



# Gardner's Beacon™



CAPE ANN AND SALEM PLANTER



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Much preparation will go into planning for the upcoming 400<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the start of New England. In 2007, Virginia had their 400<sup>th</sup> shindig; and, Florida had their festivities long before that. The land where Coronado (1540s) roamed looking for gold had their lookback in the 1940s, namely, Kansas and New Mexico.

As we prepare for the 400ths, we must also consider the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversaries that are near. These would deal with the western expansion that happened after the conclusion of the American Revolution. New England played a large role in the expansion and the settlement of the middle part of the U.S. For one, abolitionists from New England went out, very early, to help establish the Free states. As a result, contention led to armed conflicts in those regions between pro- and anti-slavery groups, long before the U. S. Civil War brought the conflict into national focus.

### Early migration

During the period from 1629 to 1640, there was a major outflow of people from England. Most of these folks went to four places: Ireland, New England, West Indies, and the Netherlands. A recent study called the "*Great migration to New England*" dealt with the thousands of colonists who came to northern New England. Out of the "Great Migration" effort came a series of books about the immigrants to Massachusetts and the surrounding area. By 1640, northern New England's population was over 26,000. By 1650, it was over 50,000.

Virginia, in southern New England, had a parallel but different experience. Between 1619 and 1622, the southern colony had a couple thousand persons arrive. Many of these were indentured slaves who were to work off a penalty. That period was before the arrival of Winthrop's fleet in the north which occurred in 1630. By 1644, the southern population had risen to eight thousand. Thirty years later, the population was over twenty thousand. With the import of slaves having started in 1671, there were sixteen thousand such souls in Virginia by 1700.



In northern New England, on the other hand, the population in 1700 was over 250,000. Northern New England entrants for the most part were families. Many of its immigrants were well educated. Also, the northern experience was

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small farm with lots of little cities. Virginia, on the other hand, had more of the plantation, large farm look, with a growing slave population.

From the beginning, expansion was the colonial norm in both northern and southern New England. From Massachusetts, colonials went north, west, and south. The western movements went across present day New York State all the way into Ohio. In Virginia, too, westward movement was encouraged in order to claim the land from the natives. By early 1700s, families were out near the Shenandoah Valley (example: families of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison).

### Trails west

Along the east coast, water allowed patterns of movement that are interesting to study. There was regular traffic between Massachusetts and Maine (its northern territory) for instance. On land, though, things get more arduous and difficult. Even with transport animals, the humans have to expend a lot of energy. Trails have to be traversable which takes work.

Using Virginia as an example, early on there was an effort to establish a path from the coast to the mountains. By 1730, the "Three Notch'd Road" allowed coach travel from Richmond to the Shenandoah Valley. This road passed near to present-day Charlottesville home of Monticello.

As well as being passable, there needs to be a means to provide supplies in some manner. Early settlers are always mostly self-sufficient and can be so for a long while. However, supporting a farming family differs a lot from supplying a fur trapper or hunter. Too, communication was required; by 1730, regular mail ran between Richmond and the settlers in western Virginia.

Most early western treks were roundtrip, say the trapper who brought back his pelts. Security and support took much longer to establish. Whereas New England was made up of disparate colonies, the American Revolution helped establish a unified entity. After Jefferson's purchase expanded the U.S. and the 1804 expedition by Lewis and Clark expedition showed the way, the appeal of the west went into overdrive.



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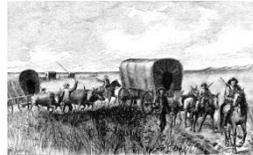


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By the early 1800s, the Santa Fe Trail was in regular use. After Lewis and Clark, people wanted to go the northwest, too, by land. Hence, the Oregon Trail (OT) was founded; it followed the route of trappers. The early OT started in present day Kansas City (KC) and followed the Santa Fe Trail to Gardner Junction in Kansas. There, the OT went north into Nebraska and headed further west.

Early on, the trip took over five months to go from KC to Oregon City. Those who were following the 49er dream were in a hurry; they shifted to an alternative start point in St. Joseph, MO which could be reached by boat and which was further west. This adjustment cut several days off the journey. The fastest traversal of the Oregon Trail, eventually, was on the order of 140 days (still a long journey).



Along the early OT, a river crossing required extra attention; there was one not far from the Gardner Junction split. Each wagon had to be dismantled; the wagon and the wagon contents were lowered down a cliff. The items were ported across the river. Then, the process was reversed: items were lifted out of the river bed, back to high ground, and reassembled. The experience at the Wakarusa River near Lawrence, KS was the training for what was to be a common event while going further west. Later, ferries provided an optional means for travelers to cross some of the rivers; however, traversing mountain passes continued to be challenging.

Out west, trails split from the Oregon Trail (there was one going to Montana and another to California). Also, the Mormons pioneered a route from Illinois to Utah. In their journey, many times, the Mormons pulled their belongings in hand carts. Further south from the OT area, there were trails that cut across Oklahoma and Texas. Modern day highways and Interstates parallel many of these trails. Along all of the trails, some travelers stopped and set down roots. The life and times of these families, of whom there are Gardner and collateral families, will be celebrated during the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## DNA and genealogy

Recent progress in DNA analysis and interpretation has grabbed the imagination of many. Millions of tests have

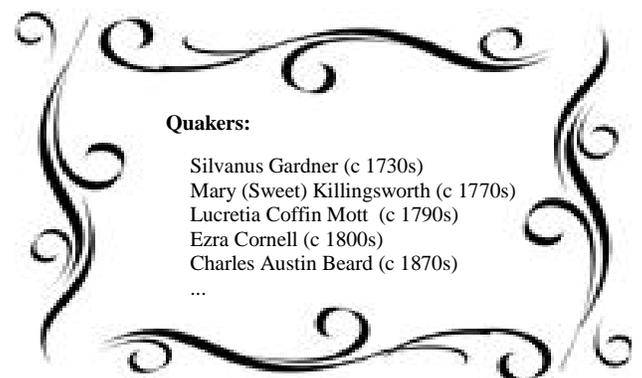
been done. Folks have seen recognized cousins arise in unexpected ways. We can see the major migration patterns that popped out and marvel at the maps through time.

We intend to participate in the continued discussion about this phenomenon and what it might entail now and into the future. Starting with Mendel's work, we can follow the evolution of insights that relate to genes, chromosomes, and more. This progress followed laboratory processes using modern techniques and instrumentation.

This brings up computation. A lot of the process is dependent upon technology, such as marking and analysis. There are open issues related to mathematics which is behind computational phylogenetics. With regard to the interpretative side, we can have the local views and those of a grander scale. A technique utilizes predictive analysis which is common to a whole lot of similar approaches.

Finally, memes, and their analogs, ought to come into play.

**Charles Sanders Peirce:** (1839-1914), descendent via son, Thomas, and daughter, Seeth, was born in Cambridge, MA. His father, Benjamin, was a professor at Harvard. Charles worked in logic and mathematics. Too, he made contributions to philosophy. Charles laid out what is now called abductive logic that is central to modern pursuits (include DNA and related analysis). In the 1880s, Charles saw that "logical operations could be carried out by electrical switching circuits." He was both appreciated, and underestimated, by his peers. Bertrand Russell gave begrudging acknowledgement but, then, used his work without attribution. While doing world-class work, Charles ran into problems with the messy details of managing one's life. He died destitute. Charles represents the autodidactic approach and its chief cause. Charles William Eliot of Harvard completely misunderstood him and his way. Actually, our Charles was smarter.



### Quakers:

- Silvanus Gardner (c 1730s)
- Mary (Sweet) Killingsworth (c 1770s)
- Lucretia Coffin Mott (c 1790s)
- Ezra Cornell (c 1800s)
- Charles Austin Beard (c 1870s)
- ...

We are inviting contributions of articles.  
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