



Gardner's Beacon™



CAPE ANN AND SALEM PLANTER



Thomas Gardner Society, Inc. Founded 2010

Volume V -- Issue 2 -- Fall 2015

Anniversaries come and go. We just had the 800th of the first Magna Carta sealing and are facing several 400th anniversaries, which will result in a long series of celebrations in New England. Remembering the Cape Ann crew's effort will be of interest to us.

Social media, and similar systems, play an integral part in these activities, into the future. We started a Thomas Gardner Society, Inc. presence on Facebook, in 2014. This year, there has been a focus on Quora; it has a question and answer format. For all questions related to New England (and American) history, we would like to add a TGS perspective.

Research communication

Frequent queries concern the origins (whence) of the family and the relationship between the Gardner families. Answers have been collected into a FAQ that provides an overview of what we know with links to additional material. The intent is to use the full-spectrum of computer-based presentations of our research findings.

Questions of whence concern information about the family of Thomas and Margaret plus their pedigree. Over the years, there has been a lot written. One task is to collect all of these views, analyze the provenance of their sources, and present an orderly set of findings. That has been, and will be, an open area of research.

On the TGS blog, a site map links to the following pages: Whence, Recent finds, FAQ, Gardner Questions, and more.

Research activities

In 2015, two articles were published under the auspices of the Society in *The Essex Genealogist* (TEG) [Vol. 35 (February, May), see *The Gardner Annals*, Vol. II, No. 1]. The February article provided the lineage of Benjamin Brown Gardner (BBG) who was the paternal grandfather of Dr. Frank A. Gardner. The appendix provided a detailed, sourced ahnentafel for BBG who was born in Salem, MA.

The article in May took a look at the namesake for Gardiner, OR. Prior to this article, references had only been to a Mr. Gardiner who owned the ship that wrecked in 1850 along the Oregon coast. The ship was a barque, named *Bostonian*. Research for the article identified Henry D. Gardiner as the owner. As well, a timeline was provided for the ship that brought a load of cargo from Boston to San Francisco. It then went to New Zealand for supplies and shipwrecked while trying to navigate the Umpqua River. Henry D. was a descendant of

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George Gardiner of Rhode Island. His wives, on the other hand, were descendants of Thomas Gardner of Salem.

A prior article in the TEG looked at the family of Dr. Frank's paternal grandmother, Lucy Foster Wilson [Vol. 34 (August), see *The Gardner Annals*, Vol. I, No. 2]. We have a fairly complete tree for Dr. Frank. One thing to note is that Dr. Frank is a descendant of Nathaniel Eaton, first Harvard headmaster, whose experience is getting further attention.

Massachusetts Magazine

The first **Massachusetts Magazine** (MM) began to publish after the War of Independence and supported authors like Benjamin Franklin and Judith Sargent Murray. This MM ran from 1789 to 1796. It was also known as the **Monthly Museum of Knowledge and Rational Entertainment**.

In 1908, F.A. Gardner, C.A. Flagg, and A.W. Dennis, started publishing, quarterly, **The Massachusetts Magazine** (TMM) with T.F. Waters as editor. In his **The Essex Antiquarian**, Sidney Perley said that the periodical was intended to be the organ of several colonial societies. The last issue was in 1918. In each issue, Dr. Frank provided an article on the regiments of Massachusetts during the War of Independence; his Regiments were those present at the Siege of Boston. His sister, Lucie, wrote of "Pilgrims and Planters" and provided genealogical information. This year, the TGS blog provided an image of the Table of Contents for all of the issues. Too, there was a review of several of Dr. Frank's articles. This effort will get more attention by our research team.

Thoughts of a Thomas and Margaret descendant

Looking back at the struggles that the settlers faced in coming to a new country, we can be thankful that the early arrivers survived and flourished. Thomas and Margaret were successful in raising nine children to adulthood; we are the descendants of those children. And, we ought to appreciate the contributions that succeeding generations have made to the country over the years. For me, obtaining knowledge about my family and its history helps me understand myself. I feel that one inherits in more ways than genetically. I am thankful to Gardner Research which, under the auspices of the Thomas Gardner Society, Inc., helped me to get to know my family history.

We are inviting contributions of articles.
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