

II. Flyover country

Frank A. Gardner, M.D. wrote his book using material gathered in New England. He did not venture outside due to the communication issues. Given the means of his time, he could not trace down many families. Nowadays, with the modern methods, we can fill in the information more readily. That type of effort has been ongoing but really accelerated with the general acceptance of the web. The middle part of the country filled in over many decades. With regard to the large middle, we have many tales to tell, in addition to the historical view that have been published. The article looks at some families, with respect to a modern organization that would like to identify descendants of some pilgrims.

A. Overview

The U.S. was populated by the European influx on the coastal borders, first. The early activity was, for the most part, on the east coast for the English. The Spanish and French were in the southern area. Spain was first on the west coast. Later, movement went west, until such time as the whole of the continent could be traversed via modern means. Thomas Gardner came into Salem, MA in 1623. His children were still in the area at his death. As their circumstances changed, many families left New England, including Gardner families. Some went south. Some went west. In that large middle of the country that exists now, there are descendants of those earlier travelers. Of course, given the constant influx into the country, many families are of more recent origin.

Of late, there has been a bifurcation. We see the coasts differentiated from the middle. The joke is that the middle part is just flown over. Hence, we have the title of this section. But, there is more to the situation. Opinions differ on all sorts of matters. But, such differences are not new. And, they will not cease. However, we do have anniversaries coming up related to the 400th (long ago) and the 200th (trails and westward ho) events with which to get a better understanding of history by studying families. We have improved tools with which to do this task.

Frank A. Gardner, M.D. wrote his book while he worked as an active physician, was a father, and participated in many events in New England. His research required that he visit the towns and read their records. As such, he had closer access than we do now. Now, we have the web and a growing set of documents that have been digitized. With his limitation, Dr. Frank expanded his tree with his first book and included families that he could contact. With the second book, Dr. Frank took the family of one son and expanded the line which included Isabella Stewart Gardner, of the museum.

This article takes several families that were mentioned in Dr. Frank's book and looks at descendants who moved west. As such, research involved looking at web-based documents as well as obtaining records from the files of the States where these descendants lived. In the case of Lyman Porter, he was in several so we followed his trail. In particular, the work was done to support an application process for an organization. That type of discipline allows one to obtain scrutiny from peers and, as such, is very useful. We look at various details plus discuss the overview, especially as it deals with American history and current events, such as those of the 2016 election.

B. Massachusetts, Virginia

One way to look at the Mayflower descending at Plymouth Rock in 1620 is to note that they had planned to go to the southern part of New England. Virginia had a long history prior to the Mayflower.

But, both of these were considered reconnaissance. A recent book^{1 2} based upon the early part of the country described four pathways that came after those early folk. These pathways were the following:

- Massachusetts from 1629-40. Those in this migration are covered in the Great Migration publications. Principally, the source was East Anglia. The elites were Puritan ministers and magistrates. Non-elites were yeomen and artisans. Families were heavily represented (90% of those coming had their families with them). This was a corporate migration. Religion was Congregational.
- Virginia from 1642-75. From the South and West of England. The Elites were Royalist younger sons of gentry and aristocracy. Non-elites were laborers and servants. Only 20% came with their families. This was a migration to a Royal Colony. Religion was Anglican.
- Delaware Valley from 1675-1715. From the North Midlands. The elites were Quaker traders, artisans, and farmers. Non-elites were non-Quaker. Families in this group were only 50% of the total. This was a proprietary migration. Religion was Friends.
- Backcountry from 1717-1775. From the Borderlands. The elites were border gentry and statesmen. The non-elites were tenants and cottagers. Families represented 70%. This was a fragmented migration. Religion was Presbyterian and Anglican.

Early on, there was movement between Massachusetts and Virginia, by water. We can find families who had members in both areas. As these colonies moved inland, there was still travel, albeit of a longer duration with more effort involved. Western movement out of Massachusetts was more easily accomplished than it was in the south. By the time of the Revolution, Ohio was already an established area. Western movement out of Virginia came much later, however Virginia was adding counties in a western expansion that encompassed modern day West Virginia. However, it was to the south where the traveler could venture farther. Hence, we see Kentucky as a middling ground.

Coming forward over 100 years to the time of the Revolution, the U.S had a rapid expansion. After President Jefferson sent Lewis and Clark out west, the area became more than a remote area spoken of by the wanderers who inhabit every age. Just as the 400th of the Mayflower arrival and of the great migration to Massachusetts can be celebrated soon, so, too, ought we think of the 200th of the start of the expansion to the west.

As in the early times, many went to California and other coastal areas by water. There were several ways to do this. Some of those folks then came back to the east by foot. For instance, Mormons who could afford the trip, could sail to California. Then, they traveled back to Utah and its surrounding area. But, many more went out west over trails that we can see today.

Gardner, KS, today, stands as one site where travelers rested before heading further. It was at that point where the Santa Fe and the Oregon trails diverged. The Santa Fe went southwest to New Mexico and the regions of Mexico. Going further west would get one to southern California. If they took the northern route of the trails, then the travelers passed by Lawrence, KS skirting just south of the hill upon which sits the University of Kansas.

This area has importance to studies of New England and of the Gardner Research. Lawrence was founded in order to bring the anti-slavery movement west. Too, it was populated by Quakers and others who left New England. Many events that led to the Civil War happened out in this area. Too, as people went west, many dropped off in order to set down roots.

¹ Fischer, D. H. (1991) *Albion's Seed* Oxford University Press

² <https://books.google.com/books?id=wWDugJTHHAWC&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false>

We will look at one family group in the area. Complications arise with migration. New England organized to have good records, albeit that there have been natural disasters that destroyed some of these. Out west, they carried that attitude. However, life was harsher which one expects as one leaves the nest. This was true 200 years ago as it was 400 years ago.

C. Porter out of Massachusetts

Lyman Porter is a descendant of John Porter of Salem, MA who arrived into Hingham, MA in 1635. Two of John's sons married daughters of Major William Hathorne. William was a forebear of the noted author, Nathaniel Hawthorne. The son of John who was a forebear of Lyman was Joseph. The following is a list of generations from Joseph to Lyman.

- Joseph Porter (1638-1714) married Ann Hathorne
- William Porter (1674-1732) married Phoebe Dorman
- Benjamin Porter (1712-1793) married **Mercy Dorman**

Mercy Dorman was a descendant of John Alden. The following is a list of generations that is registered for one daughter of Lyman.

- John Alden married Priscilla Mullins
- Daughter Ruth Alden married John Bass
- Daughter Sarah Bass married Ephraim Thayer
- Daughter Sarah Thayer married Seth Dorman³
- Daughter **Mercy Dorman** married Benjamin Porter
- Son Noah Porter (1760-1830) married Asenath Smith
- Son Noah Porter (1792-1855) married Nabby Comins
- Son Lyman Porter married Caroline Hopwood
- Daughter Anna Permelia Porter married John Henry Case
- Son Port James Case married Gladys Bennett
- ... three generations suppressed ...

The children of Benjamin and Mercy were Benjamin, Phebe, Moses, Micaiah, Eli, Ruth, William Job, Seth, Daniel, and Noah. They moved from Essex County, MA to Wendell in Franklin County in MA with their children. Their son, Noah, married Asenath Smith.

Noah and Asenath had a son Noah who married Nabby Comins. The children of Noah and Nabby were Elijah, Reuben, Lyman, Joseph, Ransom, Catherine, Royal, Anna, Noah, John, and Warren. This Noah (with his sons Reuben, Lyman, Joseph, and Warren) moved west and was a pioneer in the western part of Illinois and further.⁴⁵⁶

All of the Porter boys had received a superior education in MA. Lyman's brother, Joseph, was first to move to Illinois having bought a farm in McDonough County. Lyman was first in Kentucky and then moved to Illinois. Lyman and his brothers were active in the development of the country and named New Salem for their home place in Massachusetts

³ Correspondence from Mayflower member, Case family site

⁴ Porter, JW (1878) ... *Some Account of the Descendants of John Porter*

⁵ Clarke, SJ (1878) History of McDonough County, IL

⁶ <https://archive.org/stream/historyofmcdonou1878clar#page/n7/mode/2up>

Lyman married Caroline Hopwood in Kentucky. Her parents moved to Illinois in 1853. Lyman and Caroline followed.

- Lyman Porter married Caroline Hopwood
- Daughter Chloe Porter married Thomas A Jackson
- Daughter Myra Jackson married Arthur J. Gill⁷

In Illinois, Lyman was Justice of the Peace and on the Board of Supervisors. He is on the 1862 roll of able-bodied men. Between 1870 and 1880, Lyman and Caroline moved to Edgar, Clay County, Nebraska. Lyman died in 1898 and is buried in Nebraska. His wife, Caroline, survived him and went to live with one of her daughters in Los Angeles, CA. Caroline is buried in Los Angeles county.

Chloe who was the daughter of Lyman and Caroline had a daughter, but Chloe died young leaving the small child with her husband, Thomas. Not too long afterward, Thomas died. Chloe's daughter also died young leaving an infant. That type of shuffle which is not uncommon complicates things, however the records are available.

D. Hopwood/Jackson out of Virginia

Caroline Hopwood was the daughter of William Combs Hopwood and Permelia Fox. The Hopwoods were of Fairfax County, VA; their ancestor came over from England in the early 1700s. The Foxes were natives of Loudon County, VA. The Fox family has a long Virginia history which we will go into in a future article.

The first daughter of Caroline Hopwood and Lyman Lyman was Chloe. She married Thomas Jackson in Illinois. The Jackson family was out of Virginia, too. Thomas's father can trace his ancestry to the early days of Virginia through his grandmother, Nancy Pate.⁸ Thomas' mother was a sister of George Miller, who was appointed as an early bishop by Joseph Smith.

Thomas' father, William Howard Jackson, brought the family to Illinois in order to farm his brother-in-law's property. George had bought property prior to 1827.⁹ William and his boys helped develop Bardolph, McDonough County, IL.¹⁰ The Jackson family was quite prosperous and owned land and several businesses.

E. Events: Lyman Porter, Chloe (Porter) Jackson, Myra Jackson

Lyman's daughter, Chloe Porter, is the focus of the below details. Lyman and Caroline had several children. At least one died while young. One of Lyman's brothers is in the rolls of the Mayflower organization. They descend from John Alden. One of Lyman's daughters is also on the rolls. Her son applied when the organization was first organized.

Myra Jackson was the daughter of Cloe Porter and Thomas Jackson. Both of her parents died young, so she was raised by her Jackson uncles and her Porter grandparents. Since Lyman is a descendant of

⁷ Russon, BW (1961) *Our Banyan Tree*

⁸ "Family Records of Pate .. Jackson" *William and Mary College Quarterly*, Vol. 12

⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Miller_%28Latter_Day_Saints%29

¹⁰ League, E. (1911) *History of Bardolph, IL*

John Alden, so are Chloe and Myra. Myra married a descendant of William Brewster. So, her child has both in her pedigree.

The table provides a timeline of events with references for each event. These references are copies of documents and other material that can be used to establish that Chloe is daughter of Lyman and Caroline and is the sister of Anna.

List of pertinent folk: **Lyman** - patriarch, **Caroline** – matriarch, **Chloe** - daughter of concern, **Myra** - daughter of Chloe, **George** - brother of Chloe, **Anna** - sister of Chloe, **Emmira** – sister of Chloe, **Porter** - son of Anna, **Thomas** – husband of Chloe, **Gladys** – daughter of Myra, **Reuben** – brother of Lyman

Event	Comments/references
1819 Lyman born	VR ¹¹ -- same parents as Reuben
1850 Lyman, Caroline and Chloe and others	U.S. Census - Chloe's name misspelled, but age is correct; others include Chloe's siblings. George is in household. Also, Caroline's mother is in household with the siblings of Caroline. Caroline's father had died in 1849 leaving dependent children.
1856 George dies	VR – George NOTED as son of Lyman, Caroline.
1860 Lyman, Caroline, and Chloe plus Anna, Emmira and others	U.S. Census - Chloe's name phonetically correct; age is correct. George not in household. Others include siblings of Chloe, Anna, Emmira.
1867 Chloe marries Thomas	VR
1870 Chloe, Thomas - Myra (infant)	U.S. Census
1870 Lyman, Caroline, Anna, Emmira and others	U.S. Census – Others include siblings of Anna, Emmira.
1872 Chloe dies	Tombstone, cemetery record
1874 Anna marries	Records of organization
1879 Thomas dies	VR, Probate
1879 Myra, guardian	State records -- John, brother of Thomas, NOTED as guardian
1880 Lyman, Caroline, and Myra	U.S. Census - Myra NOTED as granddaughter of Lyman, Caroline
1881 Myra, heir of Thomas	Probate – Myra NOTED as daughter, heir of Thomas, NOTED as living in same state as Lyman and Caroline
1882 husband of Anna dies	VR, obit
1885 Lyman, Caroline, and Anna, Porter and others	State Census - Anna NOTED as daughter, Porter and other children noted as grandchildren
1887 Anna dies	
1891 Myra marries	MC – Chloe and Thomas NOTED as parents of Myra
1893 Gladys born	BC - Gladys NOTED as daughter of Myra and her husband
1893 Myra dies	Cemetery record
1898 Lyman dies	VR, tombstone
1910 Caroline with Emmira and her kids	U.S. Census – Emmira NOTED as daughter of Caroline and is widow
1910 Porter with Porter's kids	U.S. Census - same county as Caroline, Porter's sister in household

¹¹ VR – Vital Records; MC – Marriage Certificate; BC – Birth Certificate; “NOTED” indicates entry in an official document that is clear with regard to relationship

1912 Caroline dies	Records of organization
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Thread:

1. given Anna (Porter) Case, daughter of, Lyman & Caroline (sister of Chloe)
2. show Myra Jackson, daughter of Chloe, daughter of Lyman & Caroline
(or Anna & Chloe are sisters)
3. what we know

Chloe, daughter of Lyman & Caroline (1850)	U.S. Census (implied)
Chloe, daughter of Lyman & Caroline (1860)	U.S. Census (implied)
Anna, daughter of Lyman & Caroline (1860)	U.S. Census (implied)
Myra, daughter of Chloe & Thomas (1870)	U.S. Census (implied)
Myra, daughter of Thomas (1879)	State records (NOTED)
Myra, granddaughter of Lyman & Caroline (1880)	U.S. Census (NOTED)
Myra, daughter of Thomas (1881)	State records (NOTED)
Myra, daughter of Chloe & Thomas (1891)	MC (NOTED)
4. conclusion Myra, daughter of Chloe, daughter of Lyman & Caroline

Notes:

- GS#70934 – Lyman’s brother, Reuben. GS#48878 – Lyman’s daughter, Anna.
- Caroline is the backbone all the way through (listed with Lyman or other relative).
- Anna and Chloe in 1860 U.S. Census with Lyman, Caroline. Anna used for prior application to organization. Anna and Emmira in 1870 U.S. Census with Lyman, Caroline.
- Pre-1880, U.S. Census did have implied genealogy information due to the process: household members listed by age with head at the top. This information may not be sufficient in itself (circumstantial); however, it is contributive (additive) - essentially, snapshots via the census.
- George is in 1850 U.S. Census with Lyman, Caroline, Chloe. George died in 1856 (VR, **NOTED** as son). George not in 1860 Census.
- Chloe and Thomas died very young leaving Myra.
- John, brother of Thomas, in 1879, assigned guardianship of Myra. **(NOTED)**
- Myra, as heir, probate of Thomas’ estate (1879, 1881). **(NOTED)**
- Myra was with Lyman, Caroline until school.
- Myra’s daughter (Gladys) wrote the story up ½ century ago: Myra died when Gladys was an infant. Gladys was raised by her paternal grandmother. When the grandmother was dying, she asked a couple (friends) to adopt Gladys. Gladys went to college and got married. The couple was successful.
- Grandchildren of Myra are still alive in 2016 **(NOTED)**
- Porter and his sister were in same county as Caroline **(NOTED)** when she was living with Emmira.

Notes:

Lyman Porter’s ancestor, Ann (Hathorne) Porter, is the sister of Elizabeth (Hathorne) Porter who is a great-grandparent of Ann Gardner Switlik who is Secretary / Treasurer of the Thomas Gardner Society, Inc. (TGS, Inc.). The research for this article was done under the auspices of the Gardner Research and TGS, Inc. by John M. Switlik, President / Researcher (see Annals/Research at thomasgardnersociety.org).