



# Gardner's Beacon™



Special edition

CAPE ANN AND SALEM PLANTER

Special edition

Thomas Gardner Society, Inc.      Founded 2010



Volume IV -- Issue 2    --    Summer, 2014

Early work related to Thomas Gardner Society, Inc. (TGS) focused on closing the knowledge gap between work done 100 years ago and today. The years leading up to the 300<sup>th</sup> celebrations saw the first attempts at creating a cohesive view of the early arrivals and of their contributions. One area of study, in the later part of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, concerned those who were called “old” versus “new” planters. Many open issues still remain that require more attention.

In particular, the research accomplished so far has used on-line resources and libraries. In terms of the former, information had become increasingly available through the web for a couple of decades now (more below). Access to library material was necessary to round out the resources for research. To date, there were visits to libraries in Massachusetts, Kansas, Missouri, and in the D.C. area (D.A.R. and the Library of Congress).

The amount of on-line material increases daily. Search mechanisms may provide access but offer results that can be overwhelming. So, early efforts went toward organizing material, such as starting of a bibliography and building condensed lists. Bibliographic entries for the TGS make reference to digitized material. The amount of digitized books available for reading increases just like other on-line material. To date, TGS researchers have used Google, archive.org, and the **New England Historic Genealogy Society** (NEHGS) for access to these books.

A very useful type of condensation is a summary with links to confirmed sources. Supporting that effort, along with on-line research, will be an ongoing activity. One example of condensed material would be the encyclopedic type which is allowed by **Wikipedia** in which identification of sources is a must. TGS editorship created and maintained material related to **Old Planters**, the origins of Salem, Cape Ann history, Thomas Gardner (planter), and more. This material was used by the **Peabody School District** for a class project that asked the students to research four of the original colonists in the area (John Endicott, Thomas Gardner, William Trask, and John Humphrey).

Another information-handling requirement is controlled presentation such as is provided by a website. For the TGS, the initial URL was [thomasgardnersociety.org](http://thomasgardnersociety.org). At this site, pages describe purpose, discuss history, report research, and offer a newsletter (below) whose purpose is to summarize information. Associated with this effort are blogs, such as the following: [thomasgardnersalem.blogspot.com](http://thomasgardnersalem.blogspot.com).

A time-honored method for presenting material is a newsletter that is periodic and represents a point-in-time status. The TGS started **Gardner's Beacon™** (see attached: Vol. II, No. 6, page 1) for that purpose. As of 2013, fifteen issues have been published which are subsumed under three volumes. Each issue contains an overview of research results, some details related to findings, an overview

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related to a descendant, and a topical list of descendants. In terms of the last would be the list in Issue 2 of Volume III of “Gardners lost at sea.”

As information provided by the TGS research efforts was exposed via the website, there have been queries and discussions mainly from those who stumbled upon the work or heard about it from another person. Many persons have expressed their interest in becoming involved with the activity. These have been added to a mailing list that has over fifty names at present. For every release of Gardner's Beacon, we have sent an informational email to the interested parties.



Another activity has been participation in societies that are under the framework of the **Hereditary Society Community** (HSC) that meets in D.C. during the first two weeks of April of each year. This association provides a means to foster discussions pertinent to the interests of TGS, as well as a means to learn from the activities and efforts of others.

In the HSC context, TSG has sponsored effort at confirming many genealogical lineages for several persons with a thought toward identifying descendants of the original planters (Cape Ann). For two of these research efforts, an article was written for **The Essex Genealogist** which is published quarterly by the **Society of Essex Genealogists**. The first article was published in May 2014 with a second scheduled for the August 2014 issue. Several other articles are in progress.

Some discussion has occurred related to the upcoming 400<sup>th</sup> anniversaries, plural since there is expected to be some acknowledgment by all New England cities of their initial founders.

### Incorporation

The Thomas Gardner Society, Inc. was founded in early 2010 with a research focus. The Society was incorporated, as Not for Profit, in 2014 in the State of Kansas.

The purpose of the Society is as follows:

- (a) to establish and to maintain a persistent presence in order to honor the accomplishments of the Cape Ann party (1624) lead by Thomas Gardner;
- to promote, and to sponsor, scholarly research of a cultural, biographical, historical and genealogical nature, with an emphasis on, but not limited to, the origins and the lives of New England immigrants;



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to provide means for, and to foster, discussion, and dissemination of, information on those themes; to publish materials periodically and as necessary;

(b) to encourage participation by, and interaction of, Thomas Gardner descendants through Society membership;

to extend the published works of Frank A. Gardner (using modern publication means);

to establish, and to document, views based upon timeline data obtained from descendants and other studies; and,

(c) to sponsor the scholastic efforts of men, women, and children in the context of a continuing educational process.

### Goals of the Society

Goals will be discussed further in future issues of Gardner's Beacon (see website for more information). Goals include the following: membership, engagement in planning/accomplishing celebrations of 400<sup>th</sup> anniversaries, scholastic sponsorship in areas of interests to the Society, support for enabling technologies (primarily an educational thrust).

**Massachusetts Magazine:** Volume I was dated January, 1908. The mast said that this was to be a quarterly magazine devoted to history, genealogy, and biography. Thomas Franklin Waters (the Ipswich, MA expert) was editor. The advisory editors included Frank A. Gardner, M.D., Charles A. Flagg, and Albert W. Dennis. The intent was to publish "the results of original investigations in various fields of research" and to promote the "historic spirit in all portions of the old Bay State." Dr. Frank was head of, and contributor to, the Department of the American Revolution. The magazine was still being published in 1917. Another contributor was Lucie M. Gardner who was the sister of Dr. Frank. ... This magazine will offer much in the way of hints for future research.

### Celebrating the Magna Charta (Timeline)

- 1215** – Magna Charta: sealed by King John, named, then denied by the King, and declared invalid by Pope Innocent III. First Barons' War ensued.
- 1217** – King John died. William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke saved England from troops of Prince Louis of France. Most of the Barons turned to support Henry III.
- 1225** – King Henry III issued a property tax while reaffirming the Magna Charta.
- 1264** – Second Barons' War arose in an effort to force the King to honor the Magna Charta.
- 1265** – Parliament first met in Westminster.
- 1297** – King Edward I reissued, again for a new tax. The concept of due process of law was introduced.
- 1433** – By the time, the Magna Charta had been reconfirmed 45 times. The last time was by Henry VI.
- 1620** – Mayflower compact: written and signed in Plymouth.
- 1679** – Habeas Corpus Act passed.
- 1688** – Colonial clergyman, Rev. John Wise, was arrested and fined for protesting taxation. Gov. Edmund Andros declares that colonists gave up all rights when they left England.
- 1689** – Bill of Rights passed in England.
- 1773** – Boston Tea Party, taxation without representation.
- 1776** – Declaration of Independence.
- 1789** – U.S. Constitution.
- 1948** – Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

### Gardner's Beacon, Issues

Vol	No	Issue date	Title/topic
I	1	Spring, 2011	Thomas and Margaret Gardner
	2	Summer, 2011	Gardner Patriots
	3	Fall, 2011	Margaret's House
	4	Halloween, 2011	Gardners & 1692
	5	Winter, 2011	New England Christmas
II	1	February, 2012	St. Valentine's Day
	2	Spring, 2012	Gardners and the sea
	3	Summer, 2012	War of 1812
	4	September, 2012	Houses
	5	Halloween, 2012	1692, again
III	6	Winter, 2012	Celebrations, Annals
	1	March, 2013	Before the Arrival
	2	June, 2013	Spirit of independence
IV	3	Fall, 2013	Dorchester Company
	4	Winter, 2013/14	First generation
	1	Spring, 2014	Cape Ann
	2	Summer, 2014	Thomas Gardner Society, Inc.

For sources for Gardner's Beacon Issues, use:

<http://thomasgardnersociety.org/html/Newsletters/Sources.html>

For bibliographic information and links, use:

<http://thomasgardnersociety.org/html/bibliography.html>

### Authors:

Nathaniel Hawthorne (c 1800s)  
 Francis Ellingwood Abbot (c 1830s)  
 William Sydney Porter (c 1860s)  
 Robert Frost (c 1870s)  
 Erle Stanley Gardner (c 1880s)  
 C.W. Grafton (c. 1900s)

We are inviting contributions of articles.

Contact: [algswtlk@thomasgardnersociety.org](mailto:algswtlk@thomasgardnersociety.org)