

Captain Gideon Vernon, UE

Gideon Vernon was born in 1743 in Nether Providence Township, Chester County (now Delaware County), Pennsylvania the son of Moses and Abigail (Woodward) Vernon. He married Phoebe Farr (daughter of Edward and Jane [Smith] Farr) of Edgemont Township, Chester County 6 Month 21, 1775 under the care of Newtown (Chester County, Pennsylvania) Monthly Meeting of Friends. And resided in Neither Providence Township before the Revolution.

In 1781 he was commissioned as a Captain in the Associated Loyalists by Lt. General Sir Henry Clinton and was employed in carrying dispatches into Pennsylvania from New York and in intercepting the mails. In his deposition to the Loyalist Claims Commissioners he stated that he had been in command of a Whaleboat raiding along the Delaware River.

He had become a military loyalist during Lt. General, the Hon. Sir William Howe's Pennsylvania Campaign of 1777 being employed as a guide and in raiding and intercepting the mails. He was disowned by Chester Monthly Meeting 5 Mo. 25, 1778 for "appearing in arms and assisting in taking several persons from their dwellings in a violent manner."

There was doubtless some connection in his official capacity between Captain Vernon and the "Doan gang" of Bucks County. Jesse Vickers, a member of this gang captured following their robbery of the county treasury, stated that he had met Capt. Vernon at a planning session of the gang. The Supreme Executive Council [of Pennsylvania] remitted the jail sentence of John Briggs of Chester County on June 3, 1783 for having sheltered Gideon Vernon but confirmed his fine of £50 and additionally required of him, the fees and costs of the prosecution and his good behavior for the next three years. In September of 1783 an act of the Pennsylvania General Assembly named Gideon Vernon as an accomplice of the "Doan gang" and offered a reward of £300; or a pardon and £100 to any member of the gang who aided in the apprehension of two other members.

With the Evacuation of New York, Gideon Vernon and his family were members of the "Quaker Company" that settled "Belle View" Beaver Harbour- Pennfield, New Brunswick.

Following the deterioration of the Beaver Harbour settlement following two devastating forest fires he, his wife and his five younger children returned to Chester County, Pennsylvania. Following an apology to Chester Monthly Meeting of Friends he was reinstated on 3 Mo. 25, 1799. In the same year he removed to Goshen Township, Chester County, six years later he removed to Darby, Delaware County, and in 1807 he removed yet again, his letter of removal going to Southern District Monthly Meeting in Philadelphia.

On March 29, 1809 Gideon his wife Phoebe and three of their children: William, Joshua and Peyton were granted a certificate to Yonge Street M.M. in Upper Canada. There he resided in the vicinity of Newmarket, Upper Canada and died 2 September 1829.