

Capt. James Gowen Fought The French at Ft. Ticonderoga

Capt. James Gowen, stood in the bow of his bateau and surveyed the motley armada of boats traversing the waters of Lake George in an attack on the French Ft. Carillon. The French & Indian War had been going on for nine years now in a see-saw battle, and the British commanders were desperate to drive the French out of upper New York.

James Gowen, at age 43, had seen militia duty for several years, but this was the first time his company had been involved in an amphibious landing against a strongly fortified position. His troops were farmers, shopkeepers and mechanics and were struggling to keep their boat in formation. Strung out across the lake in disorganized confusion was the flotilla composed of 900 bateaux, 135 whale boats and 16 barges bearing the artillery. The captain could realize that this was a recipe for disaster, and at that moment, the French opened a barrage of cannonfire upon the helpless armada . . .

James Gowen, son of Nicholas Gowen and Abigail Hodsdon Gowen, was born February 14, 1715 at Kittery, according to "**Province and Court Records of Maine.**" He was the grandson of William Alexander Gowen, Scottish soldier captured in the Battle of Dunbar and deported by William Cromwell.

James Gowen received the bulk of his father's farm in the will of Nicholas Gowen written in 1733. He also received a yoke of oxen under the terms of the will. James Gowen was married November 21, 1738 to his cousin, Anna Smith by John Hill, J.P. She was the daughter of William Smith who was married to Sarah Gowen March 30, 1684.

James Gowen was a witness to the will of John Heard, his neighbor, January 17, 1742 in York County. Later he was one of the appraisers of the estate of John Heard November 25, 1751 in York County. James Gowen was one of the appraisers of the estate of his aunt Margaret Emery Gowen December 21, 1751 in York County.

He was one of the appraisers of the estate of Nicholas Shapleigh December 13, 1752 in York County. He was one of the appraisers of the estate of Joshua Black May 4, 1756 in York County.

James Gowen sold 10 acres of the land to Benjamin Stacy prior to October 10, 1757. This may have been the 10 acre plot owned earlier by his brother Patrick Gowen. In 1757, James Gowen was named Coronet of the York County Blue Troop of Horse commanded by Capt. Abraham Lord in the regiment of Sir William Pepperell.

"Capt. James Gowen," was the commander of an infantry company in 1758. In that year he commanded a company in the expedition against Crown Point, New York during the French & Indian War. Then his company joined the forces

under Lt-Gen. James Abercrombie and Brig-Gen. George A. Howe, in the attack on the French on Lake George.

The French occupied Ft. Carillon there on Lake George with less than 4,000 troops. They were besieged by 6,000 British regulars and 10,000 provincial troops, and although outnumbered four to one, defeated the attack, killing 2,000 of the British and Americans, including Gen. Howe. Capt James Gowen and most of his company survived the disaster. His nephews, Corp. David Gowen and Pvt. Samuel Gowen were serving in his command. Samuel Gowen was killed in the battle, according to Yvonne Margaret Collinson Gowen in **"Gowen Family Genealogy."**

Later in the year, the Marquis de Montcalm withdrew with all but 400 of his French troops from Ft. Carillon, moving to defend Quebec. On July 26, 11,000 troops under Lord Jeffrey Amherst returned to besiege Ft. Carillon. The 400 French soldiers blew up the fortifications and abandoned the fort. The British moved in and renamed it Ft. Ticonderoga. Capt. Gowen and his company returned home briefly. During the interim, James Gowen was one of the appraisers of the estate of John Shapleigh October 7, 1759 in York County.

Capt. James Gowen and his troops were quickly transported northward to participate in the Battle of Quebec under Maj-Gen. James Wolfe, age 33, 11 years his junior. Again the campaign was a stalemate--until Wolfe attempted the unthinkable. He set his troops to climbing the vertical cliffs before the Heights of Abraham. The surprise worked. The 8,000 British and Americans charged across the plain, with Wolfe in the van, before the French could move to meet them. Wolfe won the most important battle of the war, but, taking three bullets, lost his life in the charge.

On February 21, 1761 Capt. James Gowen joined a group of war veterans in signing a petition requesting a land grant near "Mt. Deseret, Massachusetts Bay Colony" for a township, according to **"Documentary History of Maine, Baxter Manuscript,"** published by the Maine Historical Society. The petition was successful for on January 27, 1764 they received the requested land grant on the "east side of Mt. Deseret [now Union] River."

In 1763 the company of Capt. Gowen was back in Canada and "continued in occupation duty at Quebec City."

Back home, he was instructed October 13, 1765 in a town meeting to "oppose the Stamp Act." Capt. James Gowen on October 29, 1765 was appointed to a committee to settle a boundary dispute for Henry Young Brown by the General Court of Massachusetts Bay Colony.

He was a member of the General Court in March 1767 when the dispute was settled. "He sat on the bench of the Inferior Court just prior to the Revolutionary War," according to **"Province and Court Records of Maine."**

On December 21, 1767, he was elected to a committee, a better business bureau, "to report what they think proper to encourage industry, economy and manufactories in the Kittery area, thereby to prevent the unnecessary importations of Europe's commodities."

Anna Smith Gowen died about 1768, and James Gowen was remarried about 1770 to Lois Woodbridge, daughter of John Woodbridge.

James Gowen served as a selectman in Kittery for 20 years. He was a judge of the Court of Common Pleas for seven years and was a Governor's Councillor from 1770 to 1774.

On October 27, 1774 James Gowen, along with two others, at a town meeting "to act as delegates in a county congress to be holden some time in November next at Wells by the several towns in this county, there to consider and to agree upon some proper measures for the preservation of the peace and good order of the inhabitants; also to agree upon some legal and constitutional measures in order to defeat the arbitrary tyrannical plans laid by our enemies, the British, to enslave us."

Capt. James Gowen "of Kittery" resigned November 29, 1777 as "one of the Justices of the Superior Court of Common Pleas for the County of York" because of ill health, according to "**Documentary History of Maine.**" He died in 1781, and his will was introduced in probate February 12 of that year. Lois Woodbridge Gowen continued to live in Shapleigh House, the Gowen home until her death in 1813. Her estate, including Shapleigh House and 70 acres of land was valued at \$2,500.

Children born to James Gowen and Anna Smith Gowen include:

Sarah Gowen	born April 21, 1739
Abigail Gowen	born August 23, 1741
Elizabeth Gowen	born September 18, 1743
Phebe Gowen	born February 6, 1746
Anna Gowen	born May 8, 1750
Mary Gowen	born May 8, 1756

Children born to James Gowen and Lois Woodbridge Gowen include:

Louisa Gowen	born July 18, 1771
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William Franklin Goings Was Backward Bartender in Texas

William Franklin Goings, son of James Goin and Elizabeth Goin, was born about 1848 in Campbell County, Tennessee, according to his non compos mentis probate proceedings. He "was born and raised in Campbell County," according to a statement made by his brother, H. M. Goins. All other known siblings of William Franklin Goings spelled their names "Goins."

William Franklin Goings later lived in Indiana, then in Michigan, and in 1895 he was a saloon-keeper in Austin, Texas. He was listed in the Austin city directory from 1885 through 1890. In 1885 he operated the Nickel Plate Saloon at 200 Congress [at Live Oak]. From 1887 to 1890 he operated the Bridge Saloon at the same address. He lived in the saloon building.

"William F. Goings" was enumerated as the head of a household in the 1890 census of Travis County, page 115, according to **"Travis County, Texas Census, Uniquely Reconstructed and Annotated"** by Mary A. Moody.

In October 1890 "William Franklin Going" was examined by Travis County Probate Court, according to Probate File No. 1543, as a non compos mentis.

"He had a fit four or five months ago and has been demented ever since," stated John Sheehan, who was later appointed his guardian by the court, in the hearing held October 27, 1890. "He has about \$1,000 in property, including his saloon. He is about 35-40 years old, and, I think, a native of Tennessee," stated Sheehan.

On the same date, Jack Spence testified, "I have known the defendant for three years, and have been with him every day for two weeks. He said he wanted to turn his bar around so that he stood in front of the bar to bar-keep and have his customers stand behind the bar to drink. He struck a man last night with a plank who didn't understand."

Travis County Probate Court had confined William Franklin Goings in the Insane Asylum at Austin on August 27, 1889. Dr. H. B. Hill testified at a hearing October 29, 1890 that the defendant is "entirely incapacitated to attend to his business."

H. M. Goin, of Campbell County, brother to William Franklin Goings, came to Austin, posted an \$8,500 bond and was appointed guardian of William Franklin Going, on December 8, 1890. He reported to the court on that date that William Franklin Goings was in Hot Springs, Arkansas at that time "temporarily being treated for insanity."

Other individuals who assisted in the bond were James Goin, father of the defendant; Alvis Goin, his brother; Elias Douglas, M. C. Stanfill, John J. Graham, W. R. Taylor and E. H. Goin. All were believed to be residents of Campbell County.

"Melungeon Heritage" Released By Author, Mattie Ruth Johnson

"My Melungeon Heritage," a story of life on Newman's Ridge, has been released by the author, Mattie Ruth Johnson, Foundation Editorial Boardmember of Kingsport, Tennessee. The 160-page book deals with what life was like for a little Melungeon girl growing up in Hancock County, Tennessee and attending a little one-room school in the heart of Melungia.

The author, a genealogist, has researched her ancestral lines that she used for the background of her writing. Intertwined in her book, as well as in her DNA, were the families of Massingill, Mullins, Gibson, Goins, Loven, Bunch, Johnson, three sets of Mullins and "a few more that I have not had time to pursue."

The author does not attempt to solve the mystery of the Melungeons, but describes life on the mountain "so that my

family's children and grandchildren can touch the past as it was for me only a short while ago." She describes vividly the love and the dignity that was passed along from generation to generation in the 200 years that her ancestors lived on Newman's Ridge.

"My Melungeon Heritage" [ISBN 1-57072-063-0] can be ordered at \$12.95 from Mattie Ruth Johnson, 3705 Bloomingdale Road, Kingsport, TN, 37660, 615/288-6922.

Dear Cousins

I regret to advise that my mother, Julia Morris Gowan died on August 22, 1997 after losing a year-long battle with an insidious brain tumor. Due to my interest in the family genealogy, she had entertained, housed, fed and visited many of you over the years. And, of course, she put up with all the antics of the Gowan she married, not to mention the one she gave birth to. She was very proud of the fact that her hair was still naturally black at the age of 76, but perhaps even prouder that her son's had gone mostly gray before hers. She was buried August 25 beside my father and aunt in Hamilton-Beeman Cemetery near Retreat, Texas.

As I have been in Texas much of the past few months, I owe more than a few letters and will try to catch up on correspondence shortly. I appreciate the many kindnesses you have shown to my mother over the years. **Phillip Alan Gowan, Box 2121, Myrtle Beach, SC, 29578.**

==Dear Cousins==

Members of Gowen Research Foundation are cordially invited to attend the Founders of Natchitoches 17th Annual Conference, October 3-4 at Red Ryder Inn in Natchitoches. Foundation members Evelyn McKinley Orr of Omaha, NE and Don Marler of Woodville, TX will be featured speakers at the Conference. Mrs. Orr's topic will be "Unique Research Paths," and Don Marler will speak on "The Neutral Zone--Backdoor to the U.S.A." Other speakers include Theophile Scott, Henry "Red" Hyams and Dr. Tommy G. Johnson, president. Registration is \$10. **Betty Jones, 401 St. Maurice Lane, Natchitoches, LA, 71457, 318/352-3774.**

==Dear Cousins==

I am seeking information on Horace Wilder/Wilder Horace Going who was bc1850 in Chesterfield, NH and who was mc1873 to Clara Ida Stone. They lived in Sutton, MA in 1882. Six children were born to them: Mary, b1876; Albertus b1878; Leonice b1881; Walter Robert b1884, Milton Winthrop, b1888 and Bernice Hazel b1893.

Mary died in infancy. Albertus married Eldora Vaughan, and after her death in 1939, went to Leicester, MO where he died in 1945. Leonice married George Randles. Walter Robert was married to Hattie Maria Humes [my grandparents]. Milton Winthrop was married to Marion McLean and died in FL in 1949. Bernice Hazel died in 1912.

Children of Walter and Hattie: Ethel, bc1904; Robert, bc1908, Marian L, b1911; Hazel, bc1917; Mildred, b1917; Ralph, b1920 and Richard C, b1922. Can you help with any? **Mary Seabolt, 8048 Wofford Rd, Rudy, AR, 72952.**

==Dear Cousins==

Within this file, transferred via the Internet, is information that I have collected on my Goins line. I am sending this data in hopes that it will shed some light on a Goins line that does not, at this time, have much information reported to the Foundation. I desire to become a local genealogist for the

Goins lines in Patrick County, Virginia and Surry and Stokes Counties, North Carolina. There is much work to be done in this tri-county area. I would be glad to hear from members who have roots in these counties. **Dakota Holt, 9516 Timberlake Road, #211, Lynchburg, VA, 24502, JSimm10544@aol.com**

==Dear Cousins==

My membership renewal for 1998 is enclosed. I let my membership lapse some time ago. There was so much in the Newsletter that did not interest me nor apply to my line. Now that you are devoting two sections of the Manuscript on the Website to my York County, Maine family headed by the emigrant William Alexander Gowen, I am back. Guess I'm just a fussy old 90-year-old. So don't mind me. Hope you are enjoying a beautiful fall in Texas. Ours has been cold and changeable. We have a saying in Maine, "If you don't like the weather, wait a few minutes." **Flora Woodford, 1324 U.S. Rt. 1, Cape Neddick, ME, 03902.**

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Via Norman Bass Gowens of Waco, TX: The descendants of James Blair Gowens and their "cousins" and their friends are invited to a family reunion October 11, 1997 in Graham, Texas at the Agriculture Activity Center. Festivities begin at 11:00 a.m. For details, contact **Sheila Gowens Jones, 407 Dallas St, Big Spring, TX, 79720, 915/217-7936**

Editorial Board Named for 1998

The Foundation's Editorial Board of Directors nominated to serve during the ensuing calendar year will act as the "eyes and ears" of the Foundation, gathering research from various sources and undertaking research projects.

Development of the Foundation, the Newsletter, the Website, the Research Conference & Family Reunion will be under its oversight. All boardmembers work voluntarily, and each may withdraw his name at any time, according to James R. Callahan, chairman. Nominees for 1998 include:

AYRES, MILDRED R. 75080	804 St. Lukes Drive	RICHARDSON	TX
BALLARD, JAMES THOMAS 39180	6219 E. Indiana Ave	VICKSBURG	MS
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CAREY, JOYCE W. 30062	2702 Chimney Springs	MARIETTA	GA
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DEMARCELLUS, JUNE GOWEN 28604	Route 1, Box 491	BANNER ELK	NC
DENDY, MIRIAM R. 35801	1800 Ballard SE	HUNTSVILLE	AL
DOUGHERTY, BEATRICE GOINS 40476	Box 388	RICHMOND	KY
DUNCAN, SAMMY CRAIG 75401	2107 Division	GREENVILLE	TX
DUNN, ETHEL LOUISE GOINS 30711	790 Dr. Johnson Road	CRANDALL	GA
EDMONDSON, CHAN 75219	Box 190354	DALLAS	TX
ESSARY, DON & LINDA 88118	732 S. Roosevelt AF	FLOYD	NM
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FINLEY, RACHEL G. 75604	307 Fairview Drive	LONGVIEW	TX
FREDERICK, JAYMIE F. 59263	Box 1171	SCOBEY	MT
GOEN, PAUL LYNN 87105	2311 Don Felipe SW	ALBUQUERQUE	NM
GOIN, HOYT L. 72801	2506 W. 2nd Street	RUSSELLVILLE	AR
GOINGS, DAVID 32858	Box 585832	ORLANDO	FL
GOINS, JACK CECIL 98548	Box 1177	HOODSPORT	WA

GOINS, JACK HAROLD 37857	270 Holston View Dr.	ROGERSVILLE	TN
GOINS, SARA A. 37327	Box 333	DUNLAP	TN
GOINS, PH.D., WILLIAM M. 29202	Box 7062	COLUMBIA	SC
GOSNELL, JAMES RICHARD 29307	506 Eastway Drive	SPARTANBURG	SC
GOWAN, ANNA S. BUTLER 85254	5719 E. Aster Dr	SCOTTSDALE	AZ
GOWAN, FORREST BRUCE 38301	240 Wallace Road	JACKSON	TN
GOWAN, LA FAY 35226	2157 Shadybrook Lane	HOOVER	AL
GOWAN, PAT & 92103	1422 Puterbough St.	SAN DIEGO	CA
GOWAN, PHILLIP ALAN 29577	614-C 35th Avenue N	MYRTLE BEACH	SC
GOWEN, ARLEE 79413	5708 Gary Avenue	LUBBOCK	TX
GOWEN, DON LEE 35601	1310 Cantwell Av SW	DECATUR	AL
GOWEN, MILLER ABBOTT 99999	1211 Geneva (2)	GENEVA	SW
GOWENS, OLEN ROSS 47954	Ashby Place	LADOGA	IN
GOYEN, ROBERT J. 99999	523 Sutton Street	SEBASTOPOL	3356VC
GOYNE, COL. CARROLL HEARD 71106	10019 Canterbury Dr.	SHREVEPORT	LA
GRIDER, JEAN 42127	1734 Salem Ch. Rd.	CAVE CITY	KY
HALL, EVELYN SANDIFER 71119	4319 Colonial Drive	SHREVEPORT	LA
JOHNSON, MATTIE RUTH 37660	3705 Bloomingdale Rd	KINGSPORT	TN
JOHNSTON, DONNA V. GOWIN 82604	1513 Westridge Terr.	CASPER	WY
KENNEDY, PHD, N. BRENT 37660	2121 Sheffield St.	KINGSPORT	TN
KRETTZSCHMAR, COL. SAM LORIDANS, SANDRA M. Mexico	PSC 41, Box 3398 Apartado Postal 844	APO AE09464-339 45900 CHAPALA	JA
MOORE, JR., CARL E. 60690	Box 2344	CHICAGO	IL
NASH, DELLA J. FORD 73107	2515 NW 26th	OKLAHOMA CITY	OK
NELSON, BEVERLY J. 80123	3391 W. Aksarben Ave	LITTLETON	CO
NEWMAN, KENNETH L. 36265	906 Second St. NE	JACKSONVILLE	AL
ORR, EVELYN 68134	8310 Emmet Street	OMAHA	NE
PHILBECK, MADGE 32124	6113 Jasmine Vine Dr	PORT ORANGE	FL
POE, PHYLLIS J. 77040	15406 Ashburton	HOUSTON	TX
RICHARDSON, LOUISE GOINS 72450	2207 E. Lake Street	PARAGOULD	AR
ROBERTSON, BETTY J. 32207	3127 Home Prk Circ.N	JACKSONVILLE	FL
SMITH, JUNE A. 98311	5307 Hwy 303 NE, #22	BREMERTON	WA
SPALDING, ANNE GOWEN 31522	4223 14th St, E. Bch	ST. SIMONS IS.	GA
TATE, MARGARET PEARSON 03833	34 Washington St	EXETER	NH
THURMAN, DIANNE 67210	4201 Wildflower Cir.	WICHITA	KS
TUCKER, FREDRICK M. 29334	Box 214	DUNCAN	SC
TURNER, WALTER E. 84097	628 E. 1600 South	OREM	UT
WALLACE, MARY EVELYN 73081	Box 237	RATLIFF CITY	OK
WATSON, JULIA CASEY 31548	250 Vacuna Road	KINGSLAND	GA
WEATHERS, CLEVE 37238	315 Deaderick Street	NASHVILLE	TN
WHITE, MARY POPE 30124	7008 Black Bluff SW	CAVE SPRING	GA
WHITE, PEGGY ANN DAVIS 42240	109 Underwood Drive	HOPKINSVILLE	KY
WILLIAMS, ANNE GOWEN 31569	Box 526	WOODBINE	GA
WOOD, MARY EVELYN GOWEN 31522	2220 Bruce Drive	ST.SIMONS ISLANGA	
YOUNG, CINDY GOINS 24115	Box 3791	MARTINSVILLE	VA
YOUNG,, COL. JIMMY L. 74501	Route 3, Box 329-A	MCALESTER	OK

Membership Campaign for 1998 Enhanced by 26,000 "Hits"

The 1998 Membership Campaign, aided by the placement of the Electronic Library on the Internet, has resulted in an increased number of renewals from present and former members of the Foundation.

Over 26,000 "hits" have been recorded in the first year of operation of the Electronic Library, and these visits have resulted in the Foundation membership increasing to its highest level in the eight years of the non-profit heritage society.

The Foundation Manuscript, begun in 1941 by Arlee Gowen, has now grown to over 10,000 pages of family lore. The collection, augmented daily by family historians pooling their research with the Foundation, has grown rapidly since the advent of the Internet. The research deals with branches of the family in over 50 different spelling variations.

Family historians searching for a particular name, place or event may use the online library search program to scan the Manuscript, eight years of Newsletters, "Dear Cousins" and "Melungia, Home of the Melungeons" to quickly find their subject. The search program precludes the need for an index.

The Foundation Board is pleased to report that new memberships are exceeding renewals during the fall renewal period thus far. Former members and new members are offered memberships which begin now and extend through December 31, 1998. Current members are offered the same bonus--15 months for the price of 12!

The Foundation now offers more benefits and more research tools to the family researcher than he has ever had before, and in doing so, has incurred additional expenses. If it is financially convenient, you are invited to "move up a notch" for 1998 to help the organization overcome an operating deficit. On the membership schedule below, indicate the type of membership you have selected, and your membership card for the calendar year of 1998 will be in the mail promptly.

The form below may be used to request sample copies of the Newsletter and to request gift memberships for members of your family. The Foundation will send gift cards acknowledging your thoughtfulness, both to you and the recipients.

Membership Application, 1998

Gowen Research Foundation 806/795-8758
or 795-9694
5708 Gary Avenue E-mail:
gowen@llano.net
Lubbock, Texas, 79413 Internet:
<http://www.llano.net/gowen>

I enclose payment as indicated below for
[] New Membership, [] Renewal
Membership in Gowen Research Foundation.

\$15.00 [] Member \$25 []
Contributing Member

\$100 [] Sustaining Member \$25 []
] Overseas Member

[in U.S. dollars

only please]

[] Please send a sample copy of the Foundation Newsletter to the family researcher(s) listed on sheet attached.

[] Please send Gift Membership(s) as indicated above to individual(s) listed on sheet attached.

Name(s) _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zi
p _____

E-Mail
Address _____