

he was doing mason-work on the English fortifications at that place. He fled into the State of New York and joined the American forces; was wounded and taken prisoner at Queenstown, Oct. 12, 1812, on the morning of which day his wife, Aseneth Gibbs, d., leaving four children, the oldest less than 10, the youngest a babe. Mr. Thomas attended the funeral under guard. The British army officers claimed that, inasmuch as he was working on the fortifications, he was either a deserter or a spy. He managed to escape, either by the connivance of his captors or by his own shrewdness, ever after giving Canada a wide berth. His family was broken up, the two oldest boys remaining together till the second boy, Charles A., came to Eastern Mass., in his sixteenth year.

Mr. Thomas afterward m. Hannah Gibbs, a maiden sister of his first wife, and settled in Worcester, Mass., where she d. without issue. It was this second wife who, after the honeymoon, was asked by her husband where all the money was that she had boasted of, and who replied: "Oh! that was courting talk. Where are all the houses and canal-boats that you were possessed of?" He said: "Well, Hannah, that was courting talk, too."

He married a third wife, who outlived him. In his latter days he spent much of his time with his son in Boston. He seems to have been a pioneer until the death of his first wife. He was a man of great independence of character, caring little for others' opinions of his doings, and was inclined to be sarcastic in his own defense. To illustrate this, we will mention that, on an occasion soon after the building of the Boston and Albany Railroad, he was visited by a nephew who had been down to Boston. Seneca asked whether he came up first or second class, and was answered "first class."