



This U.S. holiday of Memorial Day just went by. For some, the weekend is the first of the summer: no school, pool parties, outside cooking, summer's leisure, and such. But, the original event was associated with reflection on the just past havoc which was the war between the U.S. States.

Casualty counts ran high. With just the battles at Manassas, Antietam, and Gettysburg, the country had over 35,000 deaths and 48,000 wounded. That was by July of 1863. There were more battles to come plus Sherman's long march into the South.

It was during that early time that [Jonathan Letterman, M.D.](#), began to set up the medical process (triage, et al) and the field hospitals at the battle sites which treated the casualties of both sides. Before Gettysburg, it took days to process the wounded which included getting him off the battlefield. By [Gettysburg](#), the total number of wounded (Union est. 23,000) were recovered and sent for treatment within 24 hours. A medical tent city that was set up at Gettysburg was there for months. In addition, in the area, local "homes, churches, and other structures" (such as hotels) were converted to hospitals.

One expert reports: "By the war's end, there were 204 Union general hospitals with 136,894 beds." It is estimated that over one million soldiers from both sides were treated in such hospitals. Dr. Letterman has been called the 'unsung hero' of the Civil War and was the namesake of the [U.S. Army hospital in San Francisco, at the Presidio](#). Field hospitals became a norm as did the large general hospital which provided care to military personnel and to civilians in situations related to danger or catastrophe.

In relation to Memorial Day, some New England cities have Honor Rolls for those who served in the American conflicts. Too, many have been listing their honorees on their web site. Of late, all service during any of the conflicts is being honored. For instance, D.A.R. has extended its patriot roles from participant to various types of supporter roles.

One might think that the Memorial Day, and Thanksgiving, may be the prime holidays of the future: honor those who support the country; be thankful for the blessings that obviously accrue in the country. With the 400th celebrations starting in 2020, perhaps these will be in a perpetual mode.

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4th of July



1903 Cover, S.A.R.

Coming next month is Independence Day which is associated with parades and fireworks. This day affords us the opportunity to look back at the American Revolution. In the magazine of Frank A. Gardner, MD, namely [The Massachusetts Magazine](#) (TMM), Dr. Frank published a monograph for each of the regiments that were at the [Siege of Boston](#). For each, he gave specifics about the officers, including some personal information.

At some point, we would like to compare Dr. Frank's monographs with what was written in the [Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors](#). On the TGS blog, we have a small index that provides a link to the MSS volumes (as sponsored by archive[dot]org who has made great effort to allow access to digitized books - be sure to support their non-profit effort). The following is a snap of that index to [seventeen volumes](#).

Index to on-line volumes (thanks to archive.org - seventeen volumes)

Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the War of the Revolution

v1 (A - Ber), v2 (Bes - Byx), v3 (C - Cor), v4 (Cos - Dry), v5 (Du - Foy), v6 (Fr - Gy), v7 (Ha - Hix), v8 (Hm - Jy), v9 (Ka - Lsu), v10 (Lua - Mop), v11 (Mor - Paz), v12 (Pea - Raz), v13 (Rea - Sey), v14 (Sha - Sth), v15 (Sti - Toz), v16 (Tra - Whe), v17 (Whi - Z)

In the first issue of TMM, Dr. Frank wrote of the Regiment of [General John Glover of Marblehead](#). Split into two issues, the report on Glover's units had twenty-four pages. Looking at the names of the officers is like seeing a roll call of early American families. As well, Dr. Frank collected materials under a section titled "Department of the American Revolution" that were apropos to the theme. In the first one, Dr. Frank quoted from a book by William L. Stone. This is in regard to a description of John Hancock (called the 'American King') by a German officer who had been captured with General Burgoyne: *In no country does wealth and birth count for so little as in this; yet one can maintain the position given him by fate without being in the least familiar with the lowest.*



Gardner's Beacon™



CAPE ANN AND SALEM PLANTER



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Cape Ann

One motivation for The [Old Planters Society](#) was the perceived oversight of the commercial effort by history. Many involved in that attempt at establishing a working colony went on to support Salem, such as the Beverly planters (Conant et al), Gardner, Allen, and more. A recent on-line U.S. History course (college level) mentions Cape Ann in its coverage of the development of Massachusetts.



On the other hand, in [Albion's Seed](#), the efforts prior to John Winthrop's arrival were seen as reconnaissance worthy merely of a footnote. Our interest, in particular, concerns the Cape Ann crew, their families and descendants, since Thomas Gardner was a leading figure. Given the upcoming 400th celebration of the Mayflower arrival, we can watch, join the fun and, then, consider how to expand the scope as we need to do.

in Salem in glowing words. The house was put up by the [Cape Ann crew](#) not long after their arrival. Too, John Winthrop, on his arrival in June of 1630, was feasted in this house. Too, he had dessert of strawberries that had been freshly picked at Cape Ann.

Not only will relevant topics relate to those who were here at that time, their way of life, their thoughts on how life ought to be lived, and many related themes, we need to look at the total of the scope through the past centuries. Even, to the extent of how all of this might be apropos in discussion on technology and its future. Basically, one can argue that the American dream is 'real' and has a long thread of history and is alive and well.

Massachusetts Magazine: The only issue of the [last volume, XI, was dated January, 1918](#). This issue was bound with Volume X that published three issues, in January, April/July and October of 1917. Volume X (Number 2/3) consisted entirely of an article by Ellis L. Howland ("Gideon Howland's 439 Heirs, 2nd installment). Number 2/3 was one of the few issues in which Dr. Frank's military monograph did not appear. In Number 3, there was a retrospective about F.B. Sanborn who had died in 1917.

Many of the supporters of, and contributors to, this magazine were elderly by the time that it started and had passed away by 1918, such as Colonel Higginson (descendant of the Reverend who came into Salem in 1629). The editors for Volume X and XI included Dr. Frank Gardner, [Lucie M. Gardner](#), Charles A. Flagg, and Albert W. Dennis.

In the final issue, we find the last of the military monographs; it was titled "Colonel Edmund Phinney's 26th Regiment" and was about a unit consisting mostly of "men of Cumberland County" (Maine). In this issue, Robert S. Rantoul talked about antiquarian efforts, and Edith A. Talbot offered retrospectives of several prominent men. Along with deaths of the older supporters, two major events helped bring on the demise of the magazine. U.S. involvement in WWI resulted in a massive draft taking from the younger generation. Then, the [Spanish Flu](#) reached epidemic proportions. The first occurrence was in a military camp in Kansas, but Boston became a 'ground zero' with a huge number of persons afflicted. That raised the need for the medical staff and kept them highly occupied.

In terms of printing, Vol. X (No. 2-3, No. 4) mailed at the same time of Vol. XI (No. 1) after an absence of over a year. One reviewer wrote: A message from the grave! While we were away from our desk recently, what do you suppose happened? [three issues at once in 1919] We had supposed that it had been "killed in action." ... we wish that it had decided to forget 1918 and come forth in 1919 clothes.

Thomas Gardner patriots, brief listing:

- Thomas Gardner (ca 1731 – 1788)
- Samuel Gardner (ca 1736 – 1818)
- Nathaniel Gorham (ca 1738 – 1796)
- Simon Stacey Gardner (ca 1743 – 1787)
- Capt Jonathan Gardner (ca 1755 – 1821)
- Capt Benjamin Gardner (ca 1757 – 1813)
- James Gardner (ca 1762 – 1809)

One motivation will be the [400th anniversaries](#) that will ensue before 2023/4. There will be one-half a decade to go prior to the huge look at things that will be of a much larger scale since the Winthrop fleet was so large. That is, we have the Cape Ann experience, the Naumkeag venture (Salem), the arrival of John Endicott, and then Rev. Higginson's thoughtful exposition on what he saw when he arrived in 1629. The Rev. is an ancestor of [Col. Thomas Higginson](#) about whom we have heard before (The Massachusetts Magazine, The Old Planters Society, Secret Six – supporter of John Brown). Too, the Rev's words were like an advertisement telling people that, yes, life was possible in Massachusetts and its surrounds. Rev. Higginson was the one who described the governor's house

We are inviting contributions of articles.
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