

WILLIAM¹ GIFFORD OF SANDWICH, MASS.
(D. 1687)

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Edited by Anne Borden Harding

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138. WILLIAM⁵ GIFFORD (*Hananiah¹, Stephen³, Robert², William¹*) was born, probably at Freetown, Massachusetts, about 1734 and died at Tiverton, Rhode Island, after 1810.

He married at Tiverton, 26 April 1767 PRISCILLA LAWTON "of Freetown" (James N. Arnold, *Vital Record of Rhode Island*, Vol. 4 [Providence, 1893], hereafter Tiverton Vital Records). She has not been identified.

The 1790 census lists a William Gifford at Tiverton with a family of four males over 16, five under 16, and five females. If this is the subject William Gifford, he may have had in his household in 1790 the two fatherless sons and the widow of his deceased brother Stephen Gifford. The 1800 census shows William Gifford with a household of two males between 10 and 16, two between 16 and 26, and two over 45, and one female under 10, one between 10 and 16, one between 16 and 26, and one between 26 and 45. Possibly his father was then living with him. His putative son Daniel appears also in this census. In the 1810 census we find William Gifford with a Tiverton family of one male between 16 and 26, one over 45, one female between 16 and 26, and one between 26 and 45. A thorough search of Tiverton probates, deeds, and Friends' records is needed here.

The only clue we have to the names of children of this man comes from Eli Wodell in his *The Wodell Family* (1880). It is stated without references that William Gifford had ten children. This would be in harmony with the few records we can find—mainly the Tiverton census records.

Children (a tentative list based on Wodell):

- i. DANIEL⁶, b. ca. 1768.
- ii. DAVID, b. ca. 1770.
- iii. SARAH, b. ca. 1772.
- iv. SAMUEL, b. ca. 1774; m. 20 Oct. 1808 by the Rev. Joseph Borden
ELEANOR STILLWELL, "dau. Joseph" (Tiverton Vital Records).
- v. A DAU., b. ca. 1776.
- vi. ROYAL, b. ca. 1778.
- vii. LUCY, b. ca. 1780.

- viii. STEPHEN, b. ca. 1782.
- ix. A DAU., b. ca. 1786; m. ? ——— PHILLIPS.
- x. ELIZABETH, b. ca. 1789; m. at Dartmouth, 24 Sept. 1812
CULBERT BOOTH.

139. STEPHEN⁵ GIFFORD (*Hananiah⁴, Stephen³, Robert², William¹*) was born perhaps at Freetown, about 1738, and died before 4 January 1784, the date of his father's will.

The Tiverton Vital Records shows the marriage of a Stephen Gifford "of Awakiah" August 1775 to PHEBE COOK "of John" by Walter Cook, justice. Unless Awakiah was a local place-name this suggests that Stephen Gifford's father's name was misunderstood by the clerk. Or perhaps the writing was too bad to be deciphered. To support this hypothesis we had correspondence with the late Bertha W. Clark some years ago in which she noted that the Tiverton Probates show that the Town Council, 5 December 1791, appointed Ananias Gifford administrator "of the estate of Jonathan Gifford, his grandson and son of his son Stephen, dec'd." We have not seen the original entry but Miss Clark was a careful searcher and very familiar with the original records of that area. Although the will of Ananias Gifford names only two grandsons, Joseph and Silas, we suggest the possibility that these two were minors and that an older brother, or half brother, Jonathan, had received his share of his deceased father's estate before 1784.

The records show that Stephen⁵ Gifford was survived by a widow Rebecca who may or may not have been a second wife.

Children, known from their grandfather's will:

- i. JONATHAN⁶, d. intestate and probably *s.p.* before 5 Dec. 1791.
- ii. JOSEPH, living 4 Jan. 1784 when named in his grandfather's will.
- iii. SILAS, living in 1784 when named in his grandfather's will. We believe that this is the Silas Gifford shown as Henry E. Gifford's Branch No. 12 (Gifford, *Gifford Genealogy* [1896], 78, hereafter HEG). HEG shows four children: Nancy, Paul, Warren, and Ruby, b. 10 Mar. 1807, d. 1819. He found neither the name of a wife nor date of a marriage. The *Vital Records of Dartmouth, Massachusetts . . .* ([Boston, 1929-1930], hereafter *DAVR*) show Silas Gifford "of Tiverton, R. I." m. 13 Dec. 1795 RUBY SHERMAN "of Dartmouth." Also, children born to Silas and Ruby: 1. *William*, b. Feb. 1798. 2. *Nancy*, b. 12 Dec. 1800; m. (int. 17 June 1819) Isaac H. Gibbs. 3. *Amy*, b. 2 Dec. 1802. 4. *Warren*, b. 22 Dec. 1804. 5. *Ruby*, b. 10 Mar. 1807; d. 1819 (per HEG—death not found in *DAVR*). HEG adds 6. *Paul*, m. Jane Davis Ryder and notes that "three children of Silas Gifford d. young." HEG shows his Branch No. 13 Ananias Gifford "lived No. Wpt." and had 5 children: Benjamin, Recompense, Abigail, May, and Kezia. It is possible that Ananias was another son of Stephen⁵ Gifford but we believe not.