

# TIMESHIP *for kids*

SUMMER 2009

## GARDEN

Have you noticed the beautiful gardens all over town this summer? Since the first people inhabited Cape Ann, gardens have lined our shores.

Blossoming fruit trees, brilliant granite sculptures, flowers and vegetables galore, all can be found in gardens from Essex to Rockport. Gardens are beautiful, bountiful, and as people want to do more to help the environment, gardens are becoming more popular. Even President Barack Obama has recently added a vegetable garden to accompany his Rose Garden at the White House. His wife, First Lady Michelle Obama, along with elementary school students from Washington, D.C. created the first vegetable garden at the White House in 60 years! The Obamas will eat the food grown in their yard as people have done for centuries. As a destination for summer residents, it only seems natural that gardens would be nurtured on Cape Ann.

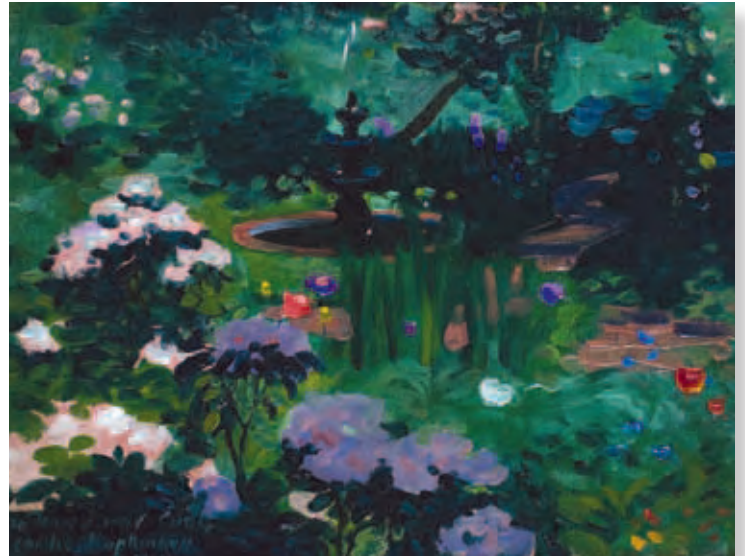
Explore inside this edition of *Timeship* to learn how the first settlers of Cape Ann cultivated their gardens for survival; view the garden of one of Cape Ann's noteworthy citizens who tended a garden for pleasure; meet a Rockport poet who found inspiration in her garden for painting and writing; and finally wind your way along paths and avenues in a graveyard designed as a garden!

### The Gardener (Jane)

I weed my garden every morn  
Till every single weed is gone.  
For when the weeds are gone I know  
The flowers will much prettier grow.  
But many a weed I throw away  
Is just as pretty, I must say.  
And loves the sun and pleasant showers  
As much, I'm sure, as do the flowers.  
So I am sorry when I pull  
The weeds: it seems unmerciful.  
And often, weeding in my garden,  
I say, "Excuse me" and "Beg pardon."

*Jane, Joseph, and John: Their Book of Verses,*  
by Ralph Bergengren.

Ralph was born in Gloucester in 1871. He was an author, poet, and cartoonist for the *Boston Sunday Globe*.



*The Garden or Aunt Bog's Garden*, Charles Hopkinson (1869-1962)  
Manchester resident Charles Hopkinson used this setting for many paintings as early as 1900. His home Sharksmouth was surrounded by gardens and orchards.



Helen Cheves, daughter of quarry photographer Alexander Cheves.  
Collection of the Cape Ann Museum.

# Cape Ann's First Gardens

European explorers were not the first to think Cape Ann was a desirable place to settle. For years, Native Americans spent their summers on Cape Ann. They came here during these months for farming and fishing. They made gardens. In the cold winter they moved further inland to more protected areas.

When French explorer Samuel de Champlain sailed into Gloucester Harbor, he came face to face with these summer residents. On his 1606 voyage he drew a map of what he called Le Beau Port or today's Gloucester Harbor. The Native American homes are dotted throughout the area. On the map you can see their wigwams and fenced in gardens. In Champlain's journal he noted that the Native Americans grew corn, beans, melons, pumpkins, and grapes. More recently, archaeologists discovered that crops of corn, beans, and squash were planted in mounds fertilized by fish. Though the map below is of Gloucester Harbor, it is believed that Native Americans had gardens all over Cape Ann. Old Garden Beach in Rockport is named for the Native American gardens located there.

Samuel de Champlain gave Freshwater Cove in Gloucester its name when he stopped there to replenish his water supplies. Early settlers to the area arrived close to where Stage Fort Park is today. These English immigrants were determined to survive in this world that was new to them. Farming wasn't as successful as fishing, but they still needed to grow crops to survive. As more settlers came they moved to the area known as Riverdale. They made frontier gardens. A frontier is land that forms the furthest border of a country's settled regions. The first settlers considered Cape Ann, which was new to them, an extension of their country. Whether in Gloucester, Rockport, Manchester or Essex, early settlers created gardens for survival.



Old Garden Beach Postcard,  
Collection of the Cape Ann Museum.

## Things to do:

Discover Old Garden Beach in Rockport.

How many gardens can you find on Champlain's map of Le Beau Port? What else do you see?



Web Adventure

[www.nps.gov/history/archeology/visit/Champlain/about.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/archeology/visit/Champlain/about.htm)

Learn more about the voyages of French explorer Samuel de Champlain

*A man tending to his garden at his home in Freshwater Cove. Collection of the Cape Ann Museum.*

# Gardens in Gloucester's Harbor District

There once was a time when gardens took up more space than houses in downtown Gloucester!

Alfred Mansfield Brooks (1870-1963), or Alf as his family liked to call him, grew up during this time in Gloucester's West End. He was raised by his grandmother and aunts, and boy did they have stories to tell! Better yet, Alf remembered the stories and wrote them down when he was all grown up and became president of the Cape Ann Museum. He remembered everything his aunts taught him. One thing they taught him was about horticulture. Horticulture is the science and art of cultivating fruits, vegetables, flowers, or ornamental plants. In simpler terms, it is the science and art of gardens. His aunts believed that the design of the garden was just as important as the flowers. Patterns, paths, and pools were essential in planning a pleasant plot.



Alf also remembered his neighbors quite well. His home was at 21 Middle Street, near Gloucester Harbor. His neighbors were the Lows, Stacys, and Gilberts. Alf remembered the Gilbert garden as being one of the best in the neighborhood. The Gilbert house was on Angle Street and their garden stretched down Western Avenue to the harbor in back. This garden delighted all of the neighbors. Many flowers grew in this garden like red and yellow tulips, dahlias, honeysuckle, morning glory, and roses. As for fruits and vegetables, most notable were the grapevines around the arbor, the cherry trees, and the asparagus bed. Addison Gilbert worked very hard in this garden.

Addison Gilbert was a good man. Alf said he was as honest as the day was long. Addison Gilbert lived with his stepmother, Mary and her niece, Augusta (Gusty). When Alf visited the Gilbert House he was sure to get a red apple or piece of peppermint stick. Gilbert was very wealthy, generous, and full of advice for his young neighbor. He told Alf that if he saved his pennies, the dollars would take care of themselves. It is no wonder that Addison Gilbert would help start and become president of the Cape Ann Savings Bank. Does the name Addison Gilbert sound familiar to you? The hospital in Gloucester is named for him thanks to the generous donation he gave to create it. Gilbert was very much involved in his community and was a selectman before Gloucester became a city. He was popular among the people of the day.

Alf also remembered his neighbors quite well. His home was at 21 Middle Street, near Gloucester Harbor. His neighbors were the Lows, Stacys, and Gilberts. Alf remembered the Gilbert garden as being one of the best in the neighborhood. The Gilbert house was on Angle Street and their garden stretched down Western Avenue to the harbor in back. This garden delighted all of the neighbors. Many flowers grew in this garden like red and yellow tulips, dahlias, honeysuckle, morning glory, and roses. As for fruits and vegetables, most notable were the grapevines around the arbor, the cherry trees, and the asparagus bed. Addison Gilbert worked very hard in this garden.

Addison Gilbert was a good man. Alf said he was as honest as the day was long. Addison Gilbert lived with his stepmother, Mary and her niece, Augusta (Gusty). When Alf visited the Gilbert House he was sure to get a red apple or piece of peppermint stick. Gilbert was very wealthy, generous, and full of advice for his young neighbor. He told Alf that if he saved his pennies, the dollars would take care of themselves. It is no wonder that Addison Gilbert would help start and become president of the Cape Ann Savings Bank. Does the name Addison Gilbert sound familiar to you? The hospital in Gloucester is named for him thanks to the generous donation he gave to create it. Gilbert was very much involved in his community and was a selectman before Gloucester became a city. He was popular among the people of the day.

## Did you know?

Gloucester maritime artist Fitz Henry Lane had beautiful gardens around his granite house by the harbor. He was the very first person to grow the Magnolia tree in his yard, which was native to the woods in the area.

*Addison Gilbert in his garden around the time that the young Alfred Mansfield Brooks knew him. Collection of the Cape Ann Museum.*

*Alfred Mansfield Brooks in his small garden on Middle Street. He found much peace and happiness in that garden. Collection of the Cape Ann Museum.*



Web Adventure

[www.kidsgardening.org](http://www.kidsgardening.org)  
Learn more about gardening!

# Garden of Graves

In 1854, six businessmen purchased an oak grove near downtown Gloucester to serve as a new cemetery. They wanted the cemetery to be different from the gloomy burial grounds of the past. They wanted it to be a space for the deceased to rest in peace and the living to enjoy. Oak Grove Cemetery was part of a national movement to make burial grounds more appealing to the living.

This movement was inspired by a cemetery in Paris, France called *Père Lachaise*. Another cemetery like it is Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, MA which was designed in 1831 as America's first garden cemetery. Oak Grove was designed by landscape architects. Landscape architects plan gardens. All of the paths and avenues were named for trees, shrubs, plants, and flowers. Instead of slate

headstones, granite and marble monuments marked the graves. One Gloucester historian called Oak Grove Cemetery a "Garden of Graves." This type of city cemetery was the ancestor of the city park. It was the first modern cemetery in Gloucester and is now the final resting place of famous Gloucester residents like maritime artist Fitz Henry Lane and Addison Gilbert.



Collection of the Cape Ann Museum.

## Activity:

Addison Gilbert was buried in this cemetery. Though the cemetery has grown and paths have been added, if you follow the directions below you will wind your way around to Gilbert's plot. The main entrance to the cemetery is where the little house is in the lower right corner of the map. Enter there and follow straight to Magnolia Avenue. With your pencil, mark your trail along Magnolia Avenue until you get to Cypress Avenue. Take a left onto Cypress Avenue. Follow Cypress Avenue until you get to Willow Avenue which will be on your left. Follow Willow Avenue all the way to Linden Avenue. Take a right onto Linden Avenue and follow until you get to Walnut Avenue. Take a right onto Walnut Avenue. When you get to Oak Avenue, take a left. Follow Oak Avenue until you reach plot number 83. It will be on the left. Congratulations you made it!

## Web Adventure

[www.pere-lachaise.com/perelachaise.php?lang=en](http://www.pere-lachaise.com/perelachaise.php?lang=en)  
Take a virtual trip to Paris to learn about the first garden cemetery!

# Poems from the Archives

## Unbendable

I'd like to put in tulips  
And lilies without end;  
I'd like to plant spring flowers, —  
If only I could bend!



Down to Earth (1964)

## WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

If you should go out  
In the garden one day,  
And see a big lion,  
Well, what would you say?

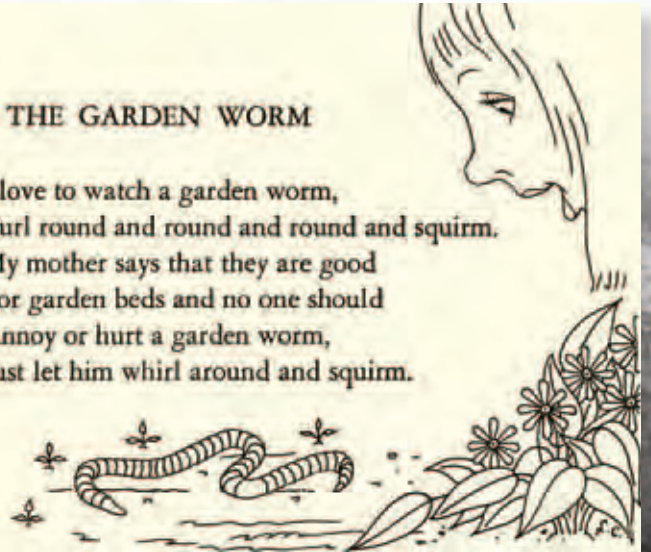
I would say NOTHING, —  
Not one word, — NOT ONE!  
Just turn about quickly,  
And run, run, run, —  
RUN!



Up and Down and Roundabout: Verses for Children (1967)

## THE GARDEN WORM

I love to watch a garden worm,  
Curl round and round and round and squirm.  
My mother says that they are good  
For garden beds and no one should  
Annoy or hurt a garden worm,  
Just let him whirl around and squirm.



Kitty Parsons (1889-1975) was a poet and artist. She and her family first came to Cape Ann as summer residents. They had a house near Ravenswood Park off of Old Salem Road in Gloucester. After a few years, they discovered that they favored Rockport so they moved to 6 Summer Street. While in Rockport, Kitty met her future husband Richard Recchia. He was an artist, too. They were very involved with the arts in their community. He was a well known sculptor. She was an award winning published poet with a great sense of humor. She was also a watercolor painter and started the Rockport Art Association. Kitty and Richard made a great team. He illustrated her poem *Unbendable*. When she wasn't writing or painting, she was giving back to her community in various ways. She organized poetry contests and writing workshops at the local high schools.

## Things to do:

Kitty Parsons carried a notebook with her at all times to jot down her poems. Make your own writing journal. Write down your poems and then illustrate them.

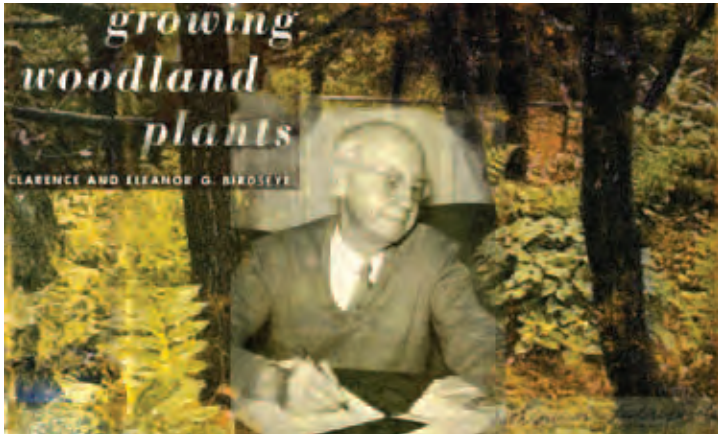
Kitty Parsons drawing in her garden.  
Collection of the Cape Ann Museum.



# Visit the Cape Ann Museum

## Archives

View historic photos of Cape Ann gardens and find books about gardening on Cape Ann, including Eleanor and Clarence Birdseye's book about woodland gardens: *Growing Woodland Plants* (1972). Eastern Point resident Clarence Birdseye revolutionized the way we eat when he invented a way to flash freeze fresh foods. Have you heard of Birds Eye Frozen Foods?



Collage of images from the Cape Ann Museum Archives.

## Special Exhibitions

View more garden scenes in our special exhibition: *Views from the Terrace: The Paintings of Charles Hopkinson* open until October 11, 2009.



Charles Hopkinson (1869-1962), *Three Dancing Girls (Ladies Chain)*  
Oil on canvas, 1917-1923. Private Collection.



## Permanent Collection

Virginia Lee Burton Demetrios created this Folly Cove Design titled *George's Garden*. George was her husband and he loved spending time outside in the garden. The Demetrios family lived during a time before there were large supermarkets like we have today. They grew what they ate. What crops do you think George was growing? How many birds can you find?

## CAPE ANN MUSEUM

ART HISTORY CULTURE

**Address:** 27 Pleasant Street, Gloucester, Massachusetts

**Telephone:** (978) 283-0455, Fax: (978) 283-4141

**Hours:** The Cape Ann Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Sundays, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The Museum is closed on Mondays and major holidays.

The second Saturday of every month is Family Free Day. For up-to-date information on exhibitions, special events, and public programs contact Museum Educator Courtney Richardson at 978-283-0455 ext. 12 or email [courtneyrichardson@capeannmuseum.org](mailto:courtneyrichardson@capeannmuseum.org)

[www.capeannmuseum.org](http://www.capeannmuseum.org)

## Cape Ann Museum Summer Celebration

**Virginia Lee Burton, children's book author and founder of the Folly Cove Designers, would have turned 100 this August.**

Come to the museum Saturday, August 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Virginia Lee Burton, children's author/illustrator and Folly Cove Designer. There will be storytelling & art activities in the Education Room from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. birthday cake and other light refreshments; 1:00 p.m. film screening: *Virginia Lee Burton, A Sense of Place*, a film by Christine Lundberg & Rawn Fulton.