

WILLIAM¹ GIFFORD OF SANDWICH, MASS.

(D. 1687)

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39. BENJAMIN⁴ GIFFORD (*William³, John², William¹*) was born 20 August 1703, and he died at Falmouth 18 May 1788.

He married first, at Falmouth 22 June 1727, MARTHA ROBINSON (Falmouth Town Records, 1:125), daughter of Joseph³ (*John², Isaac¹*) and his second wife, Bethiah (Lumbert) Robinson, and great-great-granddaughter of the Reverend John Robinson, the pastor of the Pilgrim flock, born 8 December 1706, died before 17 August 1734, when her father's will names her only child.

He married second, at Falmouth 12 September 1734, HANNAH ELDRED (*ibid.*), daughter of Jehosophat³ Eldred (*Samuel², William¹*) and Thankful (Rider) Eldred. (The name Eldred is often Eldredge.) She was born circa 1710 and was living 10 January 1773.

William³ Gifford, by a deed of 1 September 1726, gave some of his Falmouth land to his son Benjamin and also bequeathed to him in his will of 7 November 1726.

Benjamin Gifford added to his Falmouth holdings by purchases of land through the years. An original deed shows that on 25 May 1736 he bought the meadow of Isaac Green of Falmouth. A copy of the deed was supplied by Arnold Gifford and Captain Charles Davis (hereafter, Gifford/Davis collection). On 2 April 1742 his uncle, John³ Gifford, sold to him several parcels of land in Falmouth for £800 (see above), and another original deed relates that Elnathan Nye conveyed to Joseph Robinson and Benjamin Gifford of Falmouth for £300 "all that my parcel of Meadow in Falmouth . . . together with all profits." (This deed was not recorded until 13 May 1778 in Book 35, f. 64, by Solomon Otis, Register; Gifford/Davis collection.)

By a deed of 16 February 1757 (1765 is written above this date), Benjamin Gifford paid £17 to Nathan Davis of Falmouth for "a part of a lot of land with a part of a dwelling house thereon, in Falmouth . . . that is one quarter of the 13th lot in the wood lots . . . bounded southerly by land of sd Benjamin Gifford, westerly by Little Sippewiset Marsh . . . northerly by Reuben Gifford's land, as sd land and house lie undivided" (the lower part of the deed is worn away; Gifford/Davis collection).

The original deeds forwarded to the compiler by Mr. Gifford and Cap-

tain Davis show other land purchased in the years following from John Gifford, Nathan Davis, Ebenezer Cannon, and others.

The Minutes of the Sandwich Friends Monthly Meeting refer to the Quaker disapproval of slavery (at a time when it was almost universally accepted), so that the following notation is interesting: "Then received of Benjamin Gifford, forty shillings in Cash of the old tenor, towards freeing my negro boy fortunatious sharper by name, att the age of thirty five years as witness my hand. John Hammond." It is dated 17 December 1745 (Gifford/Davis collection).

Original papers of this kind are rare. One reads "December the 11, 1746: Then received of Benjamin Gifford, collector . . . one pound, three shillings, ten pence for work done at the littel marsh. I say received by me, John Gifford." Another reads "March the 31, 1747. Then received of Beniamin Gifford, Collector, the sum of two pounds, seven shillings and six pence in old tenor for work that I and Beniamin Allen did at the little marsh. I say received by me. David Crowel."

Benjamin Gifford and Benjamin Parker, both of Falmouth, were chosen to arbitrate a controversy which had arisen between Silvanus Parker of Falmouth and James Hamblin, late of Falmouth "now resident in the bounds of Mashpe"; it is dated 2 November 1753 (Gifford/Davis collection).

The will of Benjamin Gifford of Falmouth, dated 28 March 1769, proved in 1788, gives

Unto my Loving Wife Hannah in lieu of her Dower . . . the use and improvement of one half of all my Estate and the improvement of one quarter Part of all my personal Estate . . . after my daughter Abigail has had what I shall hereafter give her [so long as Hannah remains his widow, otherwise £30 and the income from the real estate, provided she quits the real and personal estate] and one bed and furniture forever. . . . Unto my daughter Martha Gifford a good and Honourable support out of my real estate during her natural life, also one bed and furniture; and to be provided for by my son Prince Gifford what shall be needfull, both in sickness and in health . . . and in case my sd son should not provide for her what is sufficient in every respect . . . according to the true intent and meaning of this my Will, it shall then be in the power of the monthly meeting of Friends in Sandwich to make choice of two or more judicious men out of said meeting to judge and determine what shall be a sufficient support [they to be empowered to hire or lease so much of the real estate as might be necessary. But at her death to return to the son Prince]. Unto my daughter Abigail Nye three silver spoons and £240. . . . To my son Prince Gifford . . . all my real and personal estate [except for the provision for the daughter Martha].

He made his son Prince Gifford sole executor. The will was witnessed by John Wing, Abigail Wing, and John Allen (Barnstable County Probates, 5:405; see also 24:45, 340; 27:36).

A final document in the Gifford/Davis collection shows that Prince Gifford presented his father's will for probate 10 June 1788.

Child, by first wife, Martha Robinson:

- i. MARTHA⁵, b. ca. 1728; d., evidently unmar., after the date of her father's will.

Children, by second wife, Hannah Eldred:

98. ii. PRINCE, b. July 1746 (Falmouth Town Records).
- iii. ABIGAIL, b. ca. 1748; d. Sandwich 22 Apr. 1788, "ae. 40." (Sandwich Church Records); mar. 25 Feb. 1766 JOHN NYE (Falmouth Town Records), son of Benjamin⁴ Nye (*John³⁻², Benjamin¹*) and Mary (Swift) Nye (*Samuel⁴ Swift* and Ruth (Hatch) Swift), b. Falmouth 1 Nov. 1741. John Nye, by a quit claim to Prince Gifford, affirmed the £240 and the three silver spoons in full for the legacy given to Abigail Nye in her father's will. Children, surname *Nye*: 1. *Hannah*, b. 17 July 1769; mar. 20 Jan. 1791 Bethuel Bourne. 2. *Benjamin*, b. 12 June 1771. 3. *Reuben*, b. 6 July 1773; d. 18 Oct. 1804. 4. *Prince*, b. 12 Nov. 1775; mar. (1) Sarah Pease; (2) Fannie Fish. 5. *Warren*, b. 20 Jan. 1778; d. 20 May 1863; mar. (1) 16 Feb. 1800 Joanna Gibbs; (2) Hannah Gibbs. 6. *Ebenezer*, b. 29 Dec. 1781. 7. *John*, b. 10 Jan. 1784; d. 2 Oct. 1872; mar. 11 Feb. 1821 Lavinia⁶ Gifford (*Ebenezer⁵, Christopher⁴, Josiah³, John², William¹*). 8. *Moses*, b. 24 Mar. 1788; d. 10 Aug. 1788. The widower, John Nye, mar. (2) 19 Aug. 1798 Phebe (Gifford) Noble, dau. of Christopher⁴ Gifford (*Josiah³, John², William¹*) and widow of Jesse Noble.

40. JOHN⁴ GIFFORD (*Yelverton³, John², William¹*) was born circa 1728, and he died in East Greenwich, Rhode Island, 6 February 1760, "ae. 32" (James N. Arnold, *Vital Record of Rhode Island, 1636-1850* [Providence, R. I., 1891-1912], 1:118).

He married circa 1744/5, MARGARET. She was probably the daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Sheffield) Waight or Waite (Bates Collection, microfilm #5309, pt. 4, Latter Day Saints Library, Salt Lake City, Utah). However, some searchers claim that she was Margaret Sweet or Margaret Johnson, but no evidence to support the claim is furnished. Further research in East Greenwich probates and deeds is needed here.

The will of Yelverton Gifford names three grandsons, Peleg, John, and Josiah. As there seems to have been only the one son, John, who predeceased his father, these boys would appear to be the sons of John⁴.

Children, born at East Greenwich (Arnold, *R. I. Vital Record*, 1:118):

- i. WAIGHT⁵, b. 30 Dec. 1745; mar. 26 May 1763 GEORGE VAUGHN (*ibid.*).
99. ii. JOSIAH, b. 18 May 1748.
- iii. ELIZABETH, b. 28 July 1750; mar. 17 Dec. 1769 BENJAMIN TIBBETS (*ibid.*).
- iv. PELEG, b. 13 July 1753; mar. 27 Mar. 1774 SARAH PEARCE (*ibid.*). A Mrs. Sarah Gifford d. in Providence, R. I., in 1793