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THOMAS GARDNER

Innkeeper, Salem, Massachusetts, 1662

THOMAS GARDNER was born about 1592 in England and died at Salem, Massachusetts on December 29, 1674. At his death he was a large land-holder. He appears to have married three times. His probable first wife's name is unknown, but he would have married her in or very near the year 1614, and she appears to have been the mother of his nine children. On the death of his first wife, presumably about 1636, he married, probably second, Margaret _____. She joined the Salem church on March 24, 1639/40. His last wife, presumably his third, was the widow Damaris Shattuck who joined the Salem church on July 2, 1641. Damaris died at Salem on November 28, 1674, only one month before her husband.¹

Thomas Gardner arrived at Cape Ann, Massachusetts (see map inset²) in the spring of 1624 with his wife and three sons on the *Zouch Phenix*. At Cape Ann he served as Overseer of the plantation. The Gardners' fourth child was born at Cape Ann before the Dorchester Company granted permission to move the colony in 1626 to the mouth of the Naumkeag River at what is now Salem.

Recorded in the Salem Town Records of 1635, Thomas Gardner signed his name to three land grants and his signature appears in petitions and estate inventories many times. He joined the Salem church in 1636, was made a freeman on May 17, 1637 and became a representative the same year. He was Deputy to the General Court from Salem and also served as a selectman, constable, fence-viewer, rater, overseer, and sat as a juror on many occasions.

Thomas was repeatedly licensed during the 1660s to retail strong drink: "On the 25th 9 mo 1662 [November 25], Mr. Thomas Gardner have liberty to sell at retaile what strong waters he hath in his



NEW ENGLAND COASTLINE
Locations of: Merrimac River
Cape Ann
Salem (Naumkeag)

¹ The proposal of three wives for Thomas Gardner seems first advanced by Robert Charles Anderson in *The Great Migration Begins...*, vol. 2, p. 733, *et seq.*, wherein he explains his reasons. He dismisses the identity of Thomas's second wife as Margaret Friar, citing a discussion appearing in *The American Genealogist* 30:156, *which see*.

² From William E. Gardner, *The Triumphant Captain John and Gardners and Gardiners* (Nantucket, MA: Whaling Museum Publications, 1958), p. 6.

hands...” In the following year, 24th 09th mo 1663 [November 24], he was given a license to sell “one barrel of strong waters retale...” In June 1667 the license was amended to allow him to sell only to ‘strangers’ and not to townsmen.

The children of Thomas Gardner are:

- Thomas b. [say] 1614; m. (1st) by 1643 to _____ Hapscott [?]; m. (2nd) Elizabeth Horne, dau. of John Horne.
- George b. [say] 1616; m. (1st) Hannah _____; m. (2nd) by 1654 to Elizabeth (Freestone) Turner (bapt. 17 Oct 1619, Horncastle, Lincs., Eng.), wid. of Robert Turner, and dau. of Richard and Margery (Freestone) Freestone; m. (3rd) aft. 1663 Elizabeth (Allen) Stone, wid. of Rev. Samuel Stone.
- John b. c. 1624; d. 6 Jul 1706 at Nantucket, MA; m. 20 Feb 1658/4, prob. at Salem, MA, to Priscilla Grafton.
- Sarah b. c. 1627; m. c. 1650 as his 1st wife to Benjamin Balch, son of John Balch.
- Samuel b. c. 1629; m. (1st) Mary White, dau. of John and Elizabeth (Herbert) White; m. (2nd) 2 Aug 1680 at Salem, MA to the wid. Elizabeth Paine.
- Joseph b. c. 1630; m., as her 1st husb., to Ann Downing, dau. of Emanuel Downing; she m. (2nd) 6 Jun 1676 to Simon Bradstreet.
- Richard b. c. 1632; d. 1724 at Nantucket, MA; m. c. 1652 to Sarah Shattuck, his step-sister.
- Miriam b. c. 1635; m. by 1657, as his 1st wife, to John Hill, he m. (2nd) 26 Aug 1664 at Salem, MA to Lydia Buffum.
- Seeth bapt. 25 Dec 1636 at Salem, MA; m. (1st) Joshua Conant, son of Roger Conant, and brother of EXERCISE CONANT, whose biographical sketch appears elsewhere in this volume; m. (2nd) 1 Dec 1659 to John Grafton, son of Joseph Grafton.

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- James Savage, *A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England* (4 vols., Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co. 1986), vol. 2, p. 230.

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