

WILLIAM¹ GIFFORD OF SANDWICH, MASS.

(D. 1687)

Almon E. Daniels and Maclean W. McLean

Edited by Anne Borden Harding

[Continued from page 215]

102. LOT⁵ GIFFORD (*John⁴, Josiah³, John², William¹*) was born at Falmouth 13 June 1747 and died after 3 October 1832.

He married in Falmouth 2 January 1771 OLIVE WEEKS, who has not been identified.

In *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War* Lot Gifford is credited with service in 1775, 1776, and 1779. The National Archives Service Records File S-10, 742, shows Lot Gifford as a resident of Falmouth on 3 October 1832, "aged 85, born 2 June 1747 Old Style, in Falmouth, Mass." The DAR *Lineage Book* (22:274) gives his death date as 1852, which is probably wrong.

Children recorded in Falmouth to Lot and Olive:

- i. TRYPHENA⁶, b. 27 Jan. 1771; d. 17 Apr. 1811; m. 9 Dec. 1789 MANASSAH⁶ SWIFT (*ibid.*), son of Manassah⁵ Swift (*Samuel⁴, Ephraim³, William²⁻¹*), b. ca. 1768. Had issue.
- ii. CALVIN, b. 24 July 1773; d. 6 Apr. 1862; m. NAOMI BROADBROOKS. Had issue.
- iii. HENRY, b. 10 Mar. 1775; m. PHEBE DICKINSON.
- iv. ABIEL, b. 14 Jan. 1777.
- v. REBECCA, b. 8 Apr. 1779; m. (int. Falmouth 7 Oct. 1796) CHARLES ELLIS "of Harwich."
- vi. TRYPHOSA, b. 10 Mar. 1782; d. 21 July 1814; m. 6 Sept. 1804 CHARLES WEEKS, Falmouth Town Records, hereafter FATR.
- vii. ROSSITER, b. 19 Nov. 1784; d. 13 Feb. 1858; m. 19 June 1838 SARAH JENKINS (FATR, 3:262).
- viii. LOT, b. 19 Jan. 1786.
- ix. EBENEZER, b. 1 Nov. 1788; d. 5 Jan. 1867; m. 9 Jan. 1813 ELSIE WILLIAMS of S. C.
- x. OLIVE, b. 8 May 1790; m. 14 Oct. 1812 NATHANIEL SHIVERICK (FATR 3:302).
- xi. PHEBE, b. 17 Jan. 1792.
- xii. LUCY, b. 28 June 1794; d. 4 Aug. 1836; m., as his first wife, 21 May 1823 SQUIRE GEORGE W. DONALDSON.

103. JOHN⁵ GIFFORD (*John⁴, Josiah³, John², William¹*) was born about 1751 and died probably in Hudson, New York, after 2 April 1792 and perhaps much later.

He married perhaps about 1775, PHEBE ———. She was living in 1786.

As we have seen, he was named as one of the four younger sons in his father's will, 18 April 1783. He would have been then over thirty and we suspect that he left Falmouth in his youth and settled in New York State.

The first record we find of him in Hudson is a deed dated 2 August 1783: "John Gifford of the city of Hudson in the County of Albany and State of New York, Talor . . . for £25 paid me by Prince Gifford of Falmouth in the County of Barnstable, yeoman . . . convey one quarter part of my Father, John Gifford's homestead, lying in sd Falmouth, which he gave me by his Last Will . . . said homestead contains by estimate forty acres . . . bounded Northerly by Benjamin Gifford's, easterly by the Long Pond and southerly by James Jenkins and Mary Hammond's lands." It was signed by John Gifford and witnessed by Thomas Smith and Thankful Clark. John Gifford appeared personally and acknowledged the deed 2 August 1785 before Thomas Shiverick, J.P. It was recorded 15 September 1785 in Barnstable County Deeds, 39:13 (from original copy furnished us by ABG:CAD). The original receipt has also, surprisingly, been preserved: "I the subscriber for value received, promise to pay John Gifford of Hutson [*sic*] in the State of New York, £25 on or before the 15 day of March next; if not paid then interest from that time until paid. Witness my hand this 2d day of August, 1785." This was signed by Prince Gifford and witnessed by Fish [*sic*] and Thomas Smith. A third item reads: "August ye 2d 1783. Had on account of the within note 6," and was signed by John Gifford. And appended was a further note: "Received March ye 15th, 1795 five pounds eighteen shillings on the within note. April ye 2d, 1792. Indorsed on sd note." And "Thirteen pounds two shillings with the interest which is in full of the within note by order of Jesse Gifford, executor."

A curious letter dated Hudson, 4 June 1786, has survived also:

Respected friend I have the pleasure of letting you know that we are all well at present and to hope that these may find you as well as this leaves us. As to me, I have now Bad. Times is very hard which obliges me to desire you that if possible to sen[d] som money. And send it to Nantucket, subscribed to Capt. Ebenezer Jenkins, where it will come direct to me at this place. My want is stark at present or I should not call on you. Capt. Jenkins will be at Nantucket soon and will send it by the first chance. Remember me to all Friends, this from your friend John Gifford. This may sartify to all persons to [w]houm it may come that I, Phebe Gifford, wife of John Gifford and [illeg] ated to Prince Gifford of a certain piece of land sold by my husband. Phebe Gifford (*ibid.*).

The fact that these papers survived is quite extraordinary, but this is another instance of the fascination of genealogical research. If it had not been for these papers preserved in Falmouth one might have supposed

that John Gifford of Hudson was a brother of Humphrey Gifford of Hudson. But this Humphrey Gifford was a son of Obadiah⁴ Gifford (*Simeon³, Robert², William¹*). Thus, the two Giffords were not brothers but third cousins. Probably the land speculators of that day were effective in attracting prospects from a wide area.

The 1790 census of Hudson, New York (Columbia County by then—set off from Albany County in 1786), shows John Gifford as head of a family with one male over 16, two under 16, and four females. While it is possible that all in the family were not children of the head, we may assume that John Gifford had two sons and three daughters. We hope that some reader may be able to supply the names of the sons and daughters of John and Phebe Gifford.

104. PAUL⁵ GIFFORD (*John⁴, Josiah³, John², William¹*) was born about 1757 and died 23 March 1826, “ae. 67” (see *Register*, 128:17).

He married first, about 1783, REBECCA NYE, daughter of Stephen⁴ Nye and his wife, Maria Bourne, born in Sandwich 24 January 1766, died after 18 October 1798, when she quitclaimed her dower right to Dartmouth property—probably about 1803. The will of Stephen Nye, dated 9 November 1807, bequeaths to “the heirs of my Daughter Rebekah who is now deceased . . . Lucy, John, William, Sophia, Mariah, Christopher, Stephen, Charles and Nathaniel . . . to each of them or to their heirs” (Barnstable County Probate, 35:196, 197).

He married secondly, 7 January 1805, MARY (SAMPSON) TABER, daughter of Judah and Mary (Delano) Sampson and widow of Jeremiah Taber, born 9 July 1772, died at Duxbury 29 June 1858 (Duxbury Town Records). Her gravestone is in the Mayflower Cemetery, Duxbury. She had had a child, Sally Taber, who died 27 January 1798. Descendants of Mary (Sampson) (Taber) Gifford trace back to John Alden and Miles Standish, *Mayflower* passengers.

Paul Gifford was disowned by the Friends Meeting at Sandwich 11 June 1778 “for appearing with a gun as a soldier.” Some seventeen years before, his father and brother had been expelled for similar reasons. Paul Gifford served in the Revolution. He appears as Paul Gifford and as Paul Gilford several times in *Massachusetts Soldiers in the Revolutionary War*. In a return of 19 July 1780 he is described as “ae. 24 yrs.; stature 5 ft., 8 in.; complexion ruddy.”

John Gifford in his will, dated 18 April 1783, gave his homestead to his four youngest sons of whom the third was Paul. The 1790 census shows Paul Gilford [sic] as head of a household at Sandwich with two males over 16, two under 16, and four females, but soon after the birth of his daughter Mariah, in November 1792, he moved to New Bedford. By a deed of 19 December 1796 Paul Gifford of New Bedford, “in that part called Fair Haven,” cordwainer, bought land there from John Delano (Bristol County Deeds, 14:306). However, before 11 December