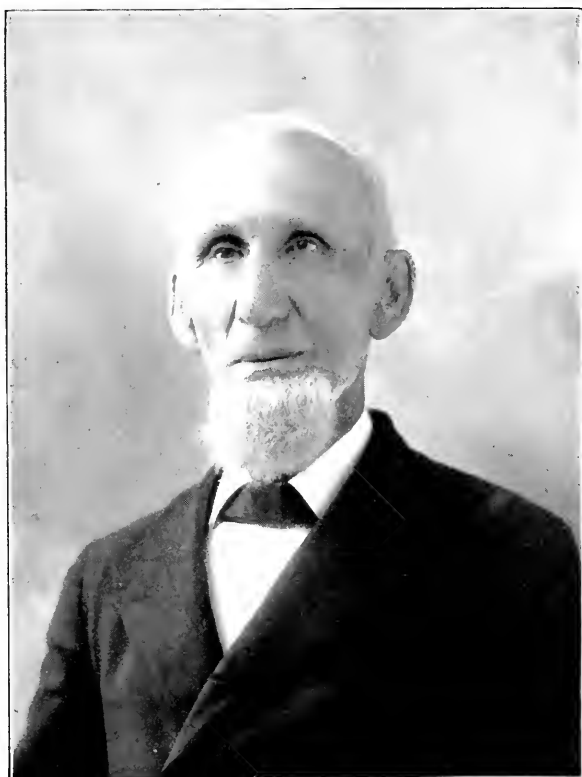
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LYNDON OAK

A BRIEF SKETCH  
OF THE  
GENEALOGY AND PERSONAL HISTORY  
OF GENERAL JAMES IRISH, OF  
GORHAM, ME.

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A BUSY LIFE.

GENERAL IRISH was born in Gorham, Me., Aug. 18 of the memorable year of 1776, and he carried "the spirit of seventy-six" through a long and eventful life.

His grandfather, James Irish,<sup>1</sup> emigrated from England about the year 1711, and settled in Falmouth, now Portland, Me. In 1738 he moved his family to the township now known as the town of Gorham, which was then an almost unbroken wilderness, the first opening therein having been made only two years earlier. He had at that time seven children, five sons and two daughters. One of the sons was James Irish, Jr.,<sup>2</sup> who was born at Falmouth, Jan. 21, 1736. James Irish, Jr., was the father of Gen. James Irish,<sup>3</sup> the subject of this sketch.

On the maternal side the ancestry of General Irish is traced through three generations of John Phinneys to the John Phinney<sup>1</sup> who emigrated to America about the year 1638, and became a member of the Plymouth Colony. His son, John Phinney,<sup>2</sup> was born at Plymouth in 1638. He married Mary Rogers,\* a granddaughter of Thomas Rogers, who came to America in the "Mayflower" in 1620.

About the year 1662 John Phinney<sup>2</sup> moved to Barnstable, Mass., where John Phinney,<sup>3</sup> afterwards known as Deacon John Phinney, was born. John Phinney,<sup>4</sup> son of Deacon John Phinney, was also born in Barnstable, April 8, 1695.

He became widely known as Capt. John Phinney, and was the first settler of the town of Gorham; he married Martha Coleman and had a large family of children, one of whom was Mary Gorham Phinney, the first white child born in Gorham. The date of her birth was Aug. 24, 1736; she married James Irish, Jr., March 10, 1756, and became the mother of a large family, the youngest of whom was James Irish, known in manhood's years as Gen. James Irish. General Irish was the seventh generation on his mother's side from Thomas Rogers of "Mayflower" memory, through Capt. John Phinney, who was a direct descendant of Mary Rogers, granddaughter of Thomas Rogers.

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\* At the date of the marriage of John Phinney<sup>2</sup> there were living in the Colony of Massachusetts three persons of the name of Mary Rogers. Authorities differ as to whether John Phinney<sup>2</sup> married the granddaughter of John Rogers, or another Mary Rogers.

The ancestry of General Irish was of the heroic type. The first John Phinney was a man of the Puritan stamp, and shared with the Puritans the privations and hardships incident to life in a new country.

John Phinney<sup>2</sup> was a soldier in King Philip's war, which opened in 1675, and which was one of the most desperate and sanguinary wars known in the annals of Indian warfare.

In the year 1724-5 General Irish's grandfather, James Irish,<sup>1</sup> was a sergeant in a military company which was sent to the Penobscot river and bay under the famous Indian fighter, Col. Thomas Westbrook.

In the month of May, 1736, accompanied by his son Edmund, fourteen years of age, and equipped with those essential factors of advancing civilization, the gun and the axe, together with a few days' supply of provisions, Capt. John Phinney (the 4th John) made his way from his home in Falmouth up the Presumscot river in a canoe to township "Narragansett Number Seven."

The township had been given to the soldiers of King Philip's war and their heirs, as supplementary compensation for their heroic services in that memorable war. Preparations for a few days' stay having been hastily made, the sturdy blows of the ambitious son, Edmund, sent the first tree quivering to the ground; this was the beginning of the first opening in the hitherto unbroken forest of the township.

Later in the season Captain Phinney built a small cabin into which he moved his family. By this act he earned the distinction of having been the first settler of the fine old town of Gorham. It was in this little cabin that Mary Gorham Phinney was born.

Captain Phinney was a man of marked personal characteristics : he possessed great muscular strength and power of endurance, and a courage in which there was no element of fear. Sudden exigencies of the most serious character did not disturb him. His military experiences and his tact in dealing with the Indians, whether peaceful or on the warpath, rendered his presence in the township a perpetual benediction. His counsels were of great service to his neighbors in the common affairs of pioneer life, and were especially valuable in seasons of difficulty and peril.

His family bore the toil, privations, and discomforts incident to pioneer life, severe though they were, with cheerful fortitude ; if, sometimes, they were scantily fed and clothed and the better days they hoped for were slow in coming, they still maintained their habitual equanimity.

Other families had from year to year followed the Phinney family into the township, until 1745, when the little colony numbered eighteen families. There had been living in the township also as many or more Indians than whites.

At this juncture the fifth Indian war opened. The parties to it were the French, whose strong-

holds were in Canada, and their allies the Indians, on one side, and the English on the other. At the near approach of this war the Indians quietly withdrew from the colony to Canada.

During the nine years intervening between the settlement of the township and the opening of the war the whites and the Indians had been on friendly terms; the white and Indian children had roamed through the forests and had engaged in youthful pastimes together without fear or restraint.

This condition of affairs had come to an abrupt termination. The Indians had become hostile and bloodthirsty, and were ready to return and destroy their old neighbors, whose first duty now was to provide for the protection of their own lives. Under the lead of Captain Phinney a fort was built early in the spring of 1745. Nine of the eighteen families repaired to the fort for protection; eight families went to distant towns for safety; and one family, embracing the father, mother, and five children, who took the risk of remaining away from the fort one day too long, against the earnest remonstrances of Captain Phinney, were all murdered save the mother, who was carried captive to Canada, enduring indescribable hardships on the way. The nine families who went into the fort were obliged to remain in their pent-up quarters through four weary, slow-moving years, continually on the watch to be in readiness to repel the attacks of their relentless foes.

Through the three following years the inhabitants fled to the fort whenever threatened by a renewal of hostilities.

John Irish, an uncle of General Irish, was in the expedition that captured Louisburg in 1745, a place so well adapted both by its site and elaborate fortifications to repel attacks that it had been known as the Gibraltar of America.

In the year 1777 General Irish's father was summoned to service in the Revolutionary war. The support of a large family of children now devolved upon the mother, the Mary Gorham Phinney of earlier times. She was equal to the emergency; obtaining cotton from a Falmouth merchant, she spun and wove it by hand and returned it, receiving in payment the difference in value between the manufactured article and the raw material. In making the exchanges she rode to and from Falmouth, now Portland, a distance of fourteen miles each way, on horseback, over a road that would fill the women of the present day with dismay.

In 1779 General Irish's brother, William, was in the expedition that was sent to Penobscot bay to aid in the defence of Castine and other places in the vicinity against a threatened attack by the English. The American forces suffered a disastrous and mortifying defeat.

There was a great scarcity of provisions in 1780, and the General's mother allowed the members of her own family, that she might administer to the wants of her neighbors.



When six years of age General Irish attended school for a very brief time, taught by an old Englishman, Jonathan Greene; this was his first experience in the school-room.

In 1786 he attended a short school in his father's house, and later in "Benjamin Brown's old corn house." And thus, from year to year, when a teacher could be secured, and a corner in some shed, house, or barn could be obtained, he, with the neighbors' children, attended school, where the simplest rudiments of education were imperfectly taught.

When ten years of age he became an interested listener to the conversations he heard and a reader of articles in a newspaper of the times relating to political matters, including the administrations of Governors Hancock and Bowdoin, the French depredations upon American commerce, and Shay's rebellion. The story of Shay's rebellion made a strong impression upon him in consequence of his seeing some of the participators in it on their return to their homes after it had collapsed.

In 1788 he attended school at Gorham village, taught by Thomas Kinnard, "*a celebrated teacher of children, who taught from Thomas Dilworth's Spelling Book.*" While felling a tree about this time he inflicted a wound upon his ankle which compelled him to abstain from labor for several months. In relating this incident he said: ". . . but as Deacon Austin Alden taught school in my father's house, I improved this little opportunity."

He subsequently attended school at the village, taught by Salmon Chase, who was afterwards an attorney at Portland. Mr. Chase was an uncle of the celebrated statesman, Salmon Portland Chase. He says of Messrs. Alden and Chase: "They were praying schoolmasters."

In the winter of 1790 he attended a school taught by Sylvanus Davis in four private dwellings successively. This arrangement gave the children of the scattered households a much longer term of school, and at the same time equalized the burden of travel.

About this time he began to manifest a desire to cultivate the art of singing. Years earlier he had stood by his mother's loom and caught from her lips the airs of the old-time hymn-tunes which she loved to sing. Persuading some of his schoolmates to join him, they hired Abial Briggs to teach a singing-school for their mutual benefit. Money being almost unknown to the common people at that time, they paid their teacher in pork and meal, the currency of the times.

When he had reached the age of fifteen years his brothers and sisters, with a single exception, had left the parental roof. He had enjoyed an uninterrupted flow of excellent health from his earliest years. He was now strong, confident, resolute, and ambitious, and possessed capabilities much in advance of his years. His father was a man of kind impulses and generous hospitality. These traits were abused by a class of shiftless and

intemperate townsmen, and by persons of the same character from other towns, travelling to and from market. The peace and welfare of the family demanded the elimination of such abuse from the daily routine of the family experience. To the father this task was distasteful; the son, though a boy in years, but a man in size and muscular development, believed himself equal to the emergency. An Irishman who had occupied a spare room under the parental roof for some time had become an annoyance to the entire family; refusing to vacate at the request of the father, he went out somewhat abruptly by the free use of the well-developed muscle of the son. The father had been accustomed to entertain men who passed to and from market free of cost. The return for such hospitality was, sometimes, abuse by intoxicated men; the son relieved the household from such annoyances.

At the request of the father, and with the approval of the mother, he took upon himself the entire management of the farm. He was at this time fifteen years of age. Provisions were scarce and high. His sister, Mrs. Whitney, was burned out, and with an insane husband and five children sought and obtained the shelter of the old home. This added largely to his burdens.

In the year 1792, in addition to his regular farm work, he joined three brothers in the purchase of a mill-site and the erection of a saw-mill. Here he had the misfortune to lose the forefinger

of the left hand, but lost only one-half day's work in consequence of the accident.

In the years 1793 and 1794 he continued to pursue the farming and lumbering business ; these were years of severe toil with small returns.

In 1795 he sold his interest in the mill property and engaged in more congenial pursuits. He purchased books and applied himself to study with the purpose of fitting himself to teach during the autumn and winter months. His first effort at teaching was at Buxton, and his pay five dollars per month ; it was a small beginning, but the first step towards more lucrative employment.

In 1796 he was clerk in a store in his native town for seven months.

In 1797 the Congregational church and society built a meeting-house, the raising of the frame of which was attended with a disastrous accident. When one of the broad sides had been raised to some distance from the ground the men who were lifting lost control of it, and it fell back, killing Nathaniel Bowman, the highly-esteemed village physician ; James Tryon received injuries from which he died the next day. James Irish, the father of General Irish, was at first believed to be killed, but although severely injured he afterwards recovered.

At the age of twenty-one years General Irish was appointed orderly sergeant in Capt. Nathaniel Warren's company of militia, which was his first military appointment. His regular busi-

ness was now farming in summer and teaching in autumn and winter.

In 1798 General Irish was married to Rebecca Chadbourne, a daughter of Silas Chadbourne, of Berwick, Me. Later in the year he with his wife united with the Congregational church, of which Rev. Caleb Jewitt was pastor. The following winter he taught school in his own town. The year 1799 was passed in farming and teaching.

In the year 1800 an incident occurred which led to a broader field of labor. Having engaged a school for the winter, he hired an old sailor to take care of his stock and prepare wood for his fires; the presence of the sailor in the family gave him an opportunity to learn the theory of navigation, which he gladly embraced. This was followed by the study of geometry, trigonometry, and kindred branches. His services were now sought as an instructor in mathematics. He soon became a practical surveyor, and was employed in his own and neighboring towns to run lines and survey lands. The money he earned as surveyor enabled him to enlarge and improve his buildings and farm.

In the winter of 1801 he taught school in Buxton.

In 1802 he was employed by Col. Lothrop Lewis and Josiah Alden to survey the Isle au Haut into lots for settlers. The surveying party made the passage to the island on a craft of the rudest description, of which one Captain Arey

“was captain, cook, and all hands.” General Irish describes the stay at the island as very enjoyable. A variety of fish, fresh from the water, entered largely into the food supply. Favored by fine weather and surrounded by beautiful scenery, the days glided swiftly by. At the completion of their work the party returned as they had come.

In 1803 General Irish moved his sister, Mrs. Whitney, into the house he had built for her, to take the place of the one that had been burned a few years earlier.

In 1804 he added to his landed estate by the purchase of one hundred acres of land in the town of Standish. He made additional improvements on his buildings, and planted ornamental trees.

In 1805 his time was occupied in farming, teaching, surveying lands, and running lines. He enlarged his landed estate by the purchase of forty acres of land.

In 1806 the Gorham Academy building was constructed. General Irish contributed to the building fund and surveyed the half township of land which had been granted to the academy by the Legislature of Massachusetts; this half township was situated in what is now the town of Woodstock, in Oxford county.

In 1807 General Irish was commissioned by the land commissioners of Massachusetts to locate and survey a half township of land in what is now known as Aroostook county, which had been

granted to Limerick Academy by the Legislature of Massachusetts. The execution of this work required a long and tedious journey. He rode from his home in Gorham on horseback, over roads of the rudest construction, to Eddington Bend on the Penobscot river. Leaving his horse at this place, he hired two men to take him up the river in a canoe to the mouth of the Mattawamkeag river, thence up the Mattawamkeag to the Baskahegan river, down the Baskahegan to and across Schoodic lake, thence through Eel lake and river to the St. John, and up the latter river to Woodstock. From this point the party went on foot through the woods to what is now Houlton, where they arrived about midnight. Here they found three families, the Houlton, Cook, and Putnam families, and a carpenter by the name of Cary. Trying to obtain admittance to the house of Mr. Houlton, they were at first repulsed, the family believing that it was a company of strolling Indians that were disturbing their slumbers. They soon discovered their mistake and hastened to apologize to the tired surveying party, and to bid them welcome to the shelter of their humble cabin.

Obtaining a supply of bread and raw meat, the next morning General Irish and his companions proceeded to the locality of their labors, the present town of New Limerick. When the dinner hour confronted them, they found, to their great disgust, that their appliances for kindling a fire

had become so much impaired as to be useless. They were, therefore, compelled to sit down to bread and raw meat, which was their bill of fare through the week required to complete the survey. They passed the chilly October nights without the comfort of a fire. Upon the completion of the survey they returned home as they had come.

In 1808 General Irish employed his time in farming, surveying, and teaching. He was commissioned as major in the third regiment of the militia, also a justice of the peace. He mentions in his journal, as occurrences of the year, the depressing effects of the Embargo Act upon business; the murder of Paul Chadwick, a brother surveyor, while surveying lands in what is now Windsor, Me.; the intense excitement that followed this terrible crime; and the execution in Portland of Drew for the murder of a Mr. Parker, a former scholar of his.

General Irish passed the year 1809 in the pursuit of his usual occupations. He congratulates himself upon the good condition of his buildings and farm.

The year 1810 brought changes in his affairs. Having a large and growing family to support, he sold the old homestead that had so long sheltered his father and mother, brothers and sisters, and himself from infancy to manhood, and purchased another farm of larger area, where he moved his family on May 1, 1810. The sale of the old homestead was to Seth Hersey, of Hingham,



Mass. The price paid was three thousand dollars, a large price for a farm in that vicinity at that time. He added to the acreage of the new farm by the purchase of more land. He entered with characteristic energy upon such changes and improvements as were needed to put the buildings and farm in good condition.

But events of graver significance came in at this juncture to disturb the regular current of his experiences.

The war with Great Britain, presaged by the embargo of 1808 and the non-intercourse policy of the government in 1809, now began to cast its ominous shadows over the country. General Irish's official relations to the military organizations of his vicinity imposed duties upon him that engrossed much of his time. In addition to duties of a military character, he was commissioned to make the usual decennial enumeration of the inhabitants of the five towns in Cumberland county. He was also employed by certain merchants of Portland to attend the session of the Legislature at Boston, to aid in effecting legislation which they desired.

In 1811 General Irish made extensive repairs upon the building she had purchased a year earlier, and improvements upon his farm and orchards. He was appointed deputy sheriff and jailor of the county of Cumberland, but the pressure of other duties led him to resign those offices after having held them for a brief term. He was commissioned

lieutenant-colonel of the militia by the governor of Massachusetts.

In September of 1812, war with Great Britain having been declared, General Irish called out the troops belonging to the second brigade of the twelfth division of the militia of Maine for a two days' drill and review. The near approach of the war which had been so long threatened had greatly excited the people, and vast crowds from surrounding towns assembled to witness the review. The officer whose duty it was to take command of the troops on that occasion failing to appear, General Irish performed that duty.

It was an unusual spectacle. The war-spirit ran high. The fine appearance and soldierly bearing of the troops called out the plaudits of the multitude.

Shortly after General Irish received a more signal recognition of the success of the review — promotion to the rank of brigadier-general by the governor of Massachusetts.

In 1813 General Irish was appointed assessor of the direct tax levied upon the county of Cumberland to aid in the prosecution of the war. Establishing an office in Portland, he appointed an assistant in each town in the county.

In 1814 General Irish's duties as assessor, the oversight of his farm, and his response to calls for his services as surveyor engrossed his time during the early part of the year. Later in the year more exciting duties demanded his attention. In Sep-

tember a threatened invasion of Portland by the British alarmed its citizens, many of whom had moved their most valuable effects into neighboring towns for safe keeping. The officer upon whom the citizens relied to call the troops together to protect the town refusing to perform that duty, a messenger was sent to Gorham by the committee of safety to invoke his immediate presence in town. The messenger found the General in the field at work with his aged father. Like General Putnam of Revolutionary fame he left his work and repaired to the house, where he made hasty preparations to respond to the summons. This accomplished, he took hasty leave of his tearful family, and mounting his horse started on his hurried ride. The parting message of his aged mother, Mary Gorham Phinney, was: "Don't be a coward, James, don't be a coward; do your duty like a man." Reaching Portland, he called on his superior officer for orders to call out his brigade. This officer, belonging to the political party which opposed the war, refused to grant the desired authority. Backed by popular sentiment, General Irish promptly issued orders for calling the troops into Portland, and in thirty-six hours the full brigade of twenty-five hundred men was in camp at that place.

The alarm and anxiety that pervaded Portland had reached the neighboring towns, and upon the arrival of the troops great crowds of people flocked to town. The march of the brigade through the

streets, with General Irish and staff at its head, called forth the most lively enthusiasm. Loud cheers came from the crowded streets, from the windows of houses and roofs of the buildings. The apprehended invasion having happily failed of realization, the larger part of the troops was dismissed at the end of twenty days.

Soon after these occurrences General Irish was summoned before a court of inquiry to answer to the charge of insubordination based upon the act of calling out the troops without due authority. At the close of a brief examination he was honorably acquitted.

He was again appointed principal assessor for his district this year.

In 1815, the war having been terminated, General Irish returned to his usual occupations. His frequent calls to the discharge of duties of a public nature led to his abandonment of the business of teaching, which had occupied a portion of his time yearly for twenty years.

In 1816 General Irish was detailed to sit upon a court of inquiry for the trial of General Blake, charged with cowardice at the battle of Hampden two years earlier.

Major-General Sewall, of Augusta, and Brigadier-Generals Irish, of Gorham, and Payson, of Wiscasset, composed the court, which was held at the old city hall in Bangor. The trial occupied thirty days. General Blake was acquitted of the charge preferred against him.

Later the same year he sat on a court of inquiry at the same place, before which was arraigned, at the instigation of General Blake, three of his subordinate officers. While in attendance at this court the death of his venerated father occurred. He was also afflicted later in the year by the death of an infant son.

The year 1816 has been aptly characterized as "the year without a summer." The crops were disastrously affected throughout New England by oft-recurring and destructive frosts. General Irish shared light crops with his neighbors. In 1817 the sun seemed to have regained its power and the soil its fertility, and the General rejoiced at the abundance of his crops.

In 1818 he was appointed surveyor of public lands, subject to the direction of Col. Lothrop Lewis, of Gorham, who was surveyor-general of Maine lands by virtue of a commission from the State of Massachusetts. In pursuance of his duties under this appointment General Irish surveyed townships into lots on both sides of the Penobscot river above Eddington to Mattenawcook, including Oldtown, Milford, Passadumkeag, Bradley, and Greenbush. He spent considerable time in the survey of roads in Cumberland county for the Court of Sessions, and run the famous military road to Canada for Massachusetts.

In 1819 he represented Cumberland county in the Senate of Massachusetts; it was at this session of the Legislature that the act was passed providing

for the separation of the province of Maine from the State of Massachusetts.

By virtue of this act Maine became an independent State in 1820. General Irish was chosen one of the delegates from Gorham to attend the convention which was called to prepare a constitution for the new State. This convention assembled at Portland, Oct. 11, 1820, and in due time prepared a constitution which was subsequently adopted by the people.

The province of Maine having thus become an independent State, no political event was ever more clearly foreshadowed than that the Hon. Wm. King would be its first governor. He had long been in public life, was a man of marked ability, unswerving integrity, and of irreproachable character. Moreover, he had been the most prominent leader in the movement to make the province of Maine an independent State.

Sharing the belief that Mr. King would be the governor of the new State, General Irish, in a characteristic communication, made application to be appointed surveyor-general of the public lands; also one of the commissioners for the division of the lands held in common by Massachusetts and Maine. This communication was recently found among the papers of Governor King and sent to Ex-Governor Frederic Robie, who had been a townsman and neighbor of the General. Assuming that the prospective governor would desire to know something of the personal

history of those he might call to fill responsible positions, he gave in the communication referred to a pretty full account of his early life, including his meagre opportunities for obtaining an education, his experience in teaching, in running lines and surveying lands, his explorations of lands in central and northern Maine, his sitting upon courts martial for the trial of certain officers charged with neglect of duty in the late war, and of his own arraignment before such a court upon the charge of calling out his brigade for the defence of Portland without due authority. He suggested to the prospective governor that one of the three commissioners to be appointed might reasonably be expected *to swing his pack* and give his personal attention to the work of surveying lands.

This formal application bore date March 13, 1820, and read in part as follows :

DEAR SIR: I congratulate you that, at last, the independence of Maine is made certain. It is equally certain, if your life is spared (which God grant), you will take command. I have thought it a duty I owed my family, without much ceremony or disguise, to make known to you my wishes, and I shall have done. Supposing you would always wish to know the circumstances and standing of those you bring forward, I have, in a very plain way, named a few particulars of my life. I now say plainly and honestly I want to be appointed one of the commissioners for dividing the lands, and also surveyor-general, who might keep the Land Office. This you might at first think is asking too much, but I think the surveyor-general might also keep the

Land Office with very little assistance. I can declare before God that I do not ask these favors to gratify any improper wishes, but that I might be enabled suitably to educate a numerous family, and, at the same time, be useful to my country. I rest assured that you will do me justice. I would thank you barely to acknowledge the receipt of this.

I am respectfully yours,

JAMES IRISH.

To Hon. Wm. King.

A little more than two weeks later Mr. King was elected governor with but little opposition. When, however, he came to the appointment of surveyor-general, for reasons which he regarded as imperative he bestowed this office upon another applicant, the Hon. Lothrop Lewis, who also was a citizen of Gorham. Colonel Lewis had held the office of surveyor-general of lands in the province of Maine under the government of Massachusetts for several years before the Act of Separation. Moreover, he was a man of ability, of fine personal qualities, large experience in public affairs, and had left a good business record. He was an uncle of the famous orator, S. S. Prentiss.

General Irish had performed much service for the State under the direction of Colonel Lewis before Maine became an independent State, and continued such service until the death of the latter, two years later.

In 1820 General Irish was commissioned by the governor to go to what is now Aroostook county upon a tour of exploration and observation. This



proved a laborious and dangerous service, inasmuch as his route led him over the deep snows of that region, and upon the ice of streams and rivers weakened by March and April suns. He prepared a plan of the roads in Cumberland county under the direction of the county authorities, and was commissioned by the United States government to make the decennial enumeration of the inhabitants of several towns of the same county. In 1821 he served in the lower branch of the Legislature, being the first on the list of representatives to that body from the town of Gorham. He was also commissioned justice of the peace and quorum.

In 1822 he continued the survey of public lands under the direction of Colonel Lewis. He was this year a prominent candidate of his party for the nomination of representative to Congress, but failed in a close vote. Upon the death of Colonel Lewis, Oct. 9, 1822, he succeeded that gentleman in the management of the public lands under the policy which had been inaugurated at the organization of the State government. In 1823 his extensive farming business, together with a good share of business for the public, kept him very busy.

At the opening of the year 1824 the management of the public lands had become a subject of absorbing interest in the minds of the leading men of the State. There were large areas of land belonging to the State covered with magnificent growths of timber, and threaded by streams upon

which it could be floated to the mills upon the Penobscot, Maine's largest river, and manufactured into various descriptions of lumber, and then floated to tide-waters ready for distribution to the markets of the world. If this timber could be preserved for the benefit of the State it had an immense prospective value. But previous to the Act of Separation the policy of Massachusetts had been very lenient towards a class of inhabitants who believed that the timber on the public lands was lawful plunder, and that if they failed to get their share they were not living up to their legitimate privileges. For this reason these lands had annually been divested of large quantities of valuable timber. It was deemed important to arrest this practice of plundering. There were also large tracts of farming land belonging to the State which was equal in quality to the best lands of New England. It was believed that a well-defined and liberal policy would attract settlers to these lands.

Influenced by these considerations, the Legislature of 1824, early in its session, passed an act to promote the sale and settlement of public lands.

The following sections of this act are reprinted to show the great responsibilities placed upon the land agent :

Land agent to be appointed; his powers and duties.      SECT. 10.      Be it further enacted, That the Governor, with the advice of Council, be and hereby is authorized to appoint and commission some discreet and suitable person, as agent to superintend and

manage the sale and settlement of the public land ; and it shall be the duty of said agent to survey or cause to be surveyed the townships aforesaid, or such of them as, in his judgment, circumstances may, from time to time, require. And such agent is hereby empowered to make contracts and execute deeds in behalf of the State according to the provisions of this Act ; to receive all money and securities accruing to the State from the sale of land, timber or grass belonging thereto ; and he shall pay in to the Treasurer of the State for the time being, all money by him received within six months from the time he shall receive the same ; and said agent is hereby empowered, and it shall be his duty to sell at public auction or private sale all grass growing on the public land from year to year ; to take all suitable measures for the preservation of the timber and grass standing or growing thereon, and to prosecute in behalf of the State for all trespasses which have been or may be made on the same ; and to seize and sell at public auction all kinds of lumber or grass cut by trespassers, first giving timely notice of such sale.

SECT. 11. Be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of said agent to keep correct plans of all surveys made as aforesaid, and to transmit copies thereof, and of all field notes, to the office of the Secretary of State as soon as may be after such surveys shall have been made ; and he shall give his personal attendance to all the duties appertaining to his office as far as practicable ; and he shall have power to employ such assistants from time to time as he may need, to aid him to carry into effect the provisions of this Act, for whose conduct he shall be responsible ; and he shall render a fair account of all his doings to the Legislature annually, and shall receive such compensation for his services as may

Agent to  
keep plans  
and to  
transmit  
copies  
thereof and  
of field notes  
to office of  
Secretary of  
State.

To employ  
assistants.

To give bond, etc.

Persons not eligible not to be appointed or continued agents.

be deemed just and equitable; and he shall give bond to the Treasurer of the State, for the time being, with sufficient surety or sureties, to the satisfaction of the Governor and Council, in the sum of \$10,000, for the faithful performance of his duties.

SECT. 12. Be it further enacted, That no person shall be appointed or continued agent for the purposes aforesaid, who is or may be concerned directly or indirectly in the lumber business, nor shall said agent be concerned directly or indirectly in any purchase of said public land. (Approved Feb. 25, 1824.)

Under the provisions of this act General Irish was appointed land agent, being the first on the list of State land agents in Maine. An examination of the act will show the great responsibilities he assumed in accepting this appointment. Yet he accepted it in a spirit of courage and confidence. Although at this time he was nearing his fiftieth year, the hardships of his earlier years had impaired neither his health nor powers of endurance. He was ready for the work before him. In the spirit of the suggestion made to Mr. King four years earlier he opened an office in Portland, placed a clerk therein, and upon the opening of the season "swung his pack" and plunged into the forests, where he conducted in person the running of the exterior lines of townships and the dividing of townships into lots.

In 1825 General Irish's duties as land agent brought him face to face with grave responsibilities. The boundary line between Maine and New

Brunswick had not, at that time, been definitely settled. It was, therefore, impossible to determine where the jurisdiction of Maine terminated and that of New Brunswick began. Fifteen years later this uncertainty came near involving the United States in a war with Great Britain. The fine region of country known as the Madawaska region, in the vicinity of our north-eastern boundary, was claimed both by Maine and New Brunswick. The government of Maine, believing that citizens of New Brunswick were despoiling this region of its most valuable timber, ordered the land agent to go at once to the disputed territory and take possession of it. Early in the autumn of 1825 General Irish, accompanied by Hon. Geo. R. Coffin, land agent of Massachusetts, proceeded to execute this order. Upon their arrival at the theatre of operations they made investigation relative to the amount of timber that had been cut upon the Aroostook and Madawaska rivers by authority of the government of New Brunswick. They posted notices of their readiness to give deeds to settlers upon the river St. John, who were in possession of one hundred acres of land, upon easy terms. In his report to the Legislature General Irish said that they found upon the St. John two hundred and twenty-two houses, with an aggregate population of about 2,000. He described the people as being civil, industrious, and hospitable, and as deserving the fostering care of the government. "Many of these people," he

said, "had grants of their lands from New Brunswick, upon the titles of which they placed but little value." Among them were many direct descendants of the ill-fated Acadians, the story of whose peaceful lives of happy contentment and subsequent brutal treatment by the English is so pathetically told in Longfellow's "Evangeline."

The story of the burning of the dwellings of their ancestors, of the destruction of their herds and flocks and crops, and of their dispersion to colonies widely separated from each other so that they might never again congregate on the site of the old ancestral homes, and of the terrible sufferings that followed, had been handed down from family to family, filling the hearts of successive generations with unquenchable hatred of the English and of English rule. Bancroft, America's historian, says — "I know not if the annals of the human race bear the record of sorrows so wantonly inflicted, so bitter and perennial, as fell upon the French inhabitants of Acadia." It is not strange that a people whose ancestors had suffered so much at the hands of the English were eager to accept the protection of the American flag.

The transactions of the land agents upon the disputed territory led to much ill-feeling between the two governments. One of the largest purchasers of land, a Mr. Baker, was shortly after arrested and committed to jail by New Brunswick officers. The charges preferred against him were that he had forbidden the carrying of the British

mail across land to which he had no valid title, that he had hoisted the United States flag thereon in defiance of British claims, and that he had sought to engage a party in an ancient British settlement to transfer the possession thereof to the United States. A demand for the release of Mr. Baker was followed by a conference between the American Secretary of State, Hon. Henry Clay, and the acting British Minister, Hon. Charles R. Vaughn. Mr. Baker was afterwards released on bail.

There was another serious source of trouble in the management of the public lands. Encouraged by the lax public sentiment of the times, many persons had been actively engaged every winter in despoiling the forests in the vicinity of the Matawankeag and Baskahegan rivers, and at other points, of their most valuable timber.

The land agent had been instructed to protect the timber lands. In pursuance of instructions agents were sent to ascertain the extent of the spoliations of these lands, and the names of the despoilers. These agents were met by men in the guise of Indians who threatened them with death unless they took themselves away without unnecessary delay. They were therefore unable to give more than a partial report relating to the purpose of their expedition. A sheriff and posse were then sent to arrest the plunderers and seize their implements. This attempt was unsuccessful. The difficulty of dealing with the plunderers was greatly enhanced by the misplaced sympathy and encour-

agement they received from prominent men outside their own ranks, some of whom profited by these illicit operations. The contest was now assuming a serious aspect, but the plunderers soon learned that there were "blows to take as well as blows to give."

There were large quantities of grass upon the public lands which had been cut late in summer by the plunderers, to be used in furtherance of their unlawful business. Massachusetts had, at that time, a joint interest with Maine in these lands. By concert of action of the land agents of the two States the hay was burned upon the ground where it was cut. This blow was as severe as it was unexpected, and had the effect to diminish largely illicit lumbering.

In 1825 General Irish removed his family from the farm he had owned in a remote section of the town to the village of Gorham, where better educational opportunities awaited his large family of children. This year was made memorable, also, by the death of his aged mother, to whom he was bound by the most tender affection. She was the Mary Gorham Phinney of pioneer memory, the first-born of Gorham's fair daughters. What heroic spirits and the memory of what heroic deeds are summoned from the shadowy past by the magic of her name! She was a direct descendant of the old Puritan, John Phinney, — the first John, who early joined the historic Plymouth Colony, from which emanated the best civilization





MARY GORHAM PHINNEY  
First white child born in Gorham, Maine  
1736-1825



the world has known. She was the great-granddaughter of John Phinney, the second John, one of the little band of soldiers who, in 1675, fought the Indians in King Philip's war, one of the most sanguinary and relentless wars known to Indian warfare in New England. She was the granddaughter of the third of this name, Deacon John Phinney, who was an honored church official. She was the daughter of Capt. John Phinney, the first settler of the fine old town of Gorham, where his large experience and sterling virtues were constant benedictions to his neighbors and townsmen in the early years of hardship, privation, and peril. Her great-grandmother, the wife of the second John Phinney, was a descendant of Thomas Rogers, who came to America in the "Mayflower." Her brother, Edmund Phinney, was a colonel in the war of the Revolution, and his regiment was the first to enter Boston after its evacuation by the British. Her husband's father was a soldier in the expedition against the eastern Indians in 1724. An uncle of her husband, John Irish, was at the siege of Louisburg in 1745. Her husband was a soldier in the war of the Revolution, also in the war of 1812. Her inherited traits were supplemented by a wide, varied, and remarkable personal experience.

She was born in the shades of the "forest primeval," unbroken save by the little opening made a few weeks earlier by the sturdy blows of her

father and stalwart brother Edmund, where rested the little cabin which sheltered them from the rains of summer and the snows of winter, and where her little brother John planted the first hill of corn ever planted by white hands within the limits of the present town of Gorham. The playmates of her childhood, outside her own family, were the children of Indian parents, with whom she ran after the squirrels, rabbits, and smaller animals that frisked about her forest home, with childish delight, and avoided the larger animals that were a terror to older people. When she was nine years old the Indian neighbors, whom her parents had warmed and fed, became hostile and blood-thirsty through machinations of French settlers in Canada.

With several families her parents sought the protection of the fort which the prudent foresight of her father, Capt. John Phinney, had caused to be built. Here for four years she lived, taking her turn in the watch box to give the alarm in case an Indian scout was prowling around, or there were any visible signs of danger. She assisted in moulding bullets and making cartridges, and in performing the drudgery of the life they were living. During the three years following the cessation of active hostilities the little colony lived in constant fear, and the fort continued to be their refuge whenever there was danger of a renewal of attack. Early in the war of the Revolution her husband was summoned to the service of his coun-

try. During his absence she supported her family by spinning and weaving by hand and selling the products of her toil at Portland, fourteen miles distant from her home, whither she carried them over frightful roads on horseback, returning with a fresh supply of raw material for the wheel and loom. While Mrs. Irish was a woman of the heroic type, she possessed the kindlier instincts of her sex in large measure.

She was always ready to lend a helping hand to neighbors less fortunate than herself, and was characterized by a generous hospitality. To friends and neighbors overtaken by severe misfortune her door was always open. In a year of unusual scarcity of food, although her own larder was not overstocked, she put her children on allowance, that she might relieve the hunger of her neighbors' children.

She lived an exemplary Christian life and bore to life's end the love and esteem of all who had enjoyed her acquaintance. Her death, at almost eighty-nine years of age, carried sadness into the households of the whole town.

The experiences of General Irish in 1826 and 1827 were, in their main features and purposes, a continuation of those of the preceding year. He passed his summers and autumns in the exploration of streams, rivers, and lands over a large area of north-eastern Maine. He was still compelled to resist inroads upon the timber lands belonging to the State. The discharge of this duty subjected

him to personal annoyances and peril. The burning of the hay the preceding year by his direction and that of the land agent of Massachusetts, to cripple the operations of plunderers, was made the occasion for the most bitter denunciation. It was alleged by his enemies, an allegation utterly without foundation, that the destructive fires that raged in territory now embraced in the counties of Penobscot and Piscataquis had their origin in the fires that burned the plunderers' hay more than a month earlier.

In 1828 he was reappointed to the land agency. He had at that date been engaged in the discharge of arduous and exacting duties connected with the public lands for an uninterrupted period of ten years — two years for the State of Massachusetts before the Act of Separation, and eight years for his native State. Much of this time was spent in the depths of the forests of north-eastern Maine, exploring streams and rivers, running lines, surveying townships and dividing them into lots, and in efforts to protect the public lands from spoliation by misguided men, who were ready to improve their own fortunes by robbing the State.

The faithful discharge of these duties subjected him to exposure, hardships, privations, personal peril, and separation from his family, to which he was tenderly attached. Moreover, he had matured and partially executed plans for establishing industries within his own village requiring his presence at home. For these and other reasons he

resigned the land agency in the latter part of the year 1828, and devoted himself to the development of personal plans. He had long cherished a strong desire that his children, as they became of age to act for themselves, should establish homes near the parental homestead. Four years earlier he had hired of Moses Clark a small tannery which occupied the site of the present extensive establishment of the Messrs. Hinckley, and had purchased a small stock of hides. His oldest son, Isaac C. Irish, who had nearly finished a term of apprenticeship with a Mr. Owen of Portland, had been called home to take charge of the business. This had increased from year to year, and in 1828 it had become an extensive business for the times. A larger building was constructed for the accommodation of this growing business in 1828. He erected another building this year to accommodate various manufacturing industries which came within the range of his plans. He was this year appointed associate-justice of the Court of Sessions in Cumberland county. In 1829 he put into the building erected the preceding year two bark-mills, a fulling-mill, a circular saw, a turning-lathe, polishing, carding, and shearing machines, and machinery for the manufacture of starch. Much to the surprise of hitherto incredulous neighbors and townsmen, this machinery was all moved by a wheel twenty-five feet in diameter upon which water was thrown from an artificial pond, supplied by several brooks that he had diverted from their natural

channels. In 1830 he visited New York and Albany to acquaint himself with improved processes of tanning leather. He built a house this year for his son Isaac.

From his earliest business years to 1831 his had been a life of successful effort. He now found himself approaching the outer circles of a vortex which, a little later, engulfed many a worthy and hitherto successful business man of Maine. In 1831 his losses from insolvent debtors began and increased from year to year. He met with a severe domestic affliction this same year. His home was invaded by a great sorrow. The wife of his early manhood, the companion, comforter, and counsellor of his maturer years, was removed by death.

Mrs. Irish was a woman of rare excellence, and for more than thirty years the sunshine of her presence had blessed a happy home. Although many eventful years have elapsed since the occurrence of this sorrowful bereavement, remembrances of her estimable qualities are still tenderly cherished in the hearts of her surviving children. In the large concourse of sympathizing friends who were present at the last sad rites there were no more sincere mourners, outside the grief-stricken household, than her poorer neighbors, to whom her kindly offices had been a constant benediction.

In 1832 General Irish placed additional machinery in his factory, and did a more extensive tanning business than ever before. In 1833 he con-



fined his efforts to lines of business already established. He did something at running lines, surveying lands, and kindred employments. He built a double tenement house which was afterwards occupied by relatives. In 1834 he was appointed a commissioner of internal improvements under a then recent legislative act. This act was repealed at the following session of the Legislature. He commenced on a small scale the manufacture of carpets, a business which afterwards became an important industry. On account of a rise in the price of potatoes the manufacture of starch was abandoned.

In 1835 he purchased a very valuable township of land known as the Brassua township. He built a factory this year for the accommodation of the carpet business. In 1836 he purchased an interest in three townships of land. He received an appointment at the hands of the governor of the State to accompany General Wool, of the United States army, to the Madawaska region, and aid him in the selection of sites for military posts, with reference to the possible outcome of trouble from the "north-eastern boundary dispute." In 1837 he carried on a lumbering operation in the Brassua township, which resulted in a good degree of success. In 1838, by appointment of the governor, he was one of three commissioners to trace a section of the line which at that time separated Maine from New Brunswick. The other commissioners were John G. Deane and Milford P.

Norton. In 1839 General Irish continued in the lumbering business and the manufacture of carpets, but he abandoned several other branches which had become unprofitable. His business in 1840 was a continuation of that of 1839. In 1841 he relinquished the carpet business, but continued lumbering through this and the following year. Fresh losses had come through the failure of parties indebted to him. The aggregate of his losses had become large. He had made earnest and persistent efforts to retrieve his fortunes, but was unsuccessful. He was now face to face with the stern necessity of surrendering the fruits of long-continued and honorable toil, of giving up fondly-cherished plans, and of surrendering property which, could he have retained, would have left him an ample fortune. This turn in the current of his affairs came to him with crushing force. His inability to meet his obligations to his creditors was followed by a depression of spirit from which he never recovered. In 1845 General Irish was appointed postmaster at Gorham village — a position he held for a term of four years.

In 1846 two deeply afflictive events came into his personal experience : the death of a favorite daughter-in-law, Mrs. Isaac C. Irish, a woman of great excellence of character, and his son, James H. Irish, a young man whose fine personal qualities had made him a favorite of a wide circle of acquaintances. He had been fitting himself for the practice of medicine, a profession for which he was

believed to have had an especial aptitude. General Irish was now seventy years of age, but his long companionship with privation, hardship, and toil had failed to impair his health or constitution. There was still useful labor awaiting his hands, which, nothing loth, he entered upon. The York and Cumberland railroad was projected about this time. There was preliminary work to be provided for, which he was well qualified to execute, and he was employed in the interests of this road. In July, 1846, he obtained a charter for the road from the Legislature, which was then in session. He indicated the route which was adopted. On Sept. 7, 1846, the persons named in the legislative act met at Alfred and organized by the choice of General Irish as clerk. In October he conducted the corporation over the route of the prospective road, and in November and December following he made the preliminary survey. This accomplished, nearly a year was spent in negotiations with other railroad companies. On July 20, 1848, the corporation met and perfected their organization and chose a board of directors, who, on the 27th of July, met and elected General Irish clerk. The ceremony of breaking ground as a public announcement that the work of construction was to be entered upon at once occurred Sept. 4, 1848. On Nov. 15, 1849, his official relations to the York and Cumberland railroad, now known as the Portland & Rochester railroad, terminated. He had now held some public position through a period of nearly fifty years.

In the line of military promotion he had held almost every position, from the lowest to that of brigadier-general in the militia of Maine. Among the civil offices he had held by election or appointment was that of senator in the Massachusetts Legislature before the separation of the province of Maine from that State. He was a member of the convention that framed the constitution of Maine, was first on the list of representatives from Gorham to the Maine Legislature, was twice elected to the land agency of Maine, was appointed to accompany General Wool to the north-eastern boundary of Maine to aid him in the selection of sites for military posts, and was appointed on a commission to trace the line of the north-eastern boundary of Maine. At the termination of General Irish's services for the railroad company, in 1849, he had reached the age of seventy-three years. He then retired from active business pursuits.

#### PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS.

General Irish was a man of striking personal presence. He was of full average height, erect in figure, of good proportions, and of dignified bearing. He was the personification of robust manhood. He inherited from his ancestors a physical constitution upon which the exposures and hardships of a half century had made no perceptible impression. The exacting toil of the farm and mill, the exposures and hardships of life in the wilderness, far from the abodes of civilization, in exploration of

lakes and rivers, and in locating and surveying townships, had failed to interrupt the flow of health that had characterized his youth and early manhood. He had never had occasion for the aid of a physician until after he had passed the limit of four-score years, nor had he allowed a year to pass without leaving on record an expression of devout thankfulness for a continuation of health and strength.

General Irish was endowed with good powers of mind and a large measure of common-sense. Although he had received less school instruction in his whole life than now falls to the lot of the average child of ten years, yet by his strength of intellect and force of will he qualified himself to fill many important and responsible public positions with honor to himself and usefulness to the public.

General Irish's religious beliefs were of the Puritanic type. He was a strict observer of the Sabbath and its ordinances, and was always faithful to his church obligations. On each return of the sacred day he called his children, to whom he was most tenderly attached, around him for religious instruction. In creed he was Congregationalist.

He cherished a profound respect for the stern virtues of his ancestors, and was earnestly patriotic. He was a friend of education, and for many years was a trustee of Gorham Seminary in the period of its greatest prosperity.

In politics General Irish was a Democrat through

his earlier manhood. In 1840 he supported the candidate of the Whig party, Gen. Wm. H. Harrison, for the presidency. Soon after he joined the political party that opposed the extension of slavery. Upon the organization of the Republican party he entered its ranks. He was a public-spirited citizen. In the early years of its statehood no citizen of Maine was more largely influential than he in impressing its citizens with an adequate conception of the value of its timber lands, and of the importance of protecting them from spoliation.

He was interested in the prosperity of his native town. Before his retirement from the land office he had matured plans for the establishment of industries in the village of his residence which would give employment to numbers of people and promote the growth of the town.

But the financial disasters which, a few years later, arrested so many business enterprises in the State prevented the execution of his plans. He planted with his own hands many of the shade-trees that adorn the streets of Gorham village, affording its citizens grateful protection from the heats of summer.

From the age of sixteen years, for almost a half century, General Irish's life had been characterized by continuous and earnest business activity. In 1850, having reached the age of seventy-four years, he retired from active business pursuits. His earlier manhood had been blessed with unin-

errupted prosperity, and his honorable ambitions had been gratified. But his business misfortunes, which culminated in 1840, had made a radical change in the current of his experience. He had never recovered from the depression of spirit that resulted from his financial reverses. Yet his strong constitution withstood the shock, and he was favored for some years with a continuation of good health. After giving up business pursuits he passed much of his time in the several families of his children, towards whom the strong attachments of earlier years had never waned. Such visits were to him a great solace, and to his children seasons of much enjoyment. But not many years had passed before his strong constitution began to yield to the pressure of advancing years. Remembrances of former financial misfortunes affected his health unfavorably. He was also much disturbed by occasional reverses to the loyal arms in the war of the Rebellion.

A few months before his death he said to his minister, the Rev. Mr. Strong, "I have no strong desire for a continuance of life," but added with much earnestness, "I do want to live to see the close of this dreadful war." His patriotic instincts forsook him only at the end of life. At the opening of the year 1863 it became apparent that the eventful life which had spanned the entire interval that separated the Revolutionary war from the war of the Rebellion was near its close. On the morning of the last Sabbath in March, 1863, Gen-

eral Irish occupied his accustomed seat in church. On his return home at the close of the services he complained of feeling unwell. A physician was called and medicine administered, but he grew more feeble as the days moved on. Tender and unwearied attention from his children arrested the progress of disease for a brief space. Rallying a little, he walked out on the street to the little garden plot which in his later years he had cared for with a devotion akin to a woman's devotion to an only child, and upon whose swelling buds and opening blossoms his eyes had often rested with delight, but now for the last time.

Disease soon resumed its sway and he failed rapidly until the end came. On June 30, 1863, at the age of eighty-six years, ten months, and twelve days, he passed within the veil that separates this from the better life.



A partial list of the descendants of James Irish,<sup>1</sup> who emigrated from England about the year 1711, and settled at Falmouth (now Portland), Me. In 1738 he moved to Narragansett No. Seven (now Gorham), Me., where he died at the age of about fifty years.

He had six children, John,<sup>2</sup> Joseph,<sup>2</sup> Thomas,<sup>2</sup> James, Jr.,<sup>2</sup> William,<sup>2</sup> and Miriam.<sup>2</sup> John, Thomas, and James, Jr., settled in Gorham; Joseph and William in Buckfield; and Miriam, who married Gamaliel Pote, in Falmouth.

*John*<sup>2</sup> had six children, born between 1746 and 1760.

*Thomas*<sup>2</sup> had ten children, Susanna,<sup>3</sup> Isaac,<sup>3</sup> Benjamin,<sup>3</sup> Jacob,<sup>3</sup> Amy,<sup>3</sup> Abigail,<sup>3</sup> Gamaliel,<sup>3</sup> Deliverence,<sup>3</sup> Mary,<sup>3</sup> and Elizabeth.<sup>3</sup> He died in 1832 at the age of ninety-eight years and eight months. Amy<sup>3</sup> married Samuel Burnell, of Baldwin. She lived to the age of ninety-one years.

*William*<sup>2</sup> married Mary McCollister. Their children were Thomas,<sup>3</sup> Edmund,<sup>3</sup> Margery, Dorcas,<sup>3</sup> Miriam,<sup>3</sup> and Sylvanus.<sup>3</sup>

JAMES, Jr.,<sup>2</sup> b. Falmouth, Jan. 28, 1736; d. Gorham, April 1, 1816.

m. 1756, Mary Gorham Phinney, b. Gorham, Aug. 24, 1736; d. May 13, 1825. Lived in Gorham and had nine children:

1. STEPHEN,<sup>3</sup> b. March 24, 1757 ; d. April 7, 1841.  
     m. Anna Bangs, b. 1757 ; d. Sept., 1846,  
     and had :  
         1. Mehitible ;<sup>4</sup> 2. Martha ;<sup>4</sup> 3. Patience ;<sup>4</sup>  
             4. Daniel ;<sup>4</sup> 5. Dorcas ;<sup>4</sup> 6. James.<sup>4</sup>
2. WILLIAM,<sup>3</sup> b. March 12, 1759 ; d. April 30,  
     1815.  
     m. Sarah March, b. 1759 ; d. 1849. Had  
     only one child :  
         1. Phebe.<sup>4</sup>
3. MARTHA,<sup>3</sup> b. Aug. 28, 1761 ; d. Nov. 10, 1836.  
     m. Stephen *Whitney*, b. 1758 ; d. 1848.  
     Eight children :  
         1. Mary ;<sup>4</sup> 2. Sally ;<sup>4</sup> 3. Patty ;<sup>4</sup> 4.  
             Miriam ;<sup>4</sup> 5. William ;<sup>4</sup> 6. Stephen ;<sup>4</sup>  
             7. Ebenezer ;<sup>4</sup> 8. Patience.<sup>4</sup>
4. EBENEZER,<sup>3</sup> b. April 5, 1763 ; d. Jan. 7, 1851.  
     m. Martha Morton, d. at the age of 68.  
     Five children :  
         1. Sally ;<sup>4</sup> 2. Nancy ;<sup>4</sup> 3. Martha ;<sup>4</sup>  
             4. Stephen ;<sup>4</sup> 5. Dolly.<sup>4</sup>
5. OBADIAH,<sup>3</sup> b. July 17, 1765 ; d. April 17,  
     1852.  
     m. Mary Dean, b. 1766 ; d. 1853. Five  
     children :  
         1. William ;<sup>4</sup> 2. Polly ;<sup>4</sup> 3. Deane ;<sup>4</sup>  
             4. Desire ;<sup>4</sup> 5. John.<sup>4</sup>
6. MARY,<sup>3</sup> b. June 24, 1767 ; d. March 6, 1846.  
     m. Timothy *Bacon*, b. 1762 ; d. 1849.  
     Nine children :

1. Stephen;<sup>4</sup> 2. Martha;<sup>4</sup> 3. Sally;<sup>4</sup>  
4. Nancy;<sup>4</sup> 5. James;<sup>4</sup> 6. Timothy;<sup>4</sup>  
7. Jonathan;<sup>4</sup> 8. Gardiner;<sup>4</sup> 9.  
Catharine.<sup>4</sup>
7. PATIENCE,<sup>3</sup> b. Jan. 31, 1770; d. Dec. 31, 1854.  
m. John *Davis*, b. 1761; d. 1845. Nine  
children :  
1. Sally;<sup>4</sup> 2. Thankful;<sup>4</sup> 3. James;<sup>4</sup>  
4. Rebecca;<sup>4</sup> 5. Temperance;<sup>4</sup>  
6. Martha;<sup>4</sup> 7. Mary;<sup>4</sup> 8. Solomon;<sup>4</sup>  
9. Cyrus.<sup>4</sup>
8. SAMUEL,<sup>3</sup> b. April 8, 1772; d. Sept. 25,  
1825.  
m. Martha Blake, b. 1775; d. August,  
1858.
9. JAMES,<sup>3</sup> b. Aug. 18, 1776; d. June 30,  
1863. Youngest son of James Irish, Jr.,  
and Mary Gorham Phinney, known in  
manhood's years as Gen. James Irish.

The brothers and sisters of General Irish grew to manhood and womanhood, and like their ancestors they were a robust and long-lived people.

The average age of those nine brothers and sisters was seventy-seven years; two of the brothers died prematurely from accidental causes at the ages of fifty-three and fifty-six respectively. Eliminating these figures from the calculations, the result will show for the remaining seven an average age of eighty-three and three-sevenths years.

The aggregate of the ages of husbands and

wives of these nine brothers and sisters, omitting the age of a single individual who died at fifty-three, will reveal the extraordinary average of eighty-five years. General Irish had forty-three nephews and nieces on his father's side.

Rebecca Chadbourne, who married Gen. James Irish, was of English descent.

Capt. John Mason, an associate of Fernando Gorges in the proprietorship of certain lands in the present States of New Hampshire and Maine, landed a company of emigrants at Strawberry Beach, now Portsmouth, N.H., on July 4, 1631.

Soon afterwards he established a colony at Newichawanock, now South Berwick, York County, Me. Wm. Chadbourne and two sons, Wm., Jr., and Humphrey, joined this colony, the agency of which was soon after given to Humphrey, who held it until the death of Captain Mason.

In 1643 Humphrey purchased a large tract of land of the Indian sachem, Rowles, at Quamphegan. He married Lucia, the daughter of Mrs. Catherine Treworgie.

In 1667 he died, leaving three sons and four daughters, and a large property in lands in what is now North and South Berwick and Spruce Creek. The eldest son took the name of Humphrey from his father.

This second Humphrey died in 1694, leaving at least five children, three sons and two daughters. One of these sons, William, was born about 1683.

At his death he left eleven children, the second of whom was Humphrey, afterwards known as Elder Humphrey Chadbourne. Judge Benj. Chadbourne, a man of note in the history of Berwick and adjoining towns, was a brother of Elder Humphrey Chadbourne. The latter was born in 1716. He married Phebe Hobbs, of Somersworth, N.H., and left eleven children. Silas, the fifth child of this marriage, was born in Berwick Aug. 8, 1752. A short time previous to the beginning of the war of the Revolution he worked as a tailor in the town of Gorham, where he married Abigail Crockett. One of the ten children of this marriage was Rebecca Chadbourne, who was born April 9, 1780.







ISAAC CHADBOURNE

THADDEUS POMROY

MARSHALL

GEN. JAMES IRISH

FRANCIS OSGOOD

JAMES HENRY





SOPHRONIA  
ABAGAIL  
REBECCA CHADBOURNE

MARY GORHAM  
REBECCA CHADBOURNE  
(Mother)

ADALINE  
MARTHA  
ELIZABETH



FAMILY RECORDS  
OF  
GENERAL JAMES IRISH AND HIS  
DESCENDANTS.

---

\* JAMES IRISH,<sup>1</sup> b. Aug. 18, 1776 ; d. June 30, 1863.

m. (1.) Sept. 2, 1798, Rebecca Chadbourne, b. Berwick, Me., April 9, 1780 ; d. Oct. 5, 1831 ; daughter of Silas Chadbourne, a Revolutionary soldier.

(2.) Oct. 15, 1832, Louisa Mason, b. Mass., Aug. 5, 1789 ; d. Hallowell, Me., Oct. 3, 1881. Lived in Gorham, Me., and had thirteen children :

I. SOPHRONIA,<sup>2</sup> b. Gorham, Sept. 5, 1799 ; d. March 31, 1886.

m. (1.) Nov. 28, 1821, Henry *Frost*, b. 1798 ; d. July 13, 1827.

(2.) Sept. 23, 1829, John *Wingate*, b. April 28, 1799 ; d. Sept. 21, 1858.

Had two children by first husband, by second, eight :

---

\* NOTE. — General Irish was of the third generation of Irishes from the emigrant James Irish, and through his mother the seventh generation from the Pilgrim John Rogers, but as the purpose here is to give his descendants only, it was deemed best to number the generations from him as the first.

1. ELIZABETH,<sup>3</sup> b. Gorham, Aug. 4, 1822 ;  
d. May 6, 1848.  
m. Feb. 25, 1845, Theophilus *Waterhouse*,  
of Standish, Me.
2. CAROLINE C.,<sup>3</sup> b. Gorham, Aug. 17, 1824.
3. REBECCA I.,<sup>3</sup> b. Oct. 30, 1830 ; d. Aug.  
14, 1853.
4. SALOME S.,<sup>3</sup> b. March 4, 1833.  
m. (1.) July 1, 1852, George J. *Prentiss*,  
d. June 25, 1864.  
(2.) Jan. 6, 1877, George W. *Newbegin*.  
1. *Helen Rebecca*,<sup>4</sup> b. June 7, 1853 ; d.  
June, 1856.
5. HENRY F.<sup>3</sup> (twin), b. Feb. 28, 1835 ; d.  
California, Nov. 28, 1865.
6. JAMES I.<sup>3</sup> (twin), b. Feb. 28, 1835 ; d.  
Feb. 21, 1836.
7. JAMES I.,<sup>3</sup> b. June 4, 1837.  
m. May 18, 1870, Helen Frances *Edge-*  
*comb*, b. Nov. 8, 1838, and had :  
1. *Frank Elmer*,<sup>4</sup> b. Jan. 3, 1872.  
m. Jan. 25, 1893, Helen May *Buck-*  
*ner*, b. Boston, Sept. 12, 1871, and  
had :  
(a.) *Muriel*,<sup>5</sup> b. April 23, 1895.  
(b.) *Marjorie*,<sup>5</sup> b. June 17, 1896.
8. MARY GORHAM,<sup>3</sup> b. March 13, 1840.
9. ELLEN S.,<sup>3</sup> b. April 2, 1843.
10. JOHN PHINNEY,<sup>3</sup> b. March 7, 1846 ; d.  
Aug. 15, 1849.

- II. MARY GORHAM,<sup>2</sup> b. Gorham, July 3, 1801 ; d. Oct. 31, 1856.
- m. Nov. 26, 1822, Peter *Paine*, b. Standish, Jan. 27, 1795 ; d. May 12, 1872.  
Lived in Standish, and had :
1. SARAH LEAVITT,<sup>3</sup> b. May 9, 1824 ; d. Oct. 5, 1852.
 

m. Sept. 17, 1846, Ellis B. *Usher*, of Hollis, and had :

    1. *Gershom C.*,<sup>4</sup> b. April 23, 1848.
    2. *Willard E.*,<sup>4</sup> b. Jan. 29, 1850 ; d. Oct. 18, 1853.
    3. *Sarah P.*,<sup>4</sup> b. May 23, 1852 ; d. Sept. 11, 1853.
  2. HENRY FROST,<sup>3</sup> b. June 12, 1826 ; d. July 14, 1870.
 

m. June 23, 1846, Mary B. Wells, and had :

    1. *Mary M.*,<sup>4</sup> b. Saco, Jan. 11, 1847.
    2. *Ellen F.*,<sup>4</sup> b. Buxton, Jan. 8, 1849 ; d. March 7, 1849.
    3. *Frank I.*,<sup>4</sup> b. Portland, March 16, 1850 ; d. Aug. 6, 1882.
    4. *Henrietta*,<sup>4</sup> b. Madison, Wis., March 2, 1859.
  3. JAMES IRISH,<sup>3</sup> b. May 28, 1831.
 

m., Nov. 17, 1853, Emiline Hopkinson.
  4. MARGARET HASKELL,<sup>3</sup> b. June 11, 1834.
 

m. April 29, 1860, Orin *Wescott*, b. Gorham, Nov. 12, 1826 ; d. Sept. 27, 1891, and had :

1. *Josiah P.*,<sup>4</sup> b. Feb. 2, 1861.
  2. *A. Lincoln*,<sup>4</sup> b. May 26, 1865.
  3. *Alvin S.*,<sup>4</sup> b. June 6, 1868.
  4. *Peter W.*,<sup>4</sup> b. April 10, 1870.
  5. *George H.*,<sup>4</sup> b. Feb. 29, 1872 ; d. Jan. 2, 1880.
5. JOSIAH,<sup>3</sup> b. Jan. 24, 1836 ; d. Dec. 30, 1860.
  6. MARRETT INGALLS,<sup>3</sup> b. April 20, 1840.  
m. June 12, 1864, Aramantha Strout, b. Lowell, Mass., June 13, 1846, and had :
    1. *Mary Gorham*,<sup>4</sup> b. Standish, Aug. 28, 1869.  
m. Jan. 1, 1894, Robt. H. Hoseason.
    2. *Charles I.*,<sup>4</sup> b. Auburn, April 25, 1873 ;  
d. March 26, 1879.
- III. ISAAC CHADBOURNE,<sup>2</sup> b. Gorham, Nov. 29, 1803 ; d. Portland, Jan. 12, 1887.  
m. Sept. 5, 1830, Maria March, b. Gorham, Jan. 21, 1809 ; d. Feb. 21, 1846. Lived in Gorham, and had :
1. FRANCES MARIA,<sup>3</sup> b. Sept. 19, 1831 ; d. Dec. 24, 1886.
  2. HARRIET RUBERY,<sup>3</sup> b. Nov. 13, 1833.  
m. June 12, 1866, Henry P. *Lord*, of Portland ; d. March 22, 1868.
  3. CAROLINE AUGUSTA,<sup>3</sup> b. June 10, 1837 ;  
d. April 4, 1864.  
m. Dec. 23, 1862, Samuel B. *Conly*, and had :
    1. *Caroline Marion*,<sup>4</sup> b. Boston, Feb. 22, 1864 ; d. Jan. 26, 1866.

- IV. ABIGAIL,<sup>2</sup> b. Gorham, Aug. 14, 1806 ; d. June 22, 1873.  
 m. Dec. 15, 1830, Cornelius *Waters*, b. Goffstown, N.H., Nov. 17, 1795 ; d. Jan. 26, 1880. Lived in Gorham, and had :
1. REBECCA IRISH,<sup>3</sup> b. Sept. 23, 1831 ; d. Feb. 1, 1882.
  2. MARY LOUISA,<sup>3</sup> b. Sept. 10, 1833.  
 m. June 15, 1858, Samuel *Thurston*, b. Winthrop, Aug. 14, 1825, and had :
    1. *Ida Louisa*,<sup>4</sup> b. Portland, Feb. 4, 1861.  
 m. Sept. 25, 1883, John H. *Gerrish*, b. Portland, Oct. 13, 1858, and had :
      - (a) Louise *Waters*,<sup>5</sup> b. Portland, Aug. 22, 1884.
      - (b) Herbert *Thurston*,<sup>5</sup> b. Portland, July 6, 1886.
      - (c) Alice *Small*,<sup>5</sup> b. Medford, April 7, 1888.
      - (d) Mildred *Gardner*,<sup>5</sup> b. Medford, Jan. 2, 1890 ; d. Sept. 30, 1890.
      - (e) Maurice *Sylvester*,<sup>5</sup> b. Medford, Nov. 30, 1891.
      - (f) Ruth *Merrill*,<sup>5</sup> b. Medford, Sept. 18, 1893.
      - (g) John *Jordan*,<sup>5</sup> b. Medford, Oct. 20, 1895.
    2. *Henry Lyndon*,<sup>4</sup> b. May 19, 1866.  
 m. June, 1890, Rosa Leona *Wetzler*, b. Portland, Sept. 28, 1865, and had :

- (a) Herbert Leon,<sup>5</sup> b. Aug. 10, 1891.  
 (b) Roland Wetzler,<sup>5</sup> b. Feb. 13, 1895.
3. *Ella Waters*,<sup>4</sup> b. July 26, 1868.
4. *David Cornelius*,<sup>4</sup> b. April 11, 1870.
5. *Harriet Elisabeth*,<sup>4</sup> b. Feb. 14, 1874.  
 m. Jan. 5, 1897, Ernest Linwood *Small*,  
 b. May 4, 1872.
3. ABIGAIL CORDELIA,<sup>3</sup> b. June 13, 1837; d.  
 Nov. 26, 1877.
4. JAMES CORNELIUS,<sup>3</sup> b. May 9, 1840; d.  
 June 30, 1870.
5. REUEL WILLIAMS,<sup>3</sup> b. Oct. 31, 1842.  
 m. June 24, 1868, Emily A. Bentley, b.  
 Boston, Oct. 6, 1844, and had :  
 1. *Herbert Bentley*,<sup>4</sup> b. Somerville, Mass.,  
 Sept. 12, 1870.
6. ANNA GARDNER,<sup>3</sup> b. Dec. 6, 1851.
- V. MARTHA,<sup>2</sup> b. Gorham, July 15, 1808;  
 d. Portland, July 22, 1884.  
 m. Nov. 21, 1833, Bryce M. *Edwards*, b.  
 Gorham, March 25, 1800; d. West-  
 brook, April 15, 1871. Lived in West-  
 brook, and had :
1. LEWIS WARREN,<sup>3</sup> b. Aug. 28, 1834.  
 m. (1.) Oct. 15, 1862, Mary Elizabeth  
 Brown, b. Westbrook, Aug. 20, 1836;  
 d. Dec. 5, 1875.  
 (2.) Oct. 31, 1888, Harriet E. Raymond,  
 b. Westbrook, Oct. 15, 1845.
2. ADELINE MARRETT,<sup>3</sup> b. July 8, 1836; d.  
 Mechanic Falls, April 24, 1876.



- m. June 26, 1859, D. N. *McCann*, b. Poland, Me., Feb. 28, 1828, and had :
1. *Frank Howard*,<sup>4</sup> b. Feb. 26, 1863.  
m. June 28, 1893, Arabelle Hall, b. Rockland, Me., Feb. 20, 1861.
  2. *Carrie Adelaide*,<sup>4</sup> b. July 4, 1866.
3. CATHARINE BARKER,<sup>3</sup> b. Nov. 30, 1837.  
m. Jan. 5, 1864, Fred'k *Proctor*, b. Westbrook, and had :
1. *Gertrude L.*,<sup>4</sup> b. Westbrook, Sept. 25, 1864.
4. BRYCE McLELLAN,<sup>3</sup> b. Sept. 25, 1839.  
m. Jan. 5, 1864, Henrietta Libby, b. Gorham, April 3, 1843 ; d. Portland, April 25, 1896, and had :
1. *George Cole*,<sup>4</sup> b. Westbrook, Jan. 25, 1866.
  2. *William Dean*,<sup>4</sup> b. Westbrook, Aug. 3, 1868 ; d. May 30, 1870.
  3. *Louise Libby*,<sup>4</sup> b. Westbrook, May 20, 1870.
  4. *Marion McLellan*,<sup>4</sup> b. Portland, Feb. 27, 1879.
5. ABBIE MARIA,<sup>3</sup> b. Oct. 5, 1842 ; d. June 4, 1886.  
m. (1.) May 14, 1868, Lieut. Wm. W. *Dean*, U.S.A.  
(2.) Jan. 15, 1877, Capt. Francis E. *Cummings*, of Portland.
6. MARTHA McLELLAN,<sup>3</sup> b. Sept. 2, 1844 ; d. May 5, 1846.

VI. ADALINE,<sup>2</sup> b. Gorham, Sept. 26, 1810.

m. Dec. 6, 1832, Wm. *Marrett*, b. Standish,  
Sept. 5, 1804 ; d. Oct. 3, 1860. Lived  
in Westbrook, and had :

1. MARY MUSSEY,<sup>3</sup> b. Sept. 22, 1834 ; d.  
Jan. 27, 1877.

m. Aug. 29, 1863, Fabius M. *Ray*, b.  
Windham, Me., March 30, 1837. and  
had :

1. *Sarah Adeline*,<sup>4</sup> b. Westbrook, June 14,  
1866.

2. *William Caleb*,<sup>4</sup> b. Westbrook, May 16,  
1871.

VII. FRANCIS OSGOOD,<sup>2</sup> b. Gorham, Sept. 22.

1812 ; d. Brooklyn, N.Y., Dec. 16, 1894.

m. Jan. 11, 1847, Caroline Elizabeth  
Atwood, b. Worcester, Mass., May 1,  
1819 ; d. Brooklyn, N.Y., May 17, 1866,  
and had :

1. ANNA LAMB,<sup>3</sup> b. Boston, Mass., July 17,  
1848 ; d. Brooklyn, N.Y., Jan. 27,  
1886.

2. FRANK ATWOOD,<sup>3</sup> b. Malden, Mass., Aug.  
7, 1850.

m. June 27, 1882, Eleanor Stephens,  
b. New York, March 13, 1851, and had :

1. *Marion Eleanor*,<sup>4</sup> b. Brooklyn, Feb.  
21, 1886 ; d. Feb. 18, 1891.

3. CLARENCE CHADBOURNE,<sup>3</sup> b. Chelsea, Mass.,  
Dec. 10, 1855.

m. Jan. 11, 1879, Elizabeth J. Cook,

b. London, Ont., June 20, 1858, and had :

1. *Caroline Elizabeth*,<sup>4</sup> b. Brooklyn, N.Y., Dec. 19, 1879; d. July 24, 1880.
2. *Alice Frances*,<sup>4</sup> b. Brooklyn, N.Y., June 13, 1881.
3. *Gertrude Margaret*,<sup>4</sup> b. Brooklyn, N.Y., Sept. 21, 1886.
4. *Mildred Rose*,<sup>4</sup> b. Brooklyn, N.Y., July 13, 1890.
5. *Elizabeth Atwood*,<sup>4</sup> b. Brooklyn, N.Y., Dec. 14, 1894.

VIII. MARSHALL,<sup>2</sup> b. Gorham, Sept. 9, 1814; d. June 28, 1885.

m. (1.) Oct. 26, 1846, Martha Fogg, b. Gorham, Aug. 19, 1816; d. Oct. 25, 1872.

(2.) Dec. 19, 1877, Mary T. McLellan, b. Cornish, Me., April 9, 1832; d. Westbrook, Sept. 9, 1894. Lived in Gorham, and had :

1. EDWIN M.,<sup>3</sup> b. June 11, 1848.  
m. July 23, 1873, Mary C. Sperry, b. Ann Arbor, Mich., and had :
  1. *Emma Gertrude*,<sup>4</sup> b. Kalamazoo, Mich., Sept. 4, 1874.
  2. MARIA M.,<sup>3</sup> b. Jan. 24, 1850.
  3. WILLIAM MARSHALL,<sup>3</sup> b. March 27, 1855; d. Jan. 28, 1885.

- IX. JAMES,<sup>2</sup> b. Gorham, June 9, 1816 ; d. June 20, 1816.
- X. REBECCA CHADBOURNE,<sup>2</sup> b. Gorham, Sept. 21, 1817.  
 m. Sept. 21, 1846, Lyndon Oak, b. Bosca-  
 wen, N.H., Sept. 21, 1816. Lived in  
 Garland, Me., and had :
1. JAMES HASTINGS,<sup>3</sup> b. Oct. 4, 1849.  
 m. May 10, 1874, Adella Estelle Johnson,  
 b. Garland, December, 1856 ; d. Had  
 eight children :
    1. *Lyndon Johnson*,<sup>4</sup> b. Garland, March  
 18, 1875.
    2. *Walter Charles*,<sup>4</sup> b. Garland, May 30,  
 1878.
    3. *Harry Wallace*,<sup>4</sup> b. Caribou, May 15,  
 1880.
    4. *Marion Rebecca*,<sup>4</sup> b. Presque Isle, April  
 30, 1882.
    5. *Ray*,<sup>4</sup> b. Presque Isle, d. July 12, 1885.
    6. *Noah Johnson*,<sup>4</sup> b. Presque Isle, June  
 1, 1889.
    7. *Mary*,<sup>4</sup> b. Presque Isle, Jan. 8, 1891.
    8. *Edson L.*,<sup>4</sup> b. Presque Isle, Feb. 21,  
 1892.
  2. JOHN MARSHALL,<sup>3</sup> b. June 16, 1851.  
 m. Jan. 11, 1882, Jennie F. West, b. Ban-  
 gor, Sept. 1, 1855.
  3. GRACE ELIZABETH,<sup>3</sup> b. June 1, 1858.  
 m. June 22, 1891, Jacob *Parker*, b. Mon-  
 roe, Me.

- XI. ELIZABETH,<sup>2</sup> b. Gorham, July 29, 1819 ;  
 d. Philadelphia, July 1, 1896.  
 m. Dec. 1, 1841, John *McArthur*, b. Lim-  
 ington, Me., May 13, 1806 ; d. Au-  
 gusta, Sept. 8, 1870, and had :
1. MARION ELIZABETH,<sup>3</sup> b. Brooks, Me., Aug.  
 5, 1844.  
 m. Jan. 4, 1872, Charles F. *Moore*, b.  
 Augusta, Dec. 29, 1835, and had :
    1. *Elizabeth McArthur*,<sup>4</sup> b. Washington,  
 D.C., Nov. 22, 1876 ; d. July 11,  
 1877.
    2. *Marion McArthur*,<sup>4</sup> b. Washington,  
 D.C., Nov. 20, 1878 ; d. Aug. 16,  
 1879.
    3. *Malcolm McArthur*,<sup>4</sup> b. Washington,  
 D.C., Feb. 8, 1880.
    4. *Walter Charles*,<sup>4</sup> b. Washington, D.C.,  
 Oct. 9, 1883.
- XII. JAMES HENRY,<sup>2</sup> b. Gorham, March 11,  
 1823 ; d. May 18, 1846.
- XIII. THADDEUS POMROY,<sup>2</sup> b. Gorham, Nov.  
 25, 1824.  
 m. (1.) Nov. 29, 1848, Ellen A. Davis, b.  
 Standish, Me., Feb. 14, 1827 ; d. Gor-  
 ham, Oct. 20, 1869.  
 (2.) Nov. 23, 1870, Lucy J. Rice, b. Ash-  
 burnham, Mass., April 6, 1830. Had  
 three children, all born in Garland, Me. :
1. ELIZABETH ROULLIET,<sup>3</sup> b. Sept. 8, 1849 ;  
 d. March 6, 1865.

2. JAMES HENRY,<sup>3</sup> b. Nov. 24, 1852.  
m. Nov. 25, 1880, Junia H. Sanborn, b.  
Rochester, N.H., Oct. 23, 1857, and  
had :
  1. *Philip James*,<sup>4</sup> b. Gorham, Dec. 11,  
1881.
  2. *Forest O'Neil*,<sup>4</sup> b. Gorham, Jan. 8, 1885.
  3. *Hazel Marguerite*,<sup>4</sup> b. Gorham, April  
2, 1886.
  4. *Chester King*,<sup>4</sup> b. Gorham, Aug. 28,  
1887 ; d. Dec. 4, 1887.
  5. *Junia Hobbs*,<sup>4</sup> b. Gorham, Jan. 19,  
1889.
  6. *Ellen Davis*,<sup>4</sup> b. Gorham, July 1, 1890 ;  
d. Feb. 29, 1892.
  7. *Christine*,<sup>4</sup> b. Gorham, Nov. 21, 1891.
  8. *Robert Jasper*,<sup>4</sup> b. Rochester, Dec. 11,  
1897.
3. FRED DAVIS,<sup>3</sup> b. April 10, 1857.

Additional Data for

"A Sketch of the life of Gen. James  
Irish of Gorham, Me.

Page 54.

F-1  
I 58

by Mrs. William Howes

North Andover, Mass.

May, 1928.

721-  
conspicua  
Nov 18 1828



On P. 54 the name of Asa is omitted from the list of children of Obadiah and Mary Irish.

Proof that Asa was the second son of Obadiah and Mary Irish may be found in Obadiah Irish's old family bible now in the possession of Howard Irish of Sebago, Maine (P.O. Hillside, Me.)

Photostatic copies of this bible are with the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants, at 9 Walnut Street, Boston, Mass., filed with the membership papers of Mrs. William Howes, State number 3174.

The "History of Gorham, Me." by Mc Lellan, P. 584 states that Obadiah Irish married Mary Deane Jan. 7, 1790 and moved to Ossipee.

The "History of Maine" by Williamson, P.554 states that the town of Limington, Me. was called Ossipee prior to Feb. 9, 1792, when the town was incorporated.

The following is a copy of a statement by Mrs. Annette (Douglass) Babb, granddaughter of Obadiah and Mary Irish, sworn to before a Notary.



"I was born Nov. 24, 1840 in Sebago, Me. My father was born Sept. 21, 1810 in Limington and my mother, Casiah Irish (but was generally known as Desire) was born Sept. 20, 1809 in Limington. They were married April 1, 1835.

My mother had a brother Asa, who was born 1793 in Limington, and who married Patience Rankin. Obadiah and Mary (Dean) Irish were the parents of Asa, also my grandparents, who lived and died at the home of Asa Irish on Tiger Hill, which was across the woods from my father's home on Peaked Mt., Sebago.

I can remember Uncle Asa and Aunt Patience well, as grandfather and grandmother lived with them. Uncle William was an elder brother of Uncle Asa's. I was married to James C. Babb June 7, 1862, and I have lived in Sebago, Me. my entire life."

Seal

Signed--Mrs. Annette Babb.

Sebago, Me.

Sara Witch.

Notary Public. Nov. 5, 1927.

This statement is with the membership papers of Mrs. William Howes, State No. 3174 at the



Mass. Mayflower rooms, 9 Walnut St., Boston,  
 also a copy of the grave stone records of Asa  
 Irish and Patience, his wife, showing that Asa  
 was born in 1793 and that Patience, his wife,  
 was born in 1795. These graves are in Sebago,  
 Maine.

The children of Asa and Patience (Rankin)  
 Irish were Dominicus, Mary, Thankful, Nancy,  
 Martha, Elizabeth, Asa, Susan, Sophronia and  
 Charles.

*These facts were collected  
 and verified by*

*Mrs Jennie J. Night Howes  
 Historian, Betsy Ross Chapter D.A.R.  
 38 Milton St.  
 North Andover, Massachusetts*

*Mrs William Howes*















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