

**HISTORY OF GARDNER,  
MASSACHUSETTS:  
FROM ITS EARLIEST  
SETTLEMENT TO 1860**

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History of Gardner, Massachusetts: From Its Earliest Settlement to 1860 by Lewis Glazier

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**LEWIS GLAZIER**

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1860.

## TO THE READER.

This work was left unfinished by the author at the time of his death; he had collected together most of the scattered materials of which it is composed, leaving it in a form, that little else was to be done but to prepare it for the press.

In putting this work together, I may fail to mention some things that ought to be recorded, for want of information. I have taken considerable pains to learn what I could with regard to the Town since its formation as such, to the present time.

A very interesting part of the history of some towns will be lost sight of here; I refer to those places that were once settled by the Indians; some of them were one hundred and forty years previous to the incorporation of this town.

To you who have given your patronage by kindly furnishing us with statistical and other facts, with regard to the ecclesiastical, the manufacturing, the mechanical, and other interests of the people here, I would return my sincere thanks.

M. K. G.

## INTRODUCTION.

I am aware that it would seem to be the very height of presumption for a man at the age of eighty-six, to attempt to write a book. My object in the first place was merely to note down some facts with regard to the early history of Gardner, recorded only in the memory of a few of the oldest inhabitants of the Town. The pleasure experienced in this employment was such as to lead me to extend it to the present time.

Some may object to the minuteness of detail, and familiarity of scene indulged by the author. Every writer has his own way of stating things; his peculiar mode of address; his individual style of writing. Then too, the tastes of readers differ widely; what is dull to one may be interesting to another; facts may be recorded that will afford interest in reading to those who may recollect the circumstances in connection, that would appear dry or insipid to one of the present generation. I am aware that it will be remarked, (and with truth too,) that "I could have written a better history myself, or at least a more interesting one." We do not make special claims



to erudition, or a style of writing which shall attract for its novelty. I doubt not your friend could have done better in the meridian of life.

I would cherish the hope therefore, that this little volume may find readers whose charity will induce them to deal gently with the infirmities of age. In writing this history we shall endeavor to avoid all prejudice or partiality, and hope it may meet with a kind reception from an indulgent public.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	Page
Incorporation of the Town, .. .. .	9
Situation and Extent, .. .. .	10
Family History, .. .. .	14
Town History, .. .. .	57
Notice of Daniel Shays, .. .. .	86
Power and Duty of the Overseers of the Poor, .. .. .	94
Power and Duty of the Master of the Work-house, .. .. .	96
Duty of the Inmates, .. .. .	96
List of Town Officers, .. .. .	96
Valuation, &c., .. .. .	110
Amount of Money raised in 1858, exclusive of Highway Tax, .. .. .	110
List of Persons paying Twenty Dollars and upwards, .. .. .	110
Roads, .. .. .	114
Military, .. .. .	116
Fire Department, .. .. .	116
Music, .. .. .	118
Fires and Injuries by Lightning, .. .. .	119
Hail Storm, .. .. .	122
Casualties, .. .. .	122
Cemeteries, .. .. .	127
Justices of the Peace, .. .. .	129
Medical Practitioners, .. .. .	129
Schools, .. .. .	131
Business, .. .. .	133
Libraries, .. .. .	137
Ecclesiastical History, .. .. .	137

## HISTORY OF GARDNER.

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### INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN.

In the month of May, 1785, Mr. John Glazier, of Westminster, drew a petition to which he obtained about thirty signatures, and presented it to the Massachusetts Legislature, praying that honorable body to set off from the north-westerly part of Westminster, the west part of Ashburnham, the south portion of Winchendon, and the east part of Templeton, all in the County of Worcester, land enough for a Town. And in duty bound will your petitioners ever pray. Accordingly the Legislature granted their request and incorporated a Town by the name of Gardner, in honor of Col. THOMAS GARDNER, a noble patriot, who fell in battle fighting for the liberty of his country.

Gardner was incorporated June 15th, 1785. The number of inhabitants then in town were about three hundred and seventy-five, and sixty