



Gardner's Beacon™

CAPE ANN AND SALEM PLANTER



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A trying year is drawing to its close. We anticipate that the coming year will bring happier moments. We would like to extend our best wishes for a wonderful 2021 and are looking forward to the new year.

As a reminder, Thomas Gardner died on December 29th of 1674. We would like to get a reminder set up to be posted at several places on the internet on this day in the future, such as the Salem paper. We have done this manually a few times.

Internet presence

One change seen this year was the use of the internet as an integral part of daily life. Not only did people use the web for purchasing in a safe manner from the isolation of their home we saw businesses allow remote working which has been a topic of discussion and study for several decades; we saw students using the web to attend classes and to access educational material; we saw groups, such as families and friends, meet on-line using apps that were a mere second thought a few years ago; we saw lots of innovative use of the web.

Last year, at this time, the topics of interest dealt with presence, reputation, and using such for influence. One might say, that the past few years accelerated what became possible about one decade ago. There is a lot to discuss on these topics. What we saw in 2020 resulted in sufficient changes to invoke the proper analysis. The main threads driving the internet dynamics were largely commerce with information taking a back seat. Or, so it seemed. But we now have seen reactions to misinformation, and at times disinformation, that has become so prevalent on the internet.



Too, the internet has gotten huge and complicated, operating in modes that are more out of control than in. In fact, one might say that the motto which is most applicable to the web and its way is “move fast and break things” (paraphrase), and one might add that from most angles that is a very immature attitude. Civilization and its culture have not advanced without maturity going along with progressive ideas and their workings.

Our portal

Our little effort at the portal has taken place in parallel with the evolution of the cloud; one can look at the cloud

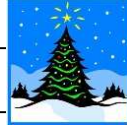
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and the incremental steps along the various paths and note that each choice along the way led to less security and more ways for mischief. Essentially, ethics flew out of the cloud long ago. For purposes of discussion about motivation and operational alternatives, please consider that we are attempting to demonstrate a ‘portal to truth’.

As we look at the consequences of how things progressed, minds would like to consider the ‘what ifs’ that never got attention, such as ethics. On the horizon is even more complexity such that we see another bifurcation forming: those who embrace the coming chaos; those who see that it’s not too late for improving the matters. The former might argue that we have dealt with uncertainty always and that it’s only a matter of scale and degree. True enough. On the other hand, it is obvious that the benefits accrue mostly to only a few, whose characteristics we could most likely itemize. The latter? Unfortunately, technology left several considerations behind at the station. The past two decades has been full of examples of this oversight. In terms of technology, one huge item on the horizon, according to the latest hype, is AI with potentially very large negative repercussions pending. It is recognition of the pitfalls that motivates concern for AI and Ethics. We have touched on that only a little, however a focus of substance for our work would include the interplay of society and advanced technology from the whole spectrum of the relationship.

Along with the evolution of the web (toward the cloud) has been growth in ability, such as we see with the explosion of attention on and use of apps. Some of these relate to what is known as web development. Looking closely at the ways that things have changed with regard to web’ing brings out several interesting factors that need some scrutiny.

At the same time, there have been many efforts at not falling into the huge cloud trap so as to suggest simpler means. This has been the mode of our development which involves decisions that lean to the simpler. Our portal has been handcrafted, curated and maintained using mainly ‘open’ tools. There are goals to which we are working.



Descendants of Thomas and Margaret

We are continuing our efforts to fill in the tree using WikiTree and focusing on the children, all of them had children except for Joseph. Our blog has a post for each child with a sampling of their descendants plus a link to the posts of all of the other siblings. For these descendants, there is access to additional information via links.

Thomas – Charles Sanders Peirce was a mathematician whose work is being (ought to be) discovered by computer scientist in the context of AI. He was known as the ‘father of pragmatism’ and made contributions to logic and philosophy.

George -- John Forbes Kerry who was a 2004 U.S. Presidential candidate. He served three terms as Senator from Massachusetts. John was awarded the Silver and Bronze Stars during his service in Vietnam.

Richard – George Pollard was the Captain of the Essex that was sunk by an irate whale. He inspired the character of Captain Ahab in Melville’s *Moby-Dick*.

John – Chase A. Clark was the 18th Governor of Idaho. Like John Adams, Chase ‘read law’ in order to become a lawyer. He served in the U.S. Army in WWI.

Sarah – Charles G. Dawes was the 30th Vice President of the U.S. His father was a General in the American Civil War. He had an uncle who served under General Grant.

Samuel – Richard Crowninshield Derby was killed at the Battle of Antietam on 17 Sep 1862. He was in Minnesota and Wisconsin prior to returning to Massachusetts to serve in the Fourth Battalion Rifles of Boston.

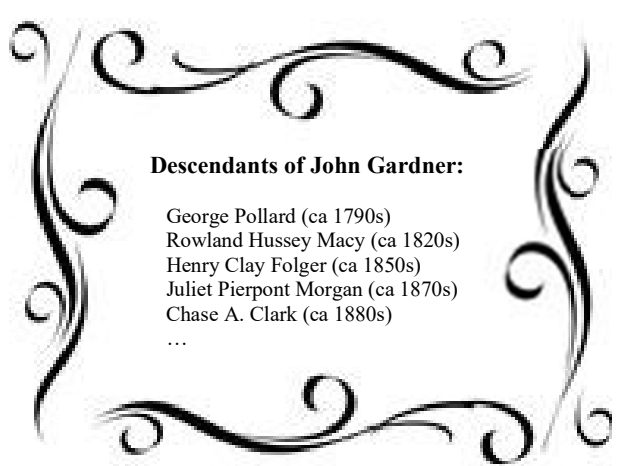
Miriam -- Rowland Hussey Macy was the founder of the company with his name, known for sponsoring the Thanksgiving Day parade. He opened his first store selling dry goods at the height of the Gold Rush in California.

Seeth – John Albion Andrew was the 25th Governor of Massachusetts. He influenced the creation of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry which was among the first of African-American units of the U.S. Army.

Tip jar

We have added a payment link to allow easy submission of a contribution.

John Gardner (ca 1600s): He was born after Richard, but we do not know if it was in England or at Cape Ann. As a young man, John supported the crew sent by John Winthrop to map the Merrimack. No doubt, being young and capable, John provided the muscle as the crew went upstream from Massachusetts. Later, John did other surveys. John’s daughter, Mary, married Jethro Coffin. Old man Folger suggested that this merging of families quieted some of the early controversy about ownership rights. John and Richard went to see Governor Lovelace in New York and got permission to use Sherborne as a name in Nantucket. This caused some reaction on the island, however the request was motivated by John having heard his father mention the area as where they lived in Dorset, England. We made use of that bit of information in identifying the marriage of Thomas and Margaret. Folger also mentioned that the Gardners had a good reputation and were educated (due to their parents).



Descendants of John Gardner:

- George Pollard (ca 1790s)
- Rowland Hussey Macy (ca 1820s)
- Henry Clay Folger (ca 1850s)
- Juliet Pierpont Morgan (ca 1870s)
- Chase A. Clark (ca 1880s)
- ...



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We invite contributions of articles.
Contact: algswtlk@TGSoc.org