

- viii. MARTHA [MATTY, PATTY], bapt. 14 Aug. 1781. She may have been the Martha Gifford who mar. (int. 3 May 1812) EPHRAIM PIERCE ("both of Falmouth"; see Falmouth Town Records). The church record shows Matty Gifford, dau. of William and Molly, bapt. "at a lecture at the home of William and Molly Gifford on Pesk, one of the Elizabeth Island."

53. MORDECAI⁴ GIFFORD (*Melatiah*³, *William*²⁻¹) was born about 1746, and he died at Falmouth in 1805.

He married, 31 December 1767, GRACE GIFFORD (Falmouth Town Records, 2:18), daughter of Silas³ Gifford (*William*²⁻¹), born 18 April 1749. They were first cousins.

In his will Melatiah Gifford gave to this son the house in which he was then living, 12 July 1779, and one third of his Falmouth land.

By a deed of 14 March 1785, Jabez Gifford, Mordecai Gifford, and George Gifford sold to Prince Gifford a tract of land with three dwelling houses, a barn, and a joiner's shop for £360 (Barnstable County Deeds, 39:137). As executors of their father's will, Jabez and Mordecai Gifford sold to Barnabas Bowerman about three acres of land for £40 (*ibid.*, 40:100). Later Mordecai and George Gifford sold to Bowerman a third piece of land from their father's estate, containing 5¾ acres.

By a quit claim dated 21 May 1788 Jabez Gifford of Falmouth renounced any further claim on the estate of their father, Melatiah Gifford, to Mordecai and George Gifford, as executors of the will. The deed was acknowledged the same day and recorded 6 November 1788 (Barnstable County Deeds, 40:231; copy from Gifford-Davis collection).

In his later years Mordecai Gifford was evidently in poor mental health. In January 1803 Jabez Gifford had turned over the control of his estate to his relative Prince Gifford. In a document of 1 February 1803, Prince Gifford, as assignee to Jabez Gifford, filed a complaint against "Mordecai Gifford, one of the executors to the Last Will . . . of Melatiah Gifford, late of Falmouth, Deceased." The claim was made that Mordecai had obtained letters testamentary to the said will in March 1783, but he had neglected either to sell part of the property to pay debts or to file an accounting. He petitioned the court to force Mordecai to settle the estate. A memorandum was addressed to the sheriff requiring him to read the complaint to the said Mordecai Gifford and to compel him to appear at a probate court to be held at the dwelling house of Jabez Howland in Barnstable on the second Tuesday in February next, by one of the clock, after noon (original data from Gifford-Davis collection). At his death Mordecai was considered *non compos mentis*.

In the 1790 Census of Falmouth, Mordecai Gifford was the head of a family of four males over 16 and three females. The births of the children are not of record, although the date of birth of Amasa is known from other sources. It appears that he had three sons, but proof of this awaits further search.

Children:

120. i. SILAS⁵, b. ca. 1768.
 ? ii. A SON, b. ca. 1770.
 ? iii. A SON, b. ca. 1772.
 iv. SARAH, b. ca. 1774; d. unmar. 1870, "ae. 96 yrs. 7 mos." (g.s., Old Friends' burying ground, West Falmouth).
 v. RACHEL, b. ca. 1776; mar. 28 June 1799 CURTIS BOWERMAN (Falmouth Town Records, 2:48).
 121. vi. AMASA, b. 26 Feb. 1778.

54. GEORGE⁴ GIFFORD (*Melatiah*³, *William*²⁻¹) was born about 1748, and he died at Falmouth 17 July 1841, "ae. 95" (Town Records).

He married in Falmouth 13 July 1769 SUSAN ADKINS, who has not been identified. Harry Gifford lists her as Susan "Pitcher." We can find no record of her in either family.

The earlier will of Melatiah³ Gifford, dated 18 May 1772, gives this son George the "third of all my lands and buildings." In the last will, dated 12 July 1779, George is given land and "the house he now lives in."

George Gifford appears at Falmouth in the 1790 Census with three males over 16, one under 16, and three females. He is also listed in the 1800 Census at Falmouth.

Children, from Falmouth Town Records:

122. i. PRINCE⁵, b. 26 Mar. 1770.
 ii. JOSEPH, b. 10 Jan. 1773. Harry Gifford says that this Joseph "d. single," but Nantucket Vital Records show a marriage of Joseph Gifford "of Falmouth" (int. 5 Jan. 1799) to EUNICE CLARK.
 iii. THANKFUL, b. 15 Mar. 1775; mar. 1 June 1804 SETH ALLEN. She is called "dau. George Gifford of Falmouth, Co. Barnstable and Susannah his wife"; he is called "of Falmouth, son William of Fairfield, Co. Kennebeck" (Sandwich Monthly Meeting Records, 1762-1841, pp. 102-103).
 iv. REBECCA, b. 7 Sept. 1777; d. 28 Jan. 1807; mar. (int. 13 Sept. 1794) PAUL WEEKS (Falmouth Town Records).
 v. SHADRACK, b. ca. 1780; bapt. 18 Dec. 1780 "son of George and Susannah" (Falmouth Church Records, 1:81).

[To be continued]

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