



Theopholis Gardner

Research Report

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Research Objectives

1. Determine parents of Theophilus Gardner as well as his birth and marriage dates.
2. Secondary: Find same information for his wife, Hannah Smith.
3. Secondary: Revolutionary War service evidence for Peter Smith, father Hannah Smith, Monmouth Co.

Starting Point

Following data provided by client:

- Theophilus Gardner, born about 1800.
- Lived in Harmony Township, Warren County, New Jersey, 1830 U.S. Census.
- Probably died Harmony Township, 1831 (family Bible).
- Theophilus married Hannah Smith, born 1792 (family Bible); her father was Peter Smith; her mother was Hannah Yerkes. Theophilus and Hannah had children:
 - William Brittain Gardner, b. c. 1819 Harmony Twp.; resided Almond, New York, in 1870.
 - Sarah Jane Gardner, b. 1820, Warren County; married John Taylor.
 - Asa Loder Gardner, b. Harmony Twp. 12 June 1824; d. 6 Aug 1915; m. 8 June 1848 Wilkes Barre, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, Mary Fitzgerald Kutz.
 - Peggy Ann Gardner, b. c. 1820, Warren County; married Theophilus Reese.
- Peter Smith and Hannah Yerkes were from Monmouth County, New Jersey, and had children:
 - Peggy.
 - Hannah, b. c. 1752; m. Theophilus Gardner.
 - Henry.
 - Isaac.
 - Sarah Jane, married Jacob Winters.
- Family tradition notes Peter Smith had brothers Zakarias, Peapack.
- Peter Smith reputedly a Revolutionary War soldier with records in Monmouth County courthouse.
- Family tradition that Hannah Yerkes was Dutch; family had a farm in New Amsterdam and when the British took over the family was displaced and given property in New Jersey.

County Boundary Notes

Records from three counties are relevant to the Research. Warren County, New Jersey, was formed from Sussex County in 1824. The research period spans the creation of Warren County, so both Sussex and Warren records are relevant. Any county-level family records created prior to the formation of Warren County are held by Sussex County.

Within Warren County, Harmony Township, seen in starting point materials, was formed from parts of the townships of Greenwich and Oxford in 1839.¹ Thus, any township references for the Gardner family prior to 1839 will indicate Greenwich or Oxford Townships.

The Barnegat Bay area, seen in deeds cited in this report, was part of Monmouth County during the Revolutionary War era and fell within Ocean County when Ocean was formed.

¹ *Harmony Township One Hundred Twenty-Fifth Anniversary 1839-1964* (Citizens Committee of Harmony Township, 1964), 1.

Approach

Birth and marriage dates for Theophilus will not be found in civil records; the most likely source is church records. Family files at local historical societies may contain family records, such as Bible records.

Within the constraints of the project, the following approach was taken:

- New Jersey
 - Consult New Jersey Calendar of Wills.
 - Consult *Revolutionary Census of New Jersey...*
 - Consult *New Jersey in 1793...*
- Monmouth County
 - Background literature search.
 - Consult church record compilations available at repositories visited.
 - Examine deeds for evidence of a Peter Smith in Sussex County or a deed disposing of land held in the estate of a Peter Smith with wife Hannah, or daughter married to surname Gardner.
- Sussex County
 - Background literature search.
 - Consult church record compilations available at repositories visited.
 - Consult cemetery record compilations available at repositories visited.
 - Research probate records for Theophilus Gardner, and for possible parents for Theophilus; also look for probate of Peter Smith having wife Hannah or daughter Hannah.
 - Research Deeds for transactions of Theophilus Gardner & Peter Smith.
 - Examine family files and compiled genealogies held by Sussex Co. Historical Soc.
- Warren County
 - Background literature search
 - Consult church record compilations available at repositories visited.
 - Consult cemetery record compilations available at repositories visited.
 - Research probate records for probate of possible parents of Theophilus Gardner; also for probate of Peter Smith having wife Hanah or daughter Hannah.
 - Research deeds for transactions of Theophilus Gardner; also grantor index for Peter Smith having wife Hannah.
- Military Records for Peter Smith
 - Consult *Roster of Revolutionary People of Monmouth County...*
 - Consult *Official Register of the Officers and Men of New Jersey...*
 - Consult National Archives Revolutionary War Pensions and Bounty Land Warrants.
 - Consult National Archives Revolutionary War Compiled Service Records.
 - Consult *Revolutionary Census of New Jersey...*
 - Consult *New Jersey in 1793...*

Results Summary

This section summarizes results. Later sections discuss the supporting records in detail and provide citations to the records.

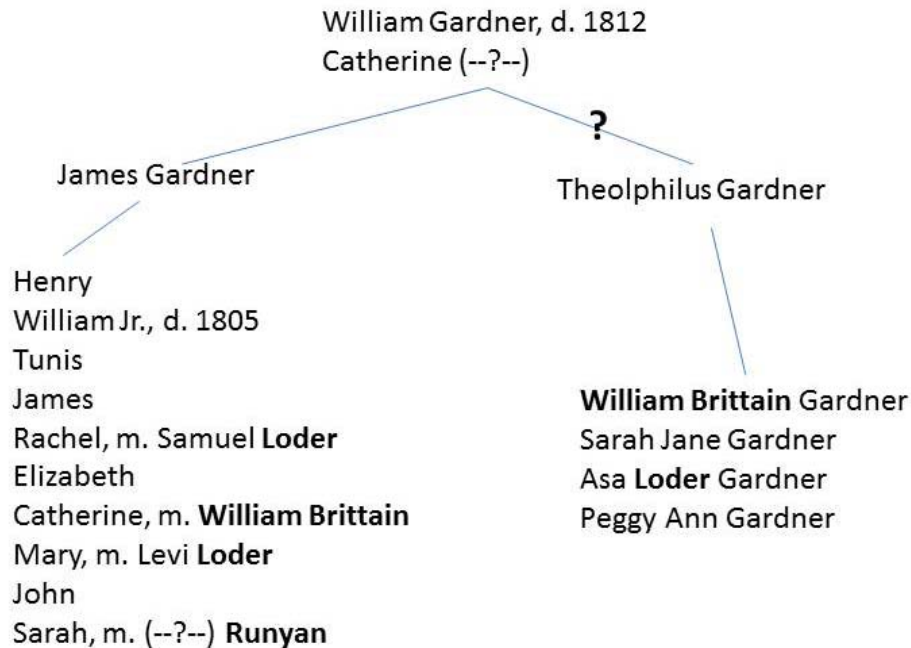
Gardner Results Summary

No evidence was found for baptism or marriage of Theophilus Gardner.

Warren County does not hold probate records for Theophilus Gardner.

Sussex County deed records show that Theophilus Gardner sold two tracts of land, one in 1817 and the other in 1820. His acquisition of both tracts is seen in recorded deeds; there are no entries in the Grantee (buyer) index that suggest he owned any other land. Were it not for the 1830 census, one might surmise from the land sales and lack of probate that he left Warren County.

One land sale, from the heirs of James Gardner to James Miller, contains names that are suggestive of names seen in starting point materials for the Theophilus Gardner family. The names suggest some association. Was William Brittain the namesake for William Brittain Gardner? Could either Levi or Samuel Loder have been the inspiration for Loder as the middle name for Asa Loder Gardner? The deed further indicates that James' daughter Sarah married a man named Runyan. Theophilus Gardner sold land to a Ralph Runyan. Taken together, evidence suggests the following hypothesis for the structure of the family:



Sussex and Warren County records indicate a number of individuals of interest with the Gardner surname residing in those places. A consolidated list drawn from the detailed findings appears in ***Data and Family Summaries: Gardner***, page 20.

Smith Results Summary

Records show that a Peter Smith, living 1802 in Sussex County, had land dealings in Monmouth County. At his death, he left widow Sarah, and children Amy, George, Allen, Peter, Mary, and James.

Records from Monmouth, Sussex, and Warren Counties indicate a number of individuals named Peter and Hannah Smith residing in those places. A consolidated list drawn from the detailed findings appears in ***Data and Family Summaries: Peter Smith***, page 19.

The church records examined for Monmouth, Sussex, and Warren counties did not provide a baptism record for a Hannah, daughter of Peter Smith, or for a Hannah Smith/Theophilus Gardner marriage.

Neither Warren County nor Sussex County probate records show a Peter Smith with daughter Hannah Smith. There is a Warren County will for a Peter Smith with wife Hannah, proved in 1860, that names children (no child Hannah).

Both Peter Smith and Hannah Smith are seen in gravestone transcriptions:

- unspecified cemetery(ies) in Newton, Sussex
Peter Smith, d. 21 Feb 1834
Hannah Smith, d. 7 May 1822
- Belvidere Cemetery, Warren
Peter Smith d. 11 Oct 1861, 80 years
Hannah Smith, d. 28 Dec 1845, age 72

Probate – NJ Archives Holdings

For the period during which Peter Smith and the father of Theophilus Garder lkely died, all New Jersey Counties sent wills and inventories to the New Jersey State Archives; other original probate items remain with the county Surrogate. The New Jersey Index of Wills (archives holdings) shows the following:²

- Sussex County
 - Christopher Gardner, inventory 1805.
 - Richard Gardiner, will 1768 [Exhibit 1A].
 - William Gardner Jr., will 1805 [Exhibit 1B].
 - William Gardner, inventory 1812.
 - Peter Smith, will 1796 [Exhibit 1C].
 - Peter Smith, will 1802 [Exhibit 1D].
 - Peter Smith, inventory 1814.
 - Peter Smith, will 1877.
- Warren County
 - Hannah Gardner, inventory 1832
 - Hannah Gardner, inventory 1838.
 - Peter Smith, will 1860.
 - Peter S. Smith, will 1869.
 - Peter Smith, will 1877.
 - Peter V. Smith, will 1897.
- Monmouth County
 - Peter W. Smith, inventory 1878.

None of the above records suggest any direct connection to the subject family. The William Gardner Jr. will, proved 1805, is further discussed in **Sussex County Probate**, page 6.

Monmouth County

Monmouth County records were examined for:

- possible birth/baptism for Peter Smith or Hannah, daughter of Peter Smith;
- deeds disposing of Peter Smith property that indicate a connection to Sussex County;
- deeds disposing of Peter Smith property that show a wife Hannah or daughter Hannah (the latter would be the case in an estate deed naming heirs that disposed of property after Peter's death);
- military records naming a Peter Smith (discussed later in **Military**, page 11).

² Exhibit 1. *State of New Jersey Index of Wills, Inventories, Etc. in the Office of the Secretary of State Prior to 1901*, 3 volumes (1912; reprint, Baltimore: Clearfield Company, 1994), III:1309, 1333,1392, 1409; II:991.