

ANNA GIFFORD	died 1760
PHILIP GIFFORD	died 1761
WILLIAM GIFFORD	died 1772
HARRIET GIFFORD	died 1770
JOHN GIFFORD	died 1784
THOMAS GIFFORD	died 1785
JOHN GIFFORD	died 1795
DOROTHY GIFFORD	died 1828
WEARMAN GIFFORD	died 1836

Memorial 45

John GIFFORD was born on 26th February 1729 and baptized by Mr James GREEN on 8th March 1729 at Bow Meeting, Exeter.¹ He was the son of William GIFFORD, a grocer of St Petrock's parish in the city of Exeter.¹ He followed his father into the grocery business but also sold hops and linen drapery. His business was in High Street almost opposite St Petrock Church.²



John married Anna LEE on 13th December 1753 at St David's, Exeter.³ They had four sons:-

John was born on 20th August 1755 and died on 30th August 1784 ("Monday morning at ab't 7 o'clock").⁴

George was born on 10th November 1756.⁴ He died on 5th October 1820.⁵

William was born on 20th December 1758 ("ab't 5 o'clock in the morning"). He died on 24th September 1772 ("Thursday morning ab't 1

o'clock").⁴ Philip was born 9th October 1760 ("ab't 6 pm in the evening"). He died on 4th January 1761 ("ab't 9.30 o'clock in the morning").⁴

John, William and Philip are commemorated on this tomb.

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1. Non-Conformist & Non-Parochial Registers 1567-1970 Piece 0965: Exeter Bow Mtg page 43 of 191
 2. Besley's Exeter Directory 1828
 3. England, Select Marriages 1538-1973 (www.ancestry.co.uk)
 4. Transcriptions (owned by Walter Gifford) from notes which were found in the Family Bible.
 5. Oxford University and City Herald 28 October 1820 (www.findmypast.co.uk)
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Anna GIFFORD (nee LEE) died on 14th December 1760.⁴ The transcript of a note found in the Family Bible is as follows, “*My Worthy Spouse departed this life Sunday evening ab’t 6 o’clock December 14 – 1760*”. She is commemorated on this tomb.

On 7th September 1769, John GIFFORD married Dorothy WEARMAN at St Petrock, Exeter.³ Dorothy’s family Estate was at Withycombe Rawleigh. Her father, George, owned land and properties in East Devon, including the Salutation Inn at Topsham.⁶

Dorothy and John GIFFORD had two daughters (both named Harriet) and four sons:-

Harriet (their first child) was born on 21st June 1770 (“at ¾ after 12 o’clock in the afternoon of Thursday – died Monday 26 June ½ an hour after 12 o’clock noon”).⁴

Wearman, their oldest son, was born on 12th December 1771 (“3 o’clock in the afternoon”).⁴

Harriet was born on 30th April 1773 (“at ¼ after 12 o’clock in the forenoon of Fryday”).⁴

Thomas was born on 29th November 1774 (“at 2 o’clock a Tuesday morning”).⁴

Charles was born on 1st August 1776 (“ab’t 11 o’clock Wednesday”).⁴

Robert was born on 24th February 1779 (“about 1 o’clock of a Wednesday”).⁴

Harriet, Wearman and Thomas are commemorated on this tomb.

Wearman GIFFORD carried on his father’s business with his brother, Charles. The hops were delivered on waggons (sic) from London. In 1803, he was described as a Linen Draper and was a member of the City Cavalry.⁷ Though, four years earlier, his brother, Charles, was described as a Grocer & Linen Draper so it is likely they carried out the two businesses at the same time.⁸ In the 1820’s, Wearman lived at Parkers Well House, St Leonards.⁹

School in Paris Street; an Auditor of the West of England Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb in Topsham Road and one of a number of Vice Presidents of Exeter Mendicity Society which had been established on 23rd July 1825 “for the relief of travelling poor and the suppression of vagrancy”.

Wearman GIFFORD never married. He died on 15th February 1836.¹⁰

Charles GIFFORD married Mary MORESBY on 7th January 1819.¹¹ At that time, he was living at Parker’s Well House, Topsham Road, Exeter. Shortly after their marriage, they moved to Cliff’s End House, Exmouth where they lived for the rest of their lives. *This is now the Park Hotel on Exeter Street.*

6. The Will of George Wearman of Withycombe Rawleigh (sic) – (Devon Heritage Centre – acquisition 48/22/4/12)

7. Devon: Exeter – Militia List 1803 (www.ancestry.co.uk)

8. Extracted Church of England Parish Records (www.ancestry.co.uk)

9. The Will of Wearman Gifford proved on 14 April 1836 (www.ancestry.co.uk)

10. England & Wales Non-Conformist Burials (No. 708) (www.ancestry.co.uk)

11. Devon Marriages (www.findmypast.co.uk)

In 1835, Wearman GIFFORD was a busy man!! He was President of the Protestant Dissenters' Charity

Charles and Mary had six children¹²:-

Charles Burr (born 24th February 1821)	Daughter – (stillborn in June 1822)
Wearman (born 6th December 1824)	Robert (born 10th April 1826)
Frederick (born 5th January 1828)	Mary (born 4th May 1829)

In 1851, Charles GIFFORD (senior) was Deputy Lieutenant of Devon.¹³ Their eldest son, Charles Burr GIFFORD emigrated to Canada in 1854.¹⁴

Charles GIFFORD died in Exmouth in 1855.¹⁵ He is buried in the small Dissenters' Graveyard at Lymptone (on the main road from Exeter to Exmouth).

The most noteworthy of the children of John and Dorothy GIFFORD is their youngest son, Robert, who was born in 1779. Robert was a lawyer, judge and politician. He was elected to the House of Commons in 1817 and knighted on 29th May the same year. He served as Attorney General and Master of the Rolls and was raised to the peerage in 1824 - Baron GIFFORD of St Leonards in the County of Devon. He was married to the daughter of Reverend Edward DREWE of Broadhembury. He died of cholera, in 1826, whilst holidaying in Dover and was buried in the Rolls Chapel, Chancery Lane, London.¹⁵

John Gifford died on 22nd October 1795¹⁶ and his wife, Dorothy, died on 1st December 1828.¹⁷

Yvonne Hensman
September 2017

12. Information provided by Walter Gifford

13. 1851 Census (www.ancestry.co.uk)

14. Information provided by Walter Gifford

15. Lord Robert Gifford (www.historyhome.co.uk)

16. England & Wales Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills 1384-1858 (www.ancestry.co.uk)

17. Non-Conformist & Non-Parochial Registers 1567-1970 Exeter, Georges Meeting Piece 1085, page 14 of 52.
