

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

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[Continued from volume 135, page 321]

159. DANIEL⁵ GIFFORD (*Elijah⁴, Enos³, Christopher², William¹*) was born at Westport, Massachusetts, 17 June 1775 and died there, 9 October 1849 (*Vital Records of Westport, Massachusetts* [Boston, 1918], 47, 273).

He married (int. at Westport, 27 March 1801) ABIGAIL WILCOX, daughter of William and Meribah (Tucker) Wilcox, who was born 12 May 1780 and died after July 1844 and before 9 October 1849.

The will of Elijah⁴ Gifford, dated 25 December 1805, gives: "Unto my well beloved son Daniel Gifford all the remaining part of my homestead Farm where I now live and salt meadows on Crooked Creek and all my farming tools and utensils." Daniel and his older brother Wilbor were appointed co-executors (see *Register*, 131 [1977]: 294). A deed recorded in 1810 shows that Daniel Gifford quitclaimed his rights in the property of his brothers which came to them under his father's will. On 7 February 1809 Daniel Gifford and his wife Abigail, in her right, together with his brother Ephraim, who had married Susanna Wilcox, sister of Abigail, and the other children of William Wilcox, deceased, signed a deed.

The will of Daniel Gifford of Westport, yeoman, executed in August 1844 and proved 4 December 1849, bequeaths: "To my beloved wife Abigail Gifford . . . To my two sons, Joshua W. Gifford and William Gifford, all the residue of my estate." He names his sons co-executors (Bristol County, Massachusetts, Probate Records, 94:321). The will clearly shows that at that date he had only two living children. We believe that the Sarah given him by Harry E. Gifford in the *Gifford Genealogy* (Wollaston, Mass., 1890) and Daniel listed, without references, in *Wildbores in America* (John Reid Wilbor and Benjamin Franklin Wilbour, compilers, Baltimore, 1933-) belong elsewhere.

Children:

- i. JOSHUA W.⁶, b. at Dartmouth, 14 Sept. 1806; d. 15 April 1863; m. (int. at Dartmouth, 6 March 1830) CATHERINE WING.
- ii. WILLIAM, b. 18 July 1813; d. 8 March 1867; m. HANNAH GIFFORD, b. 31 July 1818, d. 6 March 1869 "w. of William" (*Westport VRs*, 48).

160. HERCULES⁵ GIFFORD (*Canaan⁴, Enos³, Christopher², William¹*) was born 9 January 1752 and died at Williamson, Ontario Co., N.Y., in 1810.

He married first, 17 October 1773, LYDIA PAINE of Tiverton. He is called "of Freetown," and the Freetown records show the intention 19 June 1773. Lydia died before 1782.

He married secondly, probably at Freetown, 8 April 1782, JENNIE STAFFORD, called "Jane of Tiverton" in the Freetown Records.

By a deed of 10 October 1788 "Hercules Gifford of Freetown, yeoman, and Jane Gifford, his wife," for £129 paid by Noah and Canaan Gifford of Little Compton, R.I., conveyed "all rights to the Real Estate my Father Canaan Gifford, late of Little Compton, died seized of, lying in sd Little Compton, and part in Westport and part in Dartmouth." It is signed by Hercules and Jane Gifford and recorded 3 December 1788 (Bristol County, Massachusetts, Deeds, 12:64). This sale was evidently made in preparation for his removal to New York State as we find a deed dated 23 June 1789 by which Hercules Gifford of the District of Cambridge, Washington Co., New York, purchased for £380 from Thomas Beadle of Eastern District, Lot 78 of the Grand Division of the Township of Cambridge. Humphrey and Batchelor Sherman were the witnesses (recorded 25 Sept. 1800, Washington County, N.Y., Land Records, E:26).

The 1790 Census lists Hercules Gifford as head of a Cambridge family of two males over 16, one under 16, and four females. Cambridge was then in Albany County but on 7 February 1791 the towns of Easton and Cambridge were annexed to Washington County. In 1800 Hercules Gifford was in Cambridge with one male between 16 and 26 and one over 45, one female between 16 and 26 and one 45 and up.

By deed, on 12 August 1800, "Hercules Gifford of Cambridge, yeoman, Gentleman," sold for \$400 to Mahaliel Gifford, yeoman, of the same place, land in Cambridge, part of Lot #78. The transaction was witnessed by Robert and Rathbun Miller (recorded 25 Sept. 1800, Washington County Land Records, E:28). On 2 February 1805 one Hercules Gifford, blacksmith, of the town of Williamson, Ontario County, conveyed to Pardon Butts of Cambridge, for \$2100, part of Lot #78 in Cambridge. This raises an interesting genealogical point. Since we know that Hercules⁵ Gifford had been the owner of Lot #78, and since H. E. Gifford notes on page 20 that Hercules Gifford had a daughter Lydia who married Pardon Butts, there can be no doubt that the 1805 grantor, Hercules Gifford of Williamson, was selling family land. But the deed describes him as "blacksmith." The earlier deeds call him "yeoman" and "Gentleman." We suggest the possibility that the blacksmith, Hercules Gifford, may have been a son. The 1790 Census suggests that Hercules⁵ Gifford had two sons and three daughters. We suspect that one of the sons was Mahaliel Gifford who bought land in 1800. The 1800 Census lists the following Cambridge men consecutively: Jeremiah Perry, Hercules Gifford, Pardon Butts, Tiler Stafford, and Charles Almery. There is evidence that Pardon Butts was a son-in-law. Further search may show that Perry, Stafford, or Almery may have married daughters of Hercules⁵ Gifford. Most of the early Ontario County surrogates records

were destroyed by fire, and we find no deed records for Giffords in Ontario County during this early period. There remains a brief surrogate's note, showing that Harcules [*sic*] Gifford "late of Williamson, Ontario Co." was deceased, and the court appointed John Shearman, a friend, administrator. The town of Williamson, set off from Sodus in 1802, was included in 1823 in the new county of Wayne, which was formed from parts of Ontario and Seneca counties. Search there and in Friends' and other records is needed to fill in this picture.

Children (no birth records found, and no proof that they are correctly placed here):

- i. LYDIA⁶, b. probably to the first wife, Lydia Paine. H. E. Gifford did not find the record of the second marriage of Hercules Gifford, but notes that this Lydia m. PARDON BUTTS.
- ? ii. MAHALIEL, b. perhaps ca. 1775. (If he is the son 16 years or over in 1790.)
- ? iii. A SON, b. perhaps between 1780-82.
- ? iv. A DAU., b. perhaps about 1784.
- ? v. A DAU.

161. NOAH⁵ GIFFORD (*Canaan⁴, Enos³, Christopher², William¹*) was born 8 February 1758 and died at Westport, 2 November 1835 (*Westport VRs*, 50, 274).

He married at Dartmouth, 20 June 1797, MARTHA HATHAWAY, daughter of Nathaniel (*Antipas², Thomas³, Arthur²⁻¹*) and Elizabeth (Pearce) Hathaway and granddaughter of Clothier and Lydia (Hersey) Pearce (Elizabeth Starr Versailles, *Hathaways of America* [Northampton, Mass., 1970], 782). Martha was born 11 October 1771 and died in April 1863. In the Dartmouth Records at the time of his marriage he is called "of Little Compton, Newport Co., R.I., s. Canaan & Abigail".

We have not seen the deeds in his name recorded at Little Compton, but he owned land in Westport. The latter's records show that by a deed of 1786 he and his half-brother, Canaan Gifford, received from their brother Gideon land that formerly had belonged to their father. A similar deed from another brother, Hercules Gifford of Freetown, conveyed land to Noah and Canaan Gifford. Other deeds show that in 1788 Noah and Canaan Gifford exchanged land in Westport with their cousin Elijah Gifford. In 1787 they received more land from the estate of Zachariah Dyer (Bristol Deeds, 12:62, 63, 64, 65, 66).

The 1790 Census lists Noah Gifford at Little Compton with a family of two males over 16, one under 16, and two females.

By a deed of 1799 Noah Gifford and his wife Martha deeded Westport land to Daniel Wood and in 1801 they deeded more land there to Ebenezer Holmes (Bristol Deeds, 16:422; 17:20).

The will of Noah Gifford of Little Compton, dated 14 June 1834, proved 14 December 1838, gives to: "My wife Martha" while she remains his widow all real estate west of the highway, except swamp, orchard and