

Lieut. Governor Stoughton, in his instructions to Major Church, Aug. 12, 1696, says: "You are to advise as you can have occasion with Capt. John Gorham, who accompanies you in this expedition and is to take your command in case of your death." Lt. Col. John Gorham was second in command in the fourth and fifth expeditions against the French and Indians. His monument is near the Unitarian meeting house in Barnstable. June 1, 1744, a joint committee of war was called with William Pepperrell of Kittery, President of the Council, at its head, five hundred men were impressed, two hundred were dispatched to reinforce Annapolis, which was understood to be threatened by the Indians.

Nov. 9, 1744, Governor Shirley reported to the Duke of Bedford that the French officer DuVivier had retreated from before Annapolis, upon Capt. Gorham's arrival with his company of Indian rangers from New England, and that Gorham had so used his command that the garrison was now entirely free from alarm.*

In 1745 Capt. Gorham was sent from Annapolis to Boston to raise troops. While there he was induced to join the expedition then fitting out against Cape Breton. He was appointed Lt. Col. of the 7th Massachusetts regiment, commanded by his father, Col. Shubael Gorham, and on the death of his father at Louisburg was promoted by Pepperrell to be a full colonel. After the capture of Louisburg he returned to Annapolis and was placed by Governor Shirley in command of the Boston troops sent to Minas with Col. Noble.† In July, 1749, he was a member of the Governor's Council in Nova Scotia. His brother Joseph was a lieutenant of rangers under Governor Cornwallis in 1749, and later held the rank of Lieut. Colonel in the regular army.

In 1749 Col. John Gorham was sent to England to explain the state of military affairs in the colonies. Governor Shirley, in a letter written to the Duke of Bedford, Oct. 13, 1749, says: "Capt. Gorham's activity and usefulness in his Majesty's service I cannot too much commend to your grace." Colonel Gorham and his wife, Elizabeth Allen, were presented at court. She was one of the most accomplished women of her day.

The following letter copied from the Massachusetts Historical Society, is one of several written by him to Sir William Pepperrell:

"In the Camp, May 7, 1745.

"Hon. Sir:—I beg the party from the grand Battery may be as private as possible in getting their boats ready and cannot be willing to proceed without Shaw, to be my pilot. If he is not come by land should choose to send a boat for him immediately and also the city may have as warm a

* This Col. John Gorham was son of Shubael and grandson of Lt. Col. John, of Church's expeditions, 1696.

† See Year Book for 1895. Society of Colonial Wars.