

The Gideon Family



*of Winslow, Washington
(Bainbridge Island)*

© 1900
Dorothy M. Crandall Hubbard

Acknowledgments

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the many people that have helped me collect and publish this history of the Harrison/Gideon Families...my ancestors. First, I would like to thank Charlie, my best friend, without whose help this journey would not have taken place. I would also like to thank the Parks Department of Bainbridge Island which opened up a floodgate of information with just one picture of Robert Gideon with his name and address. Also Jerry Effendahl for his kindness in opening the historical society on the island. To especially thank Robert and Peggy Gideon for sending me a box full of memories and pictures of my aunts and grandparents - for opening up to me and sharing their stories of their family. A special thanks to Galina Zlenko and Edith Gideon for all of their help and for allowing me into their home. Also I would like to thank the Waldport Historical Society and the Newport Historical Society for all of their help. No search is ever ended and I will always be learning more and more about my family. Without the help of these people and many more it would not be possible. Thank you to all both mentioned and not.

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The Gideons
An Overview

The Gideon family of Winslow, Washington, can trace its roots back to Germany on the Gideon side and back to Scotland and Ireland on the Harrison side. The state of Minnesota honored Peter Gideon with a monument to his memory on the old Gideon homestead at Lake Minnetonka on Gideon Bay. Peter Gideon is known in that part of the world as the propagator of the Wealthy apple. He developed the apple in the late 1860's and named it for his wife Wealthy Hull Gideon, a grand-niece of Issac Hull, commander of the "Constitution" (Old Ironsides). I will follow their offspring, Josiah Gideon, to Bainbridge Island and its development.

In the late 1880's Peter's son Charlie went to Oregon and settled in the coastal town of Waldport, followed a decade later by his younger brother Josiah.

There Josiah met and married Margaret Harrison, whose family also had come to the Waldport area, in the 1880's. (It is not clear if the families knew one another in Minnesota.) Josiah and Margaret stayed in the Waldport area, where Josiah built and ran a schooner along the coast. In 1902 the family moved to Seattle and within a short time moved to Winslow, where Josiah found work as a surveyor for the shipyard. Josiah would in the next several years become Kitsap County's surveyor and would locate most of the roads on the island that are in use today. Josiah died in an auto accident in 1920.

By its very nature, life on the island was hard. Margaret Harrison Gideon was a teacher when she lived in Oregon and on the island she became a notary public. She traveled on foot all over the island and became one of its leading spokespersons. She began the first library and initiated the first school. She wrote many articles for the island newspaper and was a clerk for the First Congregational Church on the island for forty years. Josiah, as mentioned before, surveyed the island and put in most of the roads that are in use today.

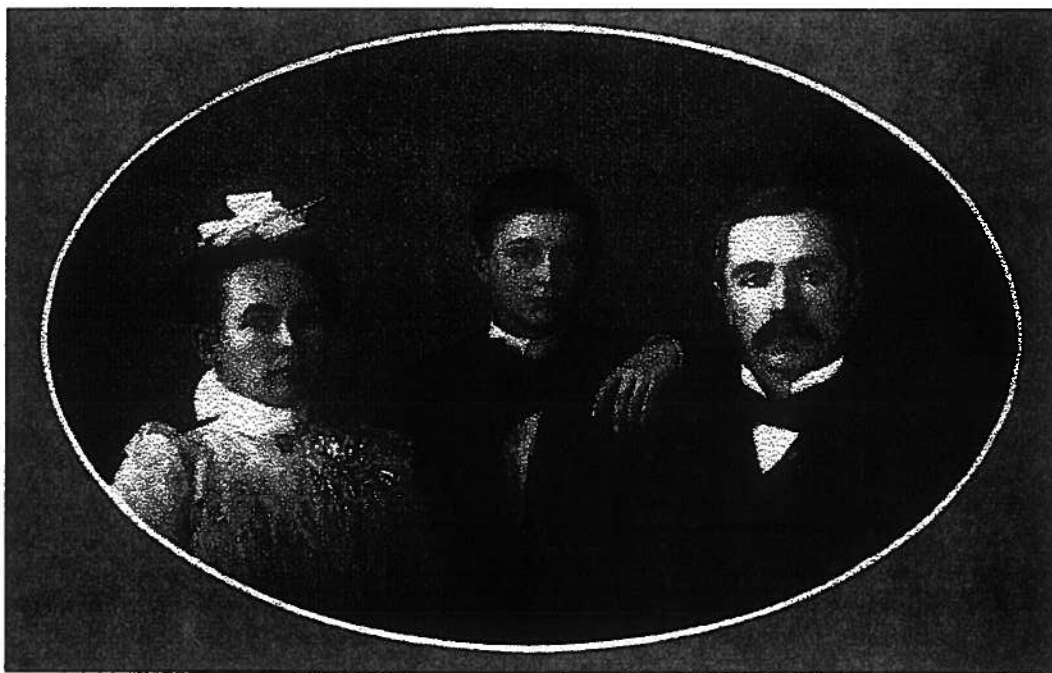
Josiah and Margaret had two children., Kenneth and Edith Gideon. Kenneth grew up on the island and had one of its first paper routes. He followed his father and worked for a time as a surveyor. He would later venture off to the wilds of Alaska and write a book about his exploits entitled "Wandering Boy". He served in WWI and married a teacher from the island, Gail Beuschlein. They had one child, Robert Gideon, who lives with his lovely wife Peggy in Fairfax, Virginia. They have no children.

Josiah and Margaret's other child, Edith Gideon would become a teacher. She taught physics at Olympic College in Bremerton, traveled the world, and piloted her own plane. She never married and now lives in Bremerton.

Following the wishes of his mother Gail (Kenneth's wife), Robert Gideon and his wife Peggy donated the remaining 2 1/2 acres of the original Gideon property, including a log cabin, to the Bainbridge Island Park and Recreation District for use as a public park. The cabin was built by Kenneth Gideon (assisted by his uncle William Harrison, a skilled carpenter, who added rooms at the back) and is still in use as of this writing (1998) and can be seen in the following pictures.

We are the product of our ancestors. They paved the way that we now travel with such ease. They fought the good fight and handed to us the fruits of their labor. The Gideons and the Harrisons have a long tradition of leadership and community development. They cared enough to get involved and, as such, deserve our remembrance and respect. Hopefully, this small documentation will give all who come after, a sense of the price paid, the lives lost, the dedication and determination of our forefathers to build a better future for all of us.

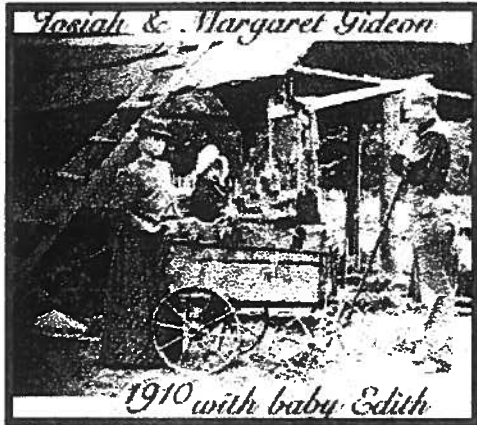
The Gideon Family



Margaret-Kenneth-Josiah

This is a picture of the Gideon Family before the arrival of Edith. Kenneth was around sixteen when Edith was born.

The Gideon Family



The Gideon Family



Maud-Will-Margaret-Edith



*Ms. Margaret Gideon
1886*



Kenneth Gideon
WWI



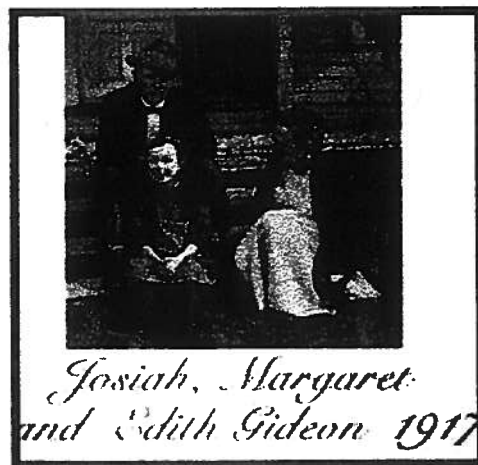
Robert K. Gideon
WWII



Mr. Robert (bob) Gideon



Gail
Beuschlein
Gideon



*Josiah, Margaret
and Edith Gideon 1917*

The Gideon Family



Edith Gideon
1998



*Robert and Peggy
Gideon*



Edith, Robert and Peggy Gideon
at the dedication of
Gideon Park on
Bainbridge Island



The Gideon Family



Log Cabin on Bainbridge Island
built by Kenneth Gideon

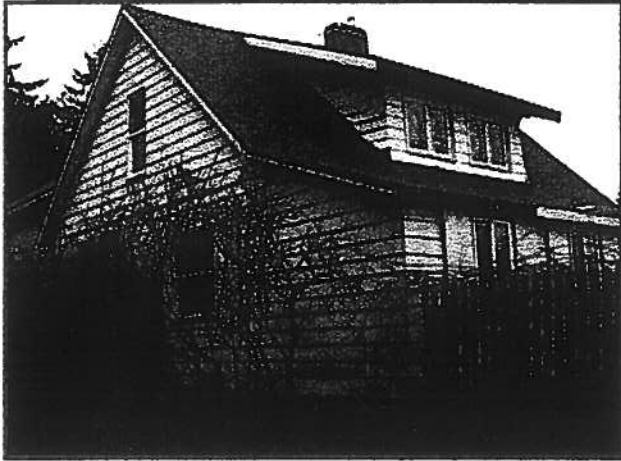


Gideon Park
on Bainbridge Island
1998

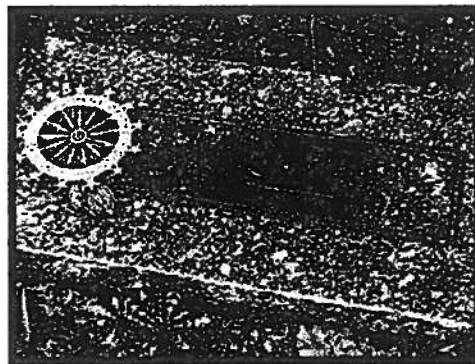
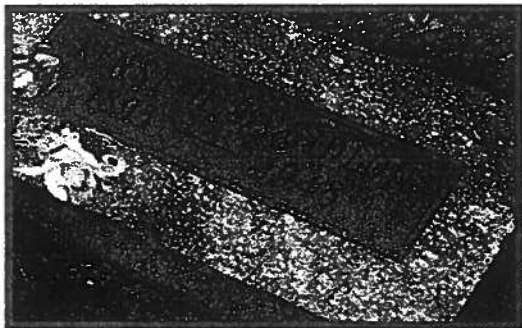
The mere owning of a cabin does not make it a home. We must live in it, people it with loved ones. We must seek it for shelter from storm and strife, make it the throne of our best moods, the seat of happiest hours.

Gail Gideon

The Gideon Family

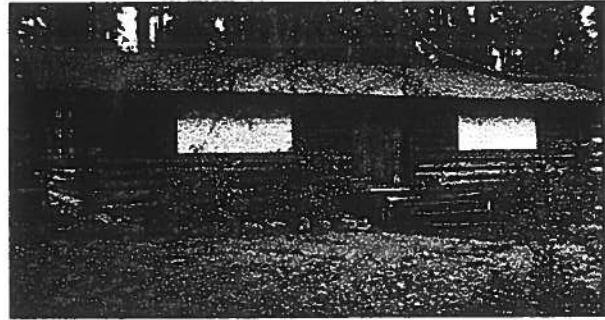


This is the original Gideon home on the island.



Kenneth and Gail Gideon laid to rest on the island that they both loved.

The Gideon Family



Building the Cabin

I told her I would build her a cabin. Told her that , I did, with all the carefree enthusiasm of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon when he promised his young queen that he would bring her native valley to the desert, and then with the usual disregard of cost common to the Oriental potentate produced the Hanging Gardens. The king and I had the same idea- to make our spouses happy. I had the advantage over the king, however. I had a tractor and there was a one-man sawmill nearby. Also, one of the neighbors had a truck capable of hauling the logs to the mill. All old Nebuchadnezzar had was ten thousand slaves. A man couldn't possibly have any fun driving ten thousand slaves around.

I came here with my mother and father in 1902. The place was covered with the same trees that are here now, only then they were saplings - Christmas tree high - and at even at that age I could see over the tops of them. The island had been logged off years before and fires had taken everything that was left. The place swarmed with big blue grouse, and now patient nature was starting the cycle over again. A small boy could get no nearer heaven.

That thick mass of young trees kept reaching for the sky, the weaklings were smothered out, the lower limbs on the rest died from lack of sun and when we came back forty years later there were acres of tall straight poles waiting to help me make good on my rash promise. The first problem was where to put it. My wife had grown up in the mountains of Montana. That would have stumped even old Nebuchadnezzar. But from one spot we could see the entire Olympic Range, and with a bit of ingenious cutting and pruning of limbs we cut a tunnel through the trees, and the "Mountain that was God" looked in upon us.

Written by Kenneth Gideon 1946

The Gideon Family



*Mr. and Mrs.
Robert and Peggy
Gideon*

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Mrs. Gideon At Of Unified Scho

● When Mrs. Margaret Gideon came to Bainbridge Island in 1902, Island children attended a one-room school at Winslow in the building that is now the Catholic Church.

Today Mrs. Gideon must feel a little thrill of pride as she looks at Bainbridge Island's modern consolidated high school and thinks of plans for the consolidation and modernization of Island grade schools.

For it was largely through her efforts and those of other public-minded citizens who were interested enough in the welfare of the Island's school children to get out and really work for improvements that the modernization of the schools was accomplished.

"It was a long fight to get the modern consolidated schools," Mrs. Gideon said. "We started out in one room. In those days you had to walk to get anywhere on the Island, and Mrs. H. E. Johnson and I walked all over the Island trying to get people to vote for improvements."

Mrs. Gideon, who was a member of the Island school board for eight years, just before the present high school was built, began her interest in educational work very early in her life.

As a child of Scotch-Irish descent in Minnesota—one of eight children, three boys and five girls—Margaret Harrison had six months of school a year, during the winter. In the summers she and the other children had to help with the farm work, but in the wintertime they walked three miles to school through snow and often in weather with a temperature of 40 degrees below zero.

When she was 16 years old she began teaching in the schools at Rush City, Minn., in those days—we can't see a date because Mrs. Gideon, with a twinkle in her eyes, said, "Oh, no one would be interested in the year I was born" after she was a woman, she has that sense of vanity—the educational requirements for teaching were far different from what they are today.

Mrs. Gideon had to pass a teacher's examination in ten states to get her teacher's certificate. "And if you think that was easy," she says, "just try



MRS. MARGARET GIDEON

Her fame with the youngest generation rests upon her position as librarian in the Winslow Public Library, which is open every

Friday afternoon. Many is the child who has asked her, "Do you own the library?" For fifteen years now she has been the main-spring of the library's functioning. It is hard to imagine the shock many children would experience if some Friday afternoon they should go there to exchange a book, and find someone else in her place. To them, Mrs. Gideon is the library.

For fifteen years, rain or shine, with little help and no pay for her time or work, Mrs. Gideon has kept that library going. For a time there was an active Library Association to finance it, but for the past eight years, the association has been inactive. Without Mrs. Gideon's loyal and unflin-

ly have been closed long ago.

When the building needed painting, she went to several of the Japanese citizens of the community for donations. They generously financed the work. When fires needed starting—before the Christian Science Society used the building and bought modern heating equipment—Mrs. Gideon split the kindling, started the fires, and kept them going.

Somehow those fires are a belief of her life on the Island—starting them is not enough. It is the persistent effort that keeps them going.

In 1887 her parents moved to Waldport, Ore., where her father engaged in the salmon canning business. Here five years later she was married to Josiah Gideon, and here they continued to live until 1902, when they sold their interests in Waldport and moved to Seattle.

"Seattle was booming then, and we thought it would be good business to move there," she said. "I've never been sorry we came to the Puget Sound country. It's a good place to live."

Hall Brothers had just moved their shipbuilding plant from Port Blakely to Winslow. Mr. Gideon was hired to do the civil engineering work on the construction of the docks and buildings of the new plant. So the Gideons moved to Winslow.

"We bought our present home on our arrival here," Mrs. Gideon said, "and I have lived in the same home ever since."

"About a week after we moved in," she continued, "a member of the school board came to the door to ask if we could board a new teacher. The teacher was getting about \$40 a month and couldn't pay more than \$10 for board and room. He said they couldn't find anyone who would take her."

"Very reluctantly I agreed to take her. This later proved to be a very interesting arrangement. The teacher was Bertha Anstadt, now Mrs. Arthur Attridge, and it proved a lasting friendship."

Mr. Gideon, who was county engineer at the time, died in 1920 in an automobile accident in Port Orchard. Mrs. Gideon has two children, Kenneth, who lives in Seattle and has a son, Bob, who is

now in the University, and Edith, who was for several years a high school teacher and is now an assistant physicist in the Bremerton Navy Yard.

"Edith is perhaps the only Island University of Washington graduate," Mrs. Gideon said, "who traveled every day from home and didn't miss a day nor a class during her whole four years at college. I was up every day at 5:30 to get her off on the 7 o'clock boat."

For twenty years—until two years ago—Mrs. Gideon was a Notary Public. "I tramped all over the Island," she said, "making death bed wills and deeds."

She has been a teacher in the Congregational Sunday School since she was in her teens.

Mrs. Harrison Dies After Long Illness

Wife of W. H. Harrison Came With Husband to Oregon 30 Years Ago, but Later Moved to Centralia.

Mrs. Margaret Harrison died in Madras, Oregon, March 31, of pneumonia. She was born in Glasgow, Scotland, February 15, 1840, and came to Brains-

ma, Ontario, in 1863. She was married August 13, 1864, in Goderich, Ontario, to William H. Harrison. Eight children were born to them. They moved to Minnesota in 1869 to live on a homestead near Rush City. In 1885 the family came west, settling in Lincoln county, Oregon. Later they lived in Centralia.

Mrs. Harrison suffered a stroke of paralysis 18 months ago. She was brought up in the Presbyterian faith and a member of that church most of her life.

Her remains were buried in Centralia, by the side of her husband, who died in 1910.

Mrs. Harrison is survived by six children: James Harrison, of Ocean View, Oregon; Mrs. Margaret Gideon, of Winslow, Wash.; William H. Harrison, of

Napavine, Wash.; Mary Harrison, of Madras, Or.; Mrs. Edith R. Howells, of Toledo, Or., and Mrs. Adeila L. Simonson, of Ona, Or.

WINSLOW

Mrs. J. Gideon left Tuesday morning for her old home in Oregon, where she went to attend the funeral of her mother. The sincere sympathy of her friends goes with her in her sad journey.

April 4 - 1916

March 23 - Annie Clow 1937

Miss Anne Clow passed on at her late residence, Centre Street, Thursday, following an illness of two years the last seven weeks of which she was confined to her bed. She was in her 89th year, and was born in Perthshire, Scotland. When she was a child the family came to Canada and settled at Rockwood where she attended school. Later they moved to East Wawanosh where she lived until coming to reside here a number of years ago. She was the last of a family of ten. She was a faithful member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and was a life member of the Women's Missionary Society. She was well known for her kindness and genial attitude towards others.

The funeral was held from her late residence on Sunday afternoon, and was conducted by Rev. Kenneth MacLean.

The pallbearers were: George MacLean, George Wilson, Harry F. McGee, Frank Watson, Duncan Kennedy, Chester Shores. Interment in Centralia Cemetery.

Mary A. Harrison, graduate of 1897, passed away at Toledo, Ore., on June 1, 1948. She received her B.S. degree from the University of California at Berkeley in 1925 and taught many years in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana. She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, national teachers' society. She is survived by two sisters and two brothers. Her high school pupils acted as pallbearers. Miss Harrison was an excellent teacher and an inspiration to all who knew her.

BEUSCHLEIN-GIDEON.

Miss Gail Beuschlein and Kenneth E. Gideon were married Wednesday evening, May 1, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Barnes, 1945 Harvard avenue north. Rev. Norman B. Harrison officiated. A wedding supper followed the ceremony, after which Mr. and Mrs. Gideon left for a trip to Portland. Mr. Gideon is a former University of Washington student and was a member of the 1915 class in mining engineering. He has spent the last three years in Alaska and just recently returned from the Alitard, making the 500-mile trip over the trail and by boat from Anchorage in thirty-two days. He expects to leave in a few days for San Francisco to enlist in the aviation service.

SIMONSON-WARRIOR WEDDING AT BOONVILLE 1915

Miss Adele Harrison, of Centralia, and Mr. Elmer Simonson, of Waldport, Oregon, were married Sunday, October 3rd, at the home of Dr. E. J. Doty, of Winlock. The bride, for the past five years has been a resident of Centralia, and employed as cashier for the Bell Telephone Company, but she was formerly a teacher in Lincoln county, Oregon, where the groom is a prosperous dairyman. The wedding is the climax of a very pretty romance.

A very pretty romance. Rev. Raymond Rees performed the ceremony in the presence of the bride's brother, Will H. Harrison, of Napavine, and a number of old friends of the family. After the dinner was served the wedding party motored to Centralia, where the bride greeted old friends and presented boxes of wedding cake. They returned to Winlock in time to catch the Northern Pacific evening train for Portland. Their many friends offer congratulations and best wishes. They will reside near Waldport, Oregon.

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