

## The Garner Family - Interesting Facts



This interesting surname is of early medieval English origin, and has three possible sources.

Firstly, the surname may be topographical for someone who lived near a barn or granary, or a metonymic occupational name for someone who was in charge of the storehouse for corn, the granary, from the Anglo-Norman French "gerner", granary (Old French "gernier", from the Late Latin "granarium", a derivative of "granum", grain, corn). William del Gerner is noted in the 1332 Subsidy Rolls of Lancashire.

Secondly, it may be from a central Old French form of a Germanic personal name composed of the elements "war(in)", guard, and "heri, hari", army. The given name was introduced into England by the Normans during the Conquest of 1066 in the form "Warnier" or "Garnier".

The third source is a contracted variant from the English occupational name "Gardener", which was normally given to a cultivator of edible produce in an orchard or kitchen garden, rather than to a tender of ornamental lawns and flower beds.

In the modern idiom the surname has many variant spellings ranging from Gorner, Garner, Gerner and Guerner, to Gornar, Gurner, Guarnier and Gernier.

The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of Geoffrey Gerner, which was dated 1272, in the "Feet of Fines of Essex", during the reign of King Edward 1, known as "The Hammer of the Scots", 1272 - 1307. Surnames became necessary when governments introduced personal taxation. In England this was known as Poll Tax. Throughout the centuries, surnames in every country have continued to "develop" often leading to astonishing variants of the original spelling.

This was a difficult family to research, not because of a lack of records but because I found too many records!

I found a tree on-line which showed that Thomas Garner (1791 – 1860) and his wife Mary/Maria Meekes (1791 – N/K) had 9 children, born between 1826 and 1840.

For the 1841 census I found 2 entries for Thomas and Mary/Maria which showed most of the children with only George, born 1837/8, appearing on both. I have no idea which is the correct family. The only child not on either of these census records was Charles who was staying with his grandparents.

In 1853 Jackson Garner (1833 – 1900) married Harriet (1830 – 1912) whose maiden name according to the marriage record was Letter but their son George Garner (1857 – 1933) married a lady whose maiden name was Latter i.e. Louisa Lavinia Latter (1856 – 1931) and I found trees on the Ancestry web site that had Harriet's maiden name as Latter. One day I'll see if Louisa and Harriet were related.

In the 1911 census Arthur Garner (1888 – 1969) was boarding in Surrey with the family of his future wife Margaret “Maggie” Pook (1894 – N/K). Also, living with them was another married couple of Garners, Edward Albert Garner (1872) and his wife Annie Garner (nee Pook, 1873).

Charles Garner (1869 – N/K) and his wife Elizabeth Annie Garner (nee Hide, 1869 – N/K) had 2 children Charlie Jackson born 1894 and Mabel born 1897. Sadly, both children died when young, Mabel during 1915 when only 18 and Charlie during WW1 in 1916 in Canterbury, presumably during training.

In 1898 Edward Albert Garner (1872 – 1949) married Annie Pook (1873 – 1946) then in 1912 Edward’s nephew Arthur Garner (1888 – 1959) married Annie’s younger sister Margaret Pook (1894 – N/K).

In 1878 Charles Garner (1836 – 1878) sadly died, aged only 42. His wife Charlotte Garner (nee Clarke, 1841 – 1925) married again the following year, 1879. In fact, by the time Charlotte died, in 1925, she had outlived 3 husbands. In the 1881 census at least one of Charles’ children was in a boys’ home, 4 were with an uncle, aunt and their family and Charlotte had the remaining 3 children with her, including the 2 youngest boys.

George Garner (1864 – 1891) married Louisa Hannah Darling (1864 – 1916) in 1887. Sadly, George died only 4 years later in 1891. Even more sadly their son George also died in 1891, which was also the year he was born.

In the 1911 census record for Thomas Garner (1866 – ????) and his family, one of his children, Lizzie, was entered as his sister, I wonder why?

In 1891 Josiah Garner (1868 – N/K) married a lady who had 2 surnames: one on the GRO index, where she is called Elizabeth Atkinson; and a different one on the Parish Records’ Entry, where she is called Elizabeth Sayce, but she signs herself as Elizabeth Atkinson. However, on the Parish Records’ Entry her father is named as William Atkinson so where does the surname Sayce come from?

**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 1891 District Poplar Vol. 1c Page 495**

Josiah Garner married Elizabeth Atkinson  
(GRO Entry)

1891. Marriage solemnized at <i>the Parish Church</i> in the <i>Parish of Old St. Andrew &amp;</i> in the County of <i>London</i>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
388	<i>April 13<sup>th</sup></i> <i>1891</i>	<i>Josiah Garner</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>Clerk</i>	<i>Old Ford. E.</i>	<i>George Garner</i> <i>Deceased</i>	<i>Clerk</i>
		<i>Elizabeth Sayce</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>Spinster</i>	<i>Woolfitter</i>	<i>Old Ford. E.</i>	<i>William Atkinson</i>	<i>Woolman</i>

Married in the *Parish Church* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by *George Garner* or after *Banns* by me, *John Beck*

This Marriage was solemnized between us, *Josiah Garner* } in the Presence of us, *George Garner*  
*Elizabeth Atkinson* } *the Sayce*

Parish Records’ Entry

In 1922 Emily Garner (1896 – 1985) married Eli M L Ranford (1894 – 1958). However, due to an error on the GRO index to find this you have to search for the people separately because on Mr. Ranford’s entry it states that he is marrying someone with the surname Carner instead of Garner.

Henry James Garner (1875 – 1928) married Annie Elizabeth Clark (1877 – 1920) in 1899.

Sadly, this was obviously not a happy home as shown by the remarks I found on an on-line tree I found put up by Karen Callard.

Annie Elizabeth Garner: The children often wore their boots in bed to prevent their mother pawning them for gin to support her drink problem and escape the domestic violence within the household.

Also, Bob told me that Annie was frequently arrested for drunkenness and when asked her name she would reply 'Dickie Bird' and for her address she would reply 'Up a tree.'

Henry James Garner: Harry was described by his family as a brute of a man with a violent temperament. Because of her father's violence Annie (one of his children) often hid his cut throat razor to prevent him using it on her mother. Henry is supposed to have been in the army, possibly a Sergeant Major and that he had been discharged because of an injury.

Henry and Annie's daughter, Elizabeth Maud, married a grave digger known as uncle Sonny (Jessie William Woodhams). Her girls always had new ribbons in their hair taken from the wreaths of recent burials.