

# Gardner Newsletter

Winter 2023

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## After More than 22 Years, Jean Gonzalo's "High Altitude Diaries" gets an Update

(A new Gardner Newsletter Serial)

If you've ever visited [www.gardnernews.org](http://www.gardnernews.org), you might have noticed in the index near the bottom of the page the links entitled "Week One," "Week Two," "Week Three," "Week Four," and "Week Five." Perhaps you wondered just what those "weeks" refer to.

Well, way back in June of 2000, right when the world had just survived Y2K, Jean and Miguel Gonzalo went to Spain to visit his family and friends. Jean decided to keep a day-by-day diary of the visit and the whole thing was posted to the *Gardner News* website. Hopefully, many of our readers and subscribers have logged onto those pages and have read Jean's account of that trip.

Fast forward to September 2022 where, after an easement of COVID-19 restrictions, Jean and Miguel went yet again to visit Spain and to spend time in their newly built home located in Posada de Valdeon. In a previous issue of the newsletter, Jean and Miguel extended an open invitation for everyone to visit them in the beautiful Valdeon Valley.

So far, Cousin Ruth Anne Metcalf and Second Cousin Megan Ludgate have availed themselves of that offer and have returned with wonderful memories of their vacation time traveling through "Los

Picos de Europa."

This article will be our second *Gardner Newsletter* serial entry. The first one was Uncle Clayton Gardner's series of articles entitled "Cars I have Owned" which spanned several issues. In this first installment, we will publish Jean's and Miguel's narrative of their first week in Spain over 22 years after their documented visit in the Year 2000. We'll publish later weeks in subsequent issues of the newsletter. Let us know how you like them.



**Tuesday, September 6, 2022**

Right now, Miguel and I are at LAX airport to board the plane to Spain. We've been waiting to visit Miguel's family and our home there in Posada de Valdeon for three years. Very exciting!

Also, it's exciting to wait for Ruth Anne Metcalf (our cousin) to arrive in Leon (the capital city of this region) on September 14th. We will pick her up and take her to Posada de Valdeon.



**Wednesday, September 7, 2022**

When we arrived in Spain, it was the 7th because Spain is nine hours ahead of California. When we

## 2022 Updates to "The High Altitude Diaries" (continued)

arrived in Posada de Valdeon, Miguel's brother, Fidel, and his wife were waiting in the house to greet us. It was so nice to see them after three years. We unloaded the vehicle of four suitcases



Jean and Miguel at St. Eulalia Church

and went to bed.

**Thursday, September 8, 2022**

Woke up at 8:00 a.m. in time to go



Festive Gonzalo Family Meal

to the town's festival. There was a procession of people from the town's main church down to a smaller church called "La Hermita de Corona." Miguel, Jesus, and I followed in the car where there were more people.

A priest was waiting for everyone

where he held a mass outside of the church. When the ceremony was over, we went to Miguel's and Jesus' niece's house, Maite and her husband Pedro, for a festival dinner. The meal was wonderful - starting with goatcheese, potato croquets - followed by potato salad and green salad. The main course was roasted baby goat, which was very tender and tasty. The end of the meal were two desserts, a cake and a pudding.

Miguel's sister and her family were there, which included four of her children and their spouses and all their children. It was quite a crowd.

At the end of the meal, after a few spirits were drunk, singing commenced with the young and older ones singing songs about the mountains, the Picos de Europa. These mountains are an extension of The Pyrenees.

After dinner we three came home for a short siesta because there was going to be an annual celebration of the town's patron saint, Santa Eulalia. There was music, dancing and imbibing. Miguel and I danced the "Paso Dobles," which is a Spanish waltz.

We stayed about an hour and walked home in the nice cool air. What an eventful day! Will sleep well. As I'm writing this, it's

1:30 a.m.

GOOD NIGHT!

**Friday, September 9, 2022**

Got awakened by a telephone call at 3:00 a.m. Someone forgot the nine hour time difference. Went back to sleep and got up at 8:00 a.m. The three of us (me, Miguel and his brother Jesus) are planning to go to "Guardo" to buy some food because our

cupboards are bare. The round trip is about 12.0 kilometers. We arrived home at 2:30 p.m. and went to "Abascal," a bar/dining restaurant.



Spanish Bagpipes - The "Gaita"

After "la cena" (dinner) Miguel and Jesus took

a siesta while I put all the groceries away. After the siesta, the "boys" went to see a wrestling match put on by these towns in the valley. They really enjoyed it.

I stayed home and put up everything that was in the suitcases. Now, it is 10:00 p.m. and Jesus is cooking dinner.

It is adobo with eggs

(ground up pork with paprika). It is now 11:00 p.m., way past my bedtime. Tomorrow will be another big fiesta day.

**Saturday, September 10, 2022**

Another day of fiesta. We went to the village square where there was singing and "gaita" playing. A gaita is a Spanish bagpipe. Years



Casa Abascal

2022 Updates to "The High Altitude Diaries" *(continued)*

ago, two Celts from Scotland emigrated to Northwest Spain. In this area, gaita playing at festivals is very common.

One of Miguel's good friends from Bakersfield (who was here visiting his family) came to visit Miguel. After the event, we all went to "Abascal" again to eat. When the two-hour meal was over, the men went to watch a game

of "bolos." It's a form of bowling with a wooden ball and wooden pins.

I went home and later Miguel's nephew, Adri-

an, came over and invited me to go with him to see his grandparents who are in their 90's.

Now it is 9:30 p.m. and Miguel and I are going to the town plaza to hear some history about this valley.



**Night Time Celtic Celebration**

### **Sunday, September 11, 2022**

The event last night - beginning at 9:30 p.m. - was phenomenal. It was about the "Celts" who first settled this area. It was a dramatic re-enactment with "fire and death." I didn't quite understand it all, but it was very well presented. We didn't get home until midnight!

### **Monday, September 12, 2022**

Slept in until 9:30 a.m. There is nothing planned for today. It's a beautiful day in a beautiful area. Miguel's brother, Jesus, is still here and he's cooking "la cena" (dinner) for us. He wants me to turn off the stove at noon. He's been such a blessing for us.

Around 10:00 p.m., Miguel and two of his brothers (along with a nephew) came over to watch a tennis match.

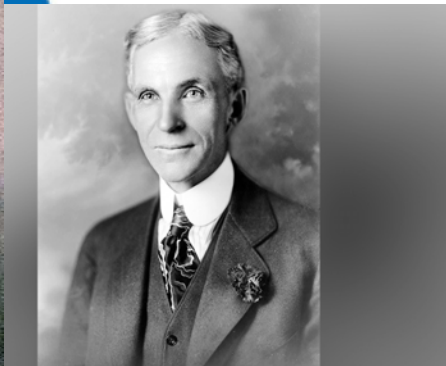
I'm in the back reading my e-book. Getting sleepy.

**STAY TUNED FOR MORE OF JEAN'S UPDATED DIARY IN FUTURE ISSUES!**

## Grandma Gardner and Henry Ford, an Unlikely Duo



Olive Lucy French (Grandma Gardner) matriculating from Normal School, which is now Framingham State College in MA, circa early 1900's



Financial genius and Businessman, Henry Ford

We've learned through prior issues of *Gardner News* and other sources, that Grandma Gardner and the genius businessman, Henry Ford, had strong ties to Sudbury, Massachusetts and the historic Wayside Inn. Grandma Gardner's connection is the Solomon Dutton House located at 182 Dutton Road in Sudbury, MA and Henry Ford is an indelible part of Sudbury's history as the founder of the all-boys school in 1928 located on the Wayside Inn's property.

Lucy Dutton's father was Solomon Dutton, and she was Grandma Gardner's grandmother. Lucy lived with her father and her mother, Beulah Parmenter, in the family home at 181 Dutton Road before Henry Ford bought the property and turned it into the boys' school in 1928. Another tie to the historic inn is that Grandma Gardner's uncle, Horace Seymour, was also a caretaker at the inn for a time.

While most people remember Henry Ford as a titan of industry who brought the automobile to the masses, an elite group think of him as the man whose theories on education changed their

## Gardner Sisters Complete Identical High School Projects



Uncle Adelbert Gardner, one of the four boys of “The Original Gang of Ten,” has several great grandchildren, two of whom are Katelyn and Abby Gardner (pictured here with their mother, Cindy Gardner). Cindy is married to Richard Gardner, Cousin Adele’s son.

Both Katelyn and Abby asked your editor, Paul Gardner, to help them with their “senior project” they needed to complete to graduate from high school. Katelyn’s school project ended up being a presentation of her family tree which can be accessed here by following this link:

<https://www.gardnernews.org/PDFFiles/Katelyn%E2%80%99s%20Family%20Tree%20II.pdf>

About a year or so later, Abby approached Paul for assistance with her senior project for the exact same class. This collaboration produced the following study about the origins of the “Gardner” surname.

“When was the last time someone asked you about your last name? Most people don’t even think about their surname very often. We just take it for granted that our last name “is what it is.” Perhaps we shouldn’t do that. Instead, we ought to take a deep dive into the origins of our last name to unlock the secrets kept there and to demonstrate how the past can actually help shape the person we have become today. This story is about what I

discovered being a “Gardner” truly means.

Of course, “Gardner” is a pretty common last name. In fact, in the United States, the name Gardner is the 164<sup>th</sup> most popular surname with an estimated 141,759 people with that name. Canada, which is forever linked to the United States, has about 9,416 people with that name.

Let’s go way back! Students of history know that the Norman Conquest in the year 1066 is a defining moment in English history. The military conquest of England by William, Duke of Normandy, because of his decisive

victory at the Battle of Hastings (October 14, 1066) brought about the rise of feudalism and other social changes in the British Isles. Gradually the serfs of that time developed last names derived from the common trades of the medieval era and can be traced right into modern times. Even today, there are many occupational suffixes affixed to the end of many English surnames.

It’s obvious now how the

occupation of being a gardener morphed into the surname “Gardner.” Furthermore, the name itself originally derived from the Old French word “gardinier.”

I certainly can’t trace my Gardner lineage back to English medieval times and there was no Gardner signature on the Mayflower Compact when the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock in Massachusetts. My actual “Gardner” story begins with my great great grandfather, William H. Gardner who was born in Nova Scotia Canada in March



## Gardner Sisters Complete Identical High School Projects (continued from Page 4)

1887. His father was George Milton Gardner whose own father, James Gardner, somehow emigrated from England to Canada. All these details are shrouded in mysterious clouds from the past.

What is known is that George Milton Gardner abandoned his Canadian family and my great great grandfather's mother, Amy, migrated to the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont along with her young son, Will, where she married Adelbert Lang ("Bert") a prosperous farmer and landowner in East Charleston, VT.

Will Gardner grew up in East Charleston along with his Lang half-siblings and married Olive Lucy French from Massachusetts in 1912. This union produced 10 children – four boys and six girls. These children (although true Gardners) considered Bert and Amy Lang their grandparents; they did not consider George Milton Gardner their grandfather since he had left the family years ago. One of the four sons of Will and Olive is Adelbert Gardner, my direct great grandfather. Most likely he was named after Adelbert Lang, Will's stepfather.

Much has been said and written about regarding "The Greatest Generation." All four of Will's and Olive's boys served in World War II and the nation owes them a huge debt of gratitude for securing freedom and liberty in Europe and around the

world. There is no better Gardner heritage than that.

As of right now, immigration is a huge polarizing issue in the US. Yet, there are few families who can claim that there are no immigrants in their family trees. My Gardner family journey from England, to Canada, and then to the U.S. is certainly an indicator of that fact.

Here's an interesting anecdote. It's not lost on me that my great great grandparents, Will and Olive Gardner, were born in 1887 and 1886 respectively. That was around the time that France gave the Statue of Liberty as a gift to the United States in order to commemorate each country's successful revolution from tyranny.

Here is the inscription carved on a plaque which adorns Lady Liberty: *'Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door!'*

What better tribute can there be to the Gardner surname then when future Gardner generations welcome freedom loving immigrants to our diverse nation and – who knows – maybe even bestow our beloved "Gardner" name upon some of those lucky individuals. It's possible, right?"



## Grandma Gardner and Henry Ford, an Unlikely Duo *(continued from Page 3)*

lives.

Henry Ford's "boys," as they call themselves, are alumni of the Wayside Inn Boys School, a Sudbury institution founded by Ford in 1928 that was a haven for dozens of boys whose childhood was spent being bounced from one foster home to another until they won a place at the school.

The Sudbury Historical Society program "Henry Ford's Boys School" held a few years ago featured Ford school alumni Carmino "Moose" Longhi of Hudson and Bill Quinn of Marlborough. They described their years at the Sudbury school.

Town historian Curtis Garfield, author with Alison Ridley of *Henry Ford's Boys: The Story of the Wayside Inn Boys School*, introduced the speakers at the program, which was held at the Town Hall.

"Ford had a first-class private boys' school for foster kids. It's like Choate or Philips Academy paying you to go there," said Garfield.

Boys at the school earned tuition and spending money through their work on the estate.

"These kids had to work their way through it, but you look at them now and most of them are retired presidents of businesses or CEOs. They did well."

Ford believed that the boys, all wards of the state due to homes broken up by illness, death or poverty, would benefit from the opportunity to learn by doing -- and get paid for it -- while also studying a traditional academic curriculum.

On March 5, 1928, the school, housed in the Calvin Howe House on Wayside Inn Road, opened its doors to 31 students and six instructors. The first students had all been personally selected by the State Commissioner of Public Welfare and were placed in grades 9-11.

The students formed a type of close-knit family at the year-round school whose curriculum was a unique blend of practical hands-on education and academic rigor. The

students were assigned domestic chores and farm work and learned mechanics and carpentry in addition to the traditional academic subjects. They also participated in sports, extracurricular, and cultural offerings.

Dancing classes held at the Wayside Inn -- a chance to meet local girls albeit under carefully chaperoned conditions -- were a favorite activity.

Their numbers are dwindling now. Some 150 students graduated from the school by the time it closed in 1947, but only a handful of men, now in their 80s and 90s, still attend annual reunions held at the Wayside Inn.



The Historic Wayside Inn, Sudbury, MA

Discipline and hard work were hallmarks of the school, and the students were held to a high standard of behavior. Students had to pass an academic entrance examination and have a personal interview with the headmaster to gain admittance.

"It was a different way of living. You had rules and responsibilities and you had to meet them," said Longhi, then 81, who added that dorm rooms had to be spick-and-span for morning inspection

and everyone had chores to do.

"We had fun, too. We could go uptown on Saturday afternoon provided we didn't break any rules and our chores were done. You had to put on a coat and tie, or you didn't go."

A student could be expelled for an infraction as minor as sneaking a candy bar into his room in defiance of the rules. Some students chafed under the strict rules, but Quinn was among those who thrived.

"Those years were the most wonderful years of my life," said Quinn, who entered the eighth grade at the school in 1932. "Somebody cared about me."

As a ward of the state from the time he was a baby, Quinn was placed in a succession of foster homes where he learned to work hard and keep quiet.

At the Wayside Inn School, Quinn blossomed into a tal-

Grandma Gardner and Henry Ford, an Unlikely Duo *(continued from Page 6)*

ented athlete and student. Dan Blue, an instructor in the Salvage Shop, became Quinn's mentor, teaching him the skills that led to a career as a cabinetmaker in Marlborough where he and his wife Mary raised five children.

Longhi, who was put into foster care at 11, also remembers the friendship and guidance he received from the instructors who lived in the dorms with the students. He maintained a close relationship with Headmaster William Young and his wife Lois, who were at the school from 1932 to 1942, for the rest of their lives.

The schedule was split between academics and practical skills. Students worked on the farm and in the poultry house, in the inn's kitchen, or in the carpentry shop. When the Hurricane of 1938 felled scores of trees on the estate, the students helped build the Martha-Mary Chapel from the lumber.

"When I started there, we had classes in the morning and then chores in the afternoon. Then after a while the schedule would be reversed," said Quinn, who graduated in 1937. "I accepted the militancy of the school. It came in handy when I joined the Army. I took to the military like a duck to water and moved up very rapidly."

Longhi and Quinn both remember

Henry Ford well.

"He was very nice and quiet," said Longhi. "He was always up early in the morning walking through the woods. He'd say, 'Good morning, boys,' and keep on going."

"He wasn't overpowering. He was a down-to-earth gentleman," said Quinn. "He would come and ask me how things were going."

The school produced young men who left the school prepared for life, thoroughly trained in a number of trades, and with a sense of community that made many of them civic leaders.

finance committee, and the Economic Development Commission.

Longhi is sure that none of that would have happened if he had remained in the tough neighborhood in Springfield where he was born.

"If I did not get the chance to go to the Boys School," he said, "I'd have been a bum."

The "Dutton House" is now a stop on the historic Wayside Inn tour. The Boys School Dormitory is comprised of two locations at 181 and 182 Dutton Road. Both houses are private property.

The Solomon Dutton House, originally at 181 Dutton Road (now at 182 Dutton Road) was renovated into a dormitory to allow the expansion of the student body of Henry Ford's school to 50 boys in 1931. Three attached buildings formed the dormitory. In the 1950's the buildings were split into four separate dwellings. 181 Dutton Road had been the center of the dormitory. The Solomon Dutton House, now at 182 Dutton Road, was originally the east wing of the dormitory.



The Dutton House, Sudbury, MA



The Martha-Mary Chapel, Sudbury, MA

"Once you left the school you realized what they did for you," said Quinn. "They prepared you for life."

Longhi moved to Hudson after graduation, where he worked for the LaPointe Machine Co. for 32 years, raised four children with his wife Hazel, and served as a town selectman and member of the personnel board,

SEE YOU IN  
THE SPRING!

Please send in  
your article for  
the upcoming  
issue NOW!

THANK YOU.



**Uncle Raymond Gardner enjoying himself on the farm at his new home in upstate New York.**

Raymond Gardner will turn 97 on March 23, 2023. Let's send him a "Birthday Card Blast" before that date.

Please send your cards to:

Raymond Gardner  
223 Canaan Road  
Brooktondale, NY 14817

## SAVE THE DATE!

The 2023 Gardner Family Reunion will be held on July 8, 2023 from Noon until 5:00 p.m.

Please set aside time NOW so that you can attend.

More information will be provided in the Spring 2023 issue.

