



# Gardner's Beacon™



CAPE ANN AND SALEM PLANTER



Thomas Gardner Society, Inc.    Founded 2010

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Research, analysis, and publication were the focus of The Thomas Gardner Society, Inc., from the beginning. A main theme was the upcoming 400<sup>th</sup> anniversaries for areas in the northeastern states. Once these look-backs start, there will be several years of celebration. Virginia saw their 400th in 2007; Quebec, Canada followed in 2008. This year, 2015, plans call for many events, worldwide, that related to the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first sealing of the Magna Charta by King John of England. The chance to review such past events, and those who were involved, brings to fore the importance of the early times.

Other Society interests cover several areas: the question of whence (what is the origin of Thomas?), better understanding of the time, descendants (there are many) and more. Too, modern-era techniques will allow a re-look at the earlier periods that was not possible during the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Salem, at which was Dr. Frank A. Gardner, the principal Gardner researcher and author.

Going forward, any material related to Thomas Gardner and Margaret Fryer would require web presence; as well, evolving presentation schemes (beyond the millennials) need to be brought into play.

### Corporate activities

One early publication effort was the encyclopedic information that has been added to Wikipedia concerning the Cape Ann party. "Thomas Gardner (planter)" is a regularly maintained article. Additional information includes a description of the Great House that was built in 1624 and later moved to Salem. The Wikipedia information has been referenced, and sited, many times over the past few years.

Since 2010, the Society has managed a web site at which four volumes of Gardner's Beacon have been published. Along with the work to establish content, a blog provides up-to-date information about research findings.

In 2015, an FAQ about Thomas Gardner was published via the blog which links to the appropriate articles. Along with the FAQ will be a list of open questions that require research.

Additional effort has accomplished work related to genealogical specifics required for establishing membership

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in one of the Hereditary Society Community entities.

In 2014, an article was published under the auspices of the Society to correct an oversight that was published nearly twenty years ago in The Essex Genealogist. After that initial article, four more articles have been published in the same journal. Gardner Research was organized. Associated with this work was the first publication of The Gardner Annals whose purpose is to will allow publication of research results.

Finally, the Society, while founded in 2010, incorporated in 2014 in the State of Kansas and obtained a tax-exempt status with the U.S. IRS.

### Future activities

The Thomas Gardner Society, Inc. has the intent to support scholarly activity with regard to history and people; one area of concentration would involve the Cape Ann planters' experiences and subsequent events. The following is

a stated goal: to sponsor the scholastic efforts of men, women, and children in the context of a continuing educational process.

In order to provide means for on-going research and related scholastic efforts, the Society looks to obtain support from parties who have an interest in the Society's mission.

One emphasis will be the development of a scholarship fund to be awarded at the collegiate level. Too, the Society will look to pursue opportunities to fund work, of a general historical or scholarly nature, on an as-needed basis. Related, and very important, will be publication of research findings.

For instruction on how to contribute to the support of the **Thomas Gardner Society, Inc.**, see:

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

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