



Gardner's Beacon™



CAPE ANN AND SALEM PLANTER

Thomas Gardner Society, Inc. Founded 2010



[Volume IX -- Issue 3](#) -- Holidays 2019

Gardner's Beacon™ is published by the Thomas Gardner Society, Inc. (ThomasGardnerSociety.org).

We extend greetings of the season and express our appreciation for your interest.

The New England 400th planners will start off 2020 with Rose Parade float on January 1st sponsored by the Mayflower Society. There are many events planned during next year for this commemoration. Salem has started to think about its origins; this look back will be in about six years. Gloucester started planning its review in 2018 and has had several meetings.

We, the TGS, expect to have a meeting in Massachusetts in 2020 (stay tuned for details). Reminder, [December 29th](#). Thomas died on this date in 1674.

Approaching a decade?

We are now approaching the end of a [decade of work](#) for the TGS. Many say that 2019 ends a decade. Well, it does conclude ten years from 2010. We might argue that our 2011 start is more of the beginning of the decade. The current volume of Gardner's Beacon is the 9th volume. We will start the 10th volume of our newsletter next year.

During the decade of work, we have collected lots of material that awaits attention. Part of what we do involves using technology for presentation of research results and for discussion. We established [The Gardner Annals](#) for handling more detailed information. There are many other ways to communicate ideas some of which we have tried. We will offer a new one in the next Annals in the form of a novella.

Now, our focus will be on the next decade which will include the 400th for Cape Ann and Salem. One of our interests is to have a Thomas' tree filled into to [five generations](#) or so. We have eight children to cover.

Activities and accomplishment

The 2019 work started with a deeper look at [burial issues in little Essex County](#) of Massachusetts. The study brought lots of stuff to our attention, including of paintings of the Salem area that gave some semblance of how things looked in the various periods. As well, we got back to looking at

the [Trask family](#) that has been doing research over the years, too. As a reminder, Trask was at Cape Ann.



There is always the larger perspective which the [New England Historic Genealogical Society](#) has done well handling. Several times this year, we have referred back to their work. As well, we have contributed to their meeting of goals. Our focus is Cape Ann and Salem, especially the early families, such as Thomas'.

We are helping to coordinate the update of Thomas Gardner's [profile on WikiTree](#). As one might expect, there are many theories about Thomas that need managing. And, [Margaret's marriage](#) to Thomas has had lots of attention over the years. In 2018, it was agreed to have Margaret as the first of two wives for Thomas and the mother of the Gardner children. This decision was in the context of the Great Migration Project that had proposed three wives. There is much work to do.

We got reacquainted, too, with the book, [Chronicles of Old Salem](#), and have extracted tidbits to present at our portal to add to our annals (which will be a continuing theme). We have found that perusal of material usually leads to further research, if one pays attention. We got a chance to look at [Benjamin West](#) of Salem. He was a patriot who died at Bunker Hill. Yet, it was over 100 years later that he was finally even recognized. In this context, we can show examples of getting updates done for Find A Grave or for WikiTree.

We got into houses, again; we have had several posts on this subject plus articles in Gardner's Beacon issues. Recently, we read a post at the blog called "[Streets of Salem](#)" that has had posts related to the Gardner theme. We like to comment on these, when appropriate, and point back to the work of Gardner Research. Following this theme was a recent post detailing some of the areas that we need to look into further.

Which brings up Sidney Perley who labored for over a decade. Sidney needs to be appreciated for his walkabouts and readings of records. From that work, we have a very good sense of the times (say, 1700). When Sidney ceased his [antiquities work](#), he commented about the lack of support, especially in terms of people wanting to do something. We



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put out a post quoting him. However, his leaving the antiquities work gave him time to write the History of Salem. But, Dr. Frank, and Lucie, labored with [The Massachusetts Magazine](#) after Sidney quit. Again, they went for a little over a decade. We have referred to their work several times this year and will keep their work in focus.

Everywhere we look and see reference to New England, we try to find links to TGS work. Hence, a recent NEHGS article on [Elizabeth \(Clapp\) Withington](#) got us looking at her life and referring back to Dr. Frank's material. That got us to look at one of the Elizabeths that he studied; we ended up looking at three (and a few more) who lived over a range of one hundred and fifty years. There are posts on this.

The notion is to look at collateral families. Dr. Frank did some of this. Again, we're 100 years later with more facilities offering material and will be looking at people with the same name at different time periods. After we do a few of these, we'll report. The method works in bringing forth hidden associations. The material is not so much 'hidden' as ignored for various reasons.

We still get requests about '[All things Gardner](#)' on a regular basis. We can learn a lot by looking into these matters, and we have written posts on those themes. How the Gardner families might relate is an open area of research.

We picked a few names from the descendants list that was generated early (and edited over the years) and looked at them further. This type of activity allows us to track families over the generations while considering the changes in the world. We have barely scratched the surface. Speaking of which, there has been much research regarding Thomas over the years; some of this material found its way to the internet. Getting some coherency with respect to this work ought to be on our plate. One thing that we started was a FAQ which includes a summary of what we know.

There is a section with Gardner burials in the [Charter Street Cemetery](#). We want to look further at that. Too, Dr. Frank and others are buried in Greenlawn Cemetery. There are Gardner graves in Harmony Grove, where the stones from Gardner's burial plot are to be found.

We have started to collect material related to each of the children as we mentioned. The issue of how to organize the Gardner material is still open for

discussion; however, as WikiTree is free and useful (at this time), we will work there until we have some better notion on how to proceed.

Another area of research has been to look at places with the Gardner name. We have documented several of these studies. Recently, we looked at [Gardner River](#) that flows out of Yellowstone. It starts in an area in the Continental Divide that goes to the Missouri and the Mississippi; its origins is close to another area whose water goes west. The characters involved with this are New Englanders and movie worthy (recent one with DeCaprio), however they also were peers of people that we have studied over the past decade. For instance, [Judge Thompson](#), who worked with Dr. Frank, was there. So, looking at these types of associations are very informative and worthwhile.

The future and its issues

We will be, somewhat, in a consolidation mode due to the amount of material to review. At the same time, we are working on schemes that will carry us to the future. For an example of reviews, we have pulled together the contributions of [John Goff](#) as well as posts related to his work. The subject of houses is another example. Using John's work, we noted specifics about the first year in Cape Ann. Of course, there was the house that John Endicott had moved to Salem.

And, a lot more subjects are there to study over the timeframe from then to now. This type of research will continue in a highly visible sense throughout this year as we close out of decade and start another. Then, it'll be a constant subject.

Incidentally, with regard to modes of presentation, we will provide a portion of a novella concerning Ipswich in the next issue of The Gardner Annals. One focus will be inter-generational means; historic fiction can be quite powerful; recent New England examples demonstrate this.

There is still time to contribute material. TGA Volume V will have two issues. Once we get that done, we will publish all five volumes under one cover. However, we will re-edit so that adjoint articles are together. There were three so far dealing with the genealogy and history of Dr. Frank which will be pulled into one. The notion is to have this suitable for gifting to libraries and schools.





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Gardner issues

When we look at Dr. Frank's [1907 book](#), we see that it mainly covers his heritage which is Samuel. There is a little about the other siblings. The 1933 book gave some of the George descendants a little more visibility. So, we need to add in more about George and Samuel. But we need to bring in the other six siblings. Who knows about John or Richard? We have heard from many descendants of Richard. So, too, for the others.

We plan a get together next year in the Salem area. We would like to get regular activity going in order to have five generations covered by the time of the Salem 400th. That would be 2026, perhaps.

Too, we have a button for contributions on the portal. Help us support research. We plan to have material for children, as well. General scholarly efforts will be encouraged.

Technical issues

The portal that we established a couple of years ago will be used for presenting tidbits as well as providing links to additional material. Be sure to watch developments via our portal plus the coming material available via tools used by developers. Yes, roll-your-own is a distinct possibility.

One area of concern deals with over-arching concerns. Say, ethics. This type of emphasis is nowhere to be found. But, along with technical concerns will be approaches, such as AI. Yes. We will have a regular [DNA column](#).

Right now, we have fallen into using WikiTree as an interim solution to handling genealogical data. Dr. Frank's tree was on focus. As well, we would like to have the first three to five generations documented. The two books are one source albeit, the 1907 publication mostly covered Samuel's lines to Dr. Frank. He touted that he went to four generations when he had the material. The 1933 publication looked at one subtree of George's lines and came much further along the line.

We will focus on documents sufficient to allow assessment of a membership application. There are many models to use as the basis. And, we want to provide a means for answering general queries. Along with this, there will be regular notices.

We invite contributions of articles.
Contact: algswtlk@TGSoc.org

For instance, on 29 Dec 1674, Thomas Gardner died in Salem. We know that he was buried at the burial plot near Gardner's Hill. The location of his remains became unknown due to commercial activities in the area. This needs further study. The potential approaches coming via technology will need regular reviews and assessments.

[Elizabeth \(Gardner\) Gardner \(ca 1700s\)](#): She was the daughter of Elizabeth Weld. Her husband (Jonathan Gardner) was the grandson of Elizabeth (Hathorne) Porter. They were quite successful in Salem. Her son, Jonathan, was eulogized by Dr. Bentley upon his death. Her son, John, owned the [Gardner-Pingree house](#) that was built by Samuel McIntire.

[Elizabeth \(Gardner\) Gray \(ca 1790s\)](#): She was the daughter of Rebecca Russell Lowell and Samuel Pickering Gardner. He was the one who visited the area of Gardner's Hill in Salem and witnessed that graves had been disturbed. Elizabeth married [John Gray](#). He was a graduate of Harvard. They were active in the Boston area and supported the Massachusetts Historical Society. They had no children.



Elizabeth Gardners:

- Elizabeth (Gardner) Waters (ca 1700s)
- Elizabeth (Gardner) Gardner (ca 1700s)
- Elizabeth (Gardner) Blanchard (ca 1750s)
- Elizabeth (Gardner) Dabney (ca 1750s)
- Elizabeth (Gardner) Hathaway (ca 1780s)
- Elizabeth (Gardner) Gray (ca 1790s)
- Elizabeth (Gardner) Amory (ca 1840s)



For more information, visit our main portal: <https://tgsoc.org/>.



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