



# Gardner's Beacon

CAPE ANN AND SALEM PLANTER



Thomas Gardner Society

Founded 2010

Volume III -- Issue 2 -- July 2013

The whole framework for what became the Great Migration to New England has many facets; but, a common theme, that seems to be a natural trait of humans, relates to what might be called: "the spirit of independence." Many have stressed religious freedom as the major theme. This might be true for some; but, religion was not a primal focus for all nor was the religious motivation somehow superior. Other reasons for migration would have been economic concerns, looking for a new life, escaping the political turmoil, and a large number of other factors. All of these we still seem to be working out as a country and people.

What the early arrivers did do was to help provide the means for us to work things out. Those means will be a subject of study; looking at Thomas' life and times will allow us such study.

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The world looks to be as uncertain now as it was in the time of Thomas and Margaret. Perhaps, it is even more uncertain since technology multiplies problems to a very large extent. And, changes in the worldviews, especially in terms of the computational influence on such, continue to have a strong influence. One would hope that juxtapositions of then and now would provide means for furthering insightful lives. Can we learn from the lives of those long-ago ancestors about independence and the means to obtain such?

Independence? For now, we will only mention that on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, of each year, we celebrate the American experience. The New England of Thomas and Margaret figures heavily in the events leading up to 1776. However, the types of freedom sought, and found, differ quite a bit in ways that are still largely unsettled

Means? Using the focus of Thomas and Margaret can allow a new look at the issues. For one thing, having minimal information about the pair, might allow greater latitude in considering their lives. They were here and existed; this is evidenced by the progeny's continuing contributions. The roles of Thomas and Margaret can be ascertained indirectly by looking at the times.

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Given that there was less oversight by England in the early years, those who came here lived, worked, and organized in a manner such as had not happened before on such a scale.

The newsletter is sponsored by the Thomas Gardner Society ([ThomasGardnerSociety.org](http://ThomasGardnerSociety.org)).

Granted, there were tyrants and serfs (what else do you call an indentured servant?), but for the most part things were peaceful amongst the settlers, ignoring, for the time being, conflicts with those already established here.

So, a relook at history from the perspective of the Gardners seems to be in order. Continuing the theme of the past couple of issues of Gardner's Beacon, we will gather information in an Annals format. In this issue, we're starting to look at changes in England and their impact on the colonies. We know of the troubles in the Mother Country; and, despite the relatively slow means for communication, these troubles would have influenced the lives of those here. Of interest will be looking at how quarterly meetings handled instructions (et al) from those who were in control in England.

### *Thomas and Margaret (Annals)*

**1558 --**

Start of the reign of *Elizabeth I* (1558-1603).

**1588 --**

Elizabeth led a procession to St. Paul in thanksgiving for the troubles experienced by the Spanish Armada. Exploration gets more attention.

**1592 --**

Thomas Gardner born.

**1603 --**

Start of the reign of *James VI & I* (1603-1625).

**1623/24 --**

Cape Ann effort by Dorchester Company, Thomas Gardner, Overseer.

**1625 --**

Start of the reign of *Charles I* (1625-1649).

**1628 --**

Higginson writes well of Naumkeag but argues that the ills of the Cape Ann team was due to their not being religious enough.



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### 1632 --

Oliver Cromwell prevented from coming here. A wet and cold summer resulted in a reduced corn harvest.

### 1635 --

Thomas Gardner, born 1565, died in Salem (some have claimed him to be the father-in-law of Margaret).

### 1638 --

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, there was a severe earthquake; objects were thrown around. Aftershocks continued for 20 days.

### 1645 --

Archbishop William Laud, the plague of the Puritans, was executed.

### 1649 --

Start of *Oliver Cromwell's* and subsequent terms.

### 1660 --

Start of the reign of *Charles II* (1660-1685).

### 1662 --

Henry Vane, who had served one term as Governor of Mass Bay and was a supporter of Mrs. Hutchinson, was beheaded by on order of Charles II.

**The story of two cousins:** Adolphus Washington Greely was born in Newburyport, MA in March of 1844. He was a descendant of John and Sarah (Gardner) Balch. Greely joined the US Army and was a Major by the end of the Civil War. In 1881, Greely was given command of the Lady Franklin Bay Expedition (more on this below). Greely retired as Major General in 1908.

George William Coffin was born on Nantucket Island is December of 1845. He was a descendant of Richard and Sarah (Shattuck) Gardner. Coffin graduated from the Naval Academy in 1863 and served in the US Navy during the Civil War. Coffin rose to the rank of Captain in a career of continual sea duty. He died in Yokohama, JP in June of 1899.

In 1881, Greely, then a Lt, led an expedition under the auspices of the Signal Corps to the polar region. The team overwintered near Lady Franklin Bay. In 1882 and 1883, there were provisioning problems which left the team stranded. In 1884, the Navy Department asked for volunteers for a relief effort. Prior attempts had failed. Coffin was placed in command of Alert which was a vessel loaned to the US by Queen Victoria. The relief party had to travel through 1,400 miles of ice before getting to Greely's party.

### 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)
- ...



### Gardner's Beacon, Issues

No.	Issue date	Title/topic
1	Spring, 2011	Thomas and Margaret Gardner
2	Summer, 2011	Gardner Patriots
3	Fall, 2011	Margaret's House
4	Halloween, 2011	Gardners & 1692
5	Winter, 2011	New England Christmas
1	February, 2012	St. Valentine's Day
2	Spring, 2012	Gardners and the sea
3	Summer, 2012	War of 1812
4	September, 2012	Houses
5	Halloween, 2012	1692, again
6	Winter, 2012	Celebrations, Annals
1	March, 2013	Before the Arrival
2	June, 2013	Spirit of independence

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

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We are inviting contributions of articles in regard to the Thomas Gardner families.

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