

WILLIAM¹ GIFFORD OF SANDWICH, MASS.

(D. 1687)

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105. BENJAMIN⁵ GIFFORD (*Samuel⁴, Josiah³, John², William¹*) was born in Sandwich on 6 September 1773. He was living on 24 April 1796, when named in his father's will.

We have only tradition for the life of Benjamin Gifford. It is alleged that he went to Newport or to New York City and became rich and that he returned to Sandwich to take his unmarried sister Marie from the Sandwich almshouse to live with his family in New York City. He is said to have had two sons and four daughters, one of whom married a merchant in Wall Street, David S. Miller. We have been unable to confirm or refute these traditions, and we hope that some reader may know of a Bible or other family records which will supply information on this man and his family.

106. ALDEN⁵ GIFFORD (*Samuel⁴, Josiah³, John², William¹*) was born in Sandwich, 10 July 1775 and died after the date of the 1830 census.

The wife whom he married about 1803 was named MARY or MERCY. She has not been identified. Perhaps he was disowned by the Friends Monthly Meeting as a result of this marriage, since his children were baptized in the Sandwich First Church. Mercy Gifford was admitted to membership 9 October 1808, and on 1 February 1809 "Nathan, Hope Hamblen and Samuel Jarvis, of Alden and Mercy Gifford" were baptized. Josiah "Jr." was baptized 13 April 1809; Hannah, 1 May 1811; and Alden, Jr., 7 July 1813.

The church records show that: "24 Sept. 1815—Alden Gifford and Mercy, his wife, were dismissed and recommended to the Church in Locke, New York" (see the original church record book in the Library at the Society).

The 1820 census shows Alden Gifford at Locke, Cayuga County, New York, head of a family of one male under 10, two between 10 and 16, one between 16 and 18, one female under 10, one under 16, one between 26 and 45 and one over 45. The family is listed again in 1830, as is the son Nathan and, perhaps, Josiah. By 1840 the family may have moved farther west.