

2011.98 History of Mary Elizabeth WILLIAMS, reputed wife of Rufus GRIFFIN, of Phippsburg re: taxes and pauper status because she is an Indian.

Filed: PHS M.Misc.8/10.1874 – a two-page document with notes in at least two different handwriting.

Transcribed by Judi Stoy – November 7, 2023. Two hours.

Background Information:

- According to the Black Census of Maine, 1800-1910, Rufus GRIFFIN was born in about 1836 and lived in Brunswick and/or Phippsburg according to censuses from 1850, 60, 70, and 80. He was the son of Harry and Fatima Griffin.
- Same source. Charles E. CHAMBERS was born in or about 1849 and lived in Brunswick or Augusta according to censuses from 1850, 60, 70, and 80. He was the son of Henderson and Margaret E. Chambers. His spouse is listed as Elizabeth WILLIAMS.
- Same source. An Elizabeth WILLIAMS was born about 1856 in Maine and lived in South Berwick in the 1860 and 70 censuses. Parents were Uriah and Maria Williams. Possibly not the Mary Elizabeth in this document.

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Mary Elizabeth Williams is reputed wife of Rufus Griffin

Griffin is a negro living (i/u)ndisputed settlement in Phippsburg.

Elizabeth is partially indian if not full blood –

She was wife of Paul Williams at Bay Bridge about 1857. About [18]59 or 60 they moved to Ireland.

Paul is dead. He was an indian.

Next heard of as wife of Rufus Griffin.

Paul Williams was an indian & not known to have received aid from the town (? or) to have any pauper settlement.

Don't know when she (got/put) the (? Anderson).

About 1874 she went to Augusta + married Chas. Chambers, a negro having a settlement in Augusta; they had (illegible word) to Brunswick as paupers + Augusta paid the bill.

Elizabeth had two Williams children whose (illegible word) + funeral expenses were paid here + one, the girl, had 2 ille(peante?) children now with Elizabeth.

See ?letter? Dec 13/73 – May be somebody else.

Another mother.

Elizabeth has received ~~pauper~~ share of the benefits of supple[men]t to Rufus.

Not here long enough with Williams (?) to get settlement.

She is now in Phippsburg.

Elizabeth's grandchildren are half Italian.

Feb. 13/72, Brunswick notified Phippsburg of Rufus Griffin only.

Dec 13/73, Brunswick notified Phippsburg for Mary Williams, ?aloree?

By S.S. ?Wing? –

NOTE: Remainder of document in very different handwriting. At times writer appears to be quoting legal statutes.

13 Mass., 547

No settlement acquired by ?avoid marriages? 4 Me., 293.

36 “ 235.

53 “ 54.

(?Ahen) may give settlement. 30 Me., 511.

3 “ 455,

Indians are “in a manner, the wards of the state.” 69 Me., p. 476.

Indians not taxed are not electors. (? Court. Me.,) Goddard 34, 37.

56.

Act of Separation¹, Goddard, 1179.

NOTE: Following two comments written in left margin of the page.

By Rev. Stat. of Me., Ch. 6, Sec 6

all Indians are exempted from taxation

Have supplies furnished Rufus + shared by Eliz. Interrupted her ?going? of a settlement?

NOTE: On back of page two one entry: Weston Thompson²'s Minutes – “R Griffin”

Second entry (in original handwriting): Phippsburg has paid Brunswick bills for Elizabeth for 10 yrs.

¹ https://digitalmaine.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1006&context=arc_finding_aids

ACT OF SEPARATION

“The Act of Separation of Maine from Massachusetts proper and forming the same into a Separate and Independent state” passed both the House and Senate and was approved by the Governor June 19 1819.

² According to Wheeler's History of Brunswick,.... Weston Thompson practiced law in Brunswick beginning in 1871.