

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

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[Continued from 128(1974):261]

6. CHRISTOPHER² GIFFORD (*William*¹), born in July 1658, died at Little Compton, R. I., testate, 22 November 1748 (Town Records).

He married about 1683/4, DEBORAH² PERRY, daughter of Edward and Mary (Freeman) Perry, born at Sandwich 2 April 1665 (*May. Desc.*, 29:33), died 23 March 1724 (Dartmouth, Mass., Vital Records). Harry E. Gifford and others have alleged that Christopher Gifford had a first wife named Meribah, but we find no original record of her. Christopher and Deborah named their first daughter Meribah and this may have been in honor of a deceased, childless first wife. This was a custom of the period.

As we have seen Hannaniah² Gifford was living at Navesink (Shrewsbury), New Jersey, by 1668. We suspect that he may have taken along with him this younger brother, Christopher, as there is ample evidence that the two owned adjoining property there. In 1679 titles to land there were confirmed to "Annianias" and Christopher Gifford. But Christopher had returned to Cape Cod before 7 July 1682 when he was before the Court for "contemptuously speaking against dispensers of the word of God," for which he was fined ten shillings (*Shurtleff, Court Orders*, 6:94).

It seems that his father gave him land in that part of Falmouth called Suckanesset, as we find that "Christopher Gifford of Suckanesset in ye Colony of New Plymouth, planter . . . and Joseph Hull, cooper or planter, are indited . . . for their notorious misdemeaners and trespass against his Maj'ties authorities, laws and peace." The record relates that "Christopher Gifford did . . . about ye eight day of December last [1685] and at other times in ye sd December, turbulently and violently, by force and arms, resist ye constable of sd Suckanesset in ye execution of his office and then and there . . . did wickedly strike Moses Rowley, Junr., being one of the constables, or assistants . . . on ye head with a certain stick or club, thereby fetching blood and shrewdly wounding of him in his head to his great damage." And, when arrested "ye sd Christopher carrying himself very unruly and forceably resisting." He and Hull were accused of conspiring to resist the authorities in the house of Joseph Hatch, Sr., and that later in the same month they made "falce pleas . . . thereby causing a false imprisonment or arrest of sd constable & his assistants & other King's officers." Both were found guilty and Christopher Gifford was fined £7; Hull £5, plus charges and costs. Gifford's share of the charges came to £5.12s. and 18s. costs. He petitioned for a reduction of the fine, agreeing to pay 20 shillings to Rowley "for the wound he gave him in his head" (2 March 1685/6; see *Shurtleff*, 6:80, 81). This episode suggests that Gifford was not under strict Quaker discipline at that time, and contrasts with the rest of the records concerning him.

As we have seen William¹ Gifford, in his will of 9 April 1687, gave to his son Christopher only a "cross cut saw and a new payer of shoose," but the records make clear that during the father's life time he must have helped him to acquire land both in New Jersey and in that part of Falmouth called Tetaket. However, as noted above, Christopher and his brother Robert were deeded, in May 1683, a large tract of land in Dartmouth where both brothers settled. By a deed of 29 January 1688 (not recorded until 30 July 1714) Christopher Gifford of Dartmouth sold for 50 shillings paid by William Ricketson (of the same place) a parcel of salt meadow on the east side of the "Coxet" river at Petskechuet, one acre (Bristol County Deeds, 1:416-7). We have seen, also, that he and his brother Robert made a first attempt to divide their tract 2 March 1688/9 (see above). By a "Certificate of Transfer," dated 17 June 1689, Christopher Gifford "of Sandwich" [*sic*] in New England released to the heirs of John Jenkins of the same place his right and title in the share of East Jersey sold by his deceased father, William Gifford, to the said John Jenkins (reference is made to the deed of 14 April 1681 from William Gifford of Sandwich, tailor, to John Jenkins in *Documents Relating to the Colonial History of New Jersey* [1896]; see Calendar of Records in the Office of the Secretary of State 1664-1703, edited by William Nelson, 21:173; also 146).

The Sandwich Friends Meeting Records, 1:46, show 7:1 mo: 1690, Christopher Gifford and Deborah his wife were admonished for not attending meetings. Jenkins, in his *History of Falmouth*, 6, tells us that Christopher Gifford was one of the principal proprietors of Teteket about 1690.

An instrument dated 20 November 1699 shows that Daniel Wilcox of Portsmouth, in the colony of Rhode Island, yeoman, sold for £75 paid by Christopher Gifford of Dartmouth, yeoman, a tract of land containing about 60 acres "at Poycachuk Point, butting on Coaset River" and 4 acres "on the eastward side" (recorded 6 April 1700; Bristol County Deeds, 1:46). Oddly, this same item appears as Docket #4668 in the Records of the Superior Court of Judicature, Boston Court House Annex, 14th floor, but the price there given is £70.

The will of Edward Perry of Sandwich, dated 29 December 1694 and proved 9 April 1695, directs that "my daughter Deborah shall have twenty pounds in money to be paid to her by my son Edward." He left a considerable estate. We find: "November the 25th, 1709 then wee Christopher Gifford and Deborah his wife, both of Dartmouth . . . Received of our brother Edward Perry of Sandwich deceased" £20 "in money being in full of our Legacy given to us or one of us by our said Father in his Last Will" (acknowledged the same day and recorded 10 Dec. 1709; Barnstable County Probates, 2:4; see also *May. Desc.*, 24:61).

We have seen that by an instrument of 6 June 1701 Christopher and his brother Robert Gifford, as partners, with Dartmouth property in common, agreed to arbitration. By a deed of 1 March 1709 Zachariah Jenkins of East Greenwich [R.I.], for £4 paid by Christopher Gifford of Dartmouth, conveyed all rights to Dartmouth lands acquired

through purchase, 4 December 1678, from Aaron Simmons of Scituate (recorded 16 Dec. 1710; Bristol County Deeds, 1:241). Christopher Gifford bought more Dartmouth land 9 September 1715 from Thomas Coleman (*ibid.*, 2:160). Richard Mew of Newport, R.I., bought "land hereafter mentioned of my Father in Law Thomas Coleman of Scituate . . . and by free consent the sd Thomas Coleman afterward sold the sd lands to Robert Barker of Newport, merchant and Christopher Gifford of Dartmouth . . . for £12.10s. paid by Thomas Coleman" (quit claim to Barker and Gifford, 19 March 1716; *ibid.*, 2:109). Christopher and his brother Robert made further division of their land by deed 5 March 1718/19 (*ibid.*, 2:411-12).

Christopher Gifford, by a deed of 1 May 1728, conveyed for love and affection to "Enos Gifford my true and natural son" certain Dartmouth land purchased from Nathaniel and Caleb Church in 1724 (*ibid.*, 3:316). Again, 2 April 1736, he conveyed "for £1000 paid by my son Enos Gifford . . . my claim to that one half share of land and meadow which my Honoured Father William Gifford of Sandwich, taylor, bought of Sarah Warren of Plimouth, widdow relict of Nathaniel Warren . . . as may appear by a deed under her hand and seal dated 10 Nov. 1670, which sd half share my sd Father William Gifford did give unto me the sd Christopher Gifford and my brother Robert Gifford . . . by the assignment annexed bearing date May 6, 1683" (*ibid.*, 4:136).

By a deed of 6 April 1736 he conveyed for £300 "paid by my son Christopher Gifford, Junr . . . all the land on which he dwelleth in Dartmouth which I purchased of Daniel Wilcox at the place called Peckecheckpoint, also my eighth part of the land I bought of Thomas Coleman 9 Sept. 1715" (*ibid.*, 4:111).

The will of Christopher Gifford of Little Compton, dated 5 October 1746, proved 8 December 1748, bequeaths to his son Christopher; his daughters Audrie, Mary Borden, Deborah Wilcox; the heirs of his daughter Meribah; his grandsons Elijah and Canaan Gifford; his granddaughters Rachel, Phillis, and Dorcas Gifford. The residue of the estate was given to his son Enos Gifford (Little Compton Wills: Bristol County Probates, 1:43).

Children recorded in Sandwich to Christopher and Deborah Gifford (*May Desc.*, 29:33):

- i. MERIBAH³, b. "the last day of October anno dom 1687"; d. in 1732 (Wilbur's *Little Compton Families*); mar. at Dartmouth 20 July 1708, NATHANIEL³ SOULE (Dartmouth Vital Records), son of Nathaniel² Soule (*George*¹), b. 12 Jan. 1681, d. testate in 1766. Children, surname Soule: 1. Meribah, b. 10 June 1709; d. 10 May 1730; mar. 25 Oct. 1727 William Taber. 2. Jonathan, b. 3 Mar. 1711; living at Tiverton in June 1771; mar. at Dartmouth 3 Dec. 1731 Elizabeth⁴ Gifford, dau. of #25 Jeremiah³ Gifford, *q.v.*, b. 13 Oct. 1712. (See also Sprague's "Soule Family," *T.A.G.* [1963], 38:34). Mr. Sprague supposed that Meribah (Gifford) Soule had two unrecorded sons, Henry, b. ca. 1721 and James.
- ii. CHRISTOPHER, b. "may: 5th 1687"; d. 29 Mar. 1689 "ae. 1 yr. 10 mo." [This year of birth is clearly incorrect. He must have been born 5 May 1688. Note that the daughter Meribah's birth is given as October

1687. The baby Christopher must have been premature. This is another instance of the custom of entering all the children of a couple at one time. The daughter Deborah, although recorded at Sandwich, probably was actually born at Dartmouth.]

- iii. AUDRY [ADDREE, ADRIE, AUDERE], b. 17 Sept. 1689; mar. 8 Apr. 1731 ELIASH SMITH. Not traced further.
- 30. iv. ENOS, b. 1 Feb. 1693/4.
- v. MARY, b. 6 Oct. 1695; mar. 3 Aug. 1721 THOMAS⁴ BORDEN (Dartmouth Vital Records), son of Richard³ Borden (*John², Richard¹*) and his wife, Innocent³ Cornell (*Thomas²⁻¹*) of Tiverton. Five children.
- 31. vi. CHRISTOPHER, b. 15 Apr. 1698.
- vii. DEBORAH, b. 2 Feb. 1700; mar. 9 Nov. 1724 BENJAMIN³ WILBUR (Tiverton Vital Records), son of Joseph² Wilbur (*William¹*) and his wife, Anne Brownell (*Thomas¹*), b. 20 June 1699, d. Westerly, R.I., in 1772. Six children.

7. JONATHAN² GIFFORD (*William¹*), born 4 May 1684, died, testate, 10 February 1734/5 (Sandwich Town Records).

He married 3 August 1708, LYDIA ABBOTT (Sandwich Friends Meeting Records). She has not been identified. The Sandwich Friends Monthly Meeting Record of the marriage in 1704 of our #18 Gershom³ Gifford shows a "Lidy Abit" among the witnesses. The widow remarried: "Lydia Gifford, relict of Jonathan Gifford of Sandwich" married 30:9th mo: "called November," 1738, Joseph Taber of Dartmouth (Sandwich Friends Monthly Meeting Records, 1:142).

Jonathan Gifford was the elder of the two sons by his father's last marriage to Mary Mills. By the father's will these two young sons were given land at Sukanesset (Falmouth) but, as will be seen, Jonathan's homestead farm must have been in Sandwich. No doubt he had been given property there during his father's lifetime.

We find little about this man. The Friends Monthly Meeting records show that at a meeting in Sandwich 2.9 mo. 1714, Daniel Allen, Edward Perry, and John Wing were directed "to speak with Jonathan Gifford concerning his neglect of paying Jeremiah Dillingham." They reported back to a meeting that the difference between Jonathan and Jeremiah had been settled (Monthly Meeting Book, 1672-1754, 87, 88). As Jeremiah would then have been a minor, it is likely that he was apprenticed to Gifford at that time.

The will of Jonathan Gifford, husbandman, of Sandwich, dated 15 September 1734, proved 21 February 1734/5, bequeathed to "wife Liddia"; to his two sons, Peleg and Silas; to his daughters Moriah, Rebecca, Bethiah, Hannah, and Anne. The sons were to share equally in housing, other buildings, and all lands and meadows, but the widow was to have the use of all the real estate during her widowhood. Lydia was appointed sole executrix (Barnstable County Probates, 5:212).

Children recorded in Sandwich to Jonathan and Lydia Gifford (Sandwich Town Records):

- i. MARIA³, b. 16 Oct. 1709; d. in Hanover 21 Dec. 1784; mar. there 31 Jan. 1734/5, as his third wife, MELATIAH⁴ DILLINGHAM, son of John³ Dillingham (*Henry², Edward¹*) by his wife, Lydia³ Hatch (*Jeremiah², Thomas¹*), b. ca. 1700, d. in Hanover, 25 Jan. 1786 "ae. 86." Children, surname *Dillingham*: 1. Lydia, b. 22 Mar. 1736; mar. 14 May 1766