



Gardner's Beacon™

CAPE ANN AND SALEM PLANTER



Thomas Gardner Society, Inc. Founded 2010  Volume IX -- Issue 2 -- Summer 2019

Continuing with our review theme from the last issue (GB, Vol. IX, No. 1) where we touched upon our ten years of work, there are a few more points to mention. First, as a reminder, we use the blog to report and discuss research results. At the same time, we have some pages that are more structured which is how we handle the FAQ that tries to convey what we know on several subjects. For example: who was Thomas?; who was his wife? There are eighteen questions at this time, and we expect to add more. The latest update was to the question: where was Thomas buried?

Since February, we have looked further into the situation near Gardner Hill using the painting of South Danvers Church that is in the Peabody Institute. From that work, we found out more about Gardner's bridge which has had several names as did the brook over which it spans. Another focus was reading Sidney Perley's Essex Antiquarian in which he drew maps of the area as they would be in 1700; these maps are based upon his reading of the records plus doing walkabouts to measure. In a few cases, we compared his work with the latest mapping technology and can report that Sidney did great work. But, stepping back, we have renewed a focus on Cape Ann. Gloucester, MA has started planning for celebrating the 400th of the arrival; the festivities will start in 2023. We will be supporting the activity of the committee that has a permanent address now.



A lot of our research has already had a theme of Cape Ann. Too, we have established publication methods. As we review the progress, though, we are starting to renovate our sites in order to organize the data and the message.

Frank and Frances

Another theme will be to study the issue of two Thomas Gardners having come to Cape Ann. What was their relationship? The older Thomas went back and died in England. The other was the Thomas who was married to Margaret and moved to Salem.

There are two major views for us to study. One is that of Dr. Frank's which has been our focus from the beginning. Thankfully, we had his work to start with. Then, there is that of Frances Rose-Troup. We have seen her work referenced over the years. Dr. Frank worked in the U.S.; we have referred to his work quite a bit. Frances, on the other hand, did her work mostly in England. However, she wrote

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of the life of Rev. John White who is the brother-in-law of the older Thomas (mentioned above) plus the founder of the Dorchester Company that sponsored the Cape Ann venture. Too, though, Frances studied the records of the Dorchester Company and wrote of this. We will be addressing her work in quite a bit of detail as we compare notes between her and Dr. Frank.

Families at Cape Ann

Besides Gardner, our focus concerns all of the Cape Ann families. The material from Dr. Frank and Frances will provide a nice basis when joined with information from the NEHGS Great Migration project. As mentioned, WikiTree will provide some modeling resources. Additional attention will be directed to DNA studies and other advanced methods.

With regard to the other families, let's stop and look at the "Pageant of Salem" skit that was performed in 1913 as part of the 300th celebration. The below image shows the cast for the skit. For a skit in Salem, Dr. Frank played Roger Conant (an ancestor). Ann's grandfather, Waldo D. Gardner (Dr. Frank's first cousin), and Waldo's sister played Thomas and Margaret Gardner. This skit was shown in the area several times.

CAST

- ROGER CONANT AND WIFE Dr. and Mrs. FRANK A. GARDNER
- THOMAS GARDNER AND WIFE,
WALDO D. GARDNER, Miss CHARLOTTE GARDNER WALLIS
- JOHN WOODBURY MAYNARD F. WOODBURY
- JOHN BALCH AND WIFE Mr. and Mrs. HARRY A. CONANT
- THOMAS GRAY AND WIFE, JOSEPH C. V. HOWES, Miss CLARISSA CONANT
- RICHARD NORMAN AND WIFE,
EVERETT BREWER, Miss LUCY A. DENNETT
- WILLIAM ALLEN (unmarried in 1626) SAMUEL P. WALCOTT
- WILLIAM JEFFREY AND WIFE,
LAWRENCE FOSTER, Miss LUCIE M. GARDNER
- PETER PALFREY (unmarried in 1626)
- JOHN NORMAN RICHARD N. SYMONDS
- WILLIAM KNIGHT
- MISTRESS KNIGHT Miss MARY CONANT NORTON

From this, we can see what some of the families are who had been identified. The list is actually longer and will be brought up to date. In this case, we see Conant, Gardner, Woodbury, Balch, Gray, Norman, Allen Jeffrey, Palfrey and Knight. Several of these families have been active in



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doing research and having meetings. Too, some have a book which ought to be considered as a major accomplish.

One of our blog posts points to the book that has details about the pageant. It has 'Parts' (some with several Episodes) that start in Cape Ann and come down through history with prominent families involved in the scenes. There was a poem written and used. It was sung like a tune that was familiar at the time.

Ode to Salem

City of Peace

Can sculptured stone or painted wood
Build up a city great and good?
How well the clear-eyed Greek replies:
"Where there are Men, the cities rise."

True men of faith, whose hearts are sure
That only things unseen endure;
So they toil on, by day and night,
Obedient to the Vision bright.

True men of love, who see the chain
Their brother wears, and feel his pain;
Who cannot rest, but run to share
All that they have with Want and Care.

What though a city's numbers grow
When half are sunk in sin and woe?
What though her towers touch the sky,
Unless the thoughts of man be high?

O Salem! Let your children live
In peace the world can never give;
The peace of those who do God's will,
And see His kingdom coming still. ---

--- Alice Osborne Atwood

Alice Osborne Atwood was a graduate in 1879 from Smith College. Her daughter was a noted poetess.

100-year period, several of these

As we researched, from the beginning, it was obvious that the 400th was imminent. So, what happened for the 300th?

We just looked the skit "Pageant of Salem" that was performed by the local folks. Also, there were several celebrations which the Vice President attended. Roger Conant was memorialized with a statue in Salem. At Cape Ann, a plaque mentions Roger's involvement in settling a dispute between the newcomers and the Plymouth folk who wanted to use the area for fish drying.

Many families published a book. Several heritage organizations got started. The 200th of Salem was the 50th of the country. So, the 300th of Salem would have been the 150th of the U.S. This is the timeframe of the start of the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.). One of our blog posts shows a book that was published which was blank and had cutouts. These cutouts allowed generations to be handled. Dr. Frank filled one in for his daughter. In 2018, we used his Gardner information to check our work. Then, we used his mother's information to complete his tree.



With Dr. Frank involved, Thomas Gardner was remembered. The Old Planters Society was formed. We will be looking more at that.

Recognition for Thomas Gardner?

But, what of Thomas Gardner and the 400th? We could talk about some type of monument. Thomas' grave was lost as we reported in the last issue. But, so too were graves of many others. A Trask researcher has identified many of these.

Trask? Yes, this was a family that was at Cape Ann with Thomas. One of our research projects is to summarize this problem and to provide names of the parties. Besides researching the arrival and the people involved, there are other aspects of the event to remember, such as the movement to Naumkeag. Then, we have various later arrivals: Endicott, Higginson, and others. Rev. Higginson is important as he wrote of New England glowingly before he died. Salem's naming needs a nod. Then, we have the long list of events that came with John Winthrop's arrival.

Research efforts, membership

So, from the beginning, research was a necessity. Many times, we ran into prior work. The use of these will be documented. By having Dr. Frank's pedigree defined, we



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can use him as an example as we fill in the complete list of Thomas descendants. Dr. Frank's pedigree is being documented on WikiTree. His 1907 book was not complete, so we would like to extend that further. In fact, a proper reprint is in order.

From doing this work using Dr. Frank's hand-written notes, we know several things. For instance, Dr. Frank descended from both wives of Thomas via both of his parents.

Both? Speaking of that, we, early on, kept hearing that Thomas had three wives. This was settled as wrong in 2018 with WikiTree pointing to the discussion and to the two wives of Thomas.

One can purchase a set with each print version having two volumes of the TGA. With the coming issue of the TGA, we are considering printing all five volumes together with a binding that would make the publication suitable for contribution to libraries.

Gardner's Research has published articles in The Essex Genealogist as well as via our own publication efforts. Some of our work has been suggested as being suitable for publication in the New England Historic Genealogical Society's Register, especially information about Margaret. There are other publications, such as The American Genealogist, to which to aspire.

We would like to receive articles to include in our publications. As we look to document early generations, we expect that this information will be written in a form that is suitable for an article. The Gardner Annals would present these for public consumption.

Of course, part of our renovation will be introducing eBusyness capabilities. Lots of alternatives have been reviewed. We are still of the notion that we can roll our own, for certain aspects.



Lost at sea:

- Tristram Gardner (1743)
- Thaddeus Gardner (1767)
- Grindall Gardner (1772)
- Abraham Gardner (1783)
- Alexander Gardner (1800)
- Ansel Gardner (1812)
- Henry Gardner (1825)
- Asa Gardner (1842)
- William Gardner (1850)
- ...

Benjamin West (-1776): Patriot. Benjamin was of a Salem family and was with the regiment of Col John Mansfield at Bunker Hill. Benjamin was killed on June 17th. Even though he was mentioned by Rev. Felt in his Annals of Salem and was the only casualty at Bunker Hill who was from Salem, he was not mentioned at the Bunker Hill memorial that was placed in Charleston, MA to honor Patriots who had fell at the Battle Bunker Hill. Benjamin's great-nephew was Caleb Foote of the Salem Gazette who took up the task of getting Benjamin recognized. This was accomplished over 100 years after Benjamin's death.

There were three other Benjamin West's of that period and area. One was from NH and did not support the war effort. Another may have been too young. However, there was a well-known artist who was in Europe when the conflict broke out. He went to London and stayed there. Loyalist.

The TGS, Inc. will establish several types of membership in order to focus our activity: contributing, supporting, and descendant. One of our objectives is to use Dr. Frank's works as a basis for documenting the first five generations. Initially, we will help Thomas Gardner descendants document their line as is necessary.

Of interest, too, is resurrecting the Old Planters Society with a special focus on Cape Ann.

Publication

In terms of publication, this is the ninth year of Gardner's Beacon which is our newsletter and which we expect to produce several times a year. The Gardner Annals is our research publication, Volume V of which will publish this year. The first four volumes of the TGA are in print mode with the first eight volumes of Gardner's Beacon included.



For more information, visit our main portal:

<https://tgsoc.org/>



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