

WILLIAM¹ GIFFORD OF SANDWICH, MASS.

(D. 1687)

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[Continued from 134:315]

130. ABIEL⁵ GIFFORD (*Peleg⁴, Jeremiah³, Robert², William¹*) was born 10 September 1741 and died at Cambridge, New York, 26 May 1824 "ae. 83y. 8 mo."

He married first (intentions at Dartmouth, 27 August 1759) JOANNA POTTER, daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth (Maxfield) Potter, who was born 15 December 1741 and died before 1810.

He married secondly, 1 March 1810, MARY (SISSON) WRIGHT, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Griggs) Sisson of Portsmouth, Rhode Island.

There are many Bristol County deeds in his name. In 1763 and 1765 he bought land in Dartmouth from Daniel Rogers and in 1774 his father, Peleg Gifford, conveyed more land to him (Bristol County Deeds 11:425, 426; 11:305, hereafter BRCD). By a deed of 13 August 1779 he sold for £87 10s. paid by his cousin Gideon Gifford, both called "yeoman" of Dartmouth, a fifteen-acre parcel of Dartmouth land, bounded by land of Elizabeth Gifford, Prince Potter et al., signed Abiel Gifford, Joanna Gifford (BRCD, 11:289). On 3 March 1787, Abiel Gifford of Dartmouth sold a four-acre parcel of Dartmouth land for £3 to Lemuel Mosher of Dartmouth, house carpenter. The land was bounded by Mosher's own land, land of Daniel Whalon, and Tucker's swamp. Abiel Gifford acknowledged the instrument 28 February 1792; it was recorded 12 October 1802 (BRCD, 16:143). Chilion Wood, who in March 1792 married Abiel's daughter Lillis Gifford, witnessed the deed. The buyer, Lemuel Mosher, was the husband of Abiel's sister Ruth Gifford.

A deed of 23 May 1789 shows Abiel Gifford conveying for £204 to his brother Peleg Gifford, Jr., a fifty-seven-acre farm which the grantor had bought from Benjamin Slocum. Abiel and his wife Joanna signed; his brother Caleb was a witness. It was acknowledged 23 November 1789 but not recorded until 23 October 1792 (BRCD, 12:600).

Abiel Gifford is listed at Dartmouth in the 1790 census with a family of four males over 16, two under 16, and three females. However, he was preparing to depart for a new home in New York State as were his parents and brother Peleg. The two following deeds confirm this: by deed

of 23 November 1791 Abiel Gifford for £606 paid by Stephen Buffinton of Dartmouth conveyed "all my homestead farm, Situate in sd Dartmouth . . . 139 acres, adjoining on ye westerly side of ye highway by William Sanford's to Smith Mills . . . bounded by William Barker, Junr . . . ye northeast corner of Peleg Gifford's (Junr) land . . . southerly as ye river runs to ye place where Peleg Gifford Junr's line comes into ye sd river." Joanna Gifford released her dower rights. The deed was witnessed by William Sanford and William Barker, Jr., acknowledged 24 November 1791, and recorded 6 December 1791 (BRCD, 12:460). A final deed dated 21 January 1792 gave to Josuha Howland for £271 7s. more land in Dartmouth, his wife Joanna again quitting her dower rights (BRCD, 13:221).

The Friends Monthly Meeting records of Easton, New York, show a removal certificate for Abiel Gifford of Dartmouth, with his wife Joanna and children Levi, Gilbert, Jeremiah, Abiel, Jr., and Joanna. They settled at nearby Cambridge. On 13 January 1798, Abiel Gifford was recommended as a minister of the Society of Friends, Easton Monthly Meeting.

Abiel Gifford and Joanna, his wife, of Cambridge, Washington County, New York, sold on 24 January 1803, for \$795.10 to Cornelius Haswell of the same place, lot No. 2 on the north side of the Hoosic patent in Cambridge, Washington County, New York, the deed witnessed by Samuel Cook and James Devol. A deed of 24 January 1809 conveys to his son Jeremiah of Cambridge for two dollars a parcel of Cambridge land bounded by "a corner of the dwelling house built by John Gifford and now occupied by Abiel Gifford, Jr." (Washington County Deed Book H; Book R, 346).

The will of Abiel Gifford of Cambridge, dated 21 May and proved 11 June 1824, gives: "To my wife Mary a farm on the north side of the road, whatever milk cow she chooses and all my household goods, except those that belonged to my former wife. To my son John Gifford, all my wearing apparel. To my son Jeremiah Gifford, all my Estate on the North side of the road when my widow shall have relinquished her right" [and Jeremiah to give to the widow five dollars a year, ten bushels of corn, sufficient firewood, etc.]. He then gives to the son Jeremiah the rest of the real estate and "all my books and notes. To my son Abiel my silver watch. To my daughter Lillis Wood one half of my real estate on the south side of the road and East of the road running to Hoosick River. To my grandson Abraham Gifford, son of my son Abiel, the other half of my Real Estate on the south side of the road." He named Adam Allen, Gideon Gifford and Henry Kirby executors. The will was witnessed by Gideon and Isaac Gifford and Abraham Harrington (Washington Co., N. Y., Surrogates Records, 5:269).

Children recorded in Dartmouth:

- i. LEVI⁶, b. 28 Feb. 1761; d.s.p. 3 Jan. 1815.

- ii. LILLIS, b. 27 July 1763; m. 20 Mar. 1792 CHILION WOOD, son of Josiah and Hannah Wood of Ballston, Saratoga Co., N. Y. (*Vital Records of Dartmouth Massachusetts* . . . [Boston, 1929], hereafter *DAVR*). She was living 14 Mar. 1826 when she and her husband sold to her brother Jeremiah Gifford for one dollar "all the one-eighth interest to all the piece of land in the town of Cambridge which our father Abiel Gifford of the sd town died seized of, which he by his Last Will gave to sd Jeremiah Gifford" (Washington Co., N. Y., Deeds, T:119). No further record.
- iii. GILBERT, b. 7 Jan. 1766; d.s.p. 1810.
- iv. JOHN, b. 12 June 1768; m. int. Dartmouth, 21 Aug. 1791 RHODA SANFORD, b. 23 Nov. 1770. She is called "Rhoda Gifford" in the will of her father John Sanford. Her brother John Sanford was the first husband of Thankful Hammond who m. (2) Elihu Gifford. She was admitted 13 Oct. 1796 as a member of the Easton Friends Monthly Meeting. The latter meeting preserves a removal certificate dated 20 Feb. 1797 for John Gifford from the Dartmouth (Mass.) to the Saratoga Monthly Meeting. They had at least one son and two daughters.
- v. JEREMIAH, b. 1 Sept. 1774; d. testate, Busti, Chatauqua Co., N. Y., 6 Feb. 1854; m. (1) Jan. 1796 DEBORAH TALLMAN; (2) Aug. 1832 MERCY ALLEN. His will names wife Mercy, sons William, Henry, John; dau. Reliance DeForce and 9 grandchildren. Jeremiah had 9 children.
- vi. JOANNA (twin), b. 22 June 1777; d. 25 May 1802 "ae. 25," Busti, N. Y.
- vii. ABIEL (twin), b. 22 June 1777; d. 26 Apr. 1843, Cambridge, N. Y.; m. ca. 1804 LYDIA BUTTS. They had 8 children.

131. ELIHU⁵ GIFFORD (*Peleg*¹, *Jeremiah*³, *Robert*², *William*¹) was born 9 October 1747 and died 7 April 1831 "ae. 84 yr. 6 m. 2d." (*DAVR*).

He married 8 September 1768 ABIGAIL CHASE, daughter of Isaac and Parnel (Spooner) Chase, who was born 22 November 1746 (or 3 December 1746, N.S.) and died 10 October 1812 "ae. 66 yr. 23 d." (*DAVR*). An indenture dated 9 August 1777 between Elihu Gifford and Abigail, his wife, of Dartmouth on the one part and John Akin, 2nd, of Dartmouth, trader, and Meribah his wife, on the other refers to Dartmouth land which "did belong to Isaac Chase of Dartmouth, dec'd and then descended to ye above Abigail and Meribah, daughters of sd Isaac Chase, equally." All signed; recorded 19 March 1778 (BRCD, 58:174).

By deed 3 March 1781 Elihu Gifford and Abigail his wife sold a Dartmouth lot to Joseph Barker (BRCD, 276). On 8 February 1782 Elihu Gifford (now called "gentleman") and Abigail, his wife, of Dartmouth sold their homestead farm for £225 to Ephraim Tripp (*ibid.*, 10:371).

Elihu Gifford appears in the 1790 census as head of a family at Dartmouth with three males over 16, five under 16, and four females.