

and Sarah (Brownell) Brownell. The will of Thomas Brownell "of Dartmouth in the circle of Westport," dated 31 July 1797, bequeaths to "my four daughters, namely: Unice Gifford, Sarah Gifford, Sevinah Wilcox, and Rhoda Brownell" (Bristol County Probates, 35:126-131). Sarah Brownell mar. Abraham Gifford, older brother of Thomas. In 1790 and 1800 Thomas Gifford was at Dartmouth, with only one daughter. In 1810, the Census listed only Thomas and his wife. Child: *Lavinia*⁶, b. ca. 1786; mar. (int. in Dartmouth, 15 Sept. 1807) Isaac Negus of Tiverton, R. I.

- vi. MARTHA, b. 26 Dec. 1771; d. prob. after 1817; mar. 5 May 1790 THOMAS GIDLEY (Dartmouth Vital Records), son of John and Susanna Gidley of Dartmouth, b. 25 June 1764 (*ibid.*) or 24 June 1766 (Dartmouth Monthly Meeting records). Children, surname *Gidley*: 1. *Phebe*, b. 20 Feb. 1797. 2. *Thomas?*, b. 18 Mar. 1803. 3. *Ephraim T.*, b. 31 Jan. 1817.

75. OBADIAH⁴ GIFFORD (*Simeon*³, *Robert*², *William*¹) was born 16 August 1734, and he died at Hudson, Columbia County, New York, probably shortly before 21 July 1798 when his will was proved.

He married, 8 August 1758, MARY SALISBURY (Little Compton, R. I., vital records), the daughter of Joseph and Inocent (Head) Salisbury of Little Compton, born there 5 July 1736, died, probably at Hudson, New York, after 10 August 1797. Her sister, Abigail, married Canaan Gifford, son of Enos³ Gifford, and her sister, Elizabeth, married Jeremiah Gifford, son of Jonathan⁴ Gifford.

Simeon Gifford bequeathed his homestead farm and other Dartmouth property to this son, Obadiah, who was then a minor. Obadiah added to his holdings in Dartmouth by purchase. In 1763 he bought land there from John Gifford (Bristol County Deeds, 8:509). By a deed of 2 May 1763 (not recorded until 10 September 1772), Obadiah Gifford sold a Dartmouth lot for £14 to Ebenezer Allen, Jr. His wife, Mary, released her dower rights (*ibid.*, 9:278). On 24 March 1768 and again in 1770, Obadiah sold land "being part of my hoestead" to Joseph Davis of Dartmouth and to Stephen Davis of the same town. Again his wife released her dower rights (*ibid.*, 9:1, 369). There are further deeds recorded in Taunton in Books 10:199, 461, and 13:104.

At some time shortly before or during the Revolution Obadiah Gifford removed to New York State. Probably he went first to Dutchess County where many relatives and friends had emigrated. In 1790 he appears as head of a family of three males over 16, two under 16, and three females at Northeast, Dutchess County. By 1796 he had moved again, this time to Hudson, Columbia County, New York. A removal certificate for Obadiah Gifford from Creek Meeting to the Hudson Monthly Meeting is dated 1796. The certificate of his wife, Mary Gifford, is dated 16 November 1799.

The will of Obadiah Gifford of the City of Hudson, executed 10 August

1797, names his "beloved wife Mary"; his sons, Humphrey, Henry, John, Elihu, and Aaron Gifford; his grandson, Obadiah Haite; his granddaughters, Susannah Haite and Mary White. His son, Aaron, was made sole executor. The will was witnessed by Nicholas Hathaway, Christopher Hoxie, and Isaac Northrup. (Surrogates Court, B: 1, 21 July 1798, Hudson, Columbia Co., N. Y.)

Probably the first five of his children, at least, were born in the Dartmouth area, but we can find no record of their births. Through a correspondent we have the dates of births as shown below. These are alleged to have come from a family Bible and to be included in the data contained in a Gifford family genealogy—"1717-1939"—compiled by an Edward A. Gifford of Hudson, New York, who probably died by 1940. We hope that some reader can help us find a copy of this genealogy. Edward Gifford supposed that Obadiah Gifford had a son, Elisha, born 7 July 1771, and a son, Joseph, born 8 October 1784, but Obadiah's will fails to mention sons of these names, and it seems that if they ever existed, they both died young or without issue before the date of Obadiah's will.

Children, from the father's will:

- i. HUMPHREY⁵, b. 9 Feb. 1759; d. probably at Hudson after 1803; mar., 28 Nov. 1782, HANNAH PALMER (Dutchess Co., N. Y., Friends Monthly Meeting records). Humphrey Gifford and his brothers, Henry and John, served in the 6th Regiment of Dutchess County Militia (see James A. Roberts, *New York in the Revolution as Colony and State* [Albany, N. Y., 1897], 248). The brothers evidently accompanied their parents to Hudson.

An indenture, dated 9 Feb. 1789, between Tobias R. van Deusen of the District of Claverack, Columbia Co., innkeeper, and Humphrey Gifford of the City of Hudson, carpenter, shows that for £5 Gifford leased Lot No. 1, between 3rd and 4th Streets and Main St. and the 20 ft. alley (120' x 50'), for one year. By a second indenture, dated the next day, the same parties for £33 accomplished a "transfer, use to possession" of the lot conveyed for one year on 9 Feb. 1789. Stephen Paddock and Peter Field witnessed both instruments on 10 Feb. 1789; recorded 14 Feb. 1789 (Columbia Co., N. Y., Deeds, 1:72, 74). In the same month an indenture was entered between Humphrey Gifford of Hudson, house carpenter, and Timothy Bunker of the same town, mariner, for £280 for Lot No. 4 (120' x 50') between 3rd and 4th Streets and between Main Street and Prison Alley. The witnesses were Aaron Palmer and Peter Field, and it was acknowledged on 12 September 1789, when the wife, Hannah Gifford, released her dower rights (*ibid.*, 100).

In 1790 Humphrey Gifford was at Hudson with a family of one male over 16, one under 16, and one female. By 1800 his family had increased by one male between 10 and 16, and one

female under 10. Another female in the household, between 16 and 26, obviously is not a daughter. However, it appears that Humphrey had at least two sons. We hope that some reader will supply a family record to identify them by name. By 1810 this family had moved elsewhere.

- ii. HENRY, b. 1 Jan. 1762; d. prob. Rensselaerville, Albany Co., N. Y., after the date of the 1820 Census; mar. prob. about 1782, but we have found neither a record of the marriage nor the name of his wife. He served with his brothers, Humphrey and John, in the 6th Regiment of Dutchess Co. militia (Roberts, *N. Y. in the Rev.*). Although he evidently came to North East, Dutchess Co., N. Y., as a young boy, he seems to have moved early to Rensselaerville. The Census of 1790 shows him at North East, head of a family of one male over 16, two under 16, and three females. But the Census of 1810 shows him at Rensselaerville with two males under 10, one between 10 and 16, one between 16 and 26, and one 45 and up. Also, he was listed with one female under 10, one between 16 and 26, one between 26 and 45, and one, 45 and up. In 1820 he is alone with one daughter.
- 154. iii. JOHN, b. 6 May 1764.
- iv. SARAH, b. 2 Sept. 1766; mar. 26 Feb. 1784, JOHN WHITE. They had at least one daughter, named in the will of her grandfather.
- v. SUSANNAH, b. 2 Sept. 1769; mar. 30 Jan. 1788, SAMUEL HAITE. Two children were named in their grandfather's will.
- 155. vi. ELIHU, b. 7 Jan. 1772.
- vii. AARON, b. 29 Aug. 1776; d. testate, in 1838; mar. perhaps ca. 1798, SOPHIE FREELAND. A deed dated 20 Oct. 1798 places Aaron Gifford in Hudson, Columbia Co., N. Y. (Surrogates Records, B: 2). He is listed there in the 1800 Census with his wife, but no family. The 1810 Census shows him at Claverack with one male and two females. The will of Aaron Gifford (no town named but of Albany Co.), dated 21 Apr. 1837, proved 1838, gives all his estate, real and personal, to his "beloved wife Sophia Gifford, and her heirs, forever." He appoints her "and my brother-in-law, Leonard Freeland, executrix and executor." Evidently there were no surviving children (Albany Co., N. Y., Surrogate Records).

[To be continued]

The late Almon E. Daniels was of Indialantic, Florida. Mr. Daniels died suddenly of a heart attack on 6 March 1977. Maclean W. McLean, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists. Anne Borden Harding is a former associate editor of the *Register*.