



# Gardner's Beacon

CAPE ANN AND SALEM PLANTER



Thomas Gardner Society

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Thomas Gardner was born in 1592, in England, and came to New England in 1623/24 with his wife and children. Thomas, and family, arrived on the Zouch Phenix at Cape Ann.

Thomas led a group of pioneering people, under the auspices of the Dorchester Company, who were charged with establishing a commercial fishing and farming community in the area.

The Cape Ann group succeeded in maintaining themselves after their landing, building homes, enduring the winters, establishing their farms, and fishing the local waters. However, the area could not support sufficient production of farm, and fish, goods to send back to England.

Hence, by 1626, the group had to uproot themselves and reestablish their lives at the area that became known as Salem.



#### Children of Thomas and Margaret:

Thomas (1618-1689)  
George (1620-1679)  
Richard (1621-1688)  
John (1624-1706)  
Samuel (1627-1689)  
Joseph (1630-1675)  
Sarah (1631-1686)  
Miriam (1634-1664)  
Seeth (1636-1707)

The purpose of newsletter is to make available information about Thomas Gardner, and his descendants, that has been obtained, and verified, via research.

As well, the newsletter can offer a question and answer section for inquiries about Thomas and his descendants.

The newsletter is sponsored by the Thomas Gardner Society ([ThomasGardnerSociety.org](http://ThomasGardnerSociety.org)).

After the move from Cape Ann, Thomas, and wife Margaret, started over. At the time, there was only a small group of people in the area who took on the daunting task of securing their lives and organizing a community.

Not only did Thomas, and family, as the bone and sinew of humanity, thrive in the new area, his descendants were instrumental in the unfolding of the American experience. In fact, Thomas exhibited qualities that are now known to be those of a good American who is tolerant, self-reliant, and independent.

Thomas' son Joseph was a casualty in the King Philip's war. As well, Thomas' descendants have supported every military conflict that this country has had.

One prime role for Thomas and sons was putting into place the infrastructure needed for the large influx of people that happened within a decade.

Due to troubles back in England, the Salem area saw a large number of people who decided that life across the sea in an unknown, and undeveloped, land was far more inviting than what they had to put up with at home. In fact, many had to flee for their lives, due to religious or political reasons.

We will tell these stories.

This issue is the beginning of a long series, we hope. We are inviting contributions of articles in regard to the Thomas Gardner families. Contact: [algswtlk@thomasgardnersociety.org](mailto:algswtlk@thomasgardnersociety.org)