February 16, 1869

James Gifford, Esq., of the Harbor Commissioners, has bought the land formerly owned by M. L. Adams, Esq., which we hear he intends remodeling in order to accommodate a few boarders during the summer season. We have no doubt, if this is correct, that Mr. Gifford's former guests will be only too happy to avail themselves of his hospitality again.

Mill Hill, the one at the rear of Newton's greenhouses, or back of the estates owned by Nehemiah, John and Eldred Nickerson, was named thus, as it was the site of an old salt mill. I am told that the ancestor of two or more of our club members, Mrs. Isabelle Nickerson, drove her sheep to pasture upon this hill. Mr. Andrew Williams says: "I can readily recollect two round mill stones with holes in the center of each, on the top of the hill." Today the Gifford House and many nice residences are standnig on this hill. The De Wolf house, so called. on the very top attracts much attention.

Yarmouth Register March 15, 1890

MR. WM. S. GREENE of Fall River. said to a New Bedford Mercury reporter, that the story that James Gifford of Provincetown had been selected to lead the opposition to Mr. Randall was untrue. "I had an interview with Mr Gifford in Boston," said Mr. Greene, "but he was not selected to be a candidate and no one had any authority to offer the candidacy to him." The story of a meeting, at which it was determined to place Mr. Gifford in the field was without foundation, Mr. Greene said. This denial is rather sweeping. A candidate in opposition to Mr. R. may not have been fully agreed upon, but the assertion that the story of a conference is "without foundation" is contrary to known and undisputed facts. No doubt its promoters are rather disgusted with its results.

AMONG OUR DISTINGUISHED visitors this week were three ladies at the Gifford House, daughters of the late Francis P. Smith, as they referred to him, or better known to native Cape Enders as Frank Smith, for many years owner and operator of the Atlantic House. In his day the Atlantic House was just about the only place in town where traveling entertainers of all kinds and "drummers" or salesmen of every kind and from every part of the east, could find a place to stop. So because Frank Smith was an excellent cook, set a good table and was an excellent host he had a vast and myriad collection of friends. His daughters left Wednesday of this week after a brief stay in their old town which they found so greatly changed. Still lively and spry as Cape Codders in their 80's usually are, they nevertheless enjoyed being back and amid the quiet and friendly atmosphere of the Gifford House. Incidentally, President Grant held a reception there when he visited Provincetown. But the Merrills are having the chair in which he sat recovered.

