

JOSEPH GERRISH

JOSEPH GERRISH, of Kittery, was the thirteenth and youngest child of Colonel Timothy and Sarah (Eliot) Gerrish of Gerrish's Island. He was born at Dover, New Hampshire, on September 13, 1732, and raised at Kittery, whence he entered college. His brother, Robert Eliot, had been ranked twelfth in the Class of 1730, but he found himself placed at the head of the Class of 1752 simply because of the date of his elderly father's commission as a Justice of the Peace. As so frequently happened in such cases, this distinction went to his head. In May, 1749, the Faculty voted "That Gerrish for ten Instances of Prophaness in Cursing, Swearing and taking Gods Name in Vain be punish'd the Sum of five Pounds." After chapel prayers the next morning, he "was call'd forth, and the above Vote about him read, and a Solemn admonition given with Respect to the Crime and a warning to all the Scholars to be ware of keeping Company with such and an Incouragement to them to be ready to discover and give Information to the Government of the House."¹ After this he gave up profanity, but he was detected in and fined for gambling and for showing contempt by going out of town after being refused permission to do so. In the winter of his Senior year, he and his classmate Miller were involved in rolling a log down the stairs and pushing Tutor Mayhew after it when he came to investigate. After a long investigation, the Faculty decided that Joseph was incorrigible:

Whereas Gerrish a Senior-Sophister of this House, hath been guilty of the atrocious crime of wittingly and willingly giving a false Testimony upon Oath, before one of his Majesties Justices of the Peace . . . It is therefore voted unanimously, That he the said Gerrish be expell'd . . . this Society and are not suffer'd to abide one Night longer in any of the Chambers or Districts hereof, and in token hereof, You the Butler are hereby order'd to rase his name from the Rolls.²

So the Class of 1752 was graduated with a Quincy at its head, a much more suitable situation. On the eve of the next Commencement, Gerrish applied for reinstatement "by an humble Petition in which" he "confess'd the Crime for which He was expell'd and

¹ Faculty Records (Harvard University Archives), I, 281-282.

² *Ibid.*, p. 355.

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acknowledges the Justice of that Sentence, And also pray'd for a Restoration to our Favours, in the Honour of a Degree at the Approaching Commencement." The Faculty "Voted, That the said Gerrish be readmitted in to the College, holding his place as before his Expulsion."³ The Corporation reviewed the vote, noted the testimonies as to his recent good behavior, and agreed that he should have his degree "provided his said confession be read publicly in the Chapel, he being present . . . and also answer all his dues." Accordingly, "immediately after morning prayers . . . his confession was read . . . after which the President gave a solemn admonition to said Gerrish, signifying to him the greatness of his crime and exhorting him to a true repentance."⁴ Having played his luck that far, he stayed away from his second Commencement, leaving Quincy the honor of leading the exercises. He never took his M.A.

Gerrish settled obscurely as a farmer on his family's Kittery lands. He has been confused with two other men of the same name who had somewhat distinguished careers, and in modern works he has been given the title of Colonel, but the Province records show no Colonel Gerrish of York County in the militia system. On February 28, 1764, he married Anna, the only daughter of the Reverend William (A.B. 1718) and Anna (Hubbard) Thompson of Scarborough. She bore him five children and died in childbirth on August 11, 1772.⁵ On October 6, 1773, he married Mary Allen of Biddeford. He lived obscurely through the Revolution, and died at Kittery on December 17, 1812. His widow died on January 13, 1815.

³ *Ibid.*, II, 9.

⁴ Corporation Records (Harvard University Archives), II, 40, 41.

⁵ *New-Hampshire Gazette*, August 21, 1772, 3/1.

DUMMER JEWETT, an 1732, the eldest son of Elizabeth (Dummer) Jewett, he was a model compared to argue that far into trade. He was an 12, 1757, he married M of Ipswich, but he soon a store which was final Their account books¹ a business in West India toothpaste, and "Bug- partner, for he entered tea to his father. Like the side, and was, according character."

In 1771 Jewett bought South Green of Ipswich pointed a feoffee of the Peace for Essex. A of John Wise's *Vindication* mittee of Intelligence correspondence. In May, in which he was very library and laboratory build a draw in the business and trade with the army. After the served two years in the was active, signing the privateers, and transacted general Washington.³

¹ At the Ipswich Historical

² For a picture of this 1905), I, op. p. 468.

³ Dummer Jewett to General Washington, Nov. 11, 1776.