



Gardner's Beacon™



CAPE ANN AND SALEM PLANTER



Thomas Gardner Society, Inc. Founded 2010

Volume VII -- Issue 1 -- Summer 2017

As we celebrate Independence Day, we can also look back to the influence of early New England. One example is Rev. John Wise of Ipswich, MA. He married Abigail Gardner of the Roxbury family.

Rev. John wrote a tract (circa 1700) on taxation and the need for representation. He was arrested and fined for protesting taxation. Too, Rev. John argued about natural rights of the citizens. When later events, and discussions thereof, were leading many to argue for a split with England, Rev. John's tract was reprinted by request and distributed widely.

Later, President Calvin Coolidge would note that Rev. John Wise was one of the inspirations of the Declaration of Independence.

The Old Planters Society

In the 1890s, there was much discussion about New England's role in the formation of the country. As we know, power seemed to have shifted south. Several illustrious persons in New England formed a committee that created an organization, the Old Planters Society (OPS). Its purpose is summarized below; Colonel Thomas Wentworth Higginson addressed the motivation at the first meeting.

The injustice done the "Old Planters" was found to be so generally recognized by students of early colonial history, that the founders of this society have had little difficulty in enlisting the sympathy and active co-operation of those to whom the facts have been presented. They recognized the fact that all who came before 1630 (with the exception of the Mayflower people, who have no cause to complain in this regard), have been equally neglected by historians. They decided, therefore, to extend the invitation to all lineal descendants of a "settler in New England prior to the transfer of the charter of the Massachusetts Bay Company from England to New England, in 1630."

Of course, there are several definitions of an 'old planter' that one might use. In this case, they broadened the view to those who were prior to the arrival of the Winthrop fleet, excluding those of the Mayflower. Col. Higginson was the President of the OPS. Dr. Frank was Vice-President. The list of members includes many from the early families.

The meeting minutes are available via The Massachusetts Magazine which has been digitized. This periodical was quarterly and became "the official organ, so that copies could be sent regularly to members" of the OPS.

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

The Massachusetts Magazine

This effort by Dr. Frank and friends was a quarterly that published from 1908 until 1918. The last issue of The Gardner Annals (Vol. III, No. 1 – December 2016) provided the Table of Contents for each issue of volumes I (1908) through V (1912). As well, there is a link to the digitized copy of the Volume (and the Numbers for each) at archive.org.

Right after the War of Independence, the first Massachusetts Magazine published from 1789 to 1796. Some of the early authors were Benjamin Franklin and Judith Sargent Murray. This periodical was founded by Isaiah Thomas who "performed the first reading of the Declaration of Independence" at Worcester, MA.



In 1908, Dr. Frank, Charles A. Flagg, and Albert W. Dennis started another attempt. Their editor was Thomas F. Waters, the well-known writer from Ipswich, MA. The new magazine was mentioned by Sidney Perley in his "The Essex Antiquarian." A little later, Lucie M. Gardner (Dr. Frank's sister) would continue Sidney's work by publishing genealogical information in the TMM. Too, she reported regularly on groups in her section on "Pilgrims and Planters."

The next issue of The Gardner Annals (Vol. VI, No.1 – 2017) will have Table of Contents from TMM volumes VI (1913) through XI (1918), plus assorted commentary.

TMM - Contributors

All the founders (Dr. Frank et al) were regular contributors to the magazine. Dr. Frank did a series of monographs on the regiments who were at the Siege of Boston. In each, he characterized the contribution of the group plus provided some personal information about each of the officers. Dr. Frank's work, in this regard, is still being cited. The following quote from the introduction by Dr. Frank is apropos:

One of the surprises which greets the newly interested student of the American Revolution, is the "state of preparedness"



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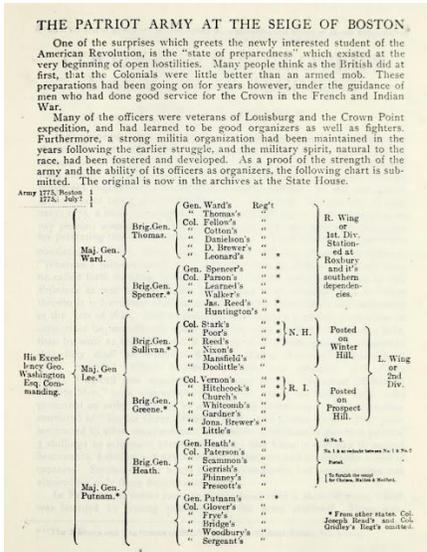


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which existed at the very beginning of open hostilities. Many people think as the British did at first, that the Colonials were little better than an armed mob. These preparations had been going on for years however, under the guidance of men who had done good service for the Crown in the French and Indian War.

As an aside, we will look at material, as well, about Loyalists who remained supportive of the crown. One ought to look at those lives as sort of a balance.



In the last issue of Gardner's Beacon, we mentioned the contributions to TMM of R.A. Douglas-Lithgow, MD, LLD who was a newcomer (born in Ireland, practiced in London). R.A wrote the History of Nantucket among other works. Our intent is to cover the whole of the content over those years of publication, including an in-depth look at the contributors. These three are examples:

F.B. Sanborn – Transcendentalist. Friend of Emerson and Thoreau. One TMM article of Franklin's looked at Hector St. John who was an itinerant in several U.S. places early, who was friends with Ethan Allen, and whose French aristocratic family finally tracked him down.

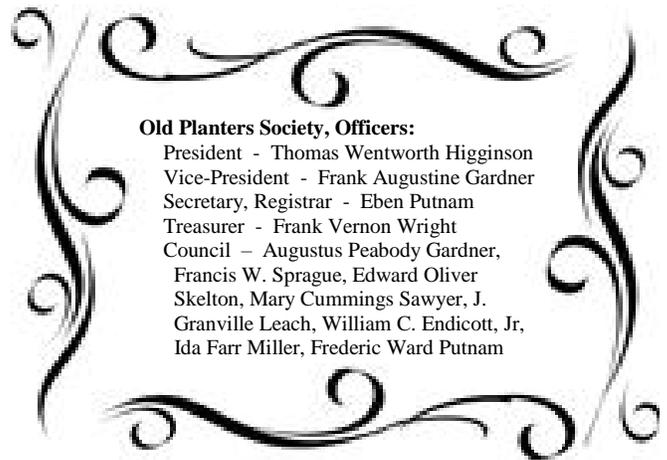
T. W. Higginson – Abolitionist and soldier. Thomas was an early contributor to The Atlantic, was friends with John Brown, led a colored regiment in the Civil War, and wrote of his excursion to Kansas (1856) with an armed party from New England whose purpose was to protect the anti-slavery state as well as to pioneer in the area.

F.M. Thompson – Author of the history of Greenfield, MA. Francis was out west as a young man, followed the Missouri to its headwaters, and went all the way to Portland, OR by land. He, then, went down the coast to San Francisco (1862). His journey back east went through NV and UT. He spent some time in Montana prior to returning to MA.

Miscellaneous

After a vote about alternatives via the Facebook page for TGS, we have adopted a lesser tag (TGSoc.org) for the purposes of easing addressing. Email will be handled by this node. Too, we are going to use it to reorganize our website (the new points to the heritage site).

We are in the process of printing Volumes I and II of The Gardner Annals. Included will be Volumes I and III of Gardner's Beacon. The printing will be announced. Please contact Ann at the below email to purchase copies.



Old Planters Society, Officers:

- President - Thomas Wentworth Higginson
- Vice-President - Frank Augustine Gardner
- Secretary, Registrar - Eben Putnam
- Treasurer - Frank Vernon Wright
- Council - Augustus Peabody Gardner, Francis W. Sprague, Edward Oliver Skelton, Mary Cummings Sawyer, J. Granville Leach, William C. Endicott, Jr, Ida Farr Miller, Frederic Ward Putnam

Lucie M. Gardner: (1875-19__), descendent via son, Samuel. Lucie was born in Salem to Stephen Wilson Gardner and Marion Wallace (Woods) Gardner. She is the sister of Frank A. Gardner, M.D., the noted Gardner author. Lucie attended Salem High School. She graduated with a B.A. from Tufts College in 1897 and attended classes at Boston College and the Atlanta Theological Seminary. Lucie was a member of Alpha Xi Delta. Lucie was one of the Collaborators of the class of '97 who prepared the "History of Tufts College." She was a member of the Boston Tea Party Chapter of D.A.R. With her brother, she was on the board of the Old Planters Society. Too, she was an editor of The Massachusetts Magazine where she continued the work of Sidney Perley in 1908. Lucie taught Latin and English in the Holton High School of Danvers, MA and the Girls' Evening School in Salem, MA.

We are inviting contributions of articles.
Contact: algswtlk@TGSoc.org