



**West Falmouth Library Archives
Guide to the Bowerman-Gifford family
papers, 1670-1976**

**Manuscript Collection MC-03
36 boxes, plus oversize materials (27 lin.
ft.)**

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Biographical Information

Two Quaker families, the Bowermans and Giffords of West Falmouth, were united by the marriage of Virtue Russell Bowerman (1875-1963) to Arnold Joseph Gifford (1868-1939) in 1907.

William Gifford (1615-1687) first settled in the West Falmouth area when he purchased forty acres of land from an Indian, Job Attukkoo, in 1673. Over the course of 300 years, the Bowermans and Giffords were farmers, dairymen, teachers, and devout members of the West Falmouth Society of Friends.

Scope and Content Note

The Bowerman-Gifford family papers, dating from about 1670 to 1976, reflect the activities of members of these two families and persons related to them by marriage. Included in the collection are personal correspondence; marriage certificates; property deeds; farm, estate, and other business records; school reports; writings by West Falmouth residents; illustrations; and photographs of family members, friends, and early West Falmouth scenes. Among the personal papers are biographical and genealogical data as well as diaries and other books, including family Bibles.

Of note are a deed in which William Gifford purchases forty acres of land in the West Falmouth area from an Indian, Job Attukkoo (1673); a document related to the manumission of "Cofe the Negro" (c. 1735); a

warrant issued by King George II in the 1750s to collect taxes from estates; and a community civics notebook prepared by 14-year-old Arnolda Gifford (1927).

Administrative Information

Custodial History

The custodial history of the collection is undocumented. However, it is supposed that Virtue Bowerman Gifford collected and identified most of the material in the 1950s; some of the materials were collected and displayed by Arnold B. Gifford during the 1960s when the Bowerman House was opened to the public as the Saconeset Homestead.

Acquisitions Information

Materials were collected by members of the Bowerman-Gifford family and donated to the Library in multiple acquisitions (acc. 2016-03). The bulk of the materials were donated by Dorothea Gifford in March 1994, although this transaction is undocumented.

Processing Information

When the collection was donated to the Library in 1994, Harriet B. Quimby and Charlotte Price identified and arranged much of the material. The collection was then processed by William and Shirley Dunkle from about 1995 to 1996. The Dunkles encapsulated many of the original documents and prepared an index of the collection.

Reprocessed and finding aid created by Katy Sternberger from August to November 2016. Oversize materials originally from box 16 were placed in the flat file. Framed copies and transcriptions of documents, originally in box 17 and now located in box 18, were removed from the frames for preservation reasons. Fragile glass plates and slides, still in their original boxes, were rehoused in proper four-flap enclosures and storage boxes; these photographs, originally located in box 30, are now located in box FR01 and box FR02, designated for fragile material.

Preferred Citation

Bowerman-Gifford family papers, 1670-1976. MC-03, "Folder Name." West Falmouth Library Archives.

Access Restrictions

Open: materials are available for research.

Use

Copyright: Permission to publish material from the collection must be authorized by the Library Director.

Related Material

See MC-02, the West Falmouth history collection, for additional materials related to the Bowerman-Gifford family.

See MC-07, the Shirley Dunkle papers, 1900-1998, for materials related to the Dunkles' work organizing and indexing the Bowerman-Gifford family papers.

See MC-09, the Hastay family papers, 1886-1985, for additional materials related to the Bowerman, Hatch, and Robinson families, including papers regarding Virtue Bowerman.

Other Finding Aid

A more detailed description of this collection, often at the item level, is available in the West Falmouth Library Archives: "A Register of the Bowerman-Gifford Collection of Family Papers," prepared by William and Shirley Dunkle in May 1996.

Arrangement

Arranged in fifteen series, by family and format.

List of Series:

[Bowerman Family Papers](#)
[Virtue Russell Bowerman Papers](#)
[Bowerman-Buffum Family Papers](#)
[Gifford Family Papers](#)
[Arnold Joseph Gifford Papers](#)
[Mary W. Gifford Papers](#)
[Virtue Bowerman Gifford Papers](#)
[George W. Kingman Papers](#)
[Waquoit History](#)
[Subject Files](#)
[Genealogies](#)
[Photographs and Reprints](#)
[Photo Albums, Scrapbooks, and Books](#)
[Oversize](#)
[Unprocessed](#)

Index Terms

Attukkoo, Job
Bourne, Orrin C.
Bowerman family
Bowerman, Daniel
Buffum family
Dennison Tag Factory
Genealogy & local history
Gifford family
Gifford, Arnold Bowerman, 1918-1977
Gifford, Arnold Joseph, 1868-1939
Gifford, Arnolda
Gifford, Mary W.
Gifford, Virtue Bowerman, 1875-1963
Gifford, William, 1615-1687

Hatch family
Hatch, Frank
Historic buildings
Kingman, Clara H.
Kingman, George W.
Nye family
Quakers -- Massachusetts -- West Falmouth
Robinson family
Saconesset Homestead
Shipbuilding
Sippewissett Marsh
Swift family
Waquoit (Mass.)
West Falmouth (Mass.) -- History
Windmill (1787)
Wing family

Collection Inventory

Bowerman Family Papers, 1727-1901, 1 box (0.25 lin. ft.)

Scope and Content Note

Series contains correspondence, deeds, and wills pertaining to members of the Bowerman family, specifically Addie Bowerman, Barnabas Bowerman, Benjamin Bowerman, Daniel Bowerman, Mary T. Bowerman, Thomas Bowerman, and Virtue Swift Bowerman.

Arrangement

Arranged by provenance.

Box	Folder		
1	1-7	Bowerman family papers	1727-1901

Virtue Russell Bowerman Papers, 1884-1907, 2 boxes (0.75 lin. ft.)

Scope and Content Note

Series contains the personal papers of Virtue Russell Bowerman, including correspondence and school records.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Box	Folder		
2	8-9	Correspondence	1890-1904
3	32-37	Correspondence	1884-1907

Bowerman-Buffum Family Papers, 1854-1885, 1 box (0.25 lin. ft.)

Scope and Content Note

Series contains correspondence related to the Bowerman-Buffum family.

Arrangement

Arranged by subject.

Box	Folder
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4 38-41 Correspondence 1854-1885

Gifford Family Papers, 1733-1916, 1 box (0.5 lin. ft.)

Scope and Content Note

Series contains correspondence, deeds, wills, and business records pertaining to members of the Gifford family, specifically Benjamin Gifford, Helena Elizabeth Gifford, Joseph A. Gifford, Meltiah Gifford, Prince Gifford, Walter Gifford, William Gifford, and Mary (Gifford) Swift.

Arrangement

Arranged by provenance.

Box	Folder		
5	42-53	Gifford family papers	1733-1916

Arnold Joseph Gifford Papers, 1858-1916, 1 box (0.5 lin. ft.)

Scope and Content Note

Series contains the correspondence and business records of Arnold Joseph Gifford pertaining to the family homestead.

Arrangement

Arranged by subject.

Box	Folder		
6	54-59	Business records	1858-1916
6	60-62	Correspondence	1858-1916

Mary W. Gifford Papers, 1857-1908, 2 boxes (0.75 lin. ft.)

Scope and Content Note

Series contains correspondence, school records, business records, and estate papers of Mary W. Gifford.

Arrangement

Arranged by subject.

Box	Folder		
7	63-69	Correspondence	1857-1895
8	70-72	School records, business records, and estate records	1881-1908

Virtue Bowerman Gifford Papers, 1886-1961, 1 box (0.5 lin. ft.)

Scope and Content Note

Series contains correspondence primarily between Virtue Russell Bowerman and Arnold Gifford.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Box	Folder		
9	73-76	Correspondence	1886-1961

George W. Kingman Papers, 1866-1888, 1 box (0.25 lin. ft.)

Scope and Content Note

Series contains business records.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Box	Folder		
14	114-115	Business records	1866-1888

Waquoit History, 1870-1903, 1 box (0.25 lin. ft.)

Scope and Content Note

Series includes writings related to the history of Waquoit by Orrin C. Bourne and Frank Hatch.

Arrangement

Arranged by subject.

Box	Folder		
10	77-92	Waquoit history	1870-1903

Subject Files, 1825-1958, 1 box (0.5 lin. ft.)

Scope and Content Note

Series contains documents, notebooks, newspaper articles, business records, and reminiscences pertaining to the history of West Falmouth. Subjects include Quakers, biographies, genealogies, recipes, roads, ships, Sippewissett Marsh, the 1787 windmill, the West Falmouth Library, and the Dennison Tag Factory.

Arrangement

Arranged by subject.

Box	Folder		
11	93-113	Subject files	1825-1958

Genealogies, 1882-1976, 2 boxes (1 lin. ft.)

Scope and Content Note

Series contains notes, correspondence, newspaper articles, documents, and transcriptions related to the genealogies of the Baker, Baxter, Bowerman, Bradford, Chase, Gifford, Moore, Nye, Sturtevant, Swift, and Wing families.

Arrangement

Arranged by subject.

Box	Folder		
12	10-20	Genealogies	1882-1976
13	21-31	Genealogies	1882-1976

Photographs and Reprints, c. 1850-1966, 9 boxes (4 lin. ft.)

Scope and Content Note

Series contains photographs of family members and scenes of Falmouth as well as Arnold B. Gifford's slide show of the Saconesset Homestead. Types of photographs include glass plate negatives and positives, tintypes, stereographs, prints, and glass slides.

Also included are reprints of family coats of arms, a Deyo map of Cape Cod, woodcuts of the Saconesset Homestead and 1787 windmill, and the Gifford family genealogy.

Arrangement

Materials are arranged by format.

Box	Folder		
20	116-124	Bowerman-Gifford family photos	c. 1880-1952
21	125-130	Photographs of Falmouth	1887-1900
29	A	Glass plate negatives	c. 1850-1952
29	B	Glass plate positives	c. 1850-1952
29	C	Tintypes	c. 1850-1952
29	D	Stereographs	c. 1850-1952
29	E	Photographic prints	c. 1850-1952
31		Reprints - coat of arms of Avery, Baker, Bowerman, Davis families	undated
32		Reprints - coat of arms of Gifford, Hatch, Jenkins, Lawrence families	undated
33		Reprints - coat of arms of Nye, Robinson, Swift, Wing families	undated
34		Reprints - Deyo map of Cape Cod, woodcuts of Saconesset Homestead and 1787 windmill, and Gifford family genealogy	undated
FR01		Oversize glass plates and tintype	undated
FR02	1	Arnold B. Gifford glass slide collection of Saconesset Homestead	1952-1966
FR02	2	Arnold B. Gifford glass slide collection of Saconesset Homestead	1952-1966

Photo Albums, Scrapbooks, and Books, 1809-1958, 10 boxes (10 lin. ft.)

Scope and Content Note

Series includes personal notebooks, account books, diaries, photo albums, and scrapbooks containing family photographs and clippings. Also included are Arnolda Gifford's community civics notebooks from 1927. Additionally, there are books and pamphlets concerning Falmouth history and Cape Cod history as well as family Bibles.

Photographs from the family photo albums have been digitized, and an access copy has been made available by CD (see box DM01).

Arrangement

Arranged by format.

Box	Folder		
15		Personal notebooks	1830-1920
22		Account books and diaries	1872-1930
23		Photo albums	undated
24		Photo albums	undated
25		Photo albums	undated
26		Scrapbooks	1888-1892, undated
27		Arnolda Gifford's community civics notebooks	1927
28		Arnolda Gifford's community civics notebooks	1927

35	Books and pamphlets	1809-1958
DM01	Digitized images from photo albums	undated

Oversize, 1670-1969, 2 boxes and 1 flat file drawer (6 lin. ft.)

Scope and Content Note

Series contains oversize documents, including deeds, wedding certificates, wills, and genealogies as well as a sampler, photographs, posters for the Saconeset Homestead, and transcriptions. Of note is the 1673 deed from Job Attukkoo to William Gifford, which signified the settlement of West Falmouth (transcriptions and copies are included).

Arrangement

Arranged by format.

Box	Folder		
18		Oversize materials	1673-1950
19		Oversize materials	1670-1907
Drawer			
FF03		Oversize materials	1786-1969

Unprocessed, undated, 1 box (1.5 lin. ft.)

Scope and Content Note

Series contains unprocessed material, including deeds, correspondence, and other documents related to the Bowerman-Gifford family.

Arrangement

None.

Box	Folder		
36		Unprocessed materials	undated