



# Worcester Registry of Deeds

## Newsletter

December 2022 ~ Issue #16 ~ Town of Gardner



Kathryn Toomey  
Register of Deeds

Welcome to our Newsletter.

We spotlight one community per month in our district of Worcester County.

This month it is Gardner, MA.

The Town was named for Colonel Thomas Gardner, who was fatally wounded in the battle of Bunker Hill. Seth Heywood, one of the signers of the petition, fought alongside Col. Gardner at Bunker Hill. Gardner was officially incorporated as a town in 1785, after receiving land grants from the surrounding towns of Ashburnham, Templeton, Westminster, and Winchendon. In circa 1805, Gardner became a center for lumber

and furniture industries, and is now known as "The Chair City" and "The Furniture Capital of New England", due to its long history of production in that industry. Gardner is the birthplace of the Heywood-Wakefield Company.

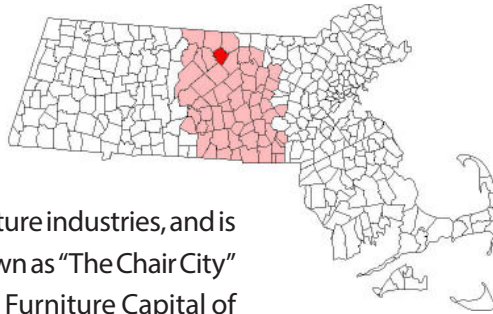
Dating from 1826 when the five Heywood brothers, Walter, Levi, Seth, Benjamin, and William, began to fashion wooden

chairs and furniture in a barn near their family farm.

In the early years, Walter fashioned chairs by hand, also using a foot lathe. He was soon joined by Levi and Benjamin on a part-time basis, while running a nearby country store. In 1831, Levi moved to Boston, where he established an outlet store to sell the chairs, while Benjamin and William remained in Gardner to manufacture them. A fire destroyed their chair shop in 1834. A year later, the partnership of B. F. Heywood and Company was formed, composed of Benjamin, Walter, and William, as well as Moses Wood and James Gates.

### What's Inside?

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### Community Statistics

41

Number of Recordings in November 2022

\$321K

Median Home Value

56%

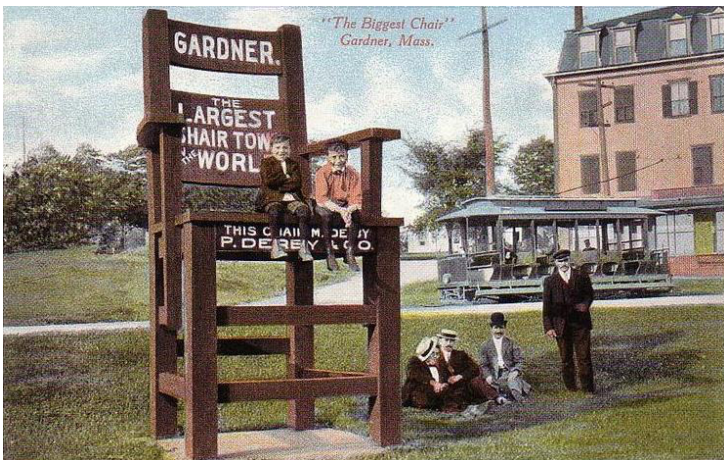
Homes Owned vs. Rented

9,411

Total Housing Units

424

Density (Houses per Square Mile)





# Town Spotlight

## Gardner

### Edward G. Watkins

One of the earliest information technology devices in the workplace was the time clock, which recorded the comings and going of workers with an accuracy not previously possible. Edward

G. Watkins invented and patented one of the first practical time clocks while he was in charge of the engineering department of Hey-wood

Brothers & Wakefield Co. in Gardner, MA, a maker of chairs and school furniture. Watkins started a company to make the clocks, which eventually became the Simplex Time Recorder Co.

Another one of the city's former manufacturing enter-

prises that is preserved by the Gardner Muse-um is silver smithing. In 1887 Frank W. Smith began manufacturing silverware in Gardner and within a few years the Frank W. Smith

Silver Company had one of the finest equipped factories in the country for the manufacture of high grade sterling silverware, both by machine

and by hand.

The company continued operations until 1958.

During the course of its history the company's silver services became the possession of notable individuals such as Princess Grace of Monaco and Queen

Elizabeth of England. Also, Smith silver groupings were purchased, on occasion, for United States naval vessels, gifts from the states or communities for which they were named.

One of the superintendents and designers for the Smith Silver Company was Arthur J. Stone who was hired in 1887. In 1901 Stone started his own silver shop in Gardner which at one point would employ twelve apprentices and craftsmen. That same year he joined the Arts and Crafts Society of Boston. At a time when manufactured silver was reflecting the ornate designs of the Victorian Age, this organization advocated a return to simpler forms. Arthur Stone remained in business for thirty-six years, during which time he became known as "The Dean of American Silversmiths." His works included hand wrought silver products such as toys, bowls, tro-



phies, tankards, tea sets, table silver in all forms, altar sets for churches and often ecclesiastical pieces. A gold monstrance for the Church of the Advent in Boston is a fine example of this craftsmanship. Today, beyond private ownership, Arthur Stone's workmanship can be found in New York City's Metropolitan Museum and the Worcester Museum of Fine Arts among many public institutions.

After 36 years the shop was purchased by Henry E. Heywood who called the company Stone Associates and continued with the same craftsmen until 1957 when the shop closed.



# Family Fun Events • December 3-17

## Joy of Music DROP-IN DECEMBER

JOMP understands that the first steps in music are a big decision for families. That's why we created DROP-IN DECEMBER. The first 3 Saturdays in December, families are invited to experience classes with their little ones. Pick the Saturday that is the best fit for you. We'll do the rest!

1 Gorham St Worcester, MA 01605

(508) 856-9541

[www.jomp.org/events/drop-december](http://www.jomp.org/events/drop-december)



## In the Meadow Farm Holiday Open House

This is free but we will be taking donations to benefit the Lunenburg Lions Food Pantry.



## Deeds: Past, Present and Future

Come Join us at the Gardner Senior Center.

Monday Dec. 12, 2022 1:30 - 3:00pm

Kathryn A. Toomey and Stephanie Fattman will be speaking about the nuts and bolts on how the Registry of Deeds and the Probate Court work together for the residents of Massachusetts.

Join us in a dialogue about land ownership and how probate issues can legally affect what happens to your property.

## Consumer Notification Service

### Get notified when documents are recorded.

This service alerts you by email whenever a new document is recorded for your property. If you made this change, you don't need to do anything. If you did not, you should contact your local Registry of Deeds office.

### Who can set up an account?

This service is provided at no cost to Massachusetts residential property owners. You can set up an account and register up to 3 properties. This service is not available for commercial properties. Create a new account by visiting the link below.

[cns.masslandrecords.com](http://cns.masslandrecords.com)

## HOLIDAY WORD SEARCH

C A R G U L U O S D S B Y V  
 G H N I Q G R T T D T M T R  
 F K R G N N U G H B K K Z W  
 K U J I A B M Z G M U N O S  
 Q T T M S O R C I S X N W T  
 Q J E N R T Z G L N S E U A  
 J N F F E V M U M O X O P R  
 T M Z J A S T A V W F Y Z M  
 K V Y Q B B E C S F A M D B  
 R E E D N I E R W L B O P X  
 G I F T D V S T P A G J L A  
 A G O M K W O G R K E V C R  
 C R E Y U F U O X E M M F G  
 R G A O J Y W M B P E A Y Z

Christmas  
 Snow  
 Snowflake  
 Present  
 Ornament  
 Gift  
 Tree  
 Star  
 Lights  
 Reindeer



## *Peanut Butter Blossoms*

### Ingredients:

½ cup salted butter, softened  
 ½ cup granulated sugar + ¼ cup for rolling  
 ½ cup light brown sugar, firmly packed  
 ½ cup creamy peanut butter  
 1 large egg  
 2 tablespoons milk  
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
 1 ¾ cups all-purpose flour  
 1 teaspoon baking soda  
 ½ teaspoon salt  
 36 unwrapped Kisses

### Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 375 F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Unwrap kisses and set aside.
2. Combine butter, 1/2 cup sugar, brown sugar, peanut butter, egg, milk, vanilla extract, flour, baking soda, salt in a large bowl. Mix with mixer but do not over mix.
3. Scoop out small, tablespoon size amounts of dough and roll each ball in extra sugar. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes.
4. Immediately after removing from the oven, gently press the unwrapped kiss in the center of each cookie. Let cool.