

The Griffith Families of Portsmouth, N. H.

John Griffith, Shopkeeper.

Caleb Griffith, Physician.

Their Descendants
and
Their Davenport-Rogers-Bowles Connections

September 1948
Albert N. Morton
Arlington, Mass.

From about 1730 to 1780 the Griffiths were a rather prominent Portsmouth family; yet little is generally known of them. Perhaps because they have, genealogically speaking, an uncanny ability to disappear completely from the public records at the most critical times.

Most of this compilation is the by product of ten years search for the parentage of Sarah, the wife of Samuel Griffith(#14); a search which has not been entirely successful, but the results are convincing to me.

Much of the data from the New Hampshire Gazette and other Portsmouth sources, and especially the discovery of the letters from Capt. Edmund Roberts and Samuel Bowles, Jr., in the New York Public Library, is due to the efforts of Miss Dorothy M. Vaughan of Portsmouth to whom I express my grateful appreciation.

The designations "merchant", "shopkeeper" and "trader" as used in the records of this period had a rather different meaning than at present. A merchant was an importer with overseas connections, quite often a ship owner, and a wholesaler of the goods that he imported. A shopkeeper had a store and was a merchant, in the present day meaning, and sold at retail. A trader was practically the same as the present day commodity broker; buying and selling any goods on which he thought he could make a profit. He usually did!

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Abbreviations used for Reference to Records

B. Reg.	Vital Records of Boston, Mass. at Registry Division, City Hall Annex.
B.R.C.R.	Boston Births, Marriages, Deaths, in Boston Records Commission Reports.
C.B.S.	Records of the Church in Brattle Square, Boston.
M.D.	Middlesex County, Mass. Registry of Deeds
M.P.	Middlesex County, Mass. Registry of Probate
N.C.	Records of North Church of Portsmouth, N. H.
N.E.Reg.	N.E. Historic Genealogical Soc. Register
N.H.G.R.	N.H. Genealogical Recorder, Vols. 1 to 7
N.H.P.	N. H. Provincial Papers
N.H.S.	N. H. State Papers
N. H. Wills	Printed Probate Records of Rockingham County, 9 Vols. to 1771, in N. H. State Papers
P.C.C.	Records at Office of City Clerk, Portsmouth, N. H.
R. D.	Rockingham County, N. H. Registry of Deeds
R.P.	Rockingham County, N.H. Registry of Probate
S.C.	Records of the South Church of Portsmouth, N.H.
3d C.	Records of the Third, Independent, Church of Portsmouth, N. H. 1757-1831 by Miss Priscilla Hammond.

The Family of John Griffith,shopkeeper.

1 John Griffith M. Deborah Lang

 Their Children

2 i John b. 1725 M. Abiah Davenport

 ii Moses b.1727, d. 1747, buried Point of Graves (N.H.G.R.)

3 iii Samuel b. 1729 M. Abigail Ward

4 iv Hannah b. 1731 M. Capt. John Grant

5 v Elizabeth b. 1733 M. Richard Champney

6 vi David b. 1735 M. Sarah Bowles

 vii Nathaniel b. 1737, d. aged 21 days, Pt. of Graves (N.H.G.R.)

viii Mary b. 1738, d, aged 21 days, buried Pt. of Graves "

 ix Nathaniel b. 1740 M. Mary Alcock

 x William b. and d. 1742, buried Point of Graves (N.H.G.R.)

7 xi Sarah b. 1743 M. Isaac Williams

 Second Generation

2 John Griffith M. Abiah Davenport

 Children

8 i John b. 1752

9 ii James Davenport M. Mary Newell

10 iii David M. Elizabeth McKnight

 iv Dorothy M. ----- Griswold

3 Samuel Griffith M. Abigail Ward
 Children

11 i Elizabeth b. 1753 M. Gideon Lamson

 ii Samuel b. 1755, d. 1759

 iii Miles Ward b. 1757, d. young

12 iv Abigail b. 1758 M. Samuel Truesdell

 v Deborah b. 1760 M. Fitch Pool

4 Hannah Griffith M. Capt John Grant

Children GRANT

i Sarah b. 1754 M. Israel Oates

ii John b. 1755

iii Hannah b. 1757 M. William Gunnison

iv Nathaniel b. 1763

5 Elizabeth Griffith M. Richard Champney

Children CHAMPNEY

i Thankful b. 1759 M. James Shapley

ii Joseph b. 1760 M. ----- Boyd (?)

6 David Griffith M. Sarah Bowles

Children

13 i Sarah b. 1758 M. Capt. Edmund Roberts

14 ii Samuel b. 1764 M. Sarah Griffith

iii Mary b. 1768 d. single 1800

7 Sarah Griffith M. Isaac Williams

Children WILLIAMS

i Sarah b. 1764

ii Isaac M. Elizabeth Jenkins

iii Rebecca b. 1766

iv Daniel b. 1767

v Elizabeth Champney b. 1769

vi Abigail b. 1774

Third Generation

8 John Griffith

- 9 James Davenport Griffith M. Mary Newell
 Children
- 15 i Mary E. N. b. 1786 M. Stephen P. Fuller
- 16 ii James b. 1791
- iii Margaret Grant
- iv Another daughter perhaps
- 10 David Griffith M. Elizabeth McKnight
 Children
- i Sarah
- ii Maria
- iii Another daughter
- 11 Elizabeth Griffith M. Gideon Lamson
 Children LAMSON
- i George b. 1794 M. Lucretia Orne
- ii John b. 1798
- Probably others
- 12 Abigail Griffith M. Samuel Truesdell
 Children TRUESDELL
- i Abigail Ward b. 1784
- ii Lydia b. 1785
- iii Elizabeth b. 1789
- iv Samuel b. 1793
- v Artemus Ward b. 1795
- vi Hannah b. 1799
- 13 Sarah Griffith M. Capt. Edmund Roberts
 Children ROBERTS
- i Sarah b. 1780 M. ----- Bowles
- 17 ii Edmund b. 1784 M. Katherine Whipple Langdon

- 14 Samuel Griffith M. Sarah Griffith
 Children
- 18 i Sarah Roberts M. William Morton
- ii Mary Ann b. 1796
- iii Hannah Elliot b. 1798
- iv Edmund Roberts b. 1801 M. Goodwin
- v Charlotte Hardy b. 1804

1 John Griffith, shopkeeper.

The New Hampshire Gazette of 24 Dec. 1776 noticed the death of John Griffith as follows;

"DIED, suddenly at Portsmouth on the 15th instant John Griffith aged 74. Through life he supported a virtuous and religious character. For many years served the Town and Public in several important offices with honor to himself and fidelity to the community."

Perhaps he was a son of David Griffith of Strawberry Bank who was on the Province tax list of 24 Sept. 1681 (N.H.P. Vol. 1) and a brother of Hannah Griffith who married William Partridge in Nov. 1710 (P.C.C.)

The first record found naming him is his baptism as an adult at the First Parish Church of Portsmouth 25 Feb. 1721/22. 30 May 1723 he and Edward Toogood were allowed £ 19-5-6 for work at Fort William and Mary; and 20 May 1727 he was allowed 25 shillings for work formerly done at the fort. (N.H.P. Vol. 4)

From 1745 to 1768 the printed Probate Records of N.H. State Papers show him - always "John Griffith, Shopkeeper"- as administrator, or appraiser, of about 25 estates. As many of them were mariners it seems possible that he was a dealer in shipping supplies.

He deeded land to his son David, 26 Feb. 1768 and 23 Nov. 1770, located in Portsmouth. (R.D. 110: 213 & 244)

He is called "Esquire" in his will of 2 Jan. 1775, proved 26 Feb. 1777, and leaves

1/6 to son John 1/6 to Hannah, Sarah, John, Jr., and Nathaniel Grant children of daughter Hannah Grant, deceased. 1/6 to Elizabeth, Abigail, and Deborah Griffith children of son Samuel lately deceased. 1/6 to daughter Champney wife of Richard Champney of Portsmouth. 1/6 to son David 1/6 to daughter Sarah wife of Isaac Williams

Witnesses: John Wheelwright
Hugh Henderson
John Pickering

Executors: Samuel Penhallow
William Knight

(R.P. 23:470-1)

The original will is at R.P.

Penhallow and Knight were appointed administrators of his estate (R.P. 23:472) and inventory was taken 8 Mar. 1777 by Samuel Hale, John Marshall, and John Noble and sworn 19 Apr. 1777. (R.P. 23:576) The total amount was £ 707-10-5 mostly real estate and furnishings with nothing to indicate that he was a shopkeeper at his death. An accounting dated 7 Mar. 1783 shows payment by Penhallow and Knight to all of the heirs then living. (R.P. 27:185)

A petition reciting the provisions of the will and praying permission to sell the real estate was filed with the Council and Representatives at Exeter 12 Mar. 1779 (N.H.S. 18:702) It was signed in behalf of:

Two minor children of Samuel Griffith, deceased, by Penhallow and Knight as guardians. Israel Oates and Sarah his wife
Richard Champney, Esq., and Elizabeth his wife
John Grant, mariner, in behalf of his son Nathaniel a minor,
John Grant, Jr.
William Gunnison, cordwainer, and Hannah his wife
All of Portsmouth

John Griffith of Boston.

Sarah Griffith, widow, late wife of David Griffith, deceased, in behalf of her two minor children.

Edmund Roberts, mariner, and Sarah his wife

Gideon Lamson, tailor, and Elizabeth his wife.

Isaac Williams, trader, and Sarah his wife
All of Exeter.

Sarah Griffith and Sarah Roberts did not sign but were given due notice.

The petition was granted and the N.H. Gazette of 30 Mar. 1779 had this notice;

Public Vendue

By an act of the General Assembly empowering the Executors of John Griffith, late of Portsmouth, ... to sell his real estate for the benefit of the Devises of said will. Notice is hereby given that two dwelling houses, two pieces of mowing ground, and one pew upon the lower floor of the South Meeting House, in said Portsmouth, will be sold by Public Vendue to the highest bidder on Tuesday, the 13th of April next at the late mansion house of the deceased, etc.

John Griffith married, at Portsmouth 28 Jan. 1724/25, Deborah, daughter of Nathaniel & Elizabeth Lang (N.E.Reg. 24:357) She is buried at Point of Graves; "Deborah, wife of John Griffith, deceased March 20, 1771 aged 65" Her brother Jeffrey Lang (1709-1758) was a well known gold and silver smith at Salem, Mass., as were his sons Richard and Edward, and it is reasonable to suppose that some of the several gold and silver smiths in the Griffith family were apprenticed to the Langs at Salem.

The Children of John & Deborah (Lang) Griffith

- 2 i John b. 1725 M. Abiah Davenport
- ii Moses b. 1727, d. 1747
- 3 iii Samuel b. 1729 M. Abigail Ward
- 4 iv Hannah b. 1731 M. Capt. John Grant
- 5 v Elizabeth bpt. 4 Nov. 1733 (S.C.) M. Richard Champney
- 6 vi David bpt. 31 Aug. 1735 (S.C.) M. Sarah Bowles
- vii Nathaniel d. 21 Aug. 1737 aged 21 days
- viii Mary d. 18 Oct. 1738 aged 21 days
- ix Nathaniel b. 1740, buried at Point of Graves "died Feb. 26 1771" He was not mentioned in his father's will.
24 Jan. 1775 administration on the estate of Nathaniel Griffith, goldsmith, of Portsmouth, intestate, was granted to widow Mary (Alcock) with Joseph Alcock and David Griffith as sureties. (R.P. 23:124, Case #4148)

22 Feb. 1775 inventory was taken by Samuel Bowles and Nathaniel Marshall at £ 11-2-1 and the original document shows it included a "Glass Coat of Arms" appraised at 1 sh.- 6d and silver smith's tools, etc. the same date the widow Mary petitioned for her dower rights, stating the estate was insolvent, and the Judge of Probate appointed Bowles and Marshall to examine. No further record. Mary(Alcock) Griffith was probably the daughter of John a Portsmouth gold smith; and possibly the Mary Griffith who married Benjamin Woodbury 16 Dec. 1781 (N.C.)

x William bpt. 30 May 1742 and d. the same year (S.C)

7 xi Sarah bpt. 9 Oct. 1743 (S.C) M. Isaac Williams

2 John Griffith, Schoolmaster.

John Griffith was probably born in 1725 but in the record of his death at Boston Registry the entry is "April 1789 aged 66" There is a reference to the Massachusetts Magazine and to the Independent Chronicle with the same age given in them.

He was admitted to full communion at the South Church of Portsmouth 7 March 1741/42 and apparently was the John Griffith, volunteer at Louisburg, who petitioned for a further allowance of wages, and whose petition was read and sent down to the House of Representatives 30 July 1746. (N.H.P. Vol. 5, Journal of the Assembly) This is confirmed by a John Griffith, Jr., on Capt. Sherburne's muster roll 1745 (Mss Catalog, Mass. Historical Soc.)

His first appearance in Boston is his intentions with Abiah Davenport as John Griffith, Jr., of Portsmouth, 20 June 1751 (B.R.C.R.) She was born at Boston 2 Oct. 1729; the daughter of James & Sarah (Franklin) Davenport(N.E.Reg. 33:26) She was named for her grandmother Abiah(Folger)Franklin, the mother of Benjamin Franklin. Her death is noticed in the Massachusetts Gazette of Monday, 28, Dec. 1772. "Died; Mrs. Abiah Griffith, aged 44, consort to Mr. John Griffith, Schoolmaster. Her Remains are to be entered To-Morrow afternoon, at which Time the Friends of the Deceased are desired to attend."

John Griffith was appointed a constable at Boston 13 Mar. 1753. (Town Officials of Colonial Boston) and signed the non-importation agreement 31 July 1769 (Mss. Catalog, Mass. Hist. Soc.)

24 Aug. 1761 Ezekiel Goldthwaite, as executor for William Bant, merchant, of Boston, sold for £ 140 to John Griffith, trader, of Boston, a house and land on Mill Creek at Middle St. in Boston. Acknowledged 8 June 1762 and 7 Sept. 1762. (S.D. 98:148)

25 Aug. 1762 John Griffith, trader, acknowledged indebtedness of £ 86-16-4 to William Bant, scrivener, and mortgaged the same property to Bant with payment to be made 25 Aug. 1763. Signed by "John Griffith and Abiah Griffith his wife" 24 July 1762, acknowledged by him 7 Sept. 1762. (S.D. 98:149)

28 Apr. 1767 John Griffith, schoolmaster, of Boston for £ 90 sells to Asa Stodder, bricklayer, of Boston, land "whereon stood a dwelling house which was lately consumed by fire, situate in Boston, being the same that I the sd John Griffith bought from Ezekiel Goldthwaite as executor of the Testament of William Bant ... etc." Signed by John Griffith and Abiah Griffith; and acknowledged by them 8 May 1767. (S.D. 110:142)

From "Schoolmasters of Colonial Boston" by Robert F. Seybolt, 1930. John Griffith 1764 to 1774. Advertisements in the Boston Gazette of 15 and 29 Oct. and 5 Nov. 1764; "...opening a school where Mr. John Vinal lately kept, opposite William Vassall, Esq." Boston Gazette of 9 Feb. 1767; "Having his house burnt in the late fire has taken the Southerly end of Mr. Joseph Gale's house in Sudbury Street to live in, and intends to open school at his usual place." 15 and 22 Jan. 1770; "Has removed his School to a more commodious Place, a new Brick Building in Hanover Street a little below the Orange Tree." The last advertisements listed are of 8, 15, and 22 Nov. 1773. He was living at Boston in 1779 when he signed the petition regarding his father's estate.

He had a second wife; probably the Elizabeth Snelling who married John Griffith at Portsmouth 10 Sept. 1773 by South Church of Portsmouth records. From the Independent Chronicle (Boston) of Thursday, 15 May 1777; "Last Monday departed this life Mrs. Elizabeth Griffith, the wife of Mr. John Griffith, Schoolmaster, aged 35 years. Her funeral is to be this afternoon when the Friends and Relations of the deceased are desired to attend." Her death is recorded at the Boston Registry with a referenc to the Independent Chronicle.

Probably he had a third wife; the evidence being as follows. In Boston Marriages, B.R.C.R., are; Intentions, Nov. 1780 of John Griffith and Sarah Boils. also Intentions, 11 Apr. 1781 of John Griffith and Sarah Child.

There was a Sarah of Benjamin & Mary Child born in Boston 9 Sept. 1746 but no record of Sarah Boils, Bowles or Bolles.

In the Census of 1790 at Boston there are; John Griffith with 1-2-2, John Griffith with 1-0-1, and Mrs. Griffith with 0-0-1 .

At the Boston Registry the death of Sarah Griffith is recorded on 9 Oct. 1785 with a reference to the Massachusetts Centinel. In the issue of 15 Oct. 1785 is; Last Wednesday died Mrs. Sarah Griffith, consort of John Griffith, schoolmaster. Her funeral this afternoon at four o'clock from his house in Brattle Street."

It appears that John Griffith had a son John (#8 q.v.) and in the Directory of Boston 1789 Mr. Griffith, dancing master, is listed on Hanover St. So apparently one Sarah died in 1785 and the other was the Mrs. Griffith in 1790; and one of them the widow of John who died in 1789.

There are no records in the Suffolk County Probate Court which refer to his estate.

for allowing Richard Champney to receive assets of the estate. The same day the court appointed Capt. Woodbury Langdon, Richard Hart, John Sparhawk, and Joseph Whipple as arbitrators.

7 Mar. 1775 "Joseph Bass, upholsterer, and his wife Abigail, heretofore Abigail Griffith, widow of Samuel Griffith, deceased," petitioned for her dower in the estate. Signed by both of them. 11 Mar. 1775 a warrant was issued to Samuel Hale, Samuel Penhallow, Joseph Whipple, and George Wentworth to set off the dower; which they did on 29 March giving Abigail the easterly half of the house in which Samuel lived and a house and land on Church Lane.

Richard Champney, merchant, of Portsmouth

29 Mar. 1775/petitioned the court showing that he and Samuel Griffith jointly owned a brigantine called the Oceanic and a quantity of salt and prayed that a division be made.

28 Mar. 1792 an inventory of the widow's dower was taken and in August Bass sold the property to Supply Clap. So Abigail must have died in 1792.

5 Sept. 1804 Bass renounced his right to administer the estate; particularly property which had been the dower of Mary Cook, widow of John Walter Cook, which it appears Samuel Griffith had purchased subject to the dower. 7 Sept. 1804 Samuel Fernald, merchant, was appointed "administrator of the estate not administered of Samuel Griffith late of Portsmouth, shopkeeper." It appears that he was specially to sell the above property for the benefit of Samuel Griffith's creditors.

All of the above from original documents case 4080 R.P.

14 May 1822 administration was granted to James Ladd on the estate of Joseph Bass, Esq. (with a line drawn through Esq.) Ladd reported that the estate appeared insolvent and asked that commissioners in insolvency be appointed. (R.P. 46:442)

14 May 1822 inventory was taken, by Robert Neil, Jr., Nathaniel Kennard, and William Adams, which consisted entirely of personal at \$139.55 mostly furnishings and clothing. (R.P. 46:443)

Samuel Griffith married at Salem, Mass. 7 Dec. 1752 (Salem V.R.) Abigail, daughter of Miles, Jr., & Elizabeth (Webb) Ward of Salem, who was born 17 Mar. 1732. (See Perley's History of Salem) She was a communicant at the South Church of Portsmouth 2 Feb. 1753.

The Children of Samuel & Abigail (Ward) Griffith. All baptized at South Church and the 3 daughters mentioned in John Griffith's will of 1775.

- 11 i Elizabeth bpt. 4 Nov. 1753. M. Gideon Lamson
- ii Samuel bpt 1 June 1755, d. 21 Apr. 1759, buried Pt. of Graves
- iii Miles Ward bpt. 30 Jan. 1757 probably died young
- 12 iv Abigail bpt. 4 June 1758 M. Samuel Truesdell

- v Deborah b. 20 Oct., Bpt. 26 Oct. 1760, married at Boston 23 Sept. 1782 Fitch Pool, (B.R.C.R.) who was son of Fitch Pool, merchant, and wife Anna. Administration was granted 23 Oct. 1787 to "Deborah, widow of Fitch Pool, merchant of Boston" with David Griffith, (#10) goldsmith, and David Ramsdell, tailor, all of Boston, as sureties. (S.P. case 18962, 86:576) It is not known whether they had children. None appear in Boston R.C.R.

4 Hannah Griffith

Hannah Griffith was born at Portsmouth about 1731 and is buried at Point of Graves and her stone reads; "Hannah, wife of Capt. John Grant, died September 18, 1769 aged 38." She married, at Portsmouth 29 Aug. 1753, John Grant (S.C.) who died in Dec. 1784 aged 60 (S.C.) His will of 15 Oct. 1784, probated 19 Jan. 1785, "Capt. John Grant, mariner," leaves to wife Elizabeth for her life with reversion to his children; who are not named. (R.P. 28:41)

The Children of Hannah Griffith and John Grant. All baptized at South Church and named in John Griffith's will of 1775.

- i Sarah bpt. 9 June 1754 M. Israel Oates
- ii John bpt. 19 Oct. 1755
- iii Hannah bpt. 27 Feb. 1757, married 2 Dec. 1778 William (5) Gunnison, cordwainer, son of Joseph (4) & Mary (Crocker) Gunnison. (Hugh 1, Elihu 2, 3) She died 23 Mar. 1813 and he died 9 Mar. 1831 at Fishersfield, N. H. where he was a farmer. See "Descendents of Hugh Gunnison" by Geo. W. Gunnison 1880 for Hannah's 14 children.
- iv Nathaniel bpt. 6 Mar. 1763

5 Elizabeth Griffith

Elizabeth Griffith was baptized at South Church of Portsmouth 4 Nov. 1733 and married, 11 Jan. 1759, (S.C) Richard, son of Rev. Joseph & Thankful (Pickeren) Champney of Beverly, Mass., who was born there 28 Aug. 1735 (Beverly V.R.) See Paige's History of Cambridge, Mass. and Stone's History of Beverly for Champney family.

As shown by the inventory of the estate of Samuel Griffith, they lived in a house on Queen St. in 1774 and Champney and Samuel were joint owners of the Brigantine Oceanic.

The will of Richard Champney, merchant, of Portsmouth, dated 12 Aug. 1806, and proved 17 Oct. 1810, leaves to two children of daughter Thankful, late wife of James Shapley, Charles Champney Shapley and Frances Miller Shapley, \$10.00 each. To children of deceased son Joseph Champney, to wit; Mary Eliza, Charlotte, George Boyd, Mary Jane, Clarissa, Evelina, William Boyd, \$10.00 each, with residue to wife Betty. Witnesses: William Dennett, Titus Salter, Daniel Humphrey. (R.P. 30:467)

Estate of Betty Champney, late of Portsmouth, intestate, administration 12 June 1839 to J. Hamilton Shapleigh with Sarah and Frederick A. Shapleigh as sureties in \$2000. (R.P. 61:366)

Census of 1790 at Portsmouth, Richard Champney with 2-0-4
Joseph Champney with 1-1-6 James Shapley with 1-0-3

The Children of Elizabeth Griffith and Richard Champney
Baptized at South Church of Portsmouth

- i Thankful bpt. 23 Dec. 1759, d. before 1806, married James Shapley and had: Shapley
 - i Charles Champney who married and appears to have had
 - i J. Hamilton
 - ii Sarah
 - iii Frederick A.
 - ii Frances Miller

- ii Joseph bpt. 7 Dec. 1760, married (?) Boyd, d. before 1806 and had: Champney

i Maria Eliza	v Clarissa
ii Charlotte	vi Evelina
iii George Boyd	vii William Boyd
iv Mary Jane	

6 David Griffith, Goldsmith of Portsmouth.

David Griffith was baptized at the South Church of Portsmouth 31 Aug. 1735 and died at Exeter, N.H. The N. H. Gazette at Exeter of 8 Feb. 1779 noticed his death;

"Died on the 2nd instant, suddenly here, Mr. David Griffith of this town, goldsmith, in whom his wife has lost a tender and affectionate husband, his children an indulgent Parent, his servants a kind master, and the community a peaceful and useful member. Having struggled long with a complication of painful Disorders, which he bore with Philosophical Patience and Resignation, he at last yielded to a paralysis in the 44th year of his age. His funeral was attended by a numerous assembly on Saturday last."

His stone in the West Cemetery in Exeter reads; died Feb. 2, 1779, age 46.

It is likely that he and his brother Nathaniel were apprenticed to the Langs in Salem and he was in business in Portsmouth when he advertised in the N. H. Gazette of 8 Jan. 1768;

"David Griffith hereby informs the Public that he has stopped the following articles, viz: 1 pr. round plain silver shoe buckles, 1 pr. square wrought buckles, also a lamp of silver qvt, one oz. 14dw. The advertised articles are supposed to be stolen (the buckles are all old) The owners proving his property and paying charges may have them again by applying to David Griffith at his shop in Queen's Street, Portsmouth, at the Sign of the Goldsmith's Arms.

N.B. Said Griffith begs the Favor of those who have stolen gold or silver, not to bring them to him, as he is in the future determined to put their names in the public print."

A similar advertisement is in the Gazette of 1 July 1768 regarding two silver spoons.

Like many other Portsmouth citizens he moved to Exeter at the start of the Revolutionary War and in the N. H. Gazette, at Exeter 6 July 1776 advertised;

"Choice Dumb Fish with sundry other articles to be sold by DAVID GRIFFITH at his shop in Exeter."

And 28 Sept. 1776

"To be sold by DAVID GRIFFITH at his shop next door to William Parker, Esq., in Exeter, choice variety of cotton wool, variety of English goods, shoes of some sorts, N. E. Rum, assortment of goldsmiths and jewellers work."

These advertisements effectually dispose of the statement in "The Hands that Built New Hampshire" a WPA Writer's Project, 1940, that;

"David Griffith was taken prisoner in the ill-fated expedition against Quebec, the last day of December 1775, and was not heard of again."

A very little research showed that the David Griffith who was taken prisoner was a Virginian.

David Griffith, with his brother-in-law Samuel Bowles, signed a petition to the House of Representatives on 4 May 1775. Also the Association Test in 1776.

16 Feb. 1760 David bought land in Portsmouth from his father(R.D.66:429)
30 Apr. 1762 he bought from the estate of John Hill (R.D.66:428)
26 Feb. 1768 land and buildings from his father (R.D. 110:244)
Again from his father 23 Nov. 1770 (R.D. 110:213)

A manuscript in the Archives Division of the Massachusetts Secretary of State, from which part of the Vital Records of Waltham, Mass. were made up, reads;

" Nov. 7, 1757; Mr. David Griffith of Portsmouth and Mrs. Sarah Bowles of Waltham were joined in marriage by the Rev. Mr. Jacob Cushing, pastor of the Church of Christ in Waltham."

She was the daughter of Samuel & Sarah(Davenport) Bowles and while no record of the birth of Sarah, or of her brother Samuel Bowles, has been found there appears to be ample proof of their parentage as follows.

15 Feb. 1769 David Griffith and Samuel Bowles, both of Portsmouth, bought land and buildings in Portsmouth of Benj. and Mary Pierce of Dover and Noah and Daniel Pierce of Portsmouth. (R.D. 96:41)
This was about seven months before Samuel Bowles marriage at Portsmouth 1 Oct. 1769 to Hannah, daughter of Capt. Titus & Elizabeth (Bickford) Salter. (Salter Gen.)

Sarah(Bowles) Griffith is buried in the North Cemetery at Portsmouth in the next lot to Samuel Bowles and his wife Hannah.

Sarah's elder daughter Sarah, who married Capt. Edmund Roberts, and later Moses Woodward, is buried in the **same** row.

In the Hudson Collection at New York Public Library are letters from Capt. Edmund Roberts to John Rogers of Boston. John Rogers married, at Boston 13 Mar. 1745, Mary, daughter of James & Sarah(Franklin) Davenport, a second wife. Samuel Bowles married at Boston 16 Mar. 1737/38 Sarah, daughter of James & Grace(Tileston) Davenport, his first wife. Hence; Mary(Davenport) Rogers and Sarah(Davenport) Bowles were half sisters.

Under date of 22 Dec. 1779 Edmund Roberts writes to John Rogers asking the prices of West India Rum, sugar and coffee Please to desire Nancy (J.R.'s daughter) to get Mrs. Roberts as many small flowers as comes to \$2.00 and put them in a good sugar box and send them by Davis.

14 Feb. 1780 ... shipping to Boston by Capt. Wallace two exceedingly good hogsheads of molasses Mrs. Roberts compliments to her Aunt and Cousin Nancy

2 Nov. 1780 shipped by Cpt. Fernald four hogsheads of French sugar..... Have met with so much repeated bad luck that I'm going to Privateering once more in Ship Alexander, Capt. Simpson, mounting 9 pounds of 160. Our compliments to you and Mrs. Rogers. Please ask Mrs. Rogers if she will take Polly (David's daughter Mary) again next summer as I want to send her to Boston to school and don't know of anybody I'd like to trust her with except herself.

24 S&pt. 1783 Received yours by Capt. Coffin Please send 8-10 hogsheads of molasses I will send you gold for them instantly. Send me one box of good candles by the Beaver, Capt. Adams,..... Respects to Mrs. Rogers and yourself.

P. S. We have a melancholy in this town. 4 and 5 children generally buried in a day. Both of ours is ill. Expect to lose one if not both.

13 Apr. 1785 He writes to see how his account stands. We are well. Mrs. Roberts joins me in compliments to her Aunt and Uncle Rogers.

18 June 1785 Mrs. Roberts and Polly send their compliments to Aunt Rogers.

Mrs. Roberts was Sarah Griffith, daughter of Sarah(Bowles)Griffith, and the only reason she would call Mary(Davenport)Rogers her aunt is that Sarah(Bowles)Griffith was a daughter of Sarah(Davenport)Bowles and that Mary(Davenport)Rogers was in fact her great aunt. Also see the Davenport-Rogers-Bowles-Elliot Connections of the Griffiths further on.

Sarah(Bowles)Griffith was a communicant of the South Church of Portsmouth 5 Sept. 1757 and is buried in the North Cemetery at Portsmouth where her stone reads; Sarah Griffith, relict of David of this town, died March 29, 1780 aged 42.

From the N. H. Gazette of Portsmouth 22 Apr. 1780;

"Died on Wednesday, the 22nd of March, suddenly of a paralytic Disorder and on Monday was decently interred, Mrs. Sarah Griffith relict of David Griffith of this town, goldsmith, Her amiable disposition in life endeared her to all her friends and acquaintances. In her death her children have lost a truly tender and affectionate Parent, her friends and acquaintances a real and valuable friend."

Administration on David's estate was granted to the widow Sarah, Thomas Odiorne, and Gideon Lamson, both of Exeter, 25 Feb. 1779. Inventory was taken 26 May 1779 by Joshua Wentworth, Thomas Odiorne, and John Ward Gilman, and included a house and land in Exeter, one half of a house in Portsmouth where Samuel Bowles now lives, another house in Portsmouth, and a great variety of goods in his shop at Exeter; showing that goldsmithing had become a very small part of his business. Total £ 9889-13-8 (R.P. 25:114 and examination of original documents Case 4514)

After Sarah's death in 1780 Capt. Edmund Roberts was administrator on 29 Mar. 1780 and in April 1780 another inventory was taken by Nathaniel Marshall, Samuel Drowne, and Jeremiah Libbey, which showed a total of £ 47372-14-5 (R.P. 25:351)

After the death of Edmund Roberts in 1787 his widow Sarah(Griffith) Roberts became administrator and her accounting of 21 May 1788 showed cash assets of £ 28068-14-6 in paper money and this was discounted into silver at 40 to 1 with a value of £ 707-14-4. (R.P. 29:192) Obviously the difference between the first two inventories is accounted for by a progressive depreciation of paper money.

16 Jan. 1788 Samuel Griffith of Portsmouth, goldsmith, was appointed administrator de bonis non on his father's estate with Richard Champney and Martin Parry, goldsmith, as sureties. (R.P. 29:165) No further action appears.

An accounting begun by David's widow, and interrupted by her death, was carried on by Capt. Edmund Roberts until 18 Apr. 1785. He lists expenses in bringing son Samuel from Boston, where presumably he had been apprenticed to David's cousin David #10; expenses for gravestones for David and his widow, and there is mention of settling a partnership between David and Samuel Bowles by which Bowles paid the estate £83-9-1 (R.P. 28:133)

29 Mar. 1780 John Fernald, brazer, George Wentworth, and Nathaniel Folsom, all of Portsmouth, gave bond and were appointed guardians of son Samuel "upwards of 14" and the same date Edmund Roberts, mariner, Eliphalet Giddings, gent, and Isaac Williams, trader, were appointed guardians of daughter Mary "less than 14" and gave bond. (R.P. 25:326)

A warrant was issued to Daniel Rindge, John Parker, Joshua Wentworth, Supply Clapp, and Jeremiah Libbey, all of Portsmouth, to make a division of the real estate among David's heirs. They made a return 4 May 1785 with 2 shares to Samuel the only son being the mansion house and land in Portsmouth 22 feet on Buck St, running southerly 80 feet as by deed from John Griffith, a lot of land near the Mast Yard in Portsmouth with a house and barn, 40 feet westerly on Atkinson St. and 55 feet southerly by land of John Barrett of Boston, and Pew #63 in the South Church of Portsmouth.

To daughter Sarah Roberts; land in Exeter 1/2 acre, with house and buildings, which David bought of Daniel Warner late of Portsmouth by deed of 10 Dec. 1776, and Pew #18 in the South Church.

To daughter Mary; Land opposite Sarah's, 2-3/4 acres with buildings also bought from Warner in 1776, land in Portsmouth about 2-3/4 acres which David bought from John Griffith by deed of 16 Feb. 1760 bounded by land of Woodbury Langdon and Thomas Packer, and Pew #54 in the South Church. (R.P. 28:178-180)

The Children of David & Sarah (Bowles) Griffith
All baptized at the South Church of Portsmouth

- | | | | |
|----|-----|--|---|
| 13 | i | Sarah bpt. 17 Sept. 1758 | M. Capt. Edmund Roberts
2nd Moses Woodward |
| 14 | ii | Samuel bpt. Apr. 1764 | M. Sarah Griffith |
| | iii | Mary bpt. Sept. 1768, d. single 16 Nov. 1801 buried near her mother in North Cemetery. Her will dated 4 Nov. 1800 "Mary Griffith, single woman" leaves all her property to Edmund and Sarah Roberts, children of the late Edmund and Sarah Roberts. Executor Capt. Martin Parry (R.P. 33:396) Warrant for inventory 18 Feb. 1801 to Nathaniel Marshall, Jeremiah Libbey, Thomas Simes. Sworn 13 May 1801 at \$1220.55 (R.P.) | |

7 Sarah Griffith

Sarah Griffith was baptized at the South Church of Portsmouth 9 Oct. 1743 and married, at Portsmouth 12 Sept. 1763, Isaac Williams. (S.C.) He was a deacon and they were both communicants at the South Church in Dec. 1767.

In the Freeman's Journal of 11 July 1775; "Isaac Williams acquaints the Publick that he has removed his family to Exeter." and he was trader of Exeter in March 1780 when he was appointed a guardian of Mary, daughter of David Griffith.

The Children of Isaac & Sarah (Griffith) Williams

- i Sarah bpt. 1 July 1764
- ii Isaac student at Phillips Exeter Academy in 1784 and married Elizabeth Jenkins 16 Aug. 1786. (Bell's History of Exeter) Administration on the estate of Isaac Williams, Jr., trader, of Exeter, intestate, 21 Mar. 1794 to Isaac Williams with John & Thomas Dean, all of Exeter, as sureties. (R.P. 31:4) Inventory same date at £ 44 (R.P. 31:217)
- iii Rebecca bpt. 23 Mar. 1766
- iv Daniel bpt. 7 Aug. 1767
- v Elizabeth Champney bpt. 10 Sept. 1769
- vi Abigail bpt. 3 July 1774

All except ii were baptized at South Church of Portsmouth; i, iii, iv, v as children of Isaac & Sarah, but no parents given for vi

Isaac Williams (Sr.), intestate, of Exeter, administration 15 Feb. 1819 to Gideon Lamson with Nathaniel Boardman and George Lamson as sureties. Nothing further appears.

8 John Griffith, Matross.

He appears to be the John Griffith, Jr., age 28, 5 ft. - 9 in., brown complexion, residence Boston, from 1 July to December 1780, matross in Col. Crane's Regiment. He was also listed as being at Springfield, Mass. 14 July 1780 and discharged 31 Dec. 1780. (Massachusetts Soldiers & Sailors) Other listings might refer to him.

In the Boston Directory of 1789 there is listed; Mr. Griffith, dancing master, on Hanover Street, and in the Mss catalog at Mass. Historical Society there is a reference of John Griffith being licensed in 1788 as a dancing master.

The Census of 1790 lists two John Griffiths in Boston; one with 1-0-1, the other with 1-2-2 .

John Griffith's death is recorded at the Boston Registry as by accident in November 1792; with reference to the Massachusetts Magazine which shows nothing more. Early court records of Suffolk County (Case 106487) show an inquest on the death of John Griffith, in Engine House #7 at Boston 22 Nov. 1792, due to "convulsion fits." A witness, David Griffith, testified that John had told him he was subject to convulsion fits.

Nothing has been found to indicate that John Griffith carried on, or was connected with, his father's school; but if he did the Sarah who died on 9 Oct. 1785 would be his wife. See Page 8 under John Griffith, Schoolmaster.

There are no records in Suffolk Deeds or Suffolk Probate that refer to him, and no record of possible children has been found.

9 James Davenport Griffith, Publisher.

No record of the birth of James Davenport Griffith appears in any Boston record but his death in Sept. 1804 is recorded at Boston Registry as aged 40; so he was born about 1764.

From the History of Keene, N. H. by S. G. Griffin, M.A., 1904; "In September 1787 James Davenport Griffith, son of John Griffith an eminent school teacher of Boston, having two years experience in publishing The Continental Journal of that city, came to Keene and started The New Hampshire Recorder The earliest copy preserved, so far as known, is #1 of the second volume dated September 9, 1788."

Also the journal of the senate in N.H. State Papers shows several payments to him for printing around 1791-92. Nothing has been found to show when he left Keene, though the records of the Cheshire County Registry of Deeds has not been searched, but Cheshire County Probate has no record of his estate. So it is assumed that he returned to Boston some time prior to 1804. Suffolk Probate has no record of his estate nor is there any reference to him in Suffolk Deeds.

The Census of 1790 lists him at Keene with 2 males over 16, 1 male under 16, and 4 females. Stephen P. Fuller in the Boston Transcript of 8 Oct. 1856 says that James Davenport Griffith 30 Mar. 1824 (this actually is the date of his wife's death) and that two of his daughters are living and that one of them is his wife. (N.E.Reg. 11:20)

The Records of the Church in Brattle Square, Boston, show his marriage, 10 Nov. 1785 by Rev. Peter Thatcher, to Polly Newell and her death, as Mary Griffith, aged 62, on 30 March 1824. Mar. 1824 Mary Griffith, widow, buried in Chapel Burying Ground on Tremont St. (Boston Reg.) She was the daughter of Thomas & Elizabeth (Stimpson) Newell of Charlestown, Mass. and was baptized 7 or 14 Mar. 1762 and married --- Griffith. Her sister Margaret, baptized 17 Feb. 1760, married ---- Grant. The will of Timothy Newell, brother of Thomas, leaves to nieces Margaret Grant and Mary Griffith. In 1814 Mary Griffith, of Charlestown, widow, sells to Margaret G. Griffith, single woman, the estate left her (Mary) by the will of Timothy Newell, Witnessed by Mary E. N. Griffith. (Wyman's Charlestown Genealogies and Estates)

22 June 1813 Eunice Domett of Boston, widow, leased for \$1.00 to Mary Griffith, widow, two parcels of land in Charter St., Boston, for her life time. (S.D. 242:144) The terms of the lease seem to suggest some connection; but Eunice was a Walker. However, 23 Apr. 1866 George Domett, clerk, the son and only next of kin of Martha G. Domett of Boston, widow, was appointed administrator of her estate. (S.P. 232:209) Nothing more was found.

23 June 1813 Joseph Newell of Boston sells to Mary Griffith, widow, for \$400 a house and Land on Cole Lane. (S.D. 242:148)

5 Apr. 1824 Stephen P. Fuller, "son-in-law of Mary Griffith" petitioned to be appointed administrator of her estate and was appointed (SP.172:158) He took inventory 3 May 1824 amounting to \$61.50 personal. S.P. 122:321) His first and final accounting of 26 Dec. 1825 shows expenditures of \$83.45 for the expense of her last sickness and burial. (S.P. 123-2:515)

11 Elizabeth Griffith

Elizabeth Griffith was baptized at the South Church of Portsmouth 4 Nov. 1753 and by the petition of the heirs of John Griffith in 1779 was the wife of Gideon Lamson of Exeter, tailor.

He was the son of William(4) Lamson of Exeter (William 1 of Ipswich, John 2, William 3,) and was baptized at Exeter 28 June 1747 (Bell's History of Exeter) He was a bondsman, with Capt. Edmund Roberts, for the Privateers Nonpareil and Wilkes 29 May 1777 (N.H.G.R. 5:170) He died at Exeter 3 Jan. 1828.

The Children of Gideon & Elizabeth(Griffith) Lamson as given in "Descendents of William Lamson of Ipswich" by William J. Lamson, New York, 1917.

As they were married by 1779 it seems likely that there were other children before 1794. No search has been made for them.

- i George b. at Exeter 1794 and d. at New York, N. Y. 4 Aug. 1826. He was a lawyer and publisher. He married, intentions 28 Dec. 1817, Lucretia Bourne, daughter of Joshua & Lucretia(Bourne) Orne, who was born at Marblehead, Mass. and died at New York in 1865. They had 5 children.
- ii John b. at Exeter 1798 and d. there 1824.

12 Abigail Griffith

Abigail Griffith was baptized at South Church of Portsmouth 4 June 1758 and married, intentions at Newburyport, Mass. 15 Feb. 1783, Samuel Truesdell. (Newburyport V.R.)

The Children of Samuel & Abigail(Griffith) Truesdell
by Newburyport V. R.

- i Abigail Ward b. 2 Jan. 1784
- ii Lydia b. 8 July 1785
- iii Elizabeth b. 9 July 1789
- iv Samuel bpt. 10 Nov. 1793 (Records First Unitarian Soc.)
- v Artemus Ward b. 8 Dec. 1795 In War of 1812 (Hist. Newburyport)
- vi Hannah b. 30 Mar. 1799

No search was made for further data.

13 Sarah Griffith

Sarah Griffith, daughter of David of Portsmouth, was baptized at the South Church of Portsmouth 17 Sept. 1758 and was, by family tradition, noted for her beauty. From N.H. Gazette of Exeter Tuesday, Apr. 8, 1777; "Thursday evening was married in this town (3 Apr. 1777) Capt. Edmund Roberts and Miss Sally Griffith, daughter of Mr. David Griffith."

The death of Capt. Edmund Roberts is noticed in the N. H. Gazette of 16 Nov. 1787 and he is buried on the north side of the North Cemetery at Portsmouth where his stone reads; "died November 15, 1787."

Sarah married, second, "Married Moses Woodward and Mrs. Sarah Roberts Sept. 2, 1789" (Book of Marriages 1769-1841, pg. 54, P.C.C.) but nevertheless she is buried in the same plot with her first husband and the stone reads; "Sarah, wife of Capt. Moses Woodward, died June 20, 1801."

As has been seen; Capt. Edmund Roberts administered the estate of Sarah' father David Griffith and after his death Sarah administered David's estate. 16 Jan. 1788 Sarah was appointed administrator of Capt. Edmund's estate with John Fernald, brazer, of Portsmouth, and Gideon Lamson of Exeter as sureties in £ 1000. (R.P. Case 5322 from original documents) Inventory of the estate was sworn by Joshua Brackett, Nathaniel Marshall, and Martin Parry, in May 1788 at £ 225-17-9 $\frac{1}{2}$

The estate was much involved with debts owed to, and by, the estate; among them claims for £ 630 by merchants of London and Bordeaux. 5 Sept. 1790 Moses Woodward steps into the picture with a petition to have the estate declared insolvent; 15 Jan. 1791 he advertised in the N.H. Gazette that he would receive debts due the estate; and 16 Feb. 1791 with a petition to sell the real estate to pay claims of £ 645. While Moses Woodward was not in the same class with Joseph Bass; he seems to have had the ability to see a dollar from a great distance, displayed great agility in its pursuit, and was very active in settling the Roberts' estate. When he died in 1838 he left a large estate to several children, none of whom appear to have been children of Sarah, and his estate was in the courts until 1907. The records are very interesting, at Rockingham Probate, include a list of his grand children and their children as of 1904.

20 Oct. 1790, in response to a petition by Moses and Sarah, a warrant was issued to Joshua Brackett, Jeremiah Libbey, Esq., John Fernald, brazer, Nathaniel Marshall, mariner, and Martin Parry, goldsmith, to set off to Sarah Woodward her dower in the estate of her late husband, Edmund Roberts, mariner. On 13 Nov. 1790 they set off the upper part of a building near Liberty Bridge and $\frac{1}{2}$ of a lot which Roberts had bought 10 July 1787 on Daniel St.

Among some descendents of Capt. Edmund Roberts there is a tradition that he was an officer in the British Navy. By the Roberts Genealogical notes of Henry W. Hardon of New York he was a son of Samuel (4) and Abigail (Perkins) Roberts a joiner of Somersworth, N.H. (Thomas 1, John 2, Joseph 3) Sarah (Griffith) Roberts by Stafford Co. Deeds 13:4 sells her rights to land in Somersworth which Capt. Edmund had bought from Samuel Roberts. 22 Sept. 1806 Sarah Roberts, the second wife and widow of Samuel Roberts conveys to Edmund Roberts (Jr.) and Sarah Roberts, single woman, her dower in the estate of Samuel. (Staf. D. 52:369)

Hardon calls Capt. Edmund "officer of the Ship Hampden in the Revolution"

"Friday Aug. 4, 1769; Edmund Roberts sailed in Brig Laurel for Barnstable and his brother Josiah went with him for his first trip." (Tate's Diary, N.E. Reg. 74:126)

"Ship Lucretia, Edmund Roberts, master, outward bound for the West Indies" (Freemans Journal 13 Jan. 1775)

All of which seems to be reasonable proof that Edmund Roberts was a son of Samuel, the joiner of Somersworth. Sons of joiners just were not officers of the British Navy in theseventeen hundreds.

In a list of New Hampshire Privateers in N.H.G.R. 5:170 Edmund, and Gideon Lamson of Exeter, is listed as bondsman in \$5000 for the Nonpariel, brig of 10 guns and crew of 80, Fletcher de Berruyer du Vanrouy, master; and the Sloop Wilkes, 10 guns and crew of 60, Mendes, fils Cadet, master; on 29 May 1777.

The Children of Capt. Edmund & Sarah(Griffith) Roberts

- 1 Sally daughter of Edmund and Sarah Roberts of Portsmouth born Aug. 7, 1780, recorded 3 Nov. 1781 (First Book of Births P.C.C.) As Sarah Roberts, single woman, she was appointed administrator de bonis non on the estate of her father 16 Dec. 1805 with Gideon Lamson and George Sullivan of Exeter as sureties. (R.P. Case 5322)
24 Dec. 1805 she petitioned the Probate Court .. "she, one of the heirs of Edmund Roberts That Moses Woodward in the right of his late wife Sarah Woodward was in possession of a balance due the heirs of Edmund Roberts amounting to \$9000 that he be cited to appear ... "
He appeared 7 Jan. 1806 and entered a denial and the court adjourned to 7 Feb. 1806; when Judge Nathaniel Rogers found that the court was without jurisdiction and gave her leave to withdraw.
19 Apr. 1806 she appealed to the Supreme Court of Indenture; but nothing further was found.
She appears to have married ----- Bowles and had a son Henry. (Letter from Mrs. Caroline Peabody at Portsmouth Historical Society)

17 11 Edmund b. 29 June 1784 M. Katherine Whipple Langdon

14 Samuel Griffith, Goldsmith of Portsmouth.

Samuel son of David Griffith was baptized at the South Church of Portsmouth in April 1764 and, as he was about fifteen at his father's death, it is probable that he was apprenticed to David Griffith, goldsmith of Boston, his father's cousin. He was "goldsmith of Portsmouth" 16 Feb. 1788 when he signed a bond in connection with his father's estate.

3 Feb. 1795 Samuel Griffith of Portsmouth, goldsmith, and Sarah his wife, sell to Daniel Blasdel for \$350 land on Atkinson St. ... being lot #3 which was sold to my father ... by Joseph Low .. Both signed; with Nathaniel S. Griffith as a witness. (R.D. 138:388)
This was land set off to Samuel in the division of David's estate.

6 Sept. 1799 he mortgaged to John Davenport for \$300 a certain mansion house and buildings and land thereto belonging in Portsmouth in Buck St. ... 22 feet on said street, easterly 64 feet
R.D. 152:344)

He seems to have paid the mortgage for 5 June 1802 he mortgaged it again to John Davenport for \$228. (R.D. 161:161)

7 Dec. 1805 he mortgaged it again to James Sheafe, merchant, as security for his note of hand of same date for \$926. (R.D. 172:269)
This house is the one where David lived at Portsmouth and where Samuel was living at the time.

At this period both the French and British were seriously hampering American trade, seizing ships and sailors, and no doubt Portsmouth, dependent as it was on sea borne trade, suffered considerable financial loss. As gold and silver smith's goods were strictly luxury items it is easy to see that Samuel's business would be seriously affected.

The N.H. Gazette at Portsmouth Tuesday, July 20, 1807, has this item;
"Drowned; in this town on Wednesday last (14 July) Mr. Samuel Griffith, aged 43."

In the absence of the usual laudatory remarks it might be inferred that he had given up the struggle and committed suicide.

Administration of his intestate estate was granted to his widow Sarah on 21 Oct. 1807 with John Davenport and Edmund Roberts, merchant, all of Portsmouth, as sureties. Inventory was taken 20 Jan. 1808 by Edward Sargent, James Shapleigh, and John Davenport, innholder, all of Portsmouth, with \$83.55 for house furnishings and \$1400 for the "mansion house situate on the southwesterly side of Buck Street." All appeared same date and made oath.

17 Feb. 1808 a petition by Edward Sargent in behalf of "Sarah Griffith, widow of Samuel Griffith, late of Portsmouth, goldsmith, deceased," ... that the estate is insolvent and praying that Samuel Hutchins, James Shapley, James Day, cooper, John Davenport, and George Wentworth be appointed to set off her dower. A warrant issued the same day and 30 June 1808 they set off one half of the mansion house on Buck St. All appeared 9 July 1808 and made oath to same. (From original documents R. P. Case 7843)

15 Mary E. N. Griffith

Mary E. N. Griffith, as Betty daughter of Mr. James Davenport Griffith, was baptized 27 Aug. 1786 at the West Church of Boston. The records of the Church in Brattle Square, Boston, show Mary E. N. Griffith as a communicant 7 Feb. 1819 and her marriage to Stephen P. Fuller on 19 June 1824.

Fuller predeceased his wife in 1871 and the inventory of his estate shows an appraisal of \$87667.59 (S.P. Case 51490)

The will of Mary E. N. (Griffith) Fuller probated 28 Aug. 1871 mentions her husband Stephen P. Fuller, daughter Mary G. Saul and grand son Frank F. Saul, son J. Franklin Fuller and his daughter Mary E. N. Fuller, son Stephen P. Fuller, Jr., son William H. Fuller, and the children of her sons who are not named, and a small bequest to Ann Foster wife of Rufus Foster. (S.P. Case 51819, 169-2:101)
Inventory \$32000.

The Children of Mary E.N. Griffith & Stephen P. Fuller
Probably all born at Boston but no search made for
them. Order as in the will. FULLER

- i Mary G. who married ---- Saul and had Frank F.
- ii J. Franklin had Mary E.N. and others
- iii Stephen P. Jr.
- iv William H.

17 Edmund Roberts, Jr.

Edmund Roberts, merchant of Portsmouth and special agent for the United States Department of State, was born at Portsmouth 29 June 1784. His father died in 1787, and his mother in 1801, and he was brought up by his bachelor uncle, Capt. Josiah Roberts of Buenos Aires, and was his heir.

11 July 1801 Martin Parry, Jeremiah Libbey, and Mark Simes were appointed guardians for Edmund and Sally Roberts, children of Edmund Roberts, mariner. (R.P. Case 6840)

By family tradition he was a merchant at London for some time; but returned to Portsmouth and 11 Sept. 1808 married Katherine Whipple Langdon; as she was baptized at North Church of Portsmouth 22 July 1787 (N.H.G.R. 7:74) but later called Catherine. She was the daughter of Woodbury & Sarah (Sherburne) Langdon. She died 2 Oct. 1830 aged 42 by Records of St. John's Church of Portsmouth.

Edmund Roberts appears to have been rather well off in his early career but losses at sea, endorsements of friends and relatives, etc., badly crippled him financially. He was commissioned a special agent of the State Department in the Far East and negotiated trade treaties with the King of Siam and the Sultan of Muscat and died at Macao 12 June 1836. In March 1838 the then Sultan of Muscat came to Washington and asked for descendants of Edmund Roberts. By arrangement of the State Department Mrs. Charles Hamlin and Reginald Perry met him (Letter from Mrs. Hamlin, 1940)

17 Mar. 1835 Catherine W. Roberts, single woman, of Portsmouth, was appointed guardian, with Sarah Roberts and Edmund Roberts as sureties, of Mary Ann Langdon Roberts, Caroline E. Roberts, Ann H. Roberts, and Maria H. Roberts; they being the heirs of Mary Ann Langdon lately deceased. (R.P. Case 12899)

20 Mar. 1838 Edward Cutts as administrator, having been appointed about one year previously, deposed that Edmund Roberts left eight daughters, that Andrew P. Peabody and Catherine W. his wife in her right, and Sarah L. Roberts were the only heirs of age living in New Hampshire, and that Catherine W. Roberts had been appointed guardian of her five younger sisters, and represents that the estate is insolvent. (R.P. Case 13281)

19 Mar. 1839 Sarah L. Roberts was appointed guardian of her sisters Maria H. and Frances L. Roberts; and on 10 Apr. 1839 of Ann Hussey L. Roberts. (R.P. Case 13699)

15 Mar. 1841 the heirs at law signed as having examined an accounting by Edward Cutts. They were; A.P. Peabody, Sarah Roberts, Ann H. L. Roberts, Amasa J. Parker, Charles E. Perry, Caroline E. Roberts, and Sarah Roberts as guardian for Maria H. L. Roberts and Fanny L. Roberts. (R.P. Case 13281)

From these documents in the estate of Edmund Roberts, and from a letter of Mrs. Harriet Langdon (Pruyn) Rice at Portsmouth Historical Society giving some of the later descendants, we get data on the children. No special effort has been made to trace them and, as they were all born in Portsmouth, Records of Queen's Chapel and St. John's Church probably show them.

The Children of Edmund & Catherine Whipple(Langdon)Roberts

- i Catherine Whipple M. A. P. Peabody
- ii Harriet Langdon M. ~~Amasa~~ Amasa J. Parker and had
Ann Fenn who M. John V. L. Pruyn and had
Harriet Langdon who M. William Gordon Rice
and lived at Albany, N.Y. and died 1939
Mrs. Charles Hamlin; of Mattapoisett, Mass. 1940
- iii Sarah Langdon M. ----- Boyle
- iv Mary Ann Langdon M. Charles E. Perry
Her grandson Reginald Perry of Georgetown, Va. 1938
- v Caroline E. M. Robert Parker; lived at Delhi, N.Y.
- vi Edmund bpt. Queen's Chapel 3 Sept. 1820, d. young.
- vii Ann Hussey Langdon
- viii Maria Hussey Langdon
- ix Frances Langdon

*Further data on these persons
is in Wentworth Family 1:331-Under
Catherine Whipple Langdon 334*

At the Portsmouth Historical Society is a silver cup which is marked M. G. This was presented to the Society by Mrs. Harriet Langdon (Pruyn) Rice who had it from Mrs. Caroline E. (Roberts) Parker. In a letter from Mrs. Rice, presenting the cup, she states that it belonged to Edmund Roberts and that the initials M. G. are those of his grandmother Margaret Griffith. Edmund Roberts grandmother Griffith was Sarah(Bowles)Griffith; who, by the way, was a descendent of Rev. John Elliot, John Bowles of Roxbury, and Capt. Thomas Willett the first magistrate of New York City under English rule.

The cup was doubtless the property of Mary Griffith, daughter of Sarah (Bowles) Griffith, and aunt of Edmund Roberts, Jr., who by her will of 1800 left all her belongings to Edmund and his sister Sarah.

18 Sarah Roberts Griffith

Sarah Roberts Griffith, daughter of Samuel & Sarah (Griffith) Griffith, was aged 15 years in December 1808 by the record of her baptism at the Third Church of Portsmouth 23 July 1809.

She married, at Portsmouth 4 Oct. 1813, (P.C.C.) William, son of Capt. Isaac & Anna (Barber) Morton of Portsmouth, who was born at Portsmouth 7 Dec. 1785. He was a builder and contractor and developed the water power for cotton mills at Salmon Falls, N. H.; where he died 13 Dec. 1865 and his wife died there 8 Feb. 1849. They are both buried in the Harmony Grove section of the South Cemetery at Portsmouth.

The Children of William & Sarah Roberts (Griffith) Morton
MORTON

- i William Henry b. 9 Feb. 1814 M. 1st, Sarah Putnam Merriam
2nd, Armine Leavitt
- ii Albert b. 8 Jan. 1816 M. Cynthia Kimball Waldron
- iii Charles b. 31 Mar. 1819, d. 27 Mar. 1820
- iv Eliza Ann b. 3 Mar. 1821 M. Thomas Dermot
- v Edmund Griffith b. 24 July 1823 M. Adeline Drinkwater Hicks
- vi John Barber b. 8 Feb. 1826 M. Mary Josephine Kimball
- vii James Anderson b. 6 Apr. 1828 M. -----, killed
by a claim jumper at Salsbury, Cal. 1865
- viii Mary Hannah b. 3 Jan. 1832, d. 12 Oct. 1839
- ix Charles Augustus b. 25 Mar. 1834 M. Sarah Nason York
- x Isaac Newton b. 27 Apr. 1837 M. 1st Julia Eunice Warren
2nd Harriet Douglas Benham
3d Minnie Bridges

For further data on these children see "George Morton of Plymouth Colony" by John K. Allen, 1908, and Additions & Corrections by Albert N. Morton, 1948.

The Davenport-Rogers-Bowles Connections of the John Griffith Family which occurred through the marriages of three daughters of James, son of Ebenezer & Dorcas(Andrews) Davenport.

James Davenport, innkeeper and member of the Ancient & Honorable Artillery Co., was born at Dorchester, Mass. 1 Mar. 1693. He married, first, 30 Sept. 1715, Grace, daughter of Onesiphorous & Sarah Tileston of Dorchester. She died 24 Oct. 1721 aged 27. They had;

1 Sarah b. at Boston 2 Jan. 1719

James Davenport married, second, 3 May 1722, Sarah, daughter of Josiah & Abiah(Folger) Franklin, sister of Benjamin Franklin, and born at Boston 9 July 1699, who died 23 May 1731. They had;

2 Mary born 1725

3 Abiah born 2 Oct. 1729

James Davenport married, third, Mary Walker of Portsmouth and had certainly 12 children, and probably 14, for a grand total of 22! One of them was John Davenport, innkeeper of Portsmouth, active in the affairs of the Griffiths. (See Davenport Gen. N.E.Reg.33)

1 Sarah Davenport married "March 16, 1737/38 Samuel Bowles, apothecary, of Boston, and Sarah Davenport married by Ye Worshipful Thomas Tileston" (B.R.C.R.) Samuel Bowles was descended from John & Elizabeth(Heath)Bowles, Hon. John Bowles, M.A. Harvard 1671 and his wife Sarah Eliot, grand daughter of Rev. John Eliot, and his parents Major John Bowles, B.A. Harvard 1702, and Lydia Checkley. (T.M.Farquhar's Bowles Family, Eliot's Roxbury Church Records, T.W.Thornton's Lives of Isaac Heath & John Bowles)

Samuel Bowles birth is recorded in Roxbury Records (B.R.C.R.) as son of John & Lydia Bowles but the only records that identify him positively as son of Major John Bowles and as the Samuel that married Sarah Davenport appear to be in Suffolk Deeds 55:221 and 62:26.

55:221 is an agreement between Samuel Bowles of Boston, apothecary, and William Bowles of Salem, merchant, about land in Roxbury in which reference is made to "a Division of the Real Estate of our Honored father John Bowles, Esq." Dated 13 Feb. 1737/38

By S.D. 62:26 "Samuel Bowles of Boston and Sarah his wife" sell to William Davenport 1/4 part of a farm ... formerly of the estate of Onesiphorous Tileston, deceased, .. which they have by inheritance. Signed by both on 8 Sept. 1740.

No further record of them has been found until a letter from their son Samuel Bowles of Portsmouth, dated 19 Nov. 1788, to John Rogers of Boston in the Hudson Collection at New York Public Library. Please send one bundle of canes My mother would be glad if You'd buy her 2 or 3 bushels of white onions..... My father's and mother's love and compliments to Aunt and all enquiring friends."

No record of birth of their children has been found; but they certainly had Sarah who married David Griffith (#6) and

Samuel, Jr., born 1739

Such proof of their parentage as has been found is on pages 14 and 15.

Samuel Bowles married, at Portsmouth 1 Sept. 1769, Hannah, daughter of Capt. Titus & Elizabeth (Bickford) Salter. (Salter Gen.) He signed the covenant of the Third Church of Portsmouth 3 Oct. 1766 and at his death he is called "Deacon" in the Church Records. He signed a petition to the House of Representatives 4 May 1775 and signed the Association Test 1776. He is listed in the Census of 1790 with 2-4-6.

Samuel Bowles is buried on the north side of the North Cemetery at Portsmouth, very close to his sister Sarah (Bowles) Griffith, and his stone reads; "Deacon Samuel Bowles died November 3, 1802 aged 63" Beside him is his wife; "Hannah Bowles, relict of Deacon Samuel Bowles, died August 20, 1831 aged 84."

His will of 10 July 1802 was probated 15 Nov. 1802 with his widow Hannah as executrix and left all his property to her for her life. (R.P. 34:218) The inventory showed \$6940 in real estate and \$434.72 in personal property "saved from the late conflagration in Portsmouth." (R.P. 34:265)

The will of his widow of 16 Jan. 1830, probated 9 Sept. 1834, left most of her estate to son Samuel, who was named executor, with bequests to daughters Sarah Frost, Hannah Stevens, and Elizabeth Moses.

The Children of Samuel & Hannah (Salter) Bowles
All baptized at Third Church of Portsmouth.

- i Samuel 8 July 1770
- ii Sarah 16 Feb. 1773 "Sarah, widow of Capt. George Frost, died Apr. 7, 1857 aged 84 yrs, 3 ms" at North Cemetery next her father.
- iii David Griffith 2 Apr. 1775, d. at Portsmouth, Va. (Portsmouth, N. H. Oracle of 4 Dec. 1819)
- iv Hannah 5 Sept. 1779
- v William 29 June 1783
- vi Thomas Salter 29 May 1785. His wife Hannah d. 5 June 1811 age 21 and buried North Cemetery
- vii Benjamin Lynde 27 May 1787
- viii Hannah 3 Nov. 1788 M. ----- Stevens
- ix Elizabeth 10 Oct. 1790 M. ----- Moses

- 2 Mary Davenport, born 1725, married 13 Mar. 1745 by Andrew Eliot, John Rogers, the merchant of Boston whose correspondence is in the Hudson Collection at New York Public Library. He was the son of Ichabod & Anna(Jepson) Rogers who were married by Benjamin Wadsworth at Boston 5 July 1716, and he was born at Boston 17 Sept. 1718 (B.R.C.R.)
John & Mary(Davenport) Rogers had John and Anna(Nancy)

- 3 Abiah Davenport married, intentions at Boston 20 June 1751, John, son of John & Deborah(Lang) Griffith of Portsmouth.
(B.R.C.R.)

The Family of Caleb Griffith, physician.

1 Dr. Caleb Griffith

Very little has been found about Caleb Griffith and nothing to connect him with John Griffith. By Hotten's Lists there was a Joshua Griffith aged 25, on the Ship Abigail of London on 30 June 1635, who came to Boston and Savage mentions a Joshua Griffith at Cambridge, Mass. about the same time. Nothing has been found to connect him to Caleb.

He married, at Portsmouth 30 Oct. 1701, Elizabeth, daughter of Edward(3) and Alice Ayers (John 1, 2) and bought land from George Vaughan in 1702. (R.D. 5:130) but was a tenant of Vaughan 8 April 1707 when Lazarus Noble was suing Vaughan.

His widow married Henry Lyon 3 Nov. 1709 (N.C.) and 24 May 1710 administration on the estate of Caleb Griffith of Portsmouth was granted to Henry Lyon of York, Me. and his wife Elizabeth Lyon, formerly widow of the deceased. The same date Lyon gave bond with Edward Ayers and Clement Hughes as sureties in £ 300. (N.H.Wills 1:662) No further record.

The Children of Dr. Caleb & Elizabeth(Ayers) Griffith

- i Caleb b. 8 Aug. 1702
- ii Edward b. 1 Feb. 1703, d. 24 Mar. 1703/04
- iii Joshua b. 1 Feb. 1704, married, at Boston, Mass. 21 Feb. 1725 by Rev. Samuel Miles, Mary Lancaster. (B.R.C.R.)
In 1726 he sold land to Moses Ingraham (R.D. 15:18)
They had;
Joshua of Joshua & Mary Griffith bpt. 24 Nov. 1728 at Christ Church, Boston. (B.R.C.R.)
- iv Gershom b. 23 Sept. 1707 M. Mary Sheafe

2 Gershom Griffith, Trader & Innkeeper at Hampton, N.H.

Gershom Griffith was born at Portsmouth 23 Sept. 1707 and Benjamin Lynde in his diary of August 1733 writes that, when he was a member of the boundary commission for Massachusetts and New Hampshire, he went to Hampton and lodged at Griffith's.

He was the principal creditor 25 Apr. 1744 of the estate of Anthony Taylor of Hampton (N.H.Wills 3:177) and an appraiser of the estate of Samuel Hilton of Hampton 7 June 1748. (N.H.Wills 3:558)

By the Census of 1790 Gershom Griffith was of Seabrook, N. H. with 1-1-2

He married first, at Charlestown, Mass. on 6 March by Wyman's "Charlestown" and 7 Jan. 1727 by N.E. Reg. 24:360, Mary, daughter of William & Mary (Davis) Sheafe, who was born at Charlestown 13 May 1710. 10 May 1729 an accounting by Edward Sheafe, as administrator of the estate of William Sheafe, mentions Mary Sheafe as the wife of Gershom Griffith. (M.P. 18:567)

Her stone in the old cemetery at Hampton; "Here lyes buried the body of Mrs. Mary Griffith, the virtuous consort of Mr. Gershom Griffith, aged 37 years and 4 months. Died Sept. 27, 1747."

The Children of Gershom & Mary (Sheafe) Griffith
The first five in Joshua Pierce's Portsmouth Records in N. E. Reg. Vols. 23-26. The others from History of Hampton.

- i Mary b. 29 Dec. 1728, married 25 May 1758 Charles, son of John(5) Chase
 - ii Elizabeth b. 30 Mar. 1731, d. single 1750
 - iii Caleb b. 24 Mar. 1732/33, married 9 Nov. 1754 Elizabeth Adams of Salem, Mass. (Salem V.R.) and d. 24 Feb. 1756. She appears to be the Elizabeth Griffith, widow, who married Josiah Haward 7 Nov. 1759 (Marriages by Rev. Dudley Leavitt at Essex Inst.)
 - i Elizabeth Griffith, daughter of Elizabeth Griffith, widow, bpt. 20 June 1756 (Rec. Tabernacle Ch. of Salem) Elizabeth Griffith married John Phipps at Salem 20 Oct. 1776. (Salem V.R.)
 - iv William Sheafe b. 16 Dec. 1734, M. ----- 1757, d. 23 Nov. 1758. (Hist. of Hampton)
 - v Anna b. 4 May 1739, married Jonathan Chase of Seabrook. Gershom Griffith of Seabrook, innholder, deeds to Anna wife of Jonathan Chase of Seabrook a house and land bought from the estate of sd Jonathan. Dated and acknowledged 17 Apr. 1793 (R.D. 133:412)
 - vi Abigail b. 11 Mar. 1742, married 22 Mar. 1764 David Perkins of Hampton Falls.
- 3 vii Nathaniel Sheafe bpt. at Hampton 16 Mar. 1744
- viii Sarah b. 14 Sept. 1746, married 13 Aug. 1767 Lt. James, son of Thomas(3) & Elizabeth (Butler) Goodwin of Berwick, Me. and d. there 1 Mar. 1815.

Gershom Griffith married second Alice, daughter of Joshua Neale, who died 21 Apr. 1756. Joshua Neale by his will of 24 Apr. 1760 leaves to his grand daughters Elizabeth and Olive Griffith. (N.H. Wills 7:558)

The Children of Gershom & Alice (Neale) Griffith

ix Elizabeth bpt. 19 Jan. 1752, married 9 Dec. 1779
Winthrop, son of Edward Gove. (Gove Family)

x Olive bpt. 30 June 1754

Gershom Griffith married third Mary, widow of Daniel Lunt of Greenland. 24 Apr. 1760 Cutts Shannon, their attorney, petitioned in behalf of Gershom Griffith and Mary his wife, formerly the widow of Daniel Lunt of Greenland, to set off the widow's dower. (N.H. Wills 7:56) No record has been found of children by the third marriage.

There is no record of Gershom Griffith's estate in Rockingham County Probate.

3

Nathaniel Sheafe Griffith, Watchmaker of Portsmouth.

Nathaniel Sheafe Griffith was baptized at Hampton 16 Mar. 1744 and his first appearance in Portsmouth Records is the baptism of a daughter at the North Church in 1771.

By the will, dated at Charlestown, Mass. 23 Dec. 1771 and proved 21 Dec. 1772, of Nathaniel Sheafe, trader, he leaves his estate;
 $\frac{1}{4}$ to nephew Nathaniel Sheafe "son of my late brother William of Boston"
 $\frac{1}{4}$ to the other children of William Sheafe

$\frac{1}{4}$ to Nathaniel Sheafe Griffith of Portsmouth, "son of my late sister Mary Griffith."

$\frac{1}{4}$ to the other children of Mary Griffith (M.P. 54:74-75)

With William Conant of Charlestown, gent. as executor with instructions to sell all the property.

Inventory was sworn 22 Dec. 1772 at B 313-10-6 $\frac{1}{2}$; Sheafe called tobacco and inventory shows tobacco and tools for processing it. (MP 54:76)

When the will was proved Conant declined as executor and 21 Dec. 1772 Nathaniel Sheafe Griffith was appointed administrator and gave bond, N.S.G. watchmaker of Portsmouth, in B 190 with Nathan Waite, victualler, and Ephriam Breed, mariner, both of Charlestown, as sureties.

18 May 1773 the court removed Griffith, no reason appearing, and appointed Nehemiah Rand of Charlestown, hatter, in his place and Rand gave bond in B 400. (M. P. 54:274)

An accounting by Rand shows that most of the estate went to creditors (M.P. 63:325) and 2 Dec. 1786 Rand who was then of Lyndeborough, Hillsboro Co., N. H. was suing Griffith on his bond.

From 18 Sept. 1773 to 8 Nov. 1774 Nathaniel S. Griffith, "clock-maker" of Portsmouth bought up several parcels on King St. from the heirs of Richard Jose. (R.D. 106:473-477) and 5 Sept. 1792 he and wife ANN for £ 155 sells land formerly of Richard Jose on Daniels St., formerly King St., to John Boadge, mariner. (R.D. 132:212)

25 Aug. 1796 Samuel Hale of Portsmouth deeds for \$5.00 to Nathaniel S. Griffith, clockmaker, land and buildings on the street "from Portsmouth to Greenland where N. S. G. now lives" ..(R.D. 192:458) This was apparently to clear the title for on the same date Griffith sells the same property for \$700 to John Pierce of Portsmouth. (143:395)

28 Sept. 1796 John Davenport, innholder, Ebenezer Chadwick, gent., and Nathaniel Sheafe Griffith, watchmaker, all of Portsmouth, gave bond as administrators of the estate of John Griffith, mariner, of Portsmouth. (R.P. 32:193) Unfortunately there is no further record of this estate, and it is the last record found of Nathaniel Sheafe Griffith. He signed the Association Test in 1776.

The will of Abraham Elliot of Portsmouth Case 5709, Rockingham Co. Probate 30:139 gives the only clue to his first wife, as follows;

I, Abraham Elliot of Portsmouth ... husbandman,
Firstly; my soul to God.... secondly my just debts ...

3d; I give to my dearly beloved (wife) Abigail Elliot all my estate real and personal to her during life, and after her decease to be divided in the manner following amongst my children.

4th I give unto my two sons Richard Elliot and John Elliot after my wife's decease ... all real estate

5th as for my personal after my wife's decease I give unto my two daughters Sarah Sherburne and Abigail all my stock and movables excepting 1 cow and 1 feather bed and bedding with two suits of wearing apparel which is to be disposed of as follows.

6th; I give after my wife's decease unto my grand daughter Sarah Griffith one feather bed and bedding and one suit of her Grandmother's wearing apparel. Thus in the copy in R.P. 30: 139.

BUT the original document is quite different: I give after my wife's Decease unto my Grand (the line ending; and on the next line

Sarah Sherburne Griffith

Daughter ~~Hannah~~-Griffith- one feather Bed & Bedding and one suit of her Grandmother's apparel.

It is very apparent that whoever drew up the will knew that Abraham Elliot had a daughter who was Hannah Griffith but did not know, as will be shown, that she had died in 1776. When told to change it, and keeping in mind that the line began "Daughter", wrote in Sarah Sherburne and drew a line through Hannah Griffith; then drew a line through Sherburne and wrote in Griffith. Hence: Abraham Elliot had a daughter who was Hannah Griffith and a grand daughter Sarah Griffith.

The will continues;

7th; unto my Grandson Nathaniel Griffith I give one Cow and one suit of my wearing apparel if any remains.

Finally; my dearly beloved wife Abigail Elliot to be my sole executor.

Dated 19 April 1780

Witnesses: H. Wentworth, Edward Hart, Joseph Walker

The will was proved 16 Nov. 1791 (R.P. 30:140) with Hart and Walker making oath and Abigail was appointed administrator.

The original bond shows Abigail Elliot, widow, Samuel Bowles, merchant, and George Jerry Osborne, gentleman, all of Portsmouth, in £ 1000 on 16 Nov. 1791. Witnesses to Abigail's signature James Ayers and Eliphalet Johnson. To Bowles' and Osborne's; Nathaniel Adams and Eunice Adams.

Inventory warrant to Samuel Nutter, Edward Hart, and James Ayers 22 Mar. 1792 with a total of £ 212-12-6, including 30 acres in Portsmouth with house, barn and stock and tools. The last item 9 barrels of cider! (R.P. 30:242)

The only Griffith who had a daughter Sarah and a son Nathaniel in 1780 was Nathaniel Sheafe Griffith whose children by those names were baptized at the North Church of Portsmouth in 1771 and 1772.

So; Hannah, daughter of Abraham Elliot, was the wife of Nathaniel Sheafe Griffith and the mother of the children who were baptized at the North Church in 1771 and 1772. Hannah, daughter of Abraham Elliot was baptized at the South Church 9 Sept. 1753.

The Sarah Sherburne mentioned in Abraham Elliot's will was baptized as his daughter at the North Church 17 Jan. 1747/48 (NH.G.R.) and married John(4) Sherburne(John 1, 2, Deacon Samuel 3) (N.E.Reg. 59:51)

Abraham Elliot appears to have been very religious and to have been considerably disturbed by religious forms. His grandfather Richard Elliot and his father Richard Elliot were affiliated with the North Church and Abraham's daughter Sarah was baptized at the North Church in 1747/48. But his son Richard and his daughter Hannah were baptized at the South Church in 1750 and 1753 respectively.

Apparently the form of the South Church did not suit him; for in 1757 he and his brother John with Perkins Ayers, Joseph Cotton, Ebenezer Jose, and Benjamin MacKay, organized the Third, Independent, Church of Portsmouth. He signed the covenant 14 Oct. 1758 and was a deacon. His death is recorded there 16 Oct. 1791. His wife signed 16 Oct. 1758 and her death is recorded 20 Apr. 1800. (3d C.)

Nathaniel Sheafe Griffith married, second, at Boston, Mass. 16 Aug. 1779 "Abigail Eleot" (B.R.C.R.) and there is little doubt that she was a daughter of Abraham Elliot and that it was a runaway marriage.

At that time the marriage of a sister of a deceased wife to the widower was not recognized by the Church of England and Deacon Abraham could not be expected to approve of it. In his will he is very careful to name sons Richard Elliot and John Elliot; and then he names daughters Sarah Sherburne and "Abigail."

As has been seen, Nathaniel Sheafe Griffith had a wife Ann in 1792. By the Census of 1790 he was at Portsmouth with 1-2-3. No record has been found of his marriage to Hannah Elliot or to the third wife Ann.

The Children of Nathaniel Sheafe & Hannah(Elliot)Griffith

- i Sarah bpt. 19 May 1771 M. Samuel Griffith
- ii Nathaniel bpt. 22 Nov. 1772
- iii William bpt. 18 Sept. 1774, d. 6 Jan. 1775 (N.C.)

All baptized at North Church as children of "Mr. Nathaniel S. Griffith and Mrs. Griffith."

"Died; Mrs. Griffith wife of Mr. Nathaniel S. Griffith."
(Freeman's Journal of Portsmouth 27 July 1776)

No record has been found of any other children by either the second wife Abigail Elliot, or by wife Ann; but as the Census of 1790 shows 2 males under 16 and 3 females it is likely that he had two sons and two daughters in addition to the three children above. Perhaps they may be found in the unconnected Griffiths further on.

Note that a Nancy Griffith was baptized as an adult at the Third Church 1 Oct. 1809 and had joined the Church 28 Sept. 1809. This could be the third wife, Ann.

There is no record at Rockingham County Probate of Nathaniel Sheafe Griffith's estate.

As to the marriage of Sarah Griffith and Samuel Griffith(#14); the proof is highly circumstantial; there are a few things we are sure of and adding them all up points to the conclusion that Nathaniel Sheafe Griffith's daughter Sarah married Samuel Griffith.

Nathaniel was a witness when Samuel & Sarah sold land in 1795. Samuel & Sarah named a daughter Hannah Elliot and another Mary Ann, which could be for Nathaniel's mother and his third wife.

Sarah as a widow joined the Third Church in 1809 and her children were baptized there. Also Hannah(Elliot) Griffith's brother Richard Elliot was a member of the Third Church and his children were baptized there in 1801.

Sarah was baptized in 1771 which makes her the correct age to be 42 when she died in 1813.

Unconnected Griffiths at Portsmouth

Anne Griffith & John Griffin married 1 Oct. 1774. (S.C.)
Administration of estate of John Griffin, mariner, late of Portsmouth,
to wife Anne 22 Sept. 1785 with Henry Nutter and Thomas Chadbourne
of Portsmouth as sureties. (R.P. 28:281) No further record.

John Griffith of Portsmouth, mariner, was appointed on 26 Sept. 1744
as guardian for Hannah and Mary Wooden of Portsmouth. (N.H. Wills
3:218)

Easter Griffith of Portsmouth and John Wooden of London, Eng. mar-
ried 28 Apr. 1723. (Pierce Records, N.E. Reg. 24:357)

Hannah, daughter of John Wooden of London and Easter his wife of Port-
smouth, born 18 Jan. 1724/25

Mary, with the same description, born 22 Mar. 1726/27

Easter Wooden and John Greely were married (no date)

John Greely son of Easter Wooden and John Greely born 22 Sept. 1732

(all Pierce Rec. N.E. Reg. 25:122)

This seems to mean that Easter Griffith was a sister of John Grif-
fith, mariner. John Griffith as a member of the Mariners Society
of Portsmouth signed a petition 18 June 1765 for a light house at
the mouth of the Piscataqua River.

It does not seem that this was John Griffith the shopkeeper as in
1723 he worked on Ft. William & Mary - not a job for a mariner -
and in 1765 he was definitely "shopkeeper."

At Rockingham Probate 32:193 is a bond dated 28 Sept. 1796 of John
Davenport, innholder, Ebenezer Chadwick, Gent., and Nathaniel Sheafe
Griffith, watchmaker, as administrators of the estate of John Grif-
fith, mariner, of Portsmouth. No further record.

There is no John Griffith listed at Portsmouth, or in N. H., in the
Census of 1790.

Perhaps he was the Mr. Griffith, mariner, whose wife Elizabeth died
at Boston Feb. 1775. (B. Reg.) If so, was he one of the two John
Griffiths in the Census of 1790 at Boston? Was he John (#8) son
of John Griffith the schoolmaster? Your guess is as good as mine.

William Griffiths and Elizabeth Anderson married Oct. 1776 by Rev.
Dr. Haven. (Newcastle Rec. N.H.G.R. 3:36)

William Griffith of Newcastle, age 50, of 2nd Battalion N.H. Troops
under Col. Nathan Hale; missing by return of 1778. (N.H. Soldiers
11:441)

William Griffith and Judith Davis married 18 Oct. 1809 (S.C.)

Wilmot Griffith of Portsmouth and Benjamin Foster born in Ipswich, Mass.
Married 1 Nov. 1716. (Pierce Rec. N. E. Reg.)

Unconnected Griffiths at Newburyport, Mass.
 All from Newburyport V. R. where they are Griffis, Griffith, Griffiths; but in deaths at State House all are Griffith.

William Griffiths & Elizabeth Morse married 26 May 1785.
 Elizabeth, widow of William, d. 11 June 1849 aged 82. (State House 39:217)
 Their Children

- i Thomas of W. & E. Griffis b. 22 Jan. 1785
- ii Elizabeth of W. & E. Griffiths b. 18 Sept. 1787
- 1 iii William of " " " b. 11 Oct. 1789
- 2 iv Robert of " " " b. 2 Oct. 1793
- 3 v Joseph of " " " b. 16 July 1801
- vi Thomas of " " " b. 14 May 1803, d. 10 Sept.

- 1 William Griffiths and Ruth Saunders of Newbury M. 8 July 1810
- 2 Robert Griffis and Nancy Bartlett of Newbury, int. 8 Apr. 1817. He d. 5 July 1849 of small pox. (State House 39:217)
 Their children; all of Robert & Nancy but sometimes Griffith and others Griffis
 - i Robert Griffis b. 23 Feb. 1818, married Charlotte Merrill of Newbury 8 Apr. 1840, d. 29 Sept. 1848, and had Griffith: Isaac William and Robert who both d. y.
 - ii Rufus Griffis b. 15 Sept. 1819
 - iii Elizabeth Ann Griffis b. 22 Dec. 1820, as Griffith age 26 M. Francis Cook, age 26, mariner, of Sam. & Rebecca, on 15 Apr. 1847
 - iv Mary Ann as Griffith d. 16 Oct. 1848 aged 20 yr. 7 m. (State House 39:215)
 - v. Augustus Griffiths b. 5 Apr. 1823, d. 5 Oct. 1824
 - vi Thomas Griffiths b. 6 Aug. 1824, d. 12 July 1834
 - vii Henrietta Griffith b. 15 Dec. 1825
 - viii Augustus Griffiths b. 23 May 1829
 - ix Isaac W. Griffith b. 16 Mar. 1831, d. 1843
 - x Angelina Griffith b. 12 July 1833
 - xi Thomas Griffith b. 19 June 1835, d. 5 Nov. 1848, of typhus as did several of the others. (State House Recs.)

I have an idea that this family is connected with the Griffiths of Portsmouth; probably the Dr. Caleb family rather than the other family.

Unconnected Griffiths of Newburyport (continued)

3 Joseph & Elizabeth Griffiths had
 Joanna Elizabeth b. 5 Jan. 1825 who as Griffith married
 David Ross LeCraw, int. 24 Apr. 1847
 Elizabeth, widow of Joseph, d. at Newbury age 51 on 25 March
 1847 (State House 26:116)

Edward Griffiths & Judith Taylor married 22 Nov. 1804. Perhaps he
 was master of Schooner Sally in 1806 (Newb'y't Ship Reg.)
 They had
 Elizabeth Wellenger b. 4 Jan. 1806
 Edward Augustus b. 30 Jan. 1808

Mrs. Sarah Griffith & Samuel Webber married at Newburyport
 19 Oct. 1780 (Newburyport V.R.)

Unconnected Griffiths of Boston

David J. Griffith & Barbara McKay married 1851 (B. Reg.)

Edward Griffith & Elizabeth Wittum married 26 Oct. 1820 (Christ Ch.)

Elizabeth Griffith & Thomas Barnes married 1 Aug. 1754 (Christ Ch.)

James Griffith & Sarah Williams married 21 Dec. 1790 by Rev. Oliver
 Everett (B.R.C.R.) Sarah Griffith, widow of James, seamstress
 on Sea St. (Boston Directory 1820) with John Williams at the
 same house. John Williams listed as having a boarding house
 on Sea St. and Sarah living there. (Boston Directory 1823)
 Sarah living at Boston 1838 (S.D. 298:105)

Michael Griffith, mariner, of Boston, intestate with admin. to widow
 Rebecca 24 Nov. 1692 (S.P. 13:86) Bond of Rebecca, same date,
 with Charles Morton, gent., of Charlestown, and William Hough,
 Chandler, of Boston, in £ 200. (S.P. N.S.1:294)

Nancy Griffith house at 15 Essex St. (Boston Directory 1825)

Richard Griffiths & Hepsibah Dunton married 5 Aug. 1750 (Trinity Ch.)

Richard Griffiths & Christian Melborn 2 8 Apr. 1714 by Rev. Cotton
 Mather (B.R.C.R.)

Richard Griffiths & Hannah Langley married 17 June 1778 (B.R.C.R.)

Robert Griffith & Mary Ayers married 4 Nov. 1778 (B.R.C.R.)

Robert Griffith & Nancy Bayliss married 18 Aug. 1786 (B.R.C.R.)

William Griffith & Ann Sanders int. 20 Nov. 1738 (B.R.C.R.)
 His will of 9th of 2nd month 1739 mentions wife Ann and only
 son William not of age. (S.P. 34:474) Mention later of son
 William as a glazier.

Unconnected Griffiths of Boston (concluded)

William Griffith upholsterer at 6 Salem St. (Boston Directory 1828-29)

Edward Griffith & Sarah King married 21 Aug. 1768 (St. Michaels Ch.
Marblehead V.R.)

Sarah Griffith & Joseph Hinson married 29 Oct. 1770 (Hampton Rec.)

Mary Griffith, widow, house at 27 India St. (Portland, Me. Directory
1844, 1851. 1852)

John Griffith plasterer (Portland, Me. Directory 1852-53)

In the History of Danby, Vt. it is stated that James Griffith from
Dartmouth, Mass. came to Danby in 1782. There are many Griffiths
there who appear to his descendents but nothing has been found to
connect them with the Portsmouth families and it is likely that
they are of the Cape Cod Griffiths.
Some of the Griffiths of Boston and vicinity may be from that
family.

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Where a name is followed by ch (children) the person named married a Griffith, or a descendent, and the children are Griffith descendants. When no ch are shown the person is a Griffith descendent.

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