

inventory, dated 14 August 1761, was presented by Joseph Robinson, David Butler, and Theodore Morse. The widow is mentioned, although not by name (Barnstable County Probates, 10:92; 12:189, 322).

Children recorded in Falmouth Town Records, 1:235:

52. i. WILLIAM<sup>4</sup>, b. 12 Nov. 1739.
- ii. FEAR, b. 25 Nov. 1741; mar. 27 Dec. 1759 JEDUTHAN HAMMOND (*ibid.*, 2:9), son of John<sup>4</sup> Hammond (*Samuel*<sup>3</sup>, *Benjamin*<sup>2</sup>, *John*<sup>1</sup>) and Maria (Green), b. 25 Dec. 1737.
- iii. ROSE, b. 25 Feb. 1745; mar. 9 Jan. 1766 DANIEL PABODY (*ibid.*, 2:11).
- iv. JUSTICE, b. 23 Apr. 1747; d. in March 1800 (Falmouth Town Records, 2:268); mar. 5 Oct. 1769 ANNA HOWLAND (*ibid.*), d. 7 June 1803, "widow Ann Gifford" (*ibid.*, 2:186). Although we have found no birth records for his children, we think he had at least one son, because we find Justus "Gilford" listed at Falmouth in the 1790 census as head of a family of one male over 16, one under 16, and five females. Neither Justice nor his wife appears in the 1800 census, and neither left a will. He served from 4 July 1775 to 31 December 1775 in Capt. John Grannis's company. He is credited with other services until discharged at Falmouth 16 Nov. 1779. He was stationed at the Elizabeth Islands in 1776 and the next year at Naushon. We hope that search in that area might turn up further data.
- v. GRACE, b. 18 Apr. 1749; mar. 31 Dec. 1767 MORDECAI GIFFORD (*ibid.*, 2:18), son of Melatiah<sup>3</sup> Gifford (see below).

23. MELATIAH<sup>3</sup> GIFFORD (*William*<sup>2-1</sup>) was born at Falmouth 4 May 1719, and he died there in 1783.

He married first at Falmouth 10 February 1737/8, HANNAH CLAGHORN (Town Records, 1:236). This marriage does not appear in the Friends Monthly Meeting records. Although we have done extensive research on the Claghorn family, we cannot identify Hannah. She was born perhaps about 1720 and died before December 1743.

He married secondly, at Sandwich, 7 December 1743, SARAH BOWERMAN (Sandwich Friends Monthly Meeting records, vol. 1, "Births, Marriages & Deaths 1646-1761" [*sic*], p. 165), daughter of Thomas<sup>3</sup> Bowerman and Jane (Clifton) Bowerman, born at Falmouth 27 June 1724 and died there 28 February 1802. This marriage is not included in the Falmouth records, but the marriage was duly entered and witnessed at the time of the event in the Friends records. The original book may be seen at the Rhode Island Historical Society Library, Hope Street, Providence, R. I. Through her mother, Sarah Gifford's descendants trace their lineage to Elder William Brewster of the *Mayflower*.

Although the will of William<sup>2</sup> Gifford, dated 25 February 1737, gives this minor son, Melatiah, only five shillings, it is probable that he received his share of the estate, perhaps through a prenuptial agreement (which has not survived) made at the time of his parents' marriage. He is named in the release of a bond dated 9 August 1743 (see above).

An original deed, dated 28 December 1756, shows that Melatiah Gifford

conveyed to his brother Silas Gifford a lot of Falmouth land, described as "all the first lott in the New Purchase . . . bounded Northerly by Sandwich line; easterly by the Indian Land and Southerly by the second Lot." Witnesses: Roland Robinson, Joseph Bourn; acknowledged the same day and recorded 27 December 1757 in Vol. 25, p. 180, by Solomon Otis, Register (from a copy supplied by Mr. Gifford and Capt. Davis).

An unusual deed, because it is undated and not witnessed but signed in the same hand as the others, conveys to his son James for love, good will and fatherly affection "a certain tract or peace of land with a part of a swamp jining thereto in Falmouth . . . about three acres" (*ibid.*).

The next document is the only one of its kind that has come to our attention. It is an original will of Melatiah Gifford, dated 18 May 1772. In it he gives "to my beloved wife Sarah in stead of her lawful Dowry, the improvement of the one Third Part of my Real Estate during her natural life. And I give her all my in Doors moveables or Household Stuff and one cow and ten sheep and a pig, to be for her use and other disposal. I give to my son Jabez, the one third of all my lands and meadows with one half of my Dwelling House . . . to my son Mordecai the one third of all my Lands and meadows and to have the house in which he dwells . . . to my son George the one third of all my Lands and Meadows and one half my Dwelling House . . . to my daughter Lydia thirteen pounds six shillings and eight pence . . . to my daughter Elizabeth, thirteen pounds, six shillings and eight pence in two years after my decease . . . to my three sons before named, all my live stock, farming tools and all other my Estate (if any there shall be), to be divided equally between them." He names as executors his two sons, Jabez and Mordecai. His signature, as always, is spelled with one "f" (Giford). What makes this so rare is that he left a later will, which was the one recorded in the court house. It is dated 12 July 1779 and proved in 1783. In this "Last Will" the bequests are nearly the same as in the earlier except that now he gives his wife the dwelling house "except for the northwest room" which is willed to the son Jabez. George, having by now established a home of his own, is given "the dwelling house he now lives in." The bequests to the two daughters, still called only by their given names, are reduced to £5 each (Barnstable County Probates, 21:203).

By an instrument dated 11 February 1784 Sarah Gifford, widow, constituted Prince Gifford, her daughter Elizabeth's husband, her attorney to act for her in all things concerning the settlement of her late husband's estate and in negotiations with her sons, Jabez and Mordecai, the executors of their father's will (from information from Mr. Gifford and Capt. Davis). On 14 October 1785 Daniel Davis, judge of probate, by warrant set off to Sarah Gifford one third of Melatiah Gifford's real estate, the dwelling house excepting the northerly front room, a house lot, a pear tree by the house, and the two aftermost rows of apple trees in the orchard (*ibid.*).

By a quit claim, dated 21 May 1788, Jabez Gifford of Falmouth renounced any further claim on the estate to Mordecai and George Gifford, as executors of the will (Barnstable County Deeds, 40:231; copy from Mr. Gifford and Capt. Davis).

Apparently, Mordecai Gifford was dilatory in his duties as executor. By January 1803, two months before his death, Jabez Gifford had turned over the control of his estate to his relative, Prince Gifford, and in a document of 1 February 1803 the latter, as assignee to Jabez Gifford, filed a complaint against Mordecai Gifford, stating that the said Mordecai had obtained letters testamentary to the will of Melatiah Gifford in March 1783, but had neglected to sell part of the property to pay debts, nor filed an accounting. The court was petitioned to force Mordecai to settle the estate. Action was taken by the sheriff of Barnstable County, who summoned Mordecai to appear at Court, 1 February 1803 (original data from Mr. Gifford and Capt. Davis).

Children. The birth of only one child, the daughter Elizabeth, is recorded. From other data here given we venture the deduction that the daughter Lydia was the child of the first wife, Hannah Claghorn. It is probable that the others were by the second wife, Sarah Bowerman.

- i. LYDIA<sup>4</sup>, b. about 1738/9; d. after 12 July 1779 when named in her father's will; mar. 25 July 1759 SILAS BOWERMAN (Falmouth Town Records), son of Thomas<sup>3</sup> Bowerman and Jane (Clifton) Bowerman, and brother of Melatiah Gifford's second wife, Sarah, b. 27 July 1730. Conclusive proof is yet to be found that this is the Lydia Gifford who mar. Silas Bowerman. Her father's will refers to both daughters only by their given names, yet there is proof that the second daughter, Elizabeth, was married at the date of the will.
- ii. JABEZ, b. perhaps about 1741, but possibly after 1743; d. intestate at Falmouth 14 Mar. 1803; unmar. He remained at home, evidently superintending the farm and caring for his mother after his father's death. He gave his entire estate to Prince<sup>5</sup> Gifford (see below).
- iii. ELIZABETH, b. 1 Aug. 1744; d. 27 Sept. 1816; mar. 27 Nov. 1766 PRINCE<sup>5</sup> GIFFORD, son of Benjamin<sup>4</sup> Gifford (see below).
53. iv. MORDECAI, b. perhaps about 1746.
54. v. GEORGE, b. 1748 (from age at death).

24. JOSEPH<sup>3</sup> GIFFORD (*William*<sup>2-1</sup>) was born 28 July 1728, and he died, intestate, at Falmouth, 30 April 1775 (H. H. Smythe, "Inscriptions in the Old Burying Ground," 1903-1904, *Falmouth Enterprise*). He lies beside his wife, Zerviah.

He married at Falmouth 19 December 1761, ZERVIAH ROBINSON (Town Records, 2:10), daughter of Joseph<sup>4</sup> Robinson (*Joseph*<sup>3</sup>, *John*<sup>2</sup>, *Isaac*<sup>1</sup>) and Hannah (Rider) Robinson, bapt. 13 June 1742 (Falmouth 1st Church Records), died 11 May 1772 "in her 37th yr." (Smythe, "Inscriptions in Burying Ground," *Fal. Enterprise*).

Joseph Gifford was the youngest of the seventeen children of William<sup>2</sup> Gifford. His father's will gives him only five shillings, but as with the other small children, evidently some other arrangement was made so that he would have his portion. The court appointed Ebenezer Hatch, Jr., "guardian unto Joseph Gifford, a minor aged about 14 years, son to William Gifford, late of Sandwich, deceased" (19 May 1742—Barnstable County Probates, 6:151-152).

An original deed, dated 10 December 1760, shows that Joseph Gifford of