

Portraits of Woods Hole, The Legacy of Franklin Lewis Gifford

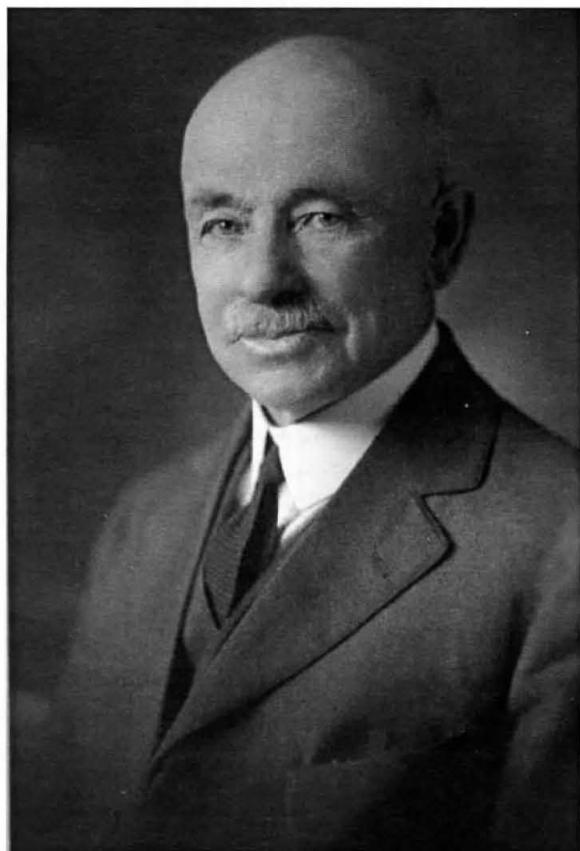
by Deborah Griffin Scanlon and Robert Wendell Griffin

Deborah Griffin Scanlon and her father, Robert Wendell Griffin, trace a family history that has been entwined with the history of Falmouth from the very beginning. One distant ancestor was William Gifford who is featured in Barbara Bunker's introduction to the section on West Falmouth in The Book of Falmouth. Mary Mangelsdorf continues William's story in "Quakers in West Falmouth," her article for The Book of Falmouth.

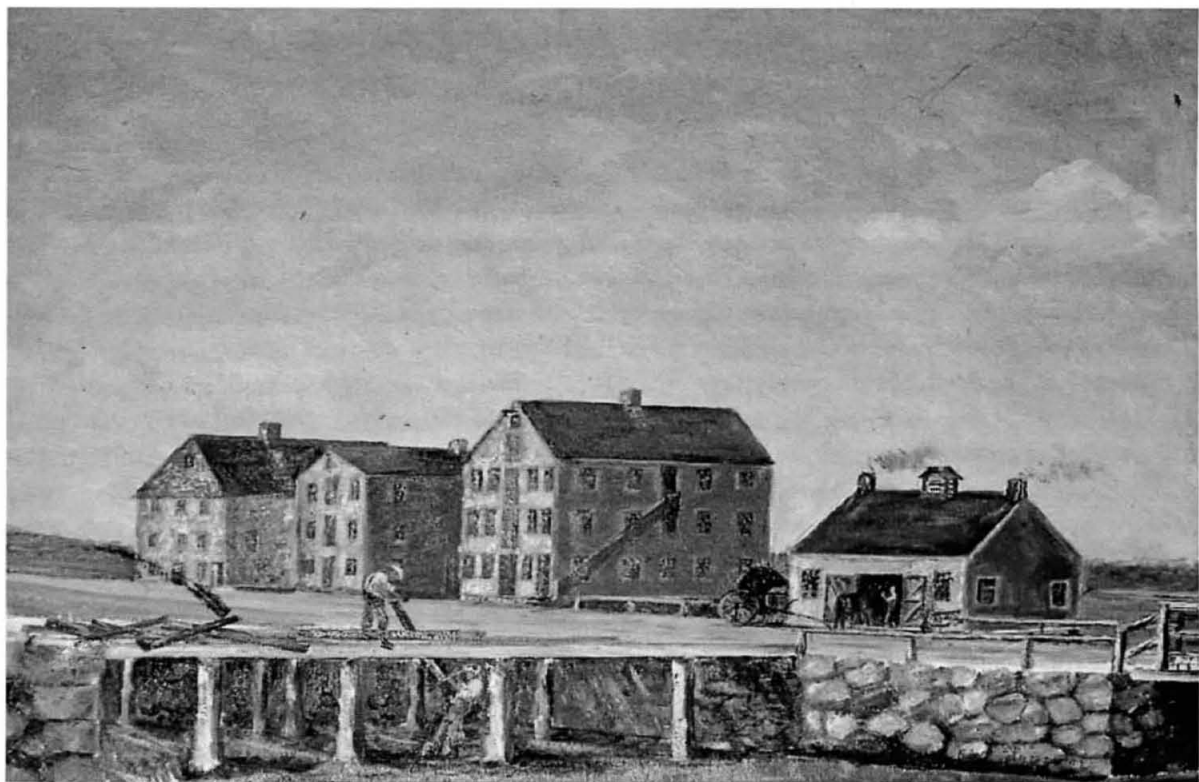
William Gifford's son helped to fix the very shape of the town. "Until 1704," Barbara wrote, "the northern limit of the town had been defined by the Shapquit Line. This boundary ran on a straight course east by northeast by a large rock (known as Shapquit Rock) at the north side of Hog Island harbor to a swamp 40 or 50 rods from Coonamesett Pond, that is, the head of the Five Mile River (later Dexter's and now called Coonamesett River). Thomas Bowerman and William Gifford Jr. were named to negotiate the purchase from Sandwich of additional land. The court granted the new boundary between Sandwich and "Suckanesset Village" to be "at a place commonly called Hope's Spring a little to the south of Pocassett Neck, and thence easterly a straight square line into the woods being Suckanessett's northerly bound..."

The Woods Hole branch of the family, the focus of this article, split off from the West Falmouth branch long ago. Among its ancestors are four original settlers of the Woods Hole: William Gifford, Jonathan Hatch, Moses Rowley and John Robinson. The Griffins were in Massachusetts

as early as 1630, although they did not arrive in Woods Hole until 1924. These five families have been an integral part of Woods Hole. In this article readers will meet some of the memorable characters who have enriched and enlivened village life for generations. In fact, just a year ago, in the Summer 2010 Sprintsail, we met young Bob Griffin and Jimmy Gifford in "The Woods Hole Clippers."



Franklin Lewis Gifford. Courtesy Robert W. Griffin.



"Water Street, Woods Hole, 1845." Painting by Franklin Lewis Gifford. Courtesy Woods Hole Library.

Born in 1854, Franklin Lewis Gifford painted scenes of Woods Hole and the waters around it that captured the essence of that place and its history. His paintings have become a cherished legacy for his descendants and for the current inhabitants of the village.

When the Whitney Studio Club in New York City first asked Franklin Lewis Gifford to exhibit his art in 1926, he declined. This low-key, unassuming house painter was not interested in promoting himself or selling his art.

Franklin Gifford's historical paintings of Woods Hole were eventually exhibited at the Whitney (now the Whitney Museum of American Art) and resulted in a

flurry of publicity, which he accepted with bemused good nature.

The lasting impact of his paintings is that we as a family, and Woods Hole as a community, have a visual historic record of the village and an accompanying written history in the catalog of his paintings. Franklin Gifford has become, in essence, our family historian, and the reference point for the story of the Gifford family and its descendants in Woods Hole.

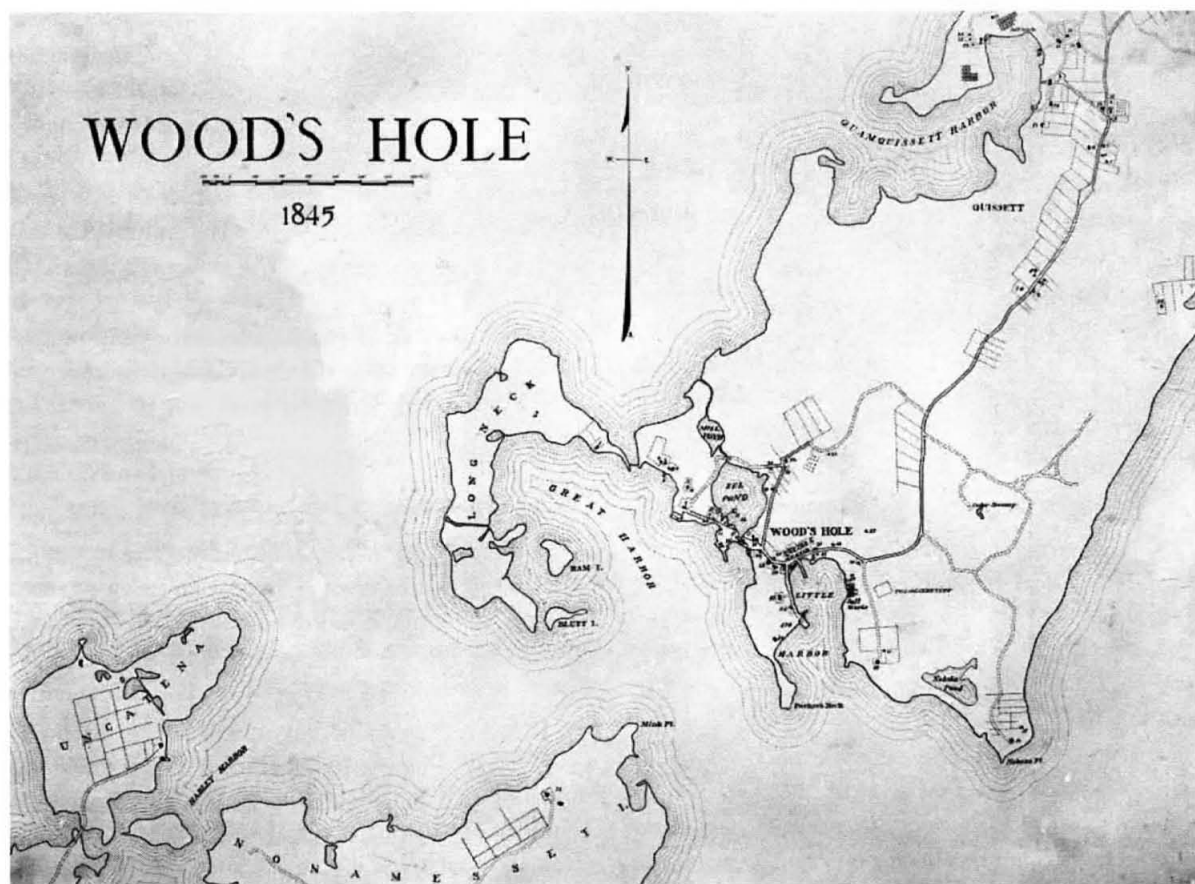
The first proprietors of Woods Hole were Jonathan Hatch and his brother-in-law, Moses Rowley, John Robinson, Samuel Filley, Thomas Lewis, Nathaniel Skiff, Thomas Crippen, and six Quakers: William

Gifford, Joseph Hull, William Weeks, Thomas Ewer, John Jenkins and Thomas Johnson. The Quakers had been so persecuted in Sandwich that they chose to move thirty miles across the Cape to practice their religion freely.

These thirteen proprietors laid out the land in 1677, dividing it in equal shares running north from the southern point of Little Neck (Juniper Point) and including land on Nobska Point. The property boundaries were marked by Roman numerals blazed in tree trunks. The actual deed to Woods Hole Neck was granted to Jonathan Hatch in 1679 by an Indian

referred to variously as Job Notantico, Nocuntico, Nocantico, and signing himself Job Attukkoo.

William Gifford was a direct descendant of Walter Gifford, Earl of Longueville in Normandy, who was granted the title of Earl of Buckingham and lands for his "gallant service" to William the Conqueror. The first mention of William in America is in court records from Stamford, Connecticut, in 1647 when he was sentenced to be whipped and banished. There is no official record explaining why; we assume it was for his religious affiliation as Quaker. By 1650, he was living in Sandwich, Massachusetts, and in 1658



1845 chart of Woods Hole. Individual houses are identified on the original chart. Courtesy Robert W. Griffin.

he was again summoned to court for not taking the "oath of fidelity." The problem, it seems, is that while William was not a professed Quaker, he was fined for attending Quaker meeting. His total fines in Sandwich in 1658 and 1659 were 15 head of cattle, half a horse and half a swine, amounting to 57 pounds, 19 shillings. In 1668, he became an inhabitant of Succanessett (Falmouth).

For reference, a brief family tree: William's son John married Elishua Crowell. Their son Josiah married Mercy Chadwick.

Their son Christopher married Remembrance Nye, whose son Ebenezer married Meribah Robinson. Their son Braddock married Mary Rowley, whose son Barzillai married Elizabeth Ann Gardner. Franklin Lewis Gifford was their son. (See accompanying family tree on pages 16-17 for complete genealogy).

Franklin's cousin, Addie Gifford Elliot, daughter of Barzillai's brother Gideon Gifford and Julia Lawrence, recorded her recollections of family history in a hand-written document now found in the Woods

Hole Historical Collection archives. She wrote of her great-grandparents, Ebenezer and Meribah Gifford, and Meribah's experience growing up on Naushon Island. Meribah's father, Isaac Robinson, was in charge

of farming on the island and the family lived in the Dairy House on Naushon. Her mother Mary was from Non-amessett Island. Isaac and his wife Mary had eight children, six of whom died while they were on Naushon. Meribah was one of the two surviving children.

Isaac and

Mary later moved to Teteket (Teaticket). Isaac lived to be 70 years old, and Mary to age 80.

Ebenezer and Meribah Gifford had 10 children, one of whom was Braddock Gifford (1791-1873), Franklin Gifford's grandfather.

Braddock's father-in-law, Benjamin Rowley, had enlisted as a soldier "with the General at Bunker Hill." He was also engaged in privateering in the Revolutionary War and, according to Addie Elliott, "was taken by a British cruiser, carried to England



Braddock Gifford house in Quissett on Woods Hole Road. It was built in 1831 by Gifford who had owned the land prior to this date. He sold it in 1835. Courtesy WHHC.

and put in Dartmoor prison where he remained three years. While there, he made little ships and other things to sell. With the money, he procured many little luxuries not ordinarily permitted by the authorities." Upon his return from his war-time adventures, Benjamin Rowley married Susan Clark of Rochester, had two children, Mary and Elizabeth, and lived there until his wife died. He then moved to Quissett, apparently with his daughters. After he gave up going to sea, he was employed "rigging vessels and kept a navigation school for young men." He died at age 70.

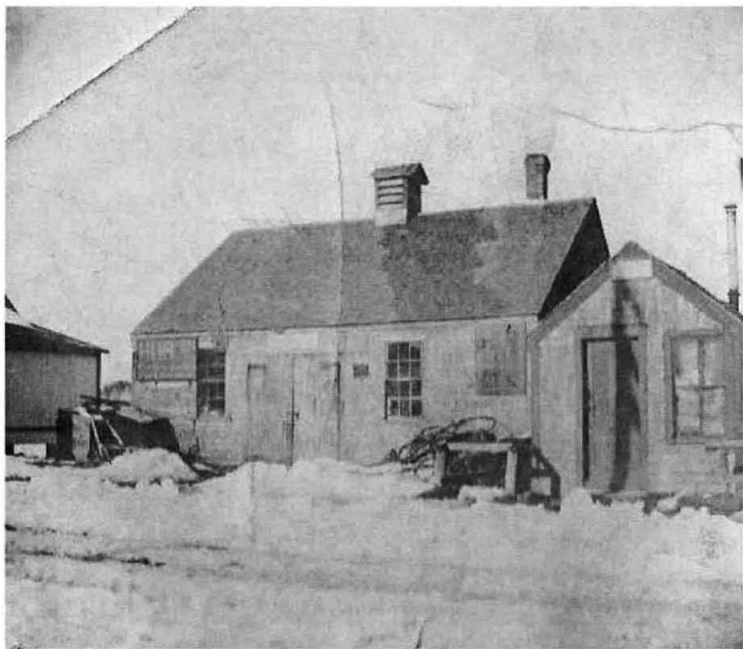
In 1819 Mary Rowley married Braddock Gifford, a blacksmith with a shop on Main Street, now Water Street. Braddock purchased the land for his shop, opposite the current Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution's Bigelow Building, from Elijah Swift for 25 cents. Before he set up his shop and home in Woods Hole, he was a blacksmith to shipbuilders in Quissett, living on the east side of Woods Hole Road in a farm building with a shed roof sloping nearly to the ground. In 1830 he built a residence on the same site, later occupied by Thomas Fish Jr.

Braddock's blacksmith shop was the subject of one of Franklin's paintings, and the notes about the painting in *Historic Woods Hole* tell a haunting story from Braddock's youth.

"It seems that at one period he spent the winters in South Carolina, working as a smith, shoeing the oxen in the live-oak lumber camps. When he was sailing back to Woods Hole one spring, the vessel was shipwrecked off

Hatteras, and he with about a dozen companions was cast adrift on a raft. For 17 days they were without food, and they had to cast lots to see who should sacrifice himself as sustenance for the others on the raft. This terrible situation obtained until the 17th day, when only two men were left, Braddock Gifford and a lone companion. These two were just on the point of drawing the final lot when a sail was sighted on the horizon. By frantic signaling, they caught the attention of the vessel and were finally rescued."

The 1850 census shows Braddock, by then age 58 and back in Woods Hole for good, living in a house at the west end of Water Street with Mary, 57; their children Benjamin, 30, a teacher; Gideon, 28, a mariner; Gideon's wife Julia (Lawrence) Gifford, 19; and Barzillai, 22, a carpenter. Braddock lived to be 83.



Braddock Gifford's blacksmith shop on Water Street, across from WHOI's Bigelow Building. Courtesy Robert W. Griffin.



Second Braddock Gifford house, at the lower end of Water Street. This was demolished and replaced by the MBL Mess Hall in 1890. Courtesy WHHC.

Though Barzillai Gifford was listed in the census as living in Woods Hole in 1850, he was, in fact, in California at the time. According to his 1897 obituary in *The Falmouth Enterprise*, Barzillai “left this place in 1849 for the California gold fields where he was fairly successful as a miner.” Family members recalled that he sailed around Cape Horn. Some family insisted that he went out to work as a carpenter, not to search for gold, but it appears he did both, to his advantage. *The Falmouth Enterprise* obituary continues, “Upon his return, he worked at his trade of carpentering, and in the early eighties, left on a business trip to San Diego, where he remained a short time.”

Barzillai Gifford used his earnings from the gold rush to buy land in his hometown. His family already owned Gifford Upper Field and Gifford Lower Field, which extended from High Street down to Park Street and below. In the late 1800s, Barzillai bought some of this property from family and subdivided the

area between Buzzards Bay Avenue and High Street from Quissett Avenue to Buzzards Bay. The subdivision was laid out on linen plan (but probably not recorded in Barnstable) and named San Diego Heights. On the plan, High Street was supposed to go through to the water.

Barzillai and his brother Gideon lived on Center Street, which was eliminated when the Marine Biological Laboratory built the

Loeb Building in 1969. Gideon's daughter Addie Gifford Elliott also lived on Center Street. The Elliots owned the DoReMi houses, where MBL's Swope Building now stands.

Benjamin attended Amherst College, but left after two years to become an Episcopal minister in 1857. He was rector of churches in Waterloo, Independence and Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and in Brockton and Woods Hole. He and his wife had no children but apparently felt qualified enough to write a booklet about the proper upbringing of children. That handwritten booklet is now at the Woods Hole Historical Collection. Benjamin Gifford died in Woods Hole in 1889.

Barzillai Gifford married Elizabeth Ann Gardner, whose family was from Nantucket. (Through the Gardner families, Cynthia Cahoon Smith and Frances Cahoon Shepherd of Woods Hole are distant

cousins of the Gifford clan.) They lived in a house that Barzillai built at the corner of Water and School Streets, where their three sons Franklin, Frederick, and Benjamin were born.

Benjamin, Barzillai's son, never married, and was postmaster at the Woods Hole post office for many years. He owned a house on Buzzards Bay Avenue but rented the former Barzillai Gifford house (where he was born) at the corner of School and Main Streets to be near his work at the post office, across the street. He left Woods Hole briefly to attend the University of Vermont, but returned after only a year, according to his niece, Ellen (Gifford) Griffin. Ellen recalled in an interview for a Woods Hole Historical Collection Conversation that Benjamin "would go to the post office at six o'clock in the morning to get the mail

ready to go out at seven. And then the mail would come in at seven o'clock at night and he would have to deliver that. The post office would be open until eight. It's a good thing he lived across the street."

By all accounts, Benjamin was a character. He wore long johns year round, and always wore a derby hat. He did not drive until he was elderly and then hired a young Woods Hole man named Alfred "Jessie" James to teach him. "Benny" would drive his second-hand tan Studebaker meandering from side to side across Woods Hole Road.

The Hatch Connection

Franklin and Frederick married sisters Ellen Davis Hatch and Addie Maxon Hatch, respectively. The girls and their younger sister, Ruth Anna, had



Hatch, Sanford, and Gifford families: Left to right, front row: F. W. Sanford, Adeline Hatch, Addie Hatch Gifford, Fred Gifford, Mary Phinney. Back right: F. L. Gifford, Mrs. R. E. Davis, Ellen Hatch Gifford, Mrs. Elmer Shurtleff, Elmer Shurtleff. Courtesy Robert W. Griffin.



The Charles Hatch house at 5 Little Harbor Road was built in 1849 as a store. Charles was a descendant of Jonathan Hatch and was the father of Ellen, Addie and Ruth Anna. Ellen and Addie married Franklin and Frederick Gifford and Ruth Anna married Frank Shiverick. Courtesy Robert W. Griffin.

grown up with their parents Charles and Adeline (Sanford) Hatch on Government Road in a house still standing on the north-western corner of Little Harbor (presently Number 5 Little Harbor Road). In 1881, the teenaged Ruth Anna kept a diary of her life in the village that was published in 1992 by the Woods Hole Historical Collection. She later married Frank Shiverick. Ellen, Addie, and Ruth Anna were descendants of Jonathan Hatch, another of Woods Hole's first settlers, who was born in 1626.

In 1646, Jonathan Hatch married Sarah Rowley. They lived near Mashpee. Jonathan was a good friend of Chief Notantico, who gave (or sold) him a tract of land between Woods Hole and Falmouth called

Woods Hole Neck. The deed granting the land to Jonathan was signed in 1679, two years after the land had already been divided by the original settlers.

Jonathan and Sarah Hatch's son Joseph served in King Phillips War and was a lieutenant in the Falmouth militia in 1711. He was a farmer and a man of "considerable property," according to family history.

Joseph Hatch's grandson Barnabas built a house in the early 1700s that was the subject of one of Franklin Gifford's paintings. The house was moved and is presently on Quisset Avenue, across from the house where Franklin Gifford lived the last half of his life.

Franklin married Ellen Davis Hatch on Christmas Day in 1882 at the Church of the Messiah. Their reception was at the Charles Hatch house on Little Harbor, which was built in 1849 as a store, then became the Hatch homestead.

Franklin and Ellen (Nellie) first lived in a house where the Bank of Woods Hole is now, at the corner of Water Street and Railroad Avenue, where their daughter Ellen was born. Further down Water Street, Franklin set up his business of house, sign, and carriage painting in a shop near the Candle House building. The shop was moved in 1924 to High Street where the building still stands, and the second floor walls still have layers of paint where Franklin tested his paints.

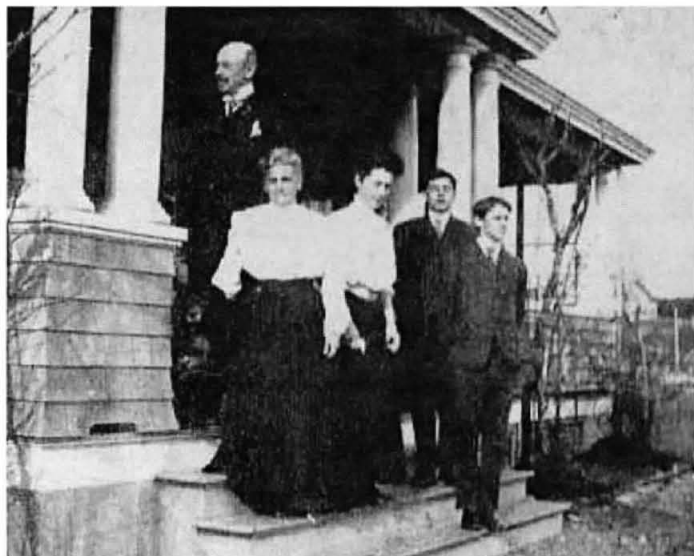
Franklin lived away from Woods Hole only briefly to learn his trade as a house painter. He and his family later moved to a house on High Street that was part of the San Diego Heights subdivision that his father, Barzillai, had created. After a while, Franklin decided to build his own house on Quisset

Avenue between Buzzards Bay Avenue and Millfield Street. He hired a New Bedford architect to design it to his requirements, which included large windows and a widow's walk. Called *Marshview*, the house featured a panoramic view that swept from Great Harbor across Buzzards Bay to West Falmouth. Unfortunately, the railing around the widow's walk never got built, and family members recall that it was quite scary standing on the roof. The house was designed to have central heating, a luxury at



Marshview, Franklin Gifford's home at 10 Quisset Avenue, with Victory Garden during World War I. Courtesy Robert W. Griffin.

the time, but Franklin wanted the option of wood burning stoves. (The existence of a coal strike at that time made him consider options.) The house, built by Eddie Swift of Woods Hole, was set well back from the road on a knoll. It cost \$4,000 in 1902.



Franklin Lewis Gifford and family: Franklin and Ellen Gifford with daughter Ellen, sons Ned and Max on the steps of Marshview. Courtesy Robert W. Griffin.

Franklin and Ellen Gifford had three children: Ellen Franklin Gifford, Charles Edmund Lloyd (Ned) Gifford, and William Maxon (Max) Gifford. Max and Ned both served in the U. S. Naval Reserve Forces, and returned to live on High Street when they retired. Ned married Elizabeth Amelia Eliot Smith, an Englishwoman who had been the first nurse of the Falmouth Nursing Association. They and their son James lived in the High Street house with the paint shop that Franklin had lived in. Max married Maud Vestegard and lived across the street from Ned, while Ellen attended the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. There, living on St. James Avenue, she met George A. Griffin of Newton and



Marshview line drawing: architect's rendering of Franklin Gifford's home, built in 1902. Courtesy Robert W. Griffin.

Washington, DC, a student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. They were married in 1908 at the Gifford home on Quisset Avenue. After living in New York and the Boston area, they moved back to Woods Hole, finally moving into the Quisset Avenue family home that Franklin had built. They had three children, Charlotte, Gifford, and Robert Griffin. Ned Gifford's son James (Jim) Gifford lives in Woods Hole with his wife Vi, whom he met when he was stationed in Scotland during the war.

Robert Wendell Griffin, co-author of this article, lives in Falmouth. He married Martha Vincent of Woods Hole in 1942. Many of their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren still live in the Woods Hole area. Franklin's paintings are spread among his descendants, providing a lasting portrait of the history of Woods Hole.

Note:

Our family is firmly rooted in Woods Hole. Among our ancestors are four of the original settlers of the village, William Gifford, Jonathan Hatch, Moses Rowley, and John Robinson. And until we researched this story, we believed that there was another, Thomas Griffin. We discovered, however, that Thomas Crippen settled here and that, due to a typographical error or illegible penmanship, Crippen had become Griffin in historic documents as far back as the early 1800s.

The Griffins were in fact in Massachusetts as early as 1630, settling in Rowley and Ipswich. It wasn't until 1924, though, that any Griffins lived in Woods Hole, when George Griffin and his wife, Ellen Franklin Gifford, whom he married in 1908, moved to the village. George and his brother Thomas Sargent



"Little Harbor with Red Schoolhouse, 1845." Painting by Franklin Lewis Gifford. Courtesy Woods Hole Library.

Perry Griffin became dedicated citizens of the village. George, an MIT graduate, was head of the Falmouth Water Department and Thomas (known as Perry), a Harvard University graduate, worked at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and recorded Franklin Gifford's descriptions of his paintings in *Historic Woods Hole*.

Franklin Lewis Gifford's Legacy

Franklin Gifford, or "Gramp," painted not just houses and carriages but he also taught himself to paint pictures.

After retirement, he set up one room of his Quisset Avenue house as his studio. Most of his pictures, and there were more than 200 of them, were done in his retirement. One notable exception was a watercolor of Great Harbor in 1872 that he did when he was 18. At that time the Pacific Guano Company was there and large sailing ships were in the harbor. Originally, he had done this picture in pencil from a location near the present town dock and later filled in with watercolors. He did a few other watercolors, but mostly used artists' oils and brushes. He still did sketches first and also used his own photographs.

There are some not-too-perfect paintings of people. One of some voluptuous nudes, apparently on Naushon, was purportedly done to amuse Grandma

Nellie (Ellen). What he really concentrated on and excelled in were the historical and nautical scenes. He did most from memory and their history is printed in catalogues.

One favorite painting by "Gramp" that hangs in a family home is the "Capture of the *Retaliation* in 1814" at Tarpaulin Cove. According to Historic Woods Hole, the catalog of his paintings, the *Retaliation* was a British naval vessel that harassed trade along the Massachusetts coast. One October day,

Captain Weston Jenkins of Falmouth and an armed volunteer crew set out in the sloop, *Two Friends*, for Tarpaulin to deal with the British ship. When the sloop full of Falmouth men came alongside the British ship, the British captain ordered them to heave to. Captain Jenkins feigned obedience, while ordering his men to hide. When the British captain

approached the sloop in his small boat, the Americans jumped up and overcame the British sailors, who promptly lowered their flag to indicate surrender, as shown in the painting.

Another favorite painting is a rendering of the "Nantucket Packet, Tautemio, 1872" off Nobska Point, that is much admired by both artists and sailors, who enjoy its accuracy in terms of waves and wind and its true colors. Yet another favorite is the



Grandma Hatch and Ellen: Adeline (Sanford) Hatch and her granddaughter Ellen (Gifford) Griffin. Courtesy Robert W. Griffin.

"Pirate Clipper of John Paul Jones." It shows Jones and his crew of 40 in their ship at Holmes Hole on Martha's Vineyard in 1773, when Jones was in his pre-patriot, pirate stage.

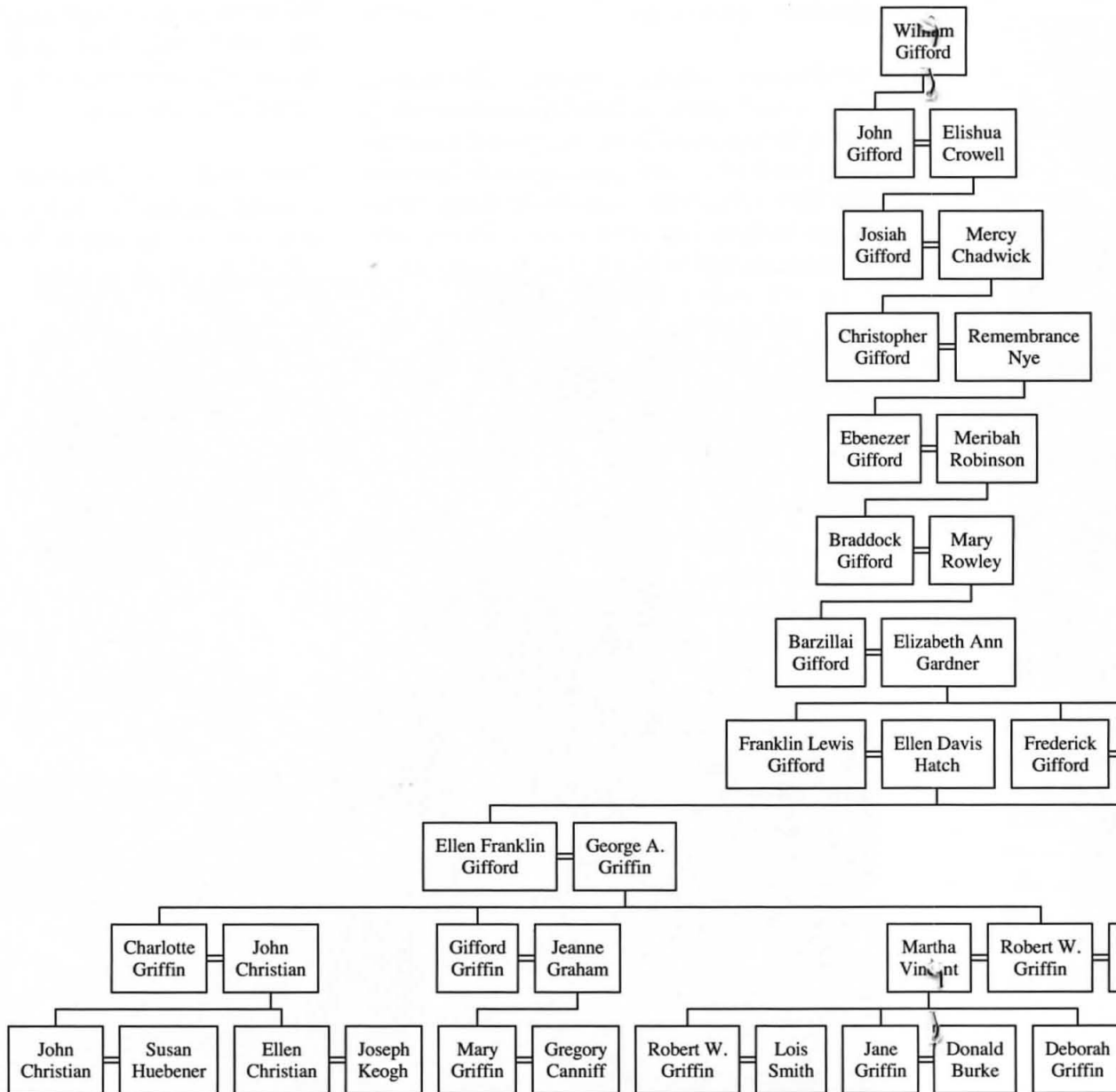
Franklin would never sell a painting. Although the Woods Hole Library and the Falmouth Historical Society have quite a few, his descendants have most of the rest. He gave some paintings to special friends. The Whitney Studio show was finally arranged when Alexander Brook, the Whitney's director of exhibitions, made a trip to Woods Hole and succeeded in

changing Franklin's mind. Franklin allowed seven paintings to go with the understanding that they were not available for purchase. He also insisted that the Whitney insure his paintings, which they did for \$10,000. Franklin, however, refused to go to New York City himself. His paintings were exhibited with four other artists' works.

From this show in 1926, he had an amazing barrage of media publicity, fan letters, and even offers; but the paintings were returned to Woods Hole. Reporters called him a retired sea captain who painted with

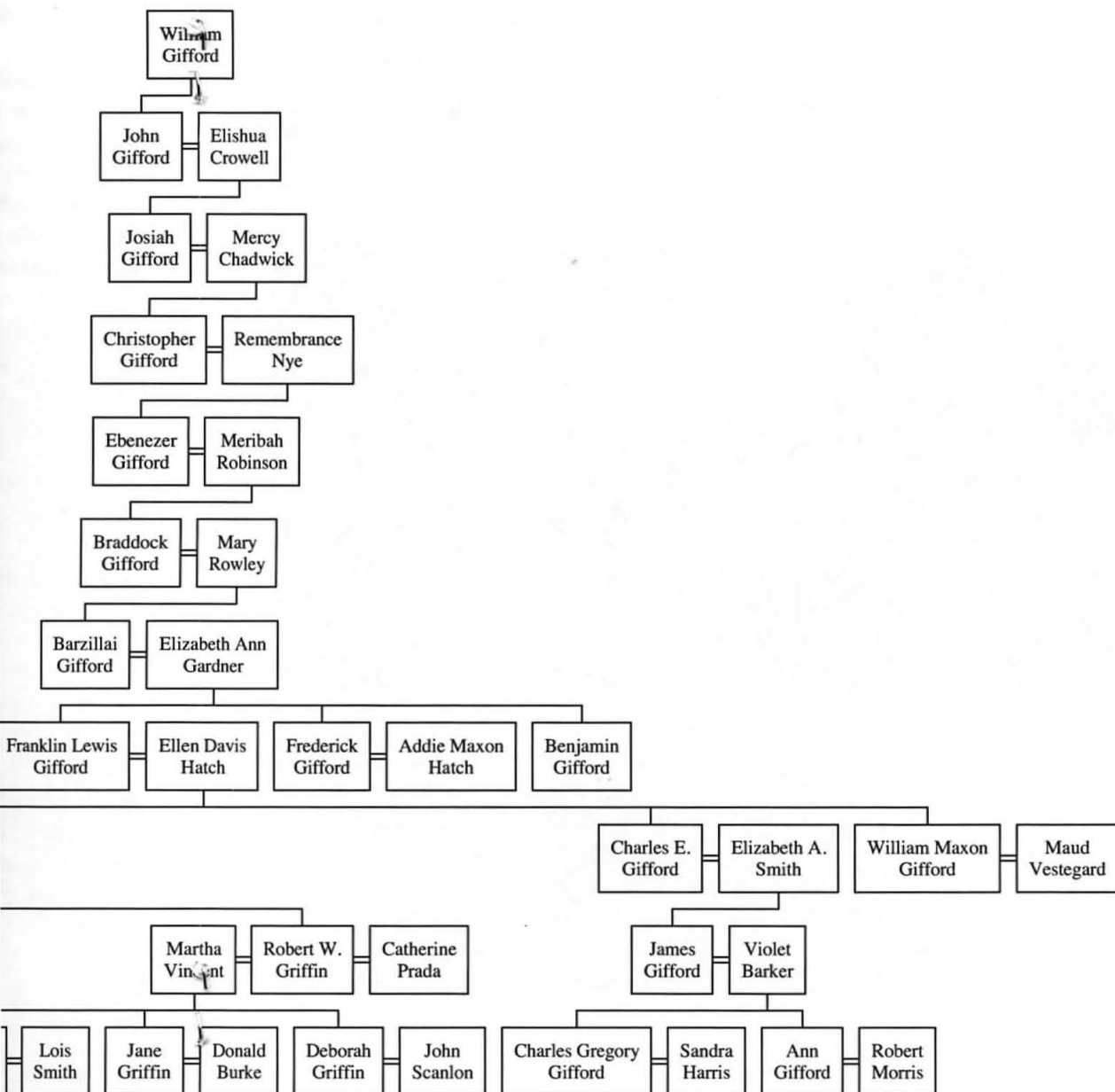


"Little Harbor with Rowboat, 1845." Painting by Franklin Lewis Gifford. Courtesy Woods Hole Library.

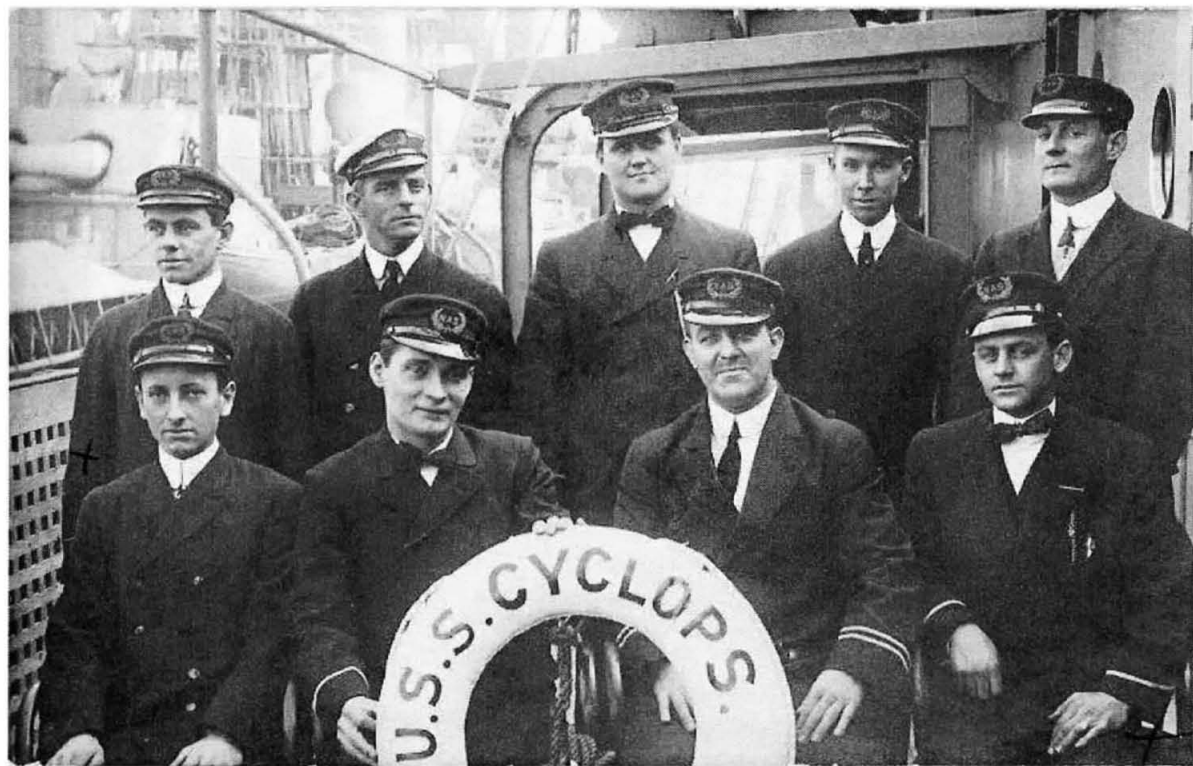
Descendants of William Gifford

Descendant chart of William Gifford prepared by Susan Witzell from information provided

Descendants of William Gifford



ared by Susan Witzell from information provided by Deborah Scanlon and Robert W. Griffin.



Both William (Max) and Charles (Ned) Gifford served on the 548-foot naval collier *USS Cyclops*. Max is in the upper left in the picture and Ned is in the bottom right. Max was 3rd then 2nd officer, and Ned was engineer. Max left in 1914 and went on to be captain of several other ships, including the *Nereus* and *Beaufort*. Ned stayed with the *Cyclops*, but fortunately missed her final trip in March 1918, when she was lost at sea with 300 men aboard somewhere between Barbados and Norfolk, VA. According to a *Popular Science Monthly* story in 1929, the *Cyclops* was carrying 10,000 tons of manganese and “was heavily overloaded... She had 4,000 tons of seawater in the double bottom, most likely due to postponement of repairs in the wartime rush to get her cargo to the munitions plant. One of her engines was dead, ... Add to this, the ill-fated collier fell a victim to one of the terrific storms which lurk around the Virginia Capes.” Courtesy Robert W. Griffin.



Cyclops in Germany. Courtesy Robert W. Griffin.



"Feeling Through the Ice, 1864." Painting by Franklin Lewis Gifford. Courtesy Woods Hole Library.

ordinary house paint, neither of which was true. As Mr. Brook of the Whitney wrote in this letter to Franklin at the end of the 1926 show: "The exhibition in which your seven paintings were included terminates tomorrow. We have had large attendance during the past two weeks and your pictures were much admired by people interested in painting and by the artists.... There has been much written for which I am not responsible. Reporters of newspapers like sensational stories and if they do not find it sensational enough they invent and write whatever comes into their heads.... The interviews I gave to

reporters were entirely different from what ultimately appeared on the printed page."

Less sensational was a review from the New York City's *Evening Post*: "Franklin Gifford contributes some charming paintings of historical scenes of Woods Hole, which are more interesting for their beautiful painting of sea and sky than for their history." *The New York City Sun* praised his historical slant and said, "Of all these artists [at the exhibit], it is Mr. Gifford who is most individual. He has an historical turn of mind and all of his pictures commemorate important happenings in the life of

Woods Hole, Mass....The fidelity with which the details [of his paintings] has been rendered is beyond praise and it is doubtful if a resident of Woods Hole could find an error anywhere. These paintings must be a substantial prop to the amour propre of Woods Hole, and would indeed have been a credit to a far larger town."

And where does Franklin Gifford fit in the art world? Hillary Osborne, a Falmouth artist, points out that

because Franklin never sold a painting, never studied with another artist, and never had students, it is hard to place him or determine his influence on future generations of artists. But, she points out, the Whitney exhibit showed that "Franklin was not merely a local artist, but had regional fame." Ms. Osborne also notes that the other exhibitors in the Whitney show were recognized artists of their era and may indicate the Whitney's regard for his work.



"Sailing in Nobska Pond." Painting by Franklin Lewis Gifford. Courtesy Woods Hole Library.

In 1966, *Yankee Magazine* featured Franklin Gifford in a cover story titled "The 'Grandpa Moses' of Woods Hole." Its author, W. F. Lawrence, interviewed Ellen Griffin and visited the Woods Hole Library to see its collection of Gifford paintings. He wrote, "Many of the paintings in the library are in a fair state of preservation though one or two have faded and the varnish has yellowed and cracked. They are without a doubt a unique gift to posterity by a man who loved Woods Hole and wanted to preserve as much of its colorful history as he could. Not only townspeople, but hundreds of visitors to Woods Hole every summer benefit from Gifford's thoughtfulness."

Robert Wendell Griffin, the son of George Appleton and Ellen Franklin (Gifford) Griffin, grew up in Woods Hole and attended Woods Hole School and Lawrence High. He received his civil engineering degree from Brown University in 1941. After 15 years as a process engineer at Pratt and Whitney Aircraft in East Hartford, Connecticut, he changed careers in 1964 to become a high school mathematics teacher at Falmouth High and later Falmouth Academy. He also pursued a part-time practice as a registered land surveyor and civil engineer, and has served on

Falmouth's planning board, recreation committee and as a town meeting member. In 2009, he was named Citizen of the Year by the Falmouth Chamber of Commerce. He has written articles on Falmouth history and genealogy.

Deborah Griffin Scanlon is the daughter of Woods Hole natives Robert W. Griffin and the late Martha (Vincent) Griffin. A graduate of Syracuse University with a double major in English and Journalism, Deborah is currently the communications coordinator for the MBL Ecosystems Center. She has written for the Falmouth Enterprise and other publications. She is on the board of the Woods Hole Historical Museum and co-chair of the executive committee of the Woods Hole Science and Technology Education Partnership.

Sources:

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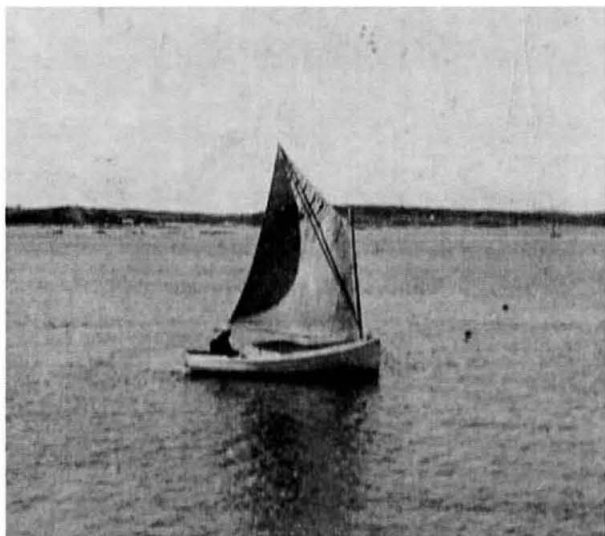
Genealogy Notes, Frances Cahoon Shepherd

Woods Hole Reflections, 1982

Gifford File, Woods Hole Historical Museum

WHHC Conversation with Ellen Griffin 1971, Professor Sichel

"The 'Grandpa Moses' of Woods Hole," by W. F. Lawrence, *Yankee Magazine*, July 1966



Franklin Gifford sailing his Spritsail. Courtesy Robert W. Griffin.