

III. The Massachusetts Magazine

F. A. Gardner, M.D. (Dr. Frank) with sister, Lucie, and friends published *The Massachusetts Magazine* for over a decade. One series of articles provided information about the regiments that were at the Siege of Boston in 1775. Other subjects included historical views, Pilgrims and Planters, biographies, and some coverage of current topics. The first issue was in 1908; publication continued until early 1918.

A. Introduction

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** and specialized in "poetry, music, biography, history, physics, geography, morality, criticism, philosophy, mathematics, agriculture, architecture, chemistry, novels, tales, romances, translations, news, marriages, deaths, meteorological observations, etc. etc." It was intended as "a kind of thermometer, by which the genius, taste, literature, history, politics, arts, manners, amusements and improvements of the age and nation, may be ascertained."¹ The MM was founded by Isaiah Thomas who "performed the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence" at Worcester, MA.

In 1908, F A Gardner (our Dr. Frank), 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. Last 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. All of the issues are available in digital format via archive.org and its repository.

First volume editors were the following:

- Thomas Franklin Waters (Ipswich, MA) - noted New England researcher and author. Thomas wrote *Ipswich in the Massachusetts Bay Colony*.
- Frank A. Gardner, M.D. (Salem, MA) – noted author of the Gardner books. Dr. Frank was a practicing physician. He organized the Old Planters Society who meetings were report in the TMM.
- Charles A. Flagg (Washington, D.C.) - of the Library of Congress. Charles contributed articles about Massachusetts citizens who pioneered out west.
- John N. McClintock (Dorchester, MA) - publisher of *The New England Magazine* (1884 through 1917), known as *Bay State Monthly* from 1884 through 1886.
- Albert W. Dennis (Salem, MA) - early publisher of *Who's Who*.

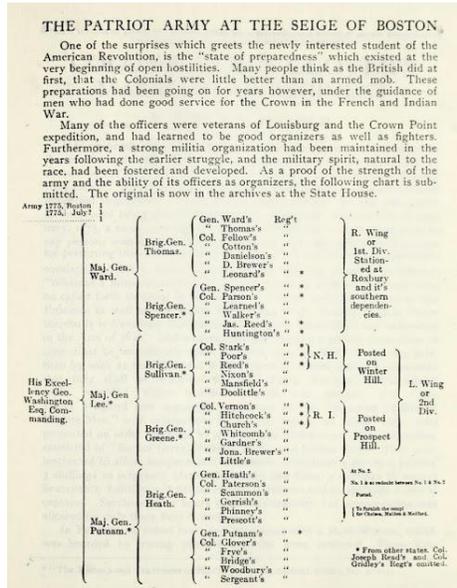


Figure 1 Siege of Boston

¹ "Massachusetts Magazine" Wikipedia (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massachusetts_Magazine)

- Thomas Wentworth Higginson (Cambridge, MA) - noted Unitarian minister and abolitionist.
- George Sheldon (Deerfield, MA) - led one of the first preservation societies in the United States.
- Luci M. Gardner (Salem, MA) – sister of Dr. Frank. Lucie was co-editor of the TMM. She was a regular contributor to the magazine. Lucie served as Secretary of the Old Planters Society. The Society's minutes indicated that they wanted to cover the whole breadth of New England. The initial members were of illustrious families. Lucie was a graduate of Tufts College.

B. Commentary

The first issue of TMM (Vol I - January, 1908) included articles by Thomas F Waters, Alice May Douglass, Charles H Pope, William H Manning, and more. Lucie M Gardner wrote of “Pilgrim and Planters” which section continued throughout the publication period. At the time, an Old Planters Society had been formed which included illustrious citizens.

Dr. Frank wrote of the American Revolution which was his special research project. Dr. Frank wrote:

One of the surprises which greets the newly interested student of the American Revolution, is the “state of preparedness” 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. ² (see Figure 1)

In the article on Col. John Glover's Marblehead Regiment, Dr. Frank presented the first part of an ongoing series on units that were at the siege of Boston in 1775. John Glover was born in Salem, MA. He had been active in the militia for years prior to the Revolution. In 1775, he received the rank of lieutenant colonel of the 21st Massachusetts that was from Marblehead. Col. Glover served with General George Washington in Massachusetts, Long Island, and New York. Col. Glover was, for a while, in command of Fort Arnold near West Point. He reached the rank of Brigadier General.

In the first part of the article, Dr. Frank identified the men who were members of the Regiment. As well, he provided an overview of activity and engagements. In the second part (Vol I, No 2), Dr. Frank included a brief sketch of the officers. Throughout the series, the articles followed a similar format.

The following pages provide the cover page from the first four volumes. We can determine the year, volume, number, and titles; each issue has a monogram by Dr. Frank. As, both Dr. Frank and Lucie contributed several articles in some volumes. This effort by Dr. Frank is still being cited as can be seen by the website for the 13th Continental Regiment, Rehoboth Minutemen, Timothy Walker's Regt. They have reproduced Dr. Frank's report at this site.

Another series of articles was titled, Department of the American Revolution (1775-1782), in which Dr. Frank gathered an assortment of material related to that time. For instance, he wrote of privateers, discussed events leading up to the Revolution, reviewed diaries that had pertinent information, published town lists, and a lot more.

As well as providing publication notice about historical writings, each TMM issue reported on Criticism & Comment. Additionally, there were sections dealing with pioneers out of Massachusetts who ventured west. In Vol I, No 1, the state was Michigan. There was a list of pioneers as well as a

² The Massachusetts magazine : devoted to Massachusetts history, genealogy, biography (1908) Salem Press Co

partial bibliography which included newspaper articles, books, and more. Another section provided biographical sketches of Massachusetts Historical Writers. And, there were Editorial Pages.

In Vol II, No 3 (pg 230), Dr. Frank wrote about the George Gardner House which was still standing in 1907 and which was visited by attendees of the “first reunion of the Gardner Family Association” which was held on August 14, 1907.

In Vols III thru V, there were contributions by R. A. Douglas-Lithgow, M.D., LL.D. R.A. was a member of several illustrious societies and a prolific writer. He wrote books on Nantucket’s history and its people. Too, he wrote about prominent New Englanders and their houses. But, before he came to America, he was a well-known physician in London. He contributed several articles to the TMM. In the Nantucket book, R. A. wrote well of John Gardner was invited to live on the island and became the chief magistrate. John’s brother, Richard, was a resident of the island, too.

C. Continuing work

The review work will continue. For instance, we need to organize material about Dr. R.A. Douglas-Lithgow and his life. He was quite prolific. TMM had many other authors. We will be looking at each of the editors and contributors, in detail, including their work with the TMM. Rev. Thomas Franklin Waters was the original editor-in-chief. He was a noted New England author; we will create a bibliography for him. For one thing, he wrote of John Winthrop, Jr. who had a scientific bent.

In the 1909 Volume, Rev. Waters mentioned an essay by James Russell Lowell³ and remarked about genealogists. However in that same essay, Lowell wrote this: They can never appreciate the immense amount of silent work that has been done here, making this continent slowly fit for the abode of man, and which will demonstrate itself, let us hope, in the character of the people. While reading Lowell and Waters, one cannot help but consider how their concerns apply today. Particularly, we can be looking in this regard: what exactly is that American character to which we all ought to strive? and, what can we bring to fore from the experiences of New England families over the centuries?

In that same volume, Lucie M. Gardner reported, as Secretary, on the Old Planters Society. Earlier, in a blog post, we looked at those who helped organize the Society. Some of the supporters were William Crowninshield Endicott, Jr, Henry Cabot Lodge, Francis Ellingwood Abbot. Their first meeting was 1899. This report is 10 years later. Another thing in particular will be to get more information about the Gardner Family Association that first met in 1907.

Frank A. Gardner, M.D. is first cousin of Ann Gardner Switlik of the Thomas Gardner Society, Inc. The Society, via Gardner Research, sponsored this work of John M. Switlik who is President / Researcher of TGS, Inc. (see thomasgardnersociety.org).

LOWELL'S acute essay on “a certain condescension of foreigners” might be followed, if the genial but critical essayist were still with us, by another on “the presumption of genealogists.” The time is ripe. The dimensions of the genealogical quest have expanded within a few years by leaps and bounds. Ancestor hunting is already a close second in popularity to the hunting of game with gun or fishing tackle. It has become a fine art with some, and is recognized as a professional employment, which entitles its practitioner to an ample fee. As for the amateur searcher of pedigrees his name is legion.

THE OLD PLANTERS SOCIETY, INCORPORATED.

*Membership Confined to Descendants of Settlers
in New England prior to the Transfer of the
Charter to New England in 1630.*

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³ Lowell, JR (1914) “On a Certain Condescension in Foreigners” *The Oxford Book of American Essays*

D. Table of Contents (Vols. I thru V)

Table of Contents

*The Massachusetts Magazine*⁴

The Massachusetts Magazine.
 A Quarterly Magazine Devoted to History, Genealogy and Biography
 THOMAS FRANKLIN WATERS, Editor. IPSWICH, MASS.
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VOL. I JANUARY, 1908 NO. 1

Contents of this Issue.

WHITTIER, THE POET, AS HISTORIAN *Thomas F. Waters* . . . 3
 MASSACHUSETTS AS DESCRIBED BY CAPT. JOHN SMITH IN 1614 10
 WHITTIER'S BIRTHPLACE *Alice May Douglass* . . . 11
 THE MASSACHUSETTS MAN *Edward Everett Hale* . . . 12
 PATRIOT ARMY AT THE SIEGE OF BOSTON 13
 COL. JOHN GLOVER'S MARBLEHEAD REGIMENT *F. A. Gardner, M. D.* . . . 14
 JOHN ADAMS' HOME 21
 A LETTER FROM ABIGAIL ADAMS TO HER HUSBAND 23
 ERRORS IN GENEALOGIES—THE CHENEY FAMILY *Charles H. Pope* . . . 24
 THE OLD FAIRBANKS HOUSE *Mrs. Lillie B. Titus* . . . 25
 THE FOUNDERS OF THE MASS. BAY COLONY *F. A. Gardner, M. D.* . . . 27
 WAR IN COLONIAL LIFE *Rufus Choate* 37
 SOME MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL WRITERS 38
 THE MANNING HOMESTEAD *William H. Manning* . . . 43
 CRITICISM AND COMMENT 44
 PILGRIMS AND PLANTERS *Lucie M. Gardner* . . . 49
 DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION *F. A. Gardner, M. D.* . . . 51
 OUR EDITORIAL PAGES *Thomas F. Waters* . . . 56

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VOL. I APRIL, 1908 NO. 2

Contents of this Issue.

HOW THE LADIES OF BOSTON FINISHED BUNKER HILL MONUMENT *Lillie B. Titus* . . . 63
 MASSACHUSETTS PIONEERS IN MICHIGAN *Charles A. Flagg* . . . 73
 PILGRIMS AND PLANTERS *Lucie M. Gardner* . . . 82
 THE WHIPPLE HOUSE AT IPSWICH 83
 COL. JOHN GLOVER'S MARBLEHEAD REGIMENT *F. A. Gardner, M. D.* . . . 85
 DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION *F. A. Gardner, M. D.* . . . 103
 CRITICISM AND COMMENT 110
 SOME MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL WRITERS 113
 OUR EDITORIAL PAGES *Thomas F. Waters* . . . 117

The Massachusetts Magazine.
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VOL. I JULY, 1908 NO. 3

Contents of this Issue.

THE IDYLLS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY *Thomas F. Waters* . . . 123
 THE AMERICAN FRONTIER *Henry Cabot Lodge* . . . 132
 THE PAUL REVERE HOUSE *Harriet Caryl Coz* . . . 133
 HON. JOHN N. COLE *John N. McClintock* . . . 137
 HON. LOUIS A. FROTHINGHAM *John N. McClintock* . . . 140
 ROBERT LUCE *John N. McClintock* . . . 143
 COLONEL WILLIAM PRESCOTT'S REGIMENT *F. A. Gardner, M. D.* . . . 149
 THE OLD ROYALL HOUSE *Helen Tilden Wild* . . . 168
 PERSONAL DIARY OF ASHLEY BOWEN OF MARBLEHEAD 174
 PILGRIMS AND PLANTERS *Lucie M. Gardner* . . . 177
 SOME MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL WRITERS 184
 MASSACHUSETTS PIONEERS IN MICHIGAN *Charles A. Flagg* . . . 186
 CRITICISM AND COMMENT 191
 DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION *F. A. Gardner, M. D.* . . . 195
 OUR EDITORIAL PAGES *Thomas F. Waters* . . . 202

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VOL. I OCTOBER, 1908 NO. 4

Contents of this Issue.

GOVERNOR CURTIS GUILD, JR. *John N. McClintock* . . . 207
 MASSACHUSETTS TODAY *Curtis Guild, Jr.* . . . 214
 LIEUT. GOV. EBEN S. DRAPER *John N. McClintock* . . . 215
 HEATH: A HISTORIC HILL TOWN *Edward P. Guild* . . . 219
 FIFTY YEARS OF PROBATION WORK IN MASSACHUSETTS *Frank B. Sleeper* . . . 226
 COLONEL WILLIAM PRESCOTT'S REGIMENT *F. A. Gardner, M. D.* . . . 235
 PERSONAL DIARY OF ASHLEY BOWEN OF MARBLEHEAD 260
 THE ROLL OF CAPT. JOSIAH WILLIARD'S COMPANY AT FORT DUMMER *George Sheldon* . . . 267
 MASSACHUSETTS PIONEERS IN MICHIGAN *Charles A. Flagg* . . . 269
 SOME MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL WRITERS 274
 DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION *F. A. Gardner, M. D.* . . . 278
 CRITICISM AND COMMENT 287
 PILGRIMS AND PLANTERS *Lucie M. Gardner* . . . 289
 OUR EDITORIAL PAGES *Thomas F. Waters* . . . 291

Figure 2 Vol I, No 1, 2, 3, 4 (1908)

⁴ Vol I (1908) <https://archive.org/stream/massachusettsmag1908sale#page/n5/mode/2up>

Table of Contents
*The Massachusetts Magazine*⁵

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VOL. II JANUARY, 1909 NO. 1

Contents of this Issue.

THE "SCARLET LETTER" AND OLD KETTERIE Herbert M. Sylvester 3
COLONEL EPHRAIM DOOLITTLE'S REGIMENT . . . F. A. Gardner, M. D. 11
THE REV. JAMES NOYES HOUSE IN NEWBURY Benj. L. Noyes, M. D. 30
THE PATHFINDER AT MARIETTA, OHIO IN 1888 George Sheldon . . . 33
MASSACHUSETTS PIONEERS IN MICHIGAN . . . Charles A. Flagg . . . 39
THE WILLIAMS HOUSE AT DEERFIELD 41
SOME ARTICLES CONCERNING MASSACHUSETTS IN
RECENT MAGAZINES Charles A. Flagg . . . 42
DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION F. A. Gardner, M. D. 45
CRITICISM AND COMMENT 48
SOME MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL WRITERS 51
PILGRIMS AND PLANTERS Lucie M. Gardner . 54
OUR EDITORIAL PAGES Thomas F. Waters . 55

The Massachusetts Magazine.
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VOL. II APRIL, 1909 NO. 2

Contents of this Issue.

CHARLES WILLIAM ELIOT, Edward J. James, Booker T. Washington,
Daniel Starr Jordan, Cyrus Northrop 59
MASSACHUSETTS PIONEERS IN MICHIGAN . . . Charles A. Flagg . . . 66
COLONEL TIMOTHY DANIELSON'S REGIMENT . . . F. A. Gardner, M. D. 69
LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES IN MASSACHUSETTS Charles A. Flagg . . . 84
THE OLD MERRIAM HOUSE Charles A. Flagg . . . 98
SOME ARTICLES CONCERNING MASSACHUSETTS IN
RECENT MAGAZINES Charles A. Flagg . . . 99
DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION F. A. Gardner, M. D. 101
CRITICISM AND COMMENT 107
PERSONAL DIARY OF ASHLEY BOWEN OF MARBLEHEAD 109
PILGRIMS AND PLANTERS Lucie M. Gardner . 115
OUR EDITORIAL PAGES Thomas F. Waters . 118

The Massachusetts Magazine.
A Quarterly Magazine Devoted to History, Genealogy and Biography
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VOL. II JULY, 1909 NO. 3

Contents of this Issue.

ANCESTRY OF GOVERNOR EBEN S. DRAPER . . . T. W.-M. Draper . 123
WESTON Colonel Daniel S. Lamson, John N. McClintock. 129
COLONEL JOHN FELLOWS'S REGIMENT F. A. Gardner, M. D. 141
SOME ARTICLES CONCERNING MASSACHUSETTS IN
RECENT MAGAZINES Charles A. Flagg . . . 162
THE OLD RAND HOUSE Caroline Rogers Hill 165
DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION F. A. Gardner, M. D. 168
CRITICISM AND COMMENT 174
PILGRIMS AND PLANTERS Lucie M. Gardner . 176
OUR EDITORIAL PAGES Thomas F. Waters . 186

The Massachusetts Magazine.
A Quarterly Magazine Devoted to History, Genealogy and Biography
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VOL. II OCTOBER, 1909 NO. 4

Contents of this Issue.

CAPTAIN JONATHAN HARADEN F. A. Gardner, M. D. 191
MASSACHUSETTS PIONEERS IN MICHIGAN . . . Charles A. Flagg . . . 200
COLONEL EBENEZER BRIDGE'S REGIMENT . . . F. A. Gardner, M. D. 203
SOME ARTICLES CONCERNING MASSACHUSETTS IN
RECENT MAGAZINES Charles A. Flagg . . . 228
THE GEORGE GARDNER HOUSE F. A. Gardner, M. D. 230
DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION F. A. Gardner, M. D. 234
PILGRIMS AND PLANTERS Lucie M. Gardner . 239
FAMILY GENEALOGIES Lucie M. Gardner . 240
CRITICISM AND COMMENT 254
OUR EDITORIAL PAGES Thomas F. Waters . 255

Figure 3 Vol II, No. 1, 2, 3, 4 (1909)

⁵ Vol II (1909) <https://archive.org/stream/massachusettsmag00sale#page/n3/mode/2up>

Table of Contents

The Massachusetts Magazine

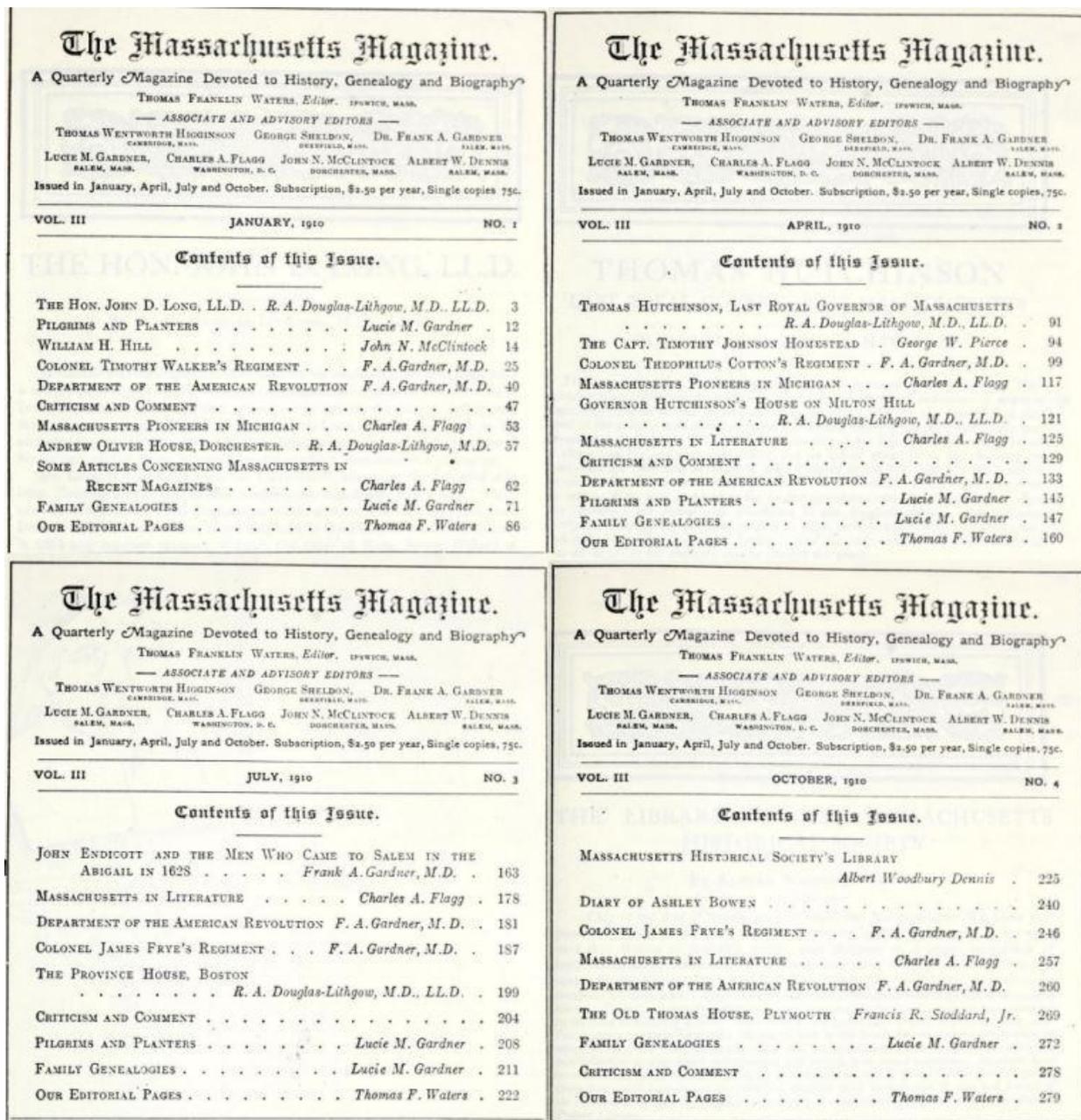


Figure 4 Vol III, No 1, 2, 3, 4 (1910)

⁶ Vol III (1910) <https://archive.org/stream/massachusettsmagv3sale#page/n7/mode/2up>

Table of Contents
*The Massachusetts Magazine*⁷

<p>The Massachusetts Magazine. A Quarterly Magazine Devoted to History, Genealogy and Biography⁷ THOMAS FRANKLIN WATERS, Editor, IPSWICH, MASS. —ASSOCIATE AND ADVISORY EDITORS— THOMAS WENTWORTH HIGGINSON, GEORGE SHELDON, DR. FRANK A. GARDNER, LUCIE M. GARDNER, CHARLES A. FLAGG, JOHN N. McCLINTOCK, ALBERT W. DENNIS, Issued in January, April, July and October. Subscription, \$2.50 per year, Single copies, 75c</p> <p>VOL. IV JANUARY, 1911 NO. 1</p> <p>Contents of this Issue.</p> <p>THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY . . . R. A. Douglas-Lithgow, M.D., LL.D. . . 1 JETHRO COFFIN'S HOME . . . R. A. Douglas-Lithgow, M.D., LL.D. . . 23 COLONEL RUGGLES WOODBRIDGE'S REGIMENT . . . F. A. Gardner, M.D. . . 29 DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION . . . F. A. Gardner, M.D. . . 43 MASSACHUSETTS IN LITERATURE . . . Charles A. Flagg . . . 49 CRITICISM AND COMMENT 58 FAMILY GENEALOGIES Lucie M. Gardner . . . 60 OUR EDITORIAL PAGES Thomas F. Waters . . . 71</p>	<p>The Massachusetts Magazine. A Quarterly Magazine Devoted to History, Genealogy and Biography⁷ THOMAS FRANKLIN WATERS, Editor, IPSWICH, MASS. —ASSOCIATE AND ADVISORY EDITORS— GEORGE SHELDON, DR. FRANK A. GARDNER, LUCIE M. GARDNER, CHARLES A. FLAGG, JOHN N. McCLINTOCK, ALBERT W. DENNIS, Issued in January, April, July and October. Subscription, \$2.50 per year, Single copies, 75c</p> <p>VOL. IV JULY, 1911 NO. 3</p> <p>Contents of this Issue.</p> <p>THOMAS WENTWORTH HIGGINSON . . . Ex-Gov. John D. Long, Edwin D. Mead, Frank B. Sanborn and Frank A. Gardner, M.D. . . 139 THE HOWLAND HOUSE Francis R. Stoddard, Jr. . . 145 MASSACHUSETTS PIONEERS IN MICHIGAN Charles A. Flagg . . . 147 COLONEL THOMAS GARDNER'S REGIMENT . . . F. A. Gardner, M.D. . . 153 MASSACHUSETTS IN LITERATURE Charles A. Flagg . . . 174 DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION . . . F. A. Gardner, M.D. . . 179 FAMILY GENEALOGIES Lucie M. Gardner . . . 184 OUR EDITORIAL PAGES Thomas F. Waters . . . 199</p>
<p>The Massachusetts Magazine. A Quarterly Magazine Devoted to History, Genealogy and Biography⁷ THOMAS FRANKLIN WATERS, Editor, IPSWICH, MASS. —ASSOCIATE AND ADVISORY EDITORS— THOMAS WENTWORTH HIGGINSON, GEORGE SHELDON, DR. FRANK A. GARDNER, LUCIE M. GARDNER, CHARLES A. FLAGG, JOHN N. McCLINTOCK, ALBERT W. DENNIS, Issued in January, April, July and October. Subscription, \$2.50 per year, Single copies, 75c</p> <p>VOL. IV APRIL, 1911 NO. 2</p> <p>Contents of this Issue.</p> <p>POE'S PLACE IN AMERICAN LITERARY HISTORY R. A. Douglas-Lithgow, M.D., LL.D. . . 75 COLONEL RUGGLES WOODBRIDGE'S REGIMENT . . . F. A. Gardner, M.D. . . 82 THE DOROTHY QUINCY HOMESTEAD . . . Arthur Boardman Cushing . . 96 MASSACHUSETTS IN LITERATURE Charles A. Flagg . . . 99 THE OLD WARREN HOUSE Francis R. Stoddard, Jr. . . 105 DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION . . . F. A. Gardner, M.D. . . 110 FAMILY GENEALOGIES Lucie M. Gardner . . . 119 MASSACHUSETTS PIONEERS IN MICHIGAN Charles A. Flagg . . . 128 CRITICISM AND COMMENT 132 OUR EDITORIAL PAGES Thomas F. Waters . . . 135</p>	<p>The Massachusetts Magazine. A Quarterly Magazine Devoted to History, Genealogy and Biography⁷ THOMAS FRANKLIN WATERS, Editor, IPSWICH, MASS. —ASSOCIATE AND ADVISORY EDITORS— GEORGE SHELDON, DR. FRANK A. GARDNER, LUCIE M. GARDNER, CHARLES A. FLAGG, JOHN N. McCLINTOCK, ALBERT W. DENNIS, Issued in January, April, July and October. Subscription, \$2.50 per year, Single copies, 75c</p> <p>VOL. IV OCTOBER, 1911 NO. 4</p> <p>Contents of this Issue.</p> <p>GOVERNOR EUGENE N. FOSS 203 THE MOSELEY HOUSE Louis M. Dewey . . 211 MASSACHUSETTS IN LITERATURE Charles A. Flagg . . . 213 MASSACHUSETTS PIONEERS IN MICHIGAN Charles A. Flagg . . . 216 COLONEL SAMUEL GERRISH'S REGIMENT . . . F. A. Gardner, M.D. . . 221 DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION . . . F. A. Gardner, M.D. . . 244 FAMILY GENEALOGIES Lucie M. Gardner . . . 247 CRITICISM AND COMMENT 260 OUR EDITORIAL PAGES Thomas F. Waters . . . 262</p>

Figure 5 Vol IV, No 1, 2, 3, 4 (1911)

⁷ Vol IV (1911) <https://archive.org/stream/massachusettsmagv4sale#page/n5/mode/2up>

Table of Contents

The Massachusetts Magazine⁸

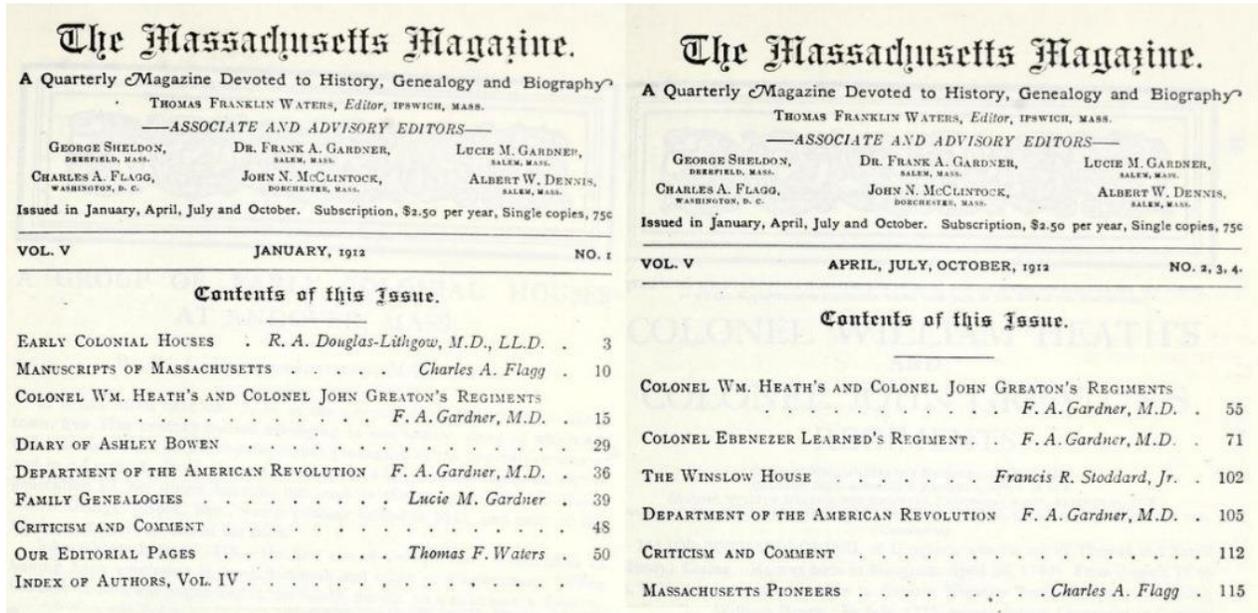


Figure 6 Vol V, No 1, 2, 3, 4 (1912)

⁸ Vol V (1912) <https://archive.org/stream/massachusettsmagv5sale#page/n5/mode/2up>