

140. JOHN⁵ GIFFORD (*Benjamin⁴, Stephen³, Robert², William¹*) was born probably at Freetown, 28 August 1754 and died at Fall River, 30 September 1835.

He married at Freetown, 13 November 1774 RUTH LUTHER "of Swansea" (Freetown Town Records), born 6 August 1754.

Eli Wodell in his *Wodell Family* says that this John Gifford "was a blacksmith and lived all his life near Indian Town." But probably he was born and lived in that part of Freetown that in 1803 was set off as the new town of Fall River.

The 1790 census lists him as John Gifford "2d" of Westport with a family of one male over 16, five under 16, and five females. In 1800 he is again listed at Westport with a family of two males under 10, one between 10 and 16, one between 16 and 26, and one over 45; one female under 10, one between 16 and 26, and one 45 and up. He is called "blacksmith" and two of his sons—Warren and Luther—are listed and so identified. (HEG Branch No. 8, 65).

Children, recorded in Westport to "John, s.o. Benjamin":

- i. WARREN⁶, b. 29 July 1775; m. (1) int. 21 Nov. 1799 COMFORT MACOMBER "of Tiverton" (*Vital Records of Westport, Massachusetts . . .* [Boston, 1918], hereafter *WEVR*); m. (2) 20 Sept. 1832 HANNAH PETTY (Dartmouth Town Records).
- ii. WESTON, b. 12 Oct. 1776; d.y.
- iii. LUTHER, b. 17 Aug. 1778; d. in New Bedford Oct. 1859; m. (1) 8 Sept. 1799 RUTH MANCHESTER (*WEVR*); m. (2) int. 22 Feb. 1828 at Westport EDITH (TABER) ELDRIDGE of Tiverton, widow of Dr. Micah Eldridge. "Ten children" (HEG).
- iv. ANNIE, b. 3 Apr. 1780; m. 6 Jan. 1807 MARTIN BESSE (*DAVR*).
- v. LYDIA, b. 24 Oct. 1781; m. at Westport, 23 Dec. 1802 JOHN MANCHESTER.
- vi. PELEG, b. 17 Sept. 1783; m. at Dartmouth, 10 Dec. 1807 PHEBE BROWNELL, dau. of Benjamin and Abigail Brownell, b. 7 Jan. 1785.
- vii. LEVI, b. 15 June 1785; m. at Dartmouth, 26 Oct. 1809 PRUDENCE BROWNELL, sister of his brother Peleg's wife.
- viii. ISAAC, b. 15 Jan. 1787; m. at Westport, 15 Jan. 1809 EDITH SHERMAN, "dau. Gideon, dec'd." "Ten children" (HEG).
- ix. MARIA, b. 2 Sept. 1788.
- x. MARY, b. 2 July 1790; m. at Westport, 21 Nov. 1805 EDWARD RIDER of Dartmouth. She is called "dau. of John."
- xi. A CHILD, b. and d. 19 Jan. 1792.
- xii. LUCRETIA, b. 10 May 1793.
- xiii. BENJAMIN, b. 3 Dec. 1795.
- xiv. WESTON, b. 21 May 1796; d. 1873; m. at Dartmouth, 2 Dec. 1819 SARAH WODELL of Westport. He is called "of Troy" (i.e., Fall River, 1804-1834).

141. NATHANIEL⁵ GIFFORD (*Benjamin⁴, Stephen³, Robert², William¹*)

was born about 1757 and died probably at North Westport between 1803 and 1818. We have found no probate for this man.

He married at Dartmouth, 18 December 1783 DESIRE MITCHELL, daughter of Hallett and Ruth (Winslow) Mitchell of Dartmouth, who was born 30 July 1760 and died between 9 December 1793 and 1803 (when she did not quitclaim her husband's deed). This date appears also in Stephen M. Andrews's *A Sketch of Elder Daniel Hix With the History of the First Christian Church of Dartmouth* (New Bedford, Mass., 1880). Members of this family group attended this church.

Eli Wodell in his *Wodell Family* notes that Nathaniel Gifford carried on his business of blacksmithing in North Westport. In 1787 Nathaniel Gifford bought a homestead in North Westport. In 1789 he sold land there, his wife Desire releasing her dower rights. In 1803 he sold his homestead, but his wife did not sign a release.

The 1790 census shows Nathaniel Gifford in Westport with a family of one male over 16, two under 16, and two females.

Children, recorded in Westport:

- i. JONATHAN⁶, b. 27 Aug. 1784; d. at Fairhaven, 12 Apr. 1872. His death certificate gives his father's birthplace as Fall River (then Freetown). This seems to be HEG's Branch No. 14 where he is given 6 children and descendants in Puerto Rico.
- ii. HALLETT, b. 15 May 1786; d. at New Bedford, 15 May 1869; m. at Dartmouth, 14 Dec. 1806 DINAH MAXFIELD "both of New Bedford." Issue.
- iii. RUTH MITCHELL, b. 7 June 1789; m. at Dartmouth, 25 June 1815 NOAH MASON WOOD "of Swanzey."
- iv. MARY, b. 9 Dec. 1793; not further traced.

142. JAMES⁵ GIFFORD (*Benjamin⁴, Stephen³, Robert², William¹*) was born at Freetown, 1 June 1759 and died intestate shortly before 5 March 1839, when his estate was administered by his only son, George.

He married at Dartmouth, 19 October 1783 ELIZABETH CHASE.

"Jeams" Gifford was baptized by Elder Daniel Hix of the Baptist First Church of Dartmouth, 6 May 1781 (S. M. Andrews, *A Sketch of Elder Daniel Hix*). In 1783 Elder Hix noted that "bro. Jeams Gifford gave one day's work, and soon after 8 pounds of sugar." Also, that Gifford was elected deacon of the church 5 October 1782 and resigned 3 July 1784.

James Gifford of Dartmouth, laborer, bought for £131 2s from David Bullock of Dartmouth, tanner, 24 April 1787, a tract of land in North Dartmouth, lying by the Sawmill River, containing sixty-four acres (Bristol County Deeds, 11:479, hereafter BRCD). By a deed of 27 January 1792 James Gifford conveyed for £40 to Benjamin and Thomas Baker of Dartmouth a portion of that tract bought from Bullock. A deed recorded 1796 shows that one George Gifford and wife sold land to James Gifford, and we suspect that this was James Gifford's brother