

WILLIAM¹ GIFFORD OF SANDWICH, MASS.

(D. 1687)

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Edited by Anne Borden Harding

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97. JUSTICE⁵ GIFFORD (*Samuel⁴, John³⁻², William¹*) was given this number in error. We have not found his record.

98. PRINCE⁵ GIFFORD (*Benjamin⁴, William³, John², William¹*) was born July 1746 and died, testate, 14 December 1803, "ae. 57 yrs. 5 mo." (g.s. Old Friends Burying Ground, West Falmouth).

He married 27 November 1766 ELIZABETH GIFFORD, daughter of Melatiah³ and Sarah (Bowerman) Gifford of Falmouth, who was born 1 August 1744, died 27 September 1816, "ae. 72 yrs., wife of Prince" (g.s. Friends Cemetery, West Falmouth). She and her husband were first cousins once removed. The will of Melatiah Gifford, dated 18 May 1772, gave to his daughter Elizabeth £13 6s. 8d., but his last will, dated 12 July 1779, reduced the bequest to £5.

The will of Benjamin⁴ Gifford, dated 8 March 1769 but not proved until 1780, gave to this only son, Prince Gifford, all the real and personal estate, directing that he care for his sister Martha and pay the bequest to his sister Abigail Nye. Prince was made sole executor (*Register*, 130 [1976]: 131).

Copies of the following deeds, taken from the Arnold B. Gifford Collection at Falmouth, were furnished to us by Capt. Charles A. Davis. We give them in some detail, since the recorded copies were destroyed in the Barnstable Courthouse fire in 1827.

On 5 July 1776 Joseph Hatch, Jr., and Barnabas Hatch, both of Falmouth, yeomen, conveyed for £200 paid by Prince Gifford of Falmouth, yeoman, "a part of a neck of land in sd Falmouth known by the name of Weiquomequesset Neck, bound by the harbour . . . by Daniel Butler's land." The deed was signed by Joseph Hatch, Barnabas Hatch, and Mercy (her mark) Hatch, and witnessed by Joseph Bradford, Susanna Bradford, and Joseph Pease; acknowledged 12 February 1781 and recorded 5 April 1785 by Ebenezer Bacon, Registrar (Barnstable County Deeds, hereafter BACD, 89:136). A separate instrument of the same date, which reads, "for the love and good will I have to Prince Gifford of Falmouth, yeoman, do hereby quit all claim to a certain piece of land in Falmouth that the

sd Gifford bought of my two sons, Joseph Hatch and Barnabas Hatch," was signed by marks of Ebenezer Hatch, Jr., and Sarah Hatch.

Timothy West of Rochester, Plymouth County, yeoman, on 11 September 1782 conveyed for £170, paid by Prince Gifford of Falmouth, yeoman, a parcel of Rochester land, some forty acres, with a dwelling house, orchard, etc., which West "formerly bought of Benjamin Gifford." The deed was signed by Timothy and Lois West and witnessed by Seth Hiller and Nathaniel Hammond; acknowledged 11 September 1782. By an indenture dated 4 December 1783 Prince Gifford then leased this farm to Nathaniel Cushing of Rochester, for £6, in silver or gold, to be paid by the following October.

Judah Bowerman of Falmouth, yeoman, by a deed of 5 October 1787, conveyed for £128 14s. 11d., paid by Barnabas Bowerman, Prince Gifford, Stephen Bowerman, Moses Bowerman, Nathan Gifford, Shubal Nye, Elihew Nye, and Silvanus Swift, all of Falmouth, and Jonathan Lawrence of Sandwich (each paying a specified sum as his share), two tracts of land and one meadow in Falmouth, bounded by land of Abial Eldred. It was signed by Judah Bowerman and the mark of Mary Bowerman; acknowledged 5 October 1787; recorded 8 November 1787 (BACD, 41:99).

On 4 February 1788, Jesse⁵ Gifford of Falmouth, yeoman, acting as executor of the estate of his father, John⁴ Gifford, conveyed for £62 2s., paid by Prince Gifford, a parcel of Falmouth land, bounded by James Jenkins' land, about forty acres. The deed was signed by James Gifford and witnessed by Nathaniel Shiverick, Timothy Crocker; acknowledged 2 February 1788; recorded 3 April 1788 (BACD, 40:197). Matthew Rowley by his deed of 2 June 1788, conveyed for £9 8s., paid by Prince Gifford, a piece of Falmouth land, bounded by land of Nathan Nye and Zephaniah Robinson easterly; by Francis Davis, northerly; westerly by Josiah Cotton, Esq.; and southerly by land of Justus Rowley and Nathan Nye. The signer was Matthew Rowley, and witnesses were Nathaniel Shiverick and Joseph Bourne; it was acknowledged 2 June 1788 and recorded 3 June 1788 "half past four o'clock, P.M." (BACD, 40:197).

"Hezekiah Hoxie, of Vasselburow in the County of Linkhon" [i.e., Vassalborough, Lincoln County, Maine] for £15, paid by Prince Gifford of Falmouth, conveyed a piece of Falmouth land, "it being part of the Estate of John Gifford of Falmouth, deceased, that was set off by execution to sd Hezekiah Hoxie, containing about two acres." Hezekiah Hoxie signed the deed, and Elisha Swift, Nathaniel Shiverick were witnesses; dated and acknowledged 19 June 1788; recorded 12 January 1789 (BACD, 41:188).

Prince Gifford of Falmouth, by a deed of 20 August 1788, for £62 paid by Barnabas Bowerman of said Falmouth, released all claim to two pieces of land, "being part of the Estate of Melatiah Gifford of sd Falmouth, deceased, one of sd pieces sd Barnabas Bowerman has a deed

from Jabez Gifford and Mordecai Gifford, containing three acres, and the other piece of land [about five acres] sd Barnabas has a deed of from Mordecai . . . and George Gifford." This deed was signed by Prince Gifford and witnessed by Daniel Butler, Jr., and Nathaniel Shiverick; acknowledged the same day and recorded 7 November 1788 (BACD, 40:231).

By a deed of 29 January 1789, "Betty Davis of Falmouth, spinster conveyed for £23, paid by Prins [*sic*] Gifford, also of Falmouth, yeoman, a parcel of Falmouth salt marsh in grate Sepwiset bounded by Jabez Swift, et al, northeasterly, by Nathaniel Nickelson [*sic*], northerly by Joseph Shiverick and Roaland Gifford's marsh . . . by Barnabas Bowerman . . . it being a lot and a half in partnership with the above Prince [*sic*] Gifford, it being a Part of the Estate of Nathan Davis, Deceased." Betty Davis signed and Joseph Hatch and Daniel Butler, Jr., witnessed; acknowledged 30 January 1789 and recorded 14 May 1790 (BACD, 42:152). Reuben Eldredge of Falmouth, by a deed of 10 January 1789, conveyed for £29 10s. 7d., paid by Prince Gifford, Stephen Bowerman, and Charles Robinson, all of Falmouth, yeomen (each paying a specified part of the total). This was a parcel formerly owned by Elnathan Handy, bounded by William Greene. The deed was signed by Reuben Eldred [*sic*] and Experience (x) Eldred. Witnesses were David Cochren and John Bakus; acknowledged 12 January 1789 and recorded same day (BACD, 41:187).

G[e]orge Gifford of Falmouth, yeoman, by his deed of 24 March 1789, sold for £4 paid by Prince Gifford, of the same town, "a certain lot of sheep, containing Eight in number." It was signed: Gorge Gifford and witnessed by Abigail Parker and Thankful (x) Eldred.

Hannah Nye of Falmouth, a single woman, by her deed of 13 December 1790, conveyed for £35, "paid by Prince Gifford of Falmouth, to my father John Nye of Falmouth, gentleman, for my use, the receipt of which I acknowledge and I do release and quit claim all the right which I have to the Estate both Real and Personal which Benjamin Gifford, late of Falmouth, deceased, died seized." The signer was Hannah Nye, and the witnesses, Nathaniel and Rebecca Shiverick; acknowledged 13 December 1790. There is no indication that this original deed was recorded.

The following original items are rarities for the period: "2 of the 4mo., 1792 Then received of Prince Gifford the Sum of Nine Pounds which is in part Pay . . . for Larning his son Benjamin Gifford the joiner's trade. Reuben Swift." "1798 Mr. Prince Gifford to Hugh Donaldson, Dr., Aug. 3rd. To Spirits/to Thankful/and medicines \$ 1.20c.

To Sulphur

13c. \$1.33

Received the contents in full—Hugh Donaldson." An undated note: "Mr. Prince Gifford to Frank Weeks, Dr. Family 12 Nights Attendance, Medicines £1.16s.3d."

By a deed of 25 February 1794, Joseph Dimmick of Falmouth, as ad-

ministrator of the estate of Stephen Bowerman, late of Falmouth, deceased, conveyed for £132 6s., paid by Prince Gifford of Falmouth, a parcel of Falmouth land at Shepewiset [*sic*], called the Beefparther [*sic*], bounded by land of Prince Gifford, James Jenkins, Silvanus Swift, about twenty-one acres, and also reserving to Ignatius Dillingham five twenty-fourths of six acres of the lot. This deed was signed by Joseph Dimmick and Jabez Swift and witnessed by Joseph Hatch and Richard Lake; acknowledged same day; recorded 3 November 1796 (BACD, 49:90). William and Paul Weeks of Falmouth, by a deed of 7 April 1798, conveyed for \$35, paid by Prince Gifford of Falmouth, a piece of salt meadow in Falmouth, containing one acre, and "four seventh of sd meadow is the Estate of Weston Gifford of sd Falmouth, deceased, and 3/7th of sd meadow is the Estate of Paul Weeks." Sabra Gifford, widow of Weston Gifford, quitclaimed her right to this lot. She and William and Paul Weeks all signed. Witnesses were Nathaniel Shiverick and Ichabod Hatch; acknowledged 3 May and recorded 12 May 1798 (BACD, 52:15).

An original note, dated 14 June 1801, signed at Nantucket by Obed Mitchell and son, is addressed to: "Respected Friend Prince Gifford: The ship Essex has arrived. One of the obligations which William Coleman indorsed for thee was for $\frac{1}{3}$ part of a Man's lay by the name of Antony, who came in the ship which we have sold as yr annexed sales a part of this was sold for cash which will be according . . . when paid." A man's "lay" was a share of a whaling or similar venture. Our cousin Capt. Charles A. Davis notes, "Prince Davis bought up one third share of a seaman's lay for \$104.31. If this is correct, then the man after a four year voyage made out with \$321.93, less his slop bill to the ship. Seamen with their O.T. make twice that a month in 1974."

Jabez Gifford of Falmouth, yeoman, in consideration of being supported in helth and sickness through my natural life, and to decently bury my body after, to be performed by Prince Gifford of Falmouth, yeoman, the receipt whereof I acknowledge . . . do convey a certain tract of land and salt meadow with one half of a dwelling house thereon in Falmouth, both above and below the country road belonging formerly to my father Melatiah Gifford, deceased, which he gave me by deed . . . likewise all my Real and Personal Estate whatever. . . . And I the said Prince Gifford, his heirs, etc. do bind myself to support the sd Jabez Gifford as before mentioned . . . this 17th day of 1st month 1803.

Both Jabez and Prince Gifford signed this will, and Thomas Jones and Thankful Gifford were witnesses; acknowledged same day and recorded 19 January 1803 (BACD, 58:14). Jabez Gifford was the son of Melatiah² Gifford and brother of Elizabeth (Gifford) Gifford, Prince's mother.

The will of Prince Gifford of Falmouth, dated 9 December 1803, proved 14 February 1804, gives:

To my well beloved wife Elizabeth Gifford the use and improvement of all

my household goods, also the use of my clock; the use and improvement of one third of my real and personal estate, except money debts due and on demand, with the use and improvement of one half my dwelling house during her widowhood, reserving room for my daughter Hannah . . . the use of one fether bed and bedding and her firewood cut and carted to the door by my two sons, Prince and Melatiah, during sd term . . . \$200 in money, one half in one year after my decease and the remainder in two years, by my executors. . . . To my daughter Abigail Bowerman, wife of Stephen Bowerman \$80. To my son Marmaduke Gifford, in addition to what he has been given heretofore \$100. To my son Arnold Gifford in addition to what he has heretofore been given \$80, to be paid in 18 months after my decease. To my son Benjamin Gifford in addition to what has been given him, \$40, in 18 months after my decease. To my daughter Martha Bowerman wife of Daniel Bowerman, \$5. . . . To my daughter Elizabeth Swift, wife of Browning Swift, \$50. . . . My daughter Hannah to have her support and maintenance out of my Estate, by my two sons, Prince and Maltiah, also the use of $\frac{1}{2}$ of my dwelling house, with her mother during the time she remains unmarried . . . and \$200 to be paid by my executors, when 21 or at her marriage. To my son Maltiah my Clock after the death or marriage of my wife. To my son Maltiah $\frac{1}{2}$ of my dwelling house and after the death or marriage of my sd wife, the other half thereof . . . and $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of land about my dwelling house where the same shall be most convenient and least prejudicial to the remainder of my estate, but not so as to extend to any part of my orchard. . . . To my two sons, Prince Gifford and Maltiah Gifford, to be equally divided between them, all the rest, residue and remainder of My Estate, Real and Personal not before given away, wherever the same may be found . . . two thirds after my decease and the other third after the death or marriage of my sd wife.

He names his two sons, Prince and Maltiah, coexecutors (Barnstable County Probates, hereafter BACP, 31:298). The inventory was dated 17 April 1804. It shows an amount of cash on hand and due by notes, \$1,680.43. The clock mentioned in the will is valued at \$50; household goods, \$605.59; stock and outdoor "moveables," \$824. Total personal estate was valued at \$3,110.02. The real estate totalled \$9,802.81. The total real and personal estate was \$12,912.83.

We have seen that in one way or another this Prince⁵ Gifford acquired a good portion of the ancient Gifford lands in Falmouth—both property which came through his wife's side of the family and that of his own. Therefore perhaps it is not surprising that his will set off a family dispute which was to continue for some time. The sons, Marmaduke, Benjamin, and Arnold, who had left home and moved to Fairfield, Kennebec County (then Massachusetts, after 1820, Maine), upon learning the terms of their father's will, became angry, and their letters on the subject have been preserved.

Children (from Falmouth Town Records):

- i. ABIGAIL⁶, b. 10 Nov. 1767; d. Falmouth 9 June 1846; m. 23 Nov. 1786 STEPHEN BOWERMAN, JR., son of Stephen⁴ Bowerman

- (*Benjamin*³, *Thomas*²⁻¹) and Hannah Allen (*Caleb*⁵, *Richard*⁴, *Caleb*³, *George*²⁻¹), b. 25 Feb. 1764 (*ibid.*).
- ii. MARMADUKE, b. 9 Feb. 1769; d. Fairfield, Me., 2 Sept. 1850; m. (1) Fairfield, 9 Mar. 1790 LYDIA DILLINGHAM, by whom he had several children. He is said to have m. again, and to have had other children.
- iii. PRINCE, b. 3 Mar. 1771; d. Falmouth 23 Feb. 1853, "ae. 81 yr. 11 mo." (g.s. Friends Cemetery, Falmouth); m. 19 Dec. 1792 (Sandwich Monthly Meeting Records, hereafter SMMR) CHLOE HOXIE, dau. of Barnabas⁴ Hoxie (*Joseph*³, *Gideon*², *Lodowick*¹) and Hannah Gifford (*Josiah*³, *John*², *William*¹), b. 10 Feb. 1769, d. 4 Sept. 1849 (Falmouth Town Records, hereafter FATR).
- iv. BENJAMIN, b. 30 Apr. 1773; d. Fairfield 15 Feb. 1856; m. 11 Apr. 1799 HANNAH SWIFT, dau. Silvanus⁶ Swift (*Benjamin*⁵⁻⁴, *William*³⁻²⁻¹) and Elizabeth (Tripp) Swift, b. 31 May 1781, d. 28 Nov. 1818. Children (dates of birth from an old family Bible in the possession, in 1967, of the late Dr. Martha Gifford of Fairfield): 1. *Elizabeth*, b. 4 Apr. 1800; m. Fairfield, 22 Dec. 1824, Daniel Shepherd. 2. *Virtue*, b. 10 Aug. 1802; m. 3 Nov. 1825 Asahel Cleveland. 3. *Chloe*, b. 24 June 1804; d. unm. 4. *Susannah*, b. 8 Aug. 1806; m. Joseph Fairbrother. 5. *Zenas*, b. 13 July 1808; m. Sarah B———. 6. *Daniel*, b. 30 Mar. 1810; m. Mary Hoxie. 7. *Prince*, b. 25 Apr. 1813. 8. *Browning*, b. 26 May 1815; d. 12 July 1879; m. 4 June 1846 Mahaleth Kendall. 9. *Martha*, b. 26 Mar. 1817. 10. *Arnold*, b. 7 Nov. 1818 "d. in a few weeks."
- v. MARTHA, b. 13 Apr. 1775; d. 23 Oct. 1868; m. 9 May 1793 (SMMR) DANIEL BOWERMAN, son of Barnabas⁵ Bowerman and Hannah (Gifford) of Sandwich, b. 19 Apr. 1774, d. 13 June 1859 (g.s. Old Friends Cemetery, West Falmouth). Children (surname Bowerman): 1. *Phebe*, b. 26 Apr. 1794; m. 10 Feb. 1814 Thomas Akins of Yarmouth "son of Timothy and Rebecca of Dartmouth." 2. *Chloe*, b. 14 Feb. 1795. 3. *Rhoda*, b. 4 Mar. 1798. 4. *Anne*, b. 16 Nov. 1800; m. 8 Aug. 1822 Isaac Frye "of Falmouth, son of Moses of Salem, Co. Essex and Mary" (*ibid.*). 5. *Barnabas*, b. 3 Oct. 1802; m. 12 Oct. 1826 Virtue R[ussell] Swift, dau. Joshua⁷ Swift (*Silvanus*⁶, *Benjamin*⁵⁻⁴, *William*³⁻²⁻¹), and Chloe (Crowell), b. 13 Aug. 1808. 6. *Prince Gifford*, b. 19 Aug. 1804; m. 12 Oct. 1826 Sarah Swift (*Charles*⁷, *Silvanus*⁶, *Benjamin*⁵⁻⁴, *William*³⁻²⁻¹). 7. *Benjamin*, b. 1 Sept. 1810. 8. *Abiel*, b. 23 Aug. 1814.
- vi. ARNOLD, b. 18 Feb. 1778; d. 2 Mar. 1861; m. TAMAR SWIFT "of Fairfield" (Me.).
- vii. MELATIAH, b. 16 June 1780; d. Falmouth 20 July 1862 "ae 82 y. 1m.4d." (g.s. Old Friends Cemetery, West Falmouth); m. 27 Feb. 1805 HULDAH WING; b. ca. 1781; d. 12 Dec. 1865 "ae. 84y.4m.29d." Children (b. Falmouth): 1. *Mary Wing*, b. 5 June 1806; m. 9 Dec. 1828 (SMMR) Joseph Swift (*Silvanus*⁶, *Benjamin*⁵⁻⁴, *William*³⁻²⁻¹). 2. *Arnold*, b. 6 May 1810, d. July

1890, aged 80 years, 2 months; m. (1) 23 June 1836 Chloe Wing⁸ Swift, dau. Moses⁷ Swift (*Paul⁶, Benjamin⁵⁻⁴, William³⁻²⁻¹*) and Elizabeth (Swift), b. 17 Feb. 1818, d. in childbed 11 July 1843; m. (2) 3 June 1847 Marcia Hoag, b. 1818, d. 29 July 1851 "ae. 34"; m. (3) 11 Nov. 1858 Huldah Gifford, dau. Theophilus⁵ Gifford. 3. *Elizabeth*, b. 27 Nov. 1814; d. 28 Nov. 1832 "ae. 18 yrs." (This is the line of Arnold Bowerman Gifford from whose family records Capt. Charles A. Davis obtained for us the many original deeds and other family papers. The direct line is Arnold Bowerman¹⁰ Gifford, Arnold Joseph⁹, Joseph Arnold⁸, Arnold⁷, Melatiah⁶, but through his mother, Virtue Russell⁹ Bowerman, he descends also from William³⁻²⁻¹ Gifford, from Melatiah³ Gifford, and from William³ Gifford, son of John² et al. In his home, called "The Ship's Bottom Roof House," Route 28A, West Falmouth, Mass., are to be seen many articles of furniture, weaving and other artifacts, which belonged to the earliest Gifford of the Falmouth branch.)

- viii. ELIZABETH, b. 5 Sept. 1784; d. testate 25 Apr. 1845; m. 12 Nov. 1801 BROWNING SWIFT (*Silvanus⁶, Benjamin⁵⁻⁴, William³⁻²⁻¹*), b. 17 Aug. 1779, d. testate 1829. Children, born Falmouth: 1. *Elizabeth* (called *Eliza*), b. 4 July 1803; d. unm. before 22 Apr. 1845. 2. *John*, b. 16 Feb. 1805; d.s.p. after 16 Dec. 1828. 3. *Hannah*, b. 28 Oct. 1806; d. unm. after 16 Dec. 1828 and before 22 Apr. 1845. The will of Browning Swift of Falmouth, dated 16 Dec. 1828, proved July 1829, gives to wife Elizabeth, to two unmarried daughters (not named) and to Martha Gifford, wife of Stephen Gifford. The will of his widow, Elizabeth (Gifford) Swift, dated at Falmouth 22 Apr. 1845, proved 17 June 1845, does not name any children (as they had evidently predeceased her). She gives to her "sister Abigail Bowerman . . . to my brother Arnold Gifford . . . to my brother Benjamin Gifford's children . . . to my sister Martha Bowerman and my sister Hannah Tripp." She gives, also, to some of her late husband's relatives (BACP, 60:379).
- ix. HANNAH, b. 31 Jan. 1787; d. 9 Apr. 1875; m. 10 Sept. 1807 STEPHEN TRIPP "of New Bedford, son to Stephen and Deborah" (SMMR).

[To be continued]

The late Almon E. Daniels was of Indialantic, Florida. 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*.