



# Gardner's Beacon™



CAPE ANN AND SALEM PLANTER

Thomas Gardner Society, Inc.    Founded 2010



[Volume IX -- Issue 1](#)    -- Winter 2019

Gardner's Beacon™ is published by the Thomas Gardner Society, Inc. ([ThomasGardnerSociety.org](http://ThomasGardnerSociety.org)).

The year Two Thousand and Nineteen marks our tenth year of research with our founding having been in 2010 and our ninth year of publication starting with [Volume I](#) of Gardner's Beacon, our newsletter, in the Spring of 2011; the first two volumes had eleven issues. [In 2014, we incorporated](#) and obtained IRS Sec. 5012(c)(3) tax-exempt status. One of our first activities was a series of articles published in [The Essex Genealogist](#) that were later incorporated into The Gardner Annals. We [released a print version of TGA Volumes I & II](#) and of TGA Volumes III & IV. Each of these printed versions included issues of Gardner's Beacon. The first print contained GB Volumes I thru III while the second print provided GB Volumes IV thru VII. This year we're publishing Volume IX of Gardner's Beacon and Volume V of The Gardner Annals.

## Web presence

From the beginning, we have worked to establish a global presence for Thomas Gardner, initially with [Wikipedia](#) and through our blog. Too, a website has been maintained at [ThomasGardnerSociety.org](http://ThomasGardnerSociety.org) for the purpose of presenting necessary information. We started a portal at [TGSoc.org](http://TGSoc.org) to support efforts at continuing education starting with an image index to our material. Of late, we evaluated WikiTree as a possible tool using notes from [Dr. Frank \(the Gardner researcher\)](#) about his ancestry. A recent task has been to look at NEHGS' new facility, [AncesTREES](#). Expect more on this as we learn more. One goal is to document the first few generations, fully, including a closer look at collateral families. This work starts with Dr. Frank's books which will be re-published with additions once we get them re-texted. That is an open project to which anyone can contribute their time and effort.

Social media has offered some usefulness. We have a [Facebook group](#) to make announcements,



Figure 1 Dr. Frank, WikiTree

such as releases of new issues of the newsletter. Too, we provide links to pertinent information that we discover through research. Our blog is provided by Blogger which was bought by Google. There, we have established a [FAQ](#) related to our interests. This will be maintained through time. Our efforts at sustaining a web presence is technical and administrative which means that it covers both content and configuration. The latter, where configuration denotes all things related to media (all senses) gets a whole lot of attention but has changed greatly over the past decade. To allow future reflection on the specifics, we have blogged about details of [configuration since 2012](#). With the portal, the amount of information regarding technical issues will increase; to see what this might involve, consider the news stories, more so of late than before, about issues related to computing and its cloud. We see addressing these issues as directly related to our work with deals with the American dream (and more) as can be view from the [400 years](#) of blood, sweat, and tears of families involved during the whole of it. Now, the former, where content deals with what might be the message – as McLuhan might note – has really been given less attention, in general. If you want evidence of this, look closely at the discussions about AI (artificial intelligence) which have become quite prominent due to the central role that computing has taken in our lives, doing so more in certain situations than in others.

## The medium is not the message

The types of content and their representation is a wide-ranging bit of stuff. A couple of examples would be Pinterest and Quora. The former offers an organizing scheme for handling pictures and text in a manner that is quite powerful. The TGS has a presence on [Pinterest](#) that will grow to support our educational thrust. Mentioning that example, brings up that there are countless different approaches. We have avoided Twitter for a good reason, however we do acknowledge that there has been some remarkable usage of that medium. On FB, we have a research group that is private to work on projects. There



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are other means that we can discuss. We have used Dropbox for some purposes and like the approach.

However, back to Quora, which is at the higher-end of social media. Lots of experts hang out there, meaning academics and professionals. The framework is [question and answer](#) with comments for discussion. We have answered some questions related to New England and early life in the U.S. Some of these have been linked back to the blogs, however there needs to be some attempt at improving the organization of the content. That sort of work is continual, as the environment is dynamic.

However, the purpose for printing is to establish milestones. The same thing can be done with periodic dropping of milestone data. One might consider this to be a bit of structure. Speaking of which, for the portal, we have several plans as it supports our continuing educational thrust. One feature would be a rolling/scrolling little presentation from an annals database with the year and information about an event that is germane, or might relate, to our themes. For each of these, there would be further information with sources and material for further exploration. That is, we want to be the first place where someone who is interested in Gardner would go to start their query. That would mean more than Thomas and Margaret, as we have heard from [members of many Gardner families](#). We have helped them establish whether they related to Thomas or not and, if not, helped them determine which family they relate to and where to go for information.

### Next steps

Our research has accumulated a lot of material, most of which has not been published. One way to handle such a situation so as to not lose the value of the work would be to present the material in an organized format so that someone might pick up the information and continue research. Right now, Gardner's Beacon has been published twice a year. The Gardner Annals has had one issue for the past two years. We can insert a section in the latter regarding future research. We included such a section in TGA Volume 4, however we want to tie this type of thing into an environment that is somewhat

oriented toward project management. We tried a bulletin board approach back in 2013 but ran into some issues.

When the discussions took place, last summer, about [Margaret being the mother](#) of the children, the coordination was facilitated by WikiTree's environment. That was a nice experience as the effort was managed by the Great Migration team which really [wanted the issue of Margaret resolved](#). They have been quite careful in keeping documentation up to date and pertinent. The control mechanism is not unsimilar to what software developers have come up with in their efforts at managing configuration (implies the whole ball of wax).

For some reason, content has not had the same focus but ought to. Hence, one reason that we have our own site, and are not using the cloud, is control of information. This needs to be discussed. Soon, I expect to fold one of the blogs under our site. It'll use WordPress, and the experience will be educational, at least. But, in the longer term, Gardners need to control the message and to maintain proper provenance. This issue is only one of many; in short, the work related to Gardner Research will never be dull.

### What would Thomas think (WWTT)?

On that note, we can switch to an open problem that is long duration. Dr. Frank knew of it. Others knew of it. Our awareness came from talking to Gardners from Maine. But, of late, we have also heard references to others knowing of missing bodies. Until lately, any inkling of what we needed to do had not risen to consciousness. We were just trying to fill in gaps that would not close. What does this refer to?

Harmony Grove Cemetery has a lot of Gardner graves. One of these, most likely, is not that of Thomas Gardner. How did this come about? Well, bear with us as we write about the situation.

As mentioned in The Great Migration (NEHGS, Anderson), Thomas owned [Gardner's Hill](#). But, where is this bit of land? Sidney Perley, in his time, did a walk about and identified its location. Dr. Frank may have had another idea that is close but does not make sense



without more information. Not that we are leaning to Sidney's view. Those two worked together. Sidney saw The Massachusetts Magazine of Dr. Frank, and others, as carrying on his work. In fact, Lucie, Dr. Frank's sister, published Sidney's work after he retired.

### Simon's notes

Now, Dr. Frank mentioned that he had read comments by [Simon Pickering Gardner](#) about a visit that he made in the 1830s to the site of Gardner's burial plot which was on the side of Gardner's Hill. Simon ought to be familiar to Gardners; his family was featured in Gardner's Memorial (Dr. Frank's 1933 book). He was upset that a William Gardner had sold Gardner's burial plot (and, perhaps, more). And, Simon was not pleased by the activity that he saw in the area.

As an aside, one of our tasks will be to build a 3D model that depicts the situation as best we can that will support various presentations related to analysis and education.

Let's stop to remind ourselves that this is a quick summary of a lot of search that has brought up more questions than answers. So, we will be carrying this forward and are, here, merely making known some of what seems to be the case.

Who was William? We have traced down the ownership of Gardner's Hill to his generation. And, we have to report that he was a descendant of son Samuel. Samuel bought the land after Thomas died. He left it to his son, Abel, who was buried there with his wife, Sarah Porter who was a granddaughter of William Hathorne. Now, in [The Great Migration](#) book, Anderson mentions that the burial plot had been used for, at least, two decades before Thomas was buried. He died on 29 December 1674. It was a little later that there was a lawsuit regarding Pudney trying to bury a child there. It was noted in court just how long there had been burials. So, another task? Who and where can we find information related to this court case?

Well, for one, we'll ask people to come forward with information about burials. We have heard of stories of missing bodies already and expect that we can start to build a list of who was buried there (a brief list is

provided at the end of this issue). We also have a marker now at Findagrave.com named for the Gardner plot that also says that it is defunct. For those who may have not been moved properly (meaning re-interred), we can ask Findagrave.com to allow memorials for these folks whose bodies are in some unknown state. Or, we can build something on the Thomas Gardner Society, Inc. site.

Back to William. There will be more written, but he was not financially strapped. Rather, there was a lack of concern for the implied perpetual clause that had been honored to his generation. So, lots to look at there. He was a Harvard graduate and had inherited land from both sides of his family. However, even a financial need would not involve such a move away from the long-standing tradition.

Also, Simon noted that stones had already been moved. Some were broken. He mentioned that one of these was Thomas' stone. Too, he noted that the disarray was due to commercial efforts to support the growing shoe industry that Salem underwent when South American hide became readily available.

### Thomas asks: Where am I?

There is a lot more. A court case came about that needs to be researched. Sidney mentioned that some bodies had been moved to the Trask plot which is closer than close. Harmony Grove took the remaining stones and, perhaps, some of the bodies. But, Thomas? Mostly likely the site was lost after the stones had been moved and once regular activity started in the area.

A contributing factor for [Thomas' remains missing](#) was that Gardner's Hill was leveled to make way for a new road. Sidney thought



Figure 2 Gardner burial plot

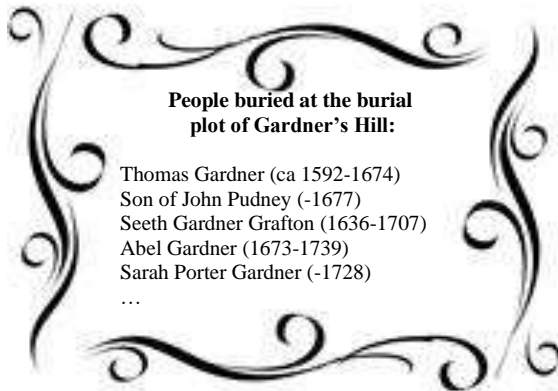
that the road ran to the southwest of Trask's plot and right over Thomas' grave. Also, we have to consider the technology of the times. How was earth moved? One goal was





to fill in the marshes around North River that is now a narrow channel, more or less.

Figure 2 shows an aerial view in which a modern map (left) is next to Sidney's handwritten map (right) that he drew over a hundred years ago. To see more detail, please visit the blog post that is associated with the issue of Gardner's Beacon. A common reference point then and now is [Trask's plot](#) which abutted Gardner's Hill, according to Sidney. In both of these views, the Gardner and Trask plots are on the left, while Harmony Grove Cemetery is on the right. The Cemetery is on the other side of the river (which is seen snaking through the area on the Sidney map) from where Gardner's Hill was located. Thomas, later Samuel and then Abel, owned land on both sides of the river.



**People buried at the burial plot of Gardner's Hill:**

- Thomas Gardner (ca 1592-1674)
- Son of John Pudney (-1677)
- Seeth Gardner Grafton (1636-1707)
- Abel Gardner (1673-1739)
- Sarah Porter Gardner (-1728)
- ...

It is interesting that Simon Pickering Gardner's ancestor, Samuel, owned the land that was right above Gardner's burial plot. That lot needs to be further researched. Was he trying to save the area? Samuel was the son of George.

Harmony Grove was being planned about the time of the road work. We have early material about Harmony Grove Cemetery. Not much was written about the movement of the stones. Was there a gag order given for this case? If so, it would not be in perpetuity.

Our intent is to resolve some of these issues as much as we have some notion of what happened. As well, we will document the situation for future researchers.

### Other work

We have regular and occasional activities. One recurring task deals with maintaining the systems that support our web presence. Currently, we are running Linux on Hub and have been pleased with the situation. Analysis of alternatives continues. We recently received a non-profit recognition from Google. That allows us to use the [Google search facility](#) without ads. From the search, we expect to build an index for our publications and our blog posts and to build up the educational aspects.

On another note, we want to get the text of Dr. Frank's first book (1907) in a format that can be used interactively, in trees and other publications, and that will allow us to republish with enhancements. There are various means that can be used for doing the work of digitizing the book. For discussion on these and other activities, visit our main portal: <https://tgsoc.org/>.

**Abel Gardner (1673-1739):** Abel ([#59 in Dr. Frank's book](#)) was born in Salem, MA. He was the son of Samuel (#6) and the third owner of Gardner's Hill. He never knew his grandfather, Thomas, who died when Abel was one year old. Abel lived in the house that had been occupied by his father and his grandfather. Like Thomas, Abel was buried in the Gardner burial plot with his wife, Sarah Porter. She was daughter of Elizabeth Hathorne and Israel Porter. Elizabeth was daughter of Major William Hathorne who came with John Winthrop on the Arabella. Abel held several offices, including Selectman and Surveyor. He had a rank of Lieutenant. Like his father, Abel had many real estate dealings. He inherited some holdings from his father, including the burial plot. He left this jointly to his sons Jonathan and Joseph (this is where we will pick up the transactions that led to William Gardner owning the plot in the early 1800s). He owned part of the grist mill on South River. A couple of years ago, the tide washed up a stone from this mill (see the story at the blog). Sarah died in 1728. Abel had a double stone made when he died in 1739. This stone now resided in Harmony Grove Cemetery. However, Abel and Sarah's remains are lost. Abel married, as his second wife, Sarah King in 1731. Dr. Frank mentions that he thinks that the Gardner burial plot was at the corner of Main and Grove Streets in Peabody. Sidney sees it closer to the corner of Main and Howley which is on the Salem and Peabody border. Abel was Dr. Frank Gardner's ancestor.

We invite contributions of articles.  
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