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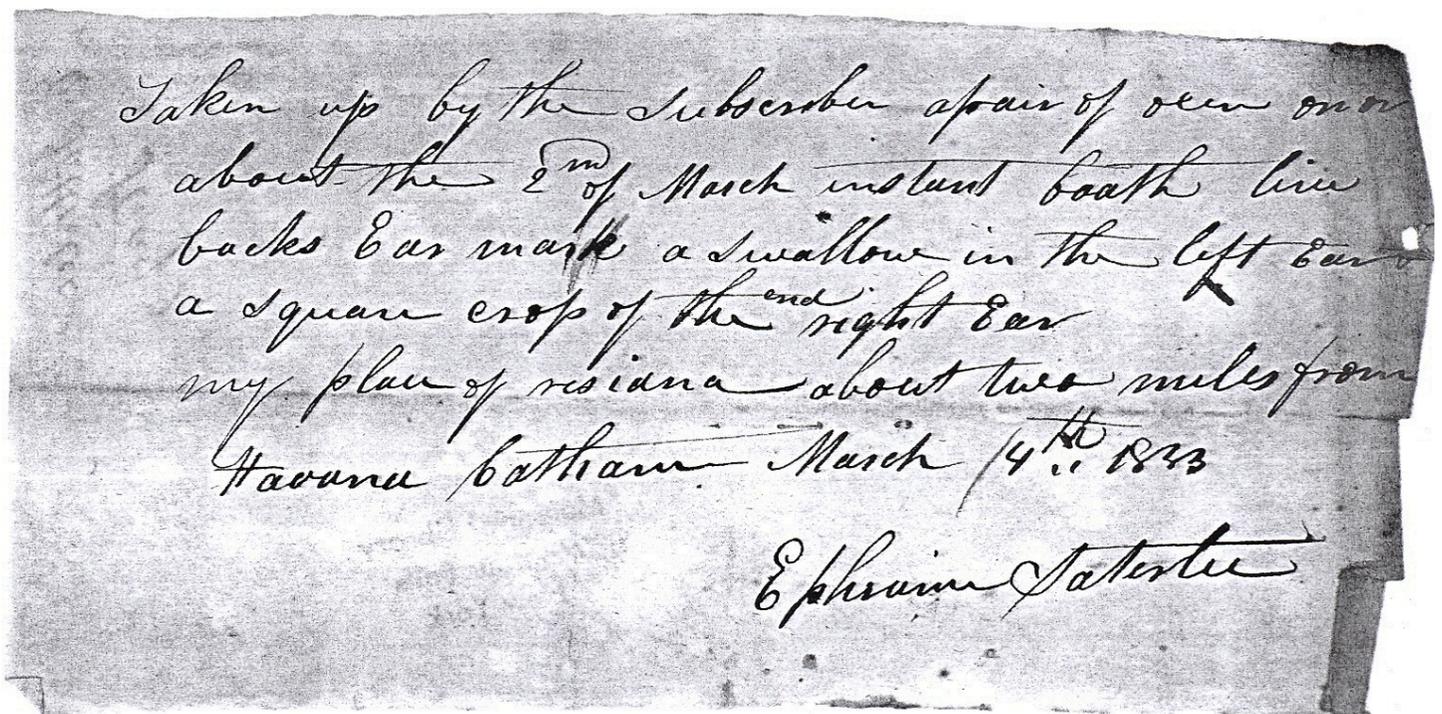
One of Schuyler's Earliest Families Found in Ancestry of Bill Gates

By J. KELSEY JONES

The Satterly family, one of Schuyler County's earliest families, is in the roots of the family tree of Bill Gates, founder of Microsoft, generous philanthropist and one of the richest men in the world.

A detailed review of the Satterly family was inspired by Dr. Robert Alan Satterly and his research of his early Satterly ancestry. The Satterly family was not an easy family to research due to the early timeframe of their arrival in Schuyler, from which few records exist.

Gates' earliest Schuyler ancestor was Selah Satterly, who was baptized in 1753. He married Sarah Stephens. Their son Ephraim Satterly married Christian Seeley, and their daughter Martha P. Satterly married Joseph Stanton Gates.



Taken up by the subscriber a pair of oxen on or
about the 2nd of March instant both line
backs Ear mark a swallow in the left ear &
a square crop of the end right ear
my place of residence about two miles from
Havana Catharine March 4th 1843
Ephraim Satterly

"Taken up by the subscriber a pair of oxen on or about the 2nd of March instant both line backs Ear mark a swallow in the left Ear & a square crop of the end right Ear my place of residence about two miles from Havana Catharine March 4th 1843 Ephraim Saterlee." Ephraim was the great-great-grandfather of Bill Gates.

William Henry Gates, born in 1857, was a son of Martha and Joseph, and he married Rebecca Eppinhauser. Their son William Henry Gates, Jr. married Lillian Elizabeth Rice. William Henry Gates, III was born in 1925, and he married Mary Maxwell.

William Henry Gates, IV was born in 1955 to William III and Mary. He is today married to Melinda Ann French.

Selah Satterly was baptized on June 3, 1753, according to the First Presbyterian Church of Smithtown, Suffolk County, N.Y., son of Nathaniel Satterly and Elizabeth, whose maiden name perhaps was Seeley.

Selah married Sarah Stephens. Other than land transactions, census records and a few early Catharine records we know very little about Selah and Sarah. They lived in Orange County, N.Y. In 1775, Selah "Satterlee" was among a list of persons from Cornwall and Monroe in Orange County who signed the Association pledge, taking the side of those involved in the Revolution in the American colonies.

After the revolution, the western expansion began and a large number of Orange County settlers removed westward. Bazalier Seely and Selah "Saterly" acquired 840 acres on Lot 128 on Nov. 1, 1788, in what became Chemung County, N.Y., at what is now Elmira, according to the original survey map at the Chemung County Clerk's Office. The wife of Bazalier Seely was Zerviah Satterly, a sister to Selah.

On July 20, 1789, Bazalier Seely assigned his interest in the property to Selah Satterly.

Both the Satterly and Seely families were counted in the 1790 census of Chemung, Montgomery County, N.Y., that portion that soon became Tioga County and later Chemung County. Selah's family consisted of one male of age 16 and over, born before 1774; three males under age 16, born 1775-90; and four females. It could be assumed the household consisted of Selah, Sarah, three sons and three daughters.

Selah appears on the 1794 assessment list of Newtown, Tioga County. Newtown as a locality no longer exists but encompassed a large geographic area of present Chemung County including present Elmira and a part of present Schuyler County. Much of the early large land holdings by many of those who secured original warrants were dispersed and divided, and both the Seely and Satterly families moved north from the Chemung River Valley to the southern head of Seneca Lake, which would have been one day's journey.

The date of their move is unknown, but probably by 1796. "Selah Saterly,"

farmer, of Tioga County, N.Y., is listed as giving a mortgage for 96 acres on Oct. 10, 1796, for 116 pounds and 2 shillings to John W. Watkins of the City of New York. It was the northernmost corner of a lot known as Lot 6 in the eastern division of farm lots of a tract of land patented to Ezra L'Hommediau in the County of Tioga and adjoining the head of Seneca Lake. Lot 14 is also listed.

Records also show that on Oct. 8, 1796, Watkins deeded 96 acres to Sarah "Saterley" of the County of Tioga for 116 pounds and 2 shillings, northernmost part of lot of land known as Lot 6 of the eastern division of a tract of land patented to Ezra L'Hommediau in the County of Tioga and adjoining the head of Seneca Lake and also Lot 14, being bounded together. The deed is dated prior to the mortgage and was for the same property. The deed was perhaps recorded some years after the mortgage was satisfied and after Selah had died, as only Sarah is named in the deed.

This property was in what became Catharine, formed by statute on May 15, 1798, and included the north half of townships 1 and 4 and the whole of townships 2 and 3 of the John W. Watkins patent. Catharine was reduced in size by the formations of several other towns and exists today as a town in Schuyler County.

Catharine contained 26 families at its creation, which would have included the Satterly family, and was originally part of Newtown. At the first election for town officers in Catharine, Tioga County (that portion that became Schuyler), Selah Saterly was elected as one of three assessors and as Overseer of Highways.

On the first Catharine assessment of 1798, Selah was taxed for a house and 96 acres, the same acreage as in the mortgage and deed. This 1798 assessment list is referenced in histories, but the location of the original is not presently known.

Selah was evidently deceased by January 1800 when an assessment for the year 1799 was compiled in Catharine. Selah's name does not appear. On the 1799 assessment list "Samuel Saterly" was assessed for a house and farm with a real estate value of \$249 and personal estate of \$144, for a tax of 39 cents. Samuel is presumed to be an elder son of Selah and Sarah. "Samuel Saterly" was enumerated in Catharine, Tioga County in 1800 with three males of age 16 and under age 26, two females of age 10 and under age 16 one female of age 26 and under age 45 and one female of age 45 and over.

The family in the 1800 census enumeration nearly matches that of the 1790 census enumeration. It could be assumed the family consisted of Samuel, two brothers, two sisters, a wife and his mother, Sarah. It is also assumed Samuel's sister Maria had married by that date and was not in the household.



The family of Mary Satterly Francis, whose twin sister, Martha, married Joseph Stanton Gates. Martha and Joseph were the great-great grandparents of Bill Gates.

On June 4, 1800, an assessment for the year 1800 was compiled and “Samuel Satterly” was assessed for 96 acres with a value of \$249, personal estate of \$68 and a tax of 79 cents. The acreage in the assessment is the same amount of acreage in the 1796 land transaction, which would further imply that Samuel was probably the eldest son of Selah and Sarah.

One year later, in the 1801 assessment, “Samuel Saturley” was assessed for 96 acres with a value of \$243.50 and \$14 personal estate for a tax of 79 cents. Also, in that same year, “Sarah Saturley” was assessed for a personal estate of \$46 and a tax of 8 cents. Sarah is assumed to be Selah’s widow, since her name appeared on the deed for the 96 acres. On the 1802 assessment, “Samuel Satterly” was assessed with \$100 real estate and \$20 personal estate for a tax of 26 cents and Sarah was assessed with \$92 real estate and \$50 personal estate for a tax of 33 cents.

“Sarah Satterly” was enumerated in Catharine in 1810 with one male of age 16 and under age 26, one male of age 26 and under age 45, one female under age 5,

one female of age 16 and under age 26, and one female over age 45. It could be assumed the household consisted of Sarah, two sons, a daughter, and perhaps a granddaughter.

Since Samuel was not enumerated as a head of household and he has not been located in any other locality, he may have died and the female under the age of 5 may have been his daughter. There is no further known record of Sarah after the 1810 census enumeration, and there are no known assessment lists in existence for the period after 1810 that may have contained her name.

The children of Selah and Sarah appear to be Samuel Satterly, born sometime in 1775-78; a son born sometime in 1775-84; Maria Satterly, born sometime in 1781-84; Ephraim Satterly born May 12, 1786; a daughter born sometime in 1785-90; a daughter born sometime in 1785-90; and a possible daughter born sometime in 1801-10, but she may have been Elizabeth Satterly, a daughter of Samuel Satterly.

One son and two daughters have not been identified. From the census enumerations it would appear some, if not all, of the daughters reached maturity and perhaps married into local families.

In "Satterlee-ley-ly and Allied Families Vol IV" author Goldie Satterlie Fowler indicates that Selah was born in 1748 and married a Stephens who died on July 4, 1852. According to Fowler they had the following children: Ann, Julia, Mary "Polly," Samuel, Jonas, Elnathan and Eliphalet. Some of this information is not accurate, and she does not include son Ephraim, but we cannot discount that perhaps some of the daughters can be further identified.

If Sarah lived until 1852 it is unknown where she died and perhaps the date is a typographical error and she died before 1852. Selah and Sarah perhaps were buried on their farm before any public burial grounds were in existence or buried in a very early cemetery, though few deaths would have occurred in the region before Ephraim's assumed death in 1798 or 1799, as the very earliest settlers had only been in the area about 10 years previous.

Selah and Sarah's son Ephraim, born on May 12, 1786, married Christian Seeley Nov. 10 1794, according to the Satterly bible, daughter of Nathaniel Seeley and Elizabeth Sayre. Ephraim reportedly served in the War of 1812, but documentation is needed.

Ephraim appears on the 1816 assessment roll of Catharine, dated June 28, with real estate valued at \$660 and personal estate valued at \$53. He was enumerated in Catharine, Tioga County, in 1820 with three males under age 10, one male of age 26 and under age 45, one female under age 10 and one female of age 26 and

under age 45. On the 1820 assessment he is listed with real estate valued at \$220 and a personal estate of \$60, one of only two of 15 on that page with a personal estate, taxed for 84 cents.

In the 1825 state census of Catharine, he is listed with four males and three females, consisting of one male subject to military duty, one married female under age 45 and four unmarried females under age 16. On the 1834 assessment, he is shown with real estate valued at \$395 and no personal estate, taxed for \$2.44. On Feb. 14, 1840, Ephraim was elected overseer of highways for District 8 in Catharine. (There were 42 districts in the town.)

They moved from Catharine, Chemung County (Schuyler County had not yet been created) in 1844 to Delmar Township, Tioga County, Pa. He was counted in Delmar in 1850 and 1860. Ephraim died Jan. 10, 1868.

Christian was counted in Delmar in 1870 in the household of son Robert. She died on July 21, 1874, in Wellsboro, Tioga County. Family tradition relates they are buried Stony Fork Cemetery.

From the Wellsboro Agitator, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania, Jan. 22, 1868:

“DIED in Delmar, Jan 10, Mr. Ephraim Satterly, aged 82 years and 8 months. Mr. Satterly was one of the oldest inhabitants of the county. He was father of 16 children, grandfather to 53 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. He removed from Chemung co., NY.”

Ephraim and Christian’s daughter Martha and her twin sister, Mary, were born on July 12, 1823. Martha married Joseph Stanton Gates on Jan. 8, 1853.

The Gates connection leaves the area at this point, but over the ensuing decades and generations, the Satterly family remained strong in Schuyler County, marrying into families of Broderick, Patterson and Brink.

The full details of these generations are available in the paper “The Satterly Family, One of the County’s Earliest Families,” on file at the Schuyler County Historical Society.

J. Kelsey Jones is strongly interested in area history and serves on the boards of several area historical societies. He is the executive director of the Schuyler County Partnership for Economic Development, SCOPED.