



Gardner's Beacon

CAPE ANN AND SALEM PLANTER



Thomas Gardner Society

Founded 2010



Volume II -- Issue 6 -- Winter 2012

With celebrations, such as the winter holidays, we take time to consider life's changes and how we might remember these. Also, we can pay some attention to doing better in the next year or so.

This issue has a little of both of themes.

Viewpoints and data

As we look back over the past 400 years and consider the lives of Thomas Gardner and his wife, Margaret, we can find quite a trail of information and opinion that is hefty here and sparse there. In some cases, we have more opinion than information. So, adding to the information will be an honorable goal. The question arises, though, about how can we do this. One way would be to fill in holes. However, to do this, one would have to know what the holes are and where they might be.

A case in point would be the differences found in some of the early recapitulations of the New England experience. These are, many times, even from the hand of someone who was there. But, as we will show, there are factors that will influence a viewpoint. For instance, the Church-influenced view (whichever side) will differ from a military one. One would think that there would be less variety, given that we are dealing with one only old-world culture. But, as we know, even that culture went through many modifications during the lives of Thomas and Margaret.

Another example would be later writings from descendants of the various early comers. And, many things were written during the period in-between. In short, what has been written makes for a very long list, if we tried to do a complete enumeration.

One goal is to do a bibliography; the URL for an initial attempt is at the end of the issue. Where we can, we provide a pointer to an on-line version. In many cases, a trip to the library or to the bookstore may be necessary. One thing that is necessary is for us to read the original material at the same time as we read someone's opinion. Where we cannot find digitized content, we will attempt to do a summary of the material.

Over years and years

Many of the writings are in the Annals format which we will follow in this issue. There are holes which we intend to close up, as we can. Too, this is to be considered a first pass of many which starts with 1623/24 and comes to the present day. We expect, with future iterations, to expand the

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information, and the scope, as we continue to review the literature which is quite extensive.

Sections are demarcated by years. For each of the given years, there may be several things mentioned. Some of these may be expanded more than others. That something is covered by only a sentence does not mean that it is not important or that it will not be expanded further. In some cases, we abbreviate the entry since it may be well known already. The initial point is expected to go backwards as we work on the origins problem. Too, we expect to fill in the picture started by Dr. Frank A. Gardner.

The Legacy of Thomas and Margaret, in the Annals format

Before 1623/24

Exploration of the east coast had continued without stop after the 1492 discovery. New England started with the Virginia colony. As well, English ships had been traveling up and down the coast, mapping the area, looking for spots to fish, or to settle. Cape Cod had been visited and named as early as 1606 because of the plentiful fish found there. Settlement attempts had been made at several points, from Maine down with Virginia being well-known as the first successful attempt. The Plymouth colony found some success, too, albeit at other than their expected location.

The area at Cape Ann was known, too. Prior to the arrival of the Dorchester group, fishermen from the Plymouth colony had built structures for the drying and salting of their fish catch.

Thomas and Margaret wedded.

Son, Thomas, was born in 1614. Son, George, was born in 1616. Son, Richard, was born in 1621.

At the time that Rev. John White organized the Cape Ann venture, several other colonization schemes for the same area were in the works in other parts of England. Some of these efforts actually made an attempt by sending settlers. Many of these were not successful. What we saw with Thomas' group, though, was success in all ways except filling the expectations of the capitalists who funded the venture.



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1623/24

Thomas' group arrived at Cape Ann (J.B. Felt says 1623 while W. Hubbard has a year later) and started to establish themselves. One task was to put together living quarters, such as the frame house for which a lot of the material had been brought on the ship. Phippen, in his notes (see 1859) on the group members, says that several members of the group were carpenters. They had to build other dwellings which would have been, for the most part, of the English wigwam type over which the great frame house (two-story, steep roof) loomed.

Other activities, a very long list, related to settling were accomplished, too. Organizing this activity and securing the provisions brought in the ships would have been on the top of the list for Thomas.

Nevertheless, the first winter in Cape Ann would have presented several challenges. The climate differs by a lot from the old country. Yet, nothing of a dire nature was recorded.

Thomas, George, and Richard came with their parents. Son, John, was born.

1625

Communication means were slow. Whatever there may have been must have easily gotten out of sync. Conant at Nantasket, about this time, received notice from White to go to Cape Ann. This request was precipitated, primarily, by Conant's brother in England and really had not much to do with supposed failure at Cape Ann (that was an ex post facto rationalization – trying to explain the expectations for almost miraculous returns). When Conant arrived at Cape Ann, he found a hearty, healthy group albeit one that had not yet sent back production to England.

Thomas' role was taken over by Conant. Given his authority, Conant's family likely took over the frame house. Margaret and her kids, then, squeezed into the smaller structure of the English wigwam.

1626

The group, or part of it, removed to Naumkeag from Cape Ann, and, it was not a one-and-done deal (see Balch leaflets, for example). The two places were not far enough apart to prohibit the group to travel back and forth. There was the big house to care for. Also, there were gardens and

other resources. So, back-and-forth would have been the order of the day and would have been taken as normal (hence, no need to document this as unusual).

One thing to look at is whether Thomas and Margaret house sat in the Cape Area while the old planters (who got land in Beverly in 1635) were moving their families and getting established in the new area.

1627

Time was spent between Naumkeag and Cape Ann. Too, there may have been some exploration further north and west.

Daughter, Sarah, was born.

The company reorganized and Endicott was named to be the new boss, on the ground, at Naumkeag. He and his group prepared for departure.

1628

A new Massachusetts Bay charter is signed by Endicott and others. Craddock, the governor of the company in England, is cousin of Endicott's wife. Endicott arrives with wife and 30 others, and replaces Conant. Endicott, of course, has to relay the message as there had been no forewarning to Conant.

Endicott sends back an encouraging letter to the bosses in England, White, et al, so that they were able to get off their bed of nails. They had been worrying that a successful colony could be founded. They completely overlooked (or misunderstood) the successes of the little group, even on Cape Ann. In fact, the modus operandi was to cast aspersions against characters of those who were in the group (expect more about this – arises from some need to expect confession of sins).

Endicott saw Thomas and his family enjoying the great house and orders that it be moved from Cape Ann to Naumkeag.

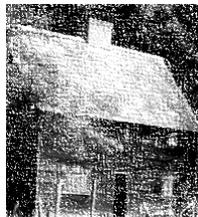
Endicott records a bad winter. Did his little influx of people swamp the resources acquired with so much work by the little group of older planters?

1629

Endicott's wife died over the winter.

Thomas, as Mr. Gardner, is mentioned by a Mr. Webb in a July 28 meeting in London. Webb was reading from a letter sent by Mr. Endicott.

Son, Samuel, was born.



Great-frame house, sketch from John Goff's photo



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Naumkeag renamed to Salem (Peace, Hebrew).

Higginson shows up with 350 passengers on six ships with some provisions (including cattle), evidently not enough. He writes about the dwellings of Naumkeag including the 'faire House' recently built by the governor, which house had been moved from Cape Ann on the orders of Endicott.

They had another bad winter, with too many people for the resources. Higginson, and others, died.

1630

Rev. Francis Higginson's diary published as New England's Plantation which details his venture to the colonies.

Son, Joseph, was born. Population of Salem at this time: 1626 about 30, 1629 about 336.

Winthrop arrives with another bunch of people. Salem does not sit well with him so he goes south and west. He does record, later, in his diary about going back to visit Endicott in Salem. He was feasted in the great house. Too, his people went to Cape Ann and brought back strawberries.

Lady Arabella came with Winthrop's group. As Endicott said, she went from the paradise of plenty to the wilderness of want (paraphrase).

1635

Daughter, Miriam, was born in 1635.

On November 11th, there was a grant of land to Townsend Bishop that was signed by Endicott, Conant, Gardner, Massey, Batter (we'll fill in the intervening years). In the same month, Gardner signed on grant of 300 acres to Thomas Scruggs. In December, Gardner signed on grant of 300 acres to John Blackleech.

On the 25th day 11th month, there were 1000 acre grants in Beverly to Conant, Balch, Palfray, Woodbury, Trask. These are traditionally called the "old planters" in several places. Craddock, in a letter, said that he did not want these folks fearing that they were being enslaved. Thomas, being a Mr (which implies a lot), was not of this group (we ought not try to force him into it, okay? – there will be more about this, too).

1636

The Pequot war in which John Tylly was killed Daughter, Seeth, was born.

Thomas was made member of the First Church (please note that he was already active and respected in the community – so, Thomas was other than the church or military). Also, Thomas was one of the town representatives and was granted 100 acres (I would bet that he didn't envy the 1000 acres of the Beverly group).

1637

Thomas made Freeman on the 17th of the 3rd month. It's interesting that he and Hathorne were voted to the General Court as representatives. Thomas, after that, kept a local focus. The place was growing.

Salem's population: 1637 about 900, 1639 about 950, 1644 about 1200, 1654 about 1068, 1665 about 1466.

Before and after 1641

Margaret died. Thomas married Demaris Shattuck (a Quaker). Later, he had sons who were Quakers.

Note: Thomas is not mentioned anywhere as being harassed (we'll go into why this is so, to boot) for his views or his preferences in regard to what he thought about his lifestyle or how to raise his kids.

Thomas had several roles (see Great Migration book) in Salem.

1654

Captain Edward Johnson who came over with the Winthrop fleet (1630) published his notes in what was the first history of Massachusetts. It covers the period from 1628 to 1651, and includes some thoughts about the Cape Ann venture prior to Endicott. Capt. Johnson was one of the founders of Woburn but added commentary about other towns, such as Salem, in his review. The theme of the book definitely allows one to see the religious arguments that went on (Thomas seems to have stayed out of this).

1674

December 29th, Thomas Gardner died and was buried in Salem at the old burying ground.

1680

Rev. William Hubbard finished his manuscript (History of New England) and gave it to those in charge for review. In Chapter XVIII, he mentions that Mr. John Tylly and Mr.

The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633
BOSTON COLLEGE LIBRARY
OFFICES: Deputy for Salem to the General Court, 26 September 1637
[MSR 1:204]
Essex grand jury, 25 February 1641, 27 January 1645/6, July 1644
[STR 1:150; EQC 1:33, 57, 62]. Petit jury, failed to appear and fined 29
June 1641 [EQC 1:25]; appeared 27 January 1642/3, 28 January 1646,
28 January 1647/8, 26 January 1648/9, 26 June 1649, 24 June 1651
(foreman), 29 June 1652, 28 June 1655, 6 March 1655/4, 13 June 1655,
27 November 1655, 30 June 1657, 29 June 1658 [STR 1:154, 146, 184,
186, 202, 216; EQC 1:44, 159, 155, 165, 229, 254, 283, 326, 408, 2-42,
71]. Jury, 27 August 1656, 27 June 1657 (foreman), 27 September 1659,
29 January 1640/1 [EQC 1:3, 6, 12, 24]. Coroner's jury on Ralph El-
wood, August 1644 [EQC 1:71].
Salem selectman, 1635, 1637, 1642-6, 1650, 1655-6 [STR 1:13, 50,
113, 121, 128, 136, 143, 164, 182, 190]. Salem constable, 1639 [STR
1:88]. Salem fenceviewer, 1636 [STR 1:41]. Overseer or surveyor for
Salem highways 1637/8, 1639, 1642, 1643, 1649, 1655-8 [STR 1:67, 90,
117, 124, 158, 189, 191, 214]. Salem rater, 1639/40 [STR 1:97].



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Thomas Gardener were employed as overseers of the Cape Ann effort. This was the first mention. Rev. Hubbard talked to all of the principals including Conant (at length, Conant expressed displeasure at how he was treated).

Rev. William died in 1704. His manuscript was almost burned when there was a mob induced fire at the house of Gov. Thomas Hutchinson in 1765. Hubbard's narrative was not published until 1815 (Hubbard has an extensive list of references that we need to add to the list and to review).

1736

Thomas Prince publishes his look (A Chronological History of New England, in the form of Annals) which covers the period up to 1630. Also, he has several pages of references, including those from Hubbard, Mathers, Bradford, and many more. In his look, he provides a broad sweep of history from six days after Creation all the way up to the time of King James VI.

His use of New England includes Virginia. There was a lot of activity in the northern region prior to 1620. Prince mentions that Gardner and Tylly oversaw the Cape Ann Plantation (following Rev. Hubbard, of course).

1747

Daniel Neal writes his book (History of New-England) and mentions Joseph Gardner being killed.

1764

Governor Hutchinson publishes his work (History of Massachusetts) in which he touts the lack of facts in Hubbard's work (rather than celebrate the guy's early effort, almost a century earlier).

1765

On August 26th, a mob related to the tax riot burnt the Governor's house (Thomas Hutchinson). In that instance, we almost lost the manuscript of Rev. William Hubbard (who had talked to Thomas Gardner). The 1680 manuscript had been in Hutchinson's family for several generations.

1792

The great frame house which had been moved over to Salem on Endicott's orders was extensively modified, including an additional floor and the exterior trimmings that were popular at the time.



Governor's Faire House, memory sketch

1840s

Thomas' grave, along with several others, at Salem's old burying ground were moved to Harmony Grove cemetery (the northwest corner – where are the stones?) in order to allow for street expansion. Others who were moved include Abel (grandson via Samuel) and Abel's wife (Sarah Porter).

1846

Young publishes his book (Chronicles of the First Planters of Massachusetts Bay). He includes Hubbard's Narrative (1680) which was the first to make reference to Thomas Gardner and John Tylly as the overseers of the Cape Ann effort.

1859

The Essex Institute publishes (Volume I of their Collections) the in-depth paper of George D. Phippen who had done research on the old planters. Phippen says more than the five (and their families) moved to Naumkeag. Using prior sources (Hubbard, Prince, Felt), Phippen documents the venture and follows Hubbard's reference to Thomas Gardner and John Tylly as leads. Phippen then writes what he could find out about each of the planters (see his list below, 1888).

1860

James Savage publishes his Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England. Gardners are in Volume 2.

1870s

Elizabeth Gardner Amory ascribes the title of 'first governor' on her ancestor, Thomas (Dorothy Winthrop Bradford quoted in the book of Dorothy B. Wexler)

1854

Thornton writing about Cape Ann leaves Thomas off the old planters list which includes the following: Conant, Allen, Balch, Gray, Knight, Norman, Norman, Jr., Palfray, Tylly, Woodbery

1873

John Palfrey writes his History of New England and lists the children of Thomas and Margaret.

1877

David D. Balch, in Balch Leaflets, writes of the Cape Ann and Salem ventures. He iterates that there were the four friends who were the Old Planters and who got the large land grants. He leaves off Trask. Balch also notes that Cape Ann was not abandoned completely. His article mentions



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1995

Thomas and references the work of George D. Phippen who had included Thomas Gardner in the list of people who removed to Salem.

1880

Drake's look about old planters versus new (those who came with Endicott and after).

1888

Johns Hopkins Universities, Studies in Historical and Political Science, Herbert B. Adams, editor, publishes Phippen's paper which has this list of people going over to Salem:

Conant, Lyford, Woodbury (John and Humphrey), Balch, Palfrey, Trask, Jeffrey, Tully, Gardner, Allen, Gray, Knight, Norman (Richard and son).

According to Phippen, including men and women and children, there were thirty people in Naumkeag prior to Endicott's arrival.

1899

Dr. Frank A. helps organize the Old Planters Society (arrival prior to 1630) which includes illustrious descendants of Thomas and Margaret.

1907

Dr. Frank A. publishes his book on Thomas and his descendants giving lines for several generations.

1910

Captain Johnson's 1654 book is republished with annotations by J. Franklin Jameson, who is a descendant.

1930

George Francis Dow uses his study of the great frame house (by now, demolished due from the ravages of time and the elements – though some of the support structures are said to still be in use in another building in Salem) to construct a fully-dimensioned replica of the house in the Salem Pioneer Village for the 300th Anniversary celebrations. The village also includes English wigwams and other artifacts of the era of Thomas and Margaret.



English wigwams at Salem's Pioneer village

1935

Frank A. publishes the Gardner Memorial with lines leading up to John Lowell Gardner II and with a featured look at his wife, Isabella Stewart Gardner.

Publication by the New England Historic Genealogical Society of The Great Migration begins. Thomas Gardner has six pages.

1999

On March 20, David Goss talked to the Essex Society of Genealogists about the "Old Planters" who received land grants in Beverly in 1635. Thomas was not of that group (we will address this subject).

2009

John Goff provides a few details on Thomas and Margaret in his book (Salem's Witch House: A Touchstone to Antiquity).

For bibliographic information and links, use:

<http://thomasgardnersociety.org/html/bibliography.html>

Elizabeth Gardner Amory (ca 1840s) – Known as Libby, she was the daughter of George Gardner and grand-daughter of Samuel Pickering Gardner (descendant of Thomas through son, George) and Rebecca Russell Lowell. She grew up on Beacon Hill in Boston where her family had links to many prominent families in the area. Thus, she developed a viewpoint that saw her pedigree as good as any other. She married Charles (Ned) Walker Amory who had lived in the neighborhood and who she had known from childhood. Libby and Ned married after he served with the U.S. Army during the Civil War. Later, while talking to her granddaughter, she remembered claiming (ca 1870s) that Thomas Gardner had been the first governor as he was six years prior to the Winthrops which family she had by a son-in-law.

Some descendants:

Timothy Folger (ca 1700s)
Jonathan Gardner Swift (ca 1780s)
Nathaniel Bowditch (ca 1770s)
Rowland Hussey Macy (ca 1820s)
John Coffin Coleman (ca 1870s)
John Henry Balch (ca 1890s)
Endicott Peabody (ca 1920s)
John Forbes Kerry (ca 1940s)
...

We are inviting contributions of articles in regard to the Thomas Gardner families. Contact: algswtlk@thomasgardnersociety.org