



## Aaron Shaw

B. June 8, 1782  
D. July 17, 1845

Aaron Shaw was the town doctor from 1813 to 1845 for a total of 32 years. He also served for two years each as a Town Clerk, chairman of the School Committee and also as Town Treasurer.

He was married to Esther Miller, whom was born in 1798 and died in 1866. They had five children, Roxey, Erasmus, Redmond, Samuel, and Sarah.

Erasmus D. Shaw married Martha J Moulton. Martha died August 11, 1910. Her obituary printed in the Palmer Journal stated that she was one of the oldest residents, being in her 89<sup>th</sup> year. She had lived in Wales her entire life and was beloved by a large circle of friends. She was a member of the Baptist choir.



## Absalom Gardner

B. January 25, 1805  
D. July 3, 1873

Absalom Gardner was born in Wales and lived here his entire life. He served his community as Chairman of Selectmen, Chairman of Accessors, Town Treasurer and as Town Clerk during his life in Wales.

He was a member of the “Whigs of Wales” and served as chairman not only in Wales, but also in the County.

He wrote the Centennial Anniversary Address delivered in Wales on October 5, 1862. Later he wrote a book with the address and added local town history.

His greatest legacy is the journal he kept about Wales and its people. This later is known as the “Gardner Book”. He willed this book to the Town of Wales for future custody and final disposition upon his death. A copy of this book is available at the library, town clerk office, and David Worth Museum.

He was the son of Charles and Reba (Munger) Gardner. He was married twice. Betsey (Gass) Gardner died December 23, 1829 and his second wife, Asenath (Gardner) Gardner died October 1, 1888.



## Zeno Farrington Jr.

B. October 10, 1813  
D. July 31, 1894

Zeno Farrington, Jr. was married to Caroline Gilbert from New York at about 1841. They had two children, Gilbert W. and Ella Sophia Farrington Brown. Ella and her husband Edgar had a daughter Grace Farrington Brown. Grace married Vernon Arnold. Most of whom are buried here in the Arnold/Farrington lot.

Zeno is a currier by trade, which was a family business. He attended Wesleyan Academy of Wilbraham in 1835.

At the start of the Civil War in 1861, Zeno and Cornelius Miller were known to be sympathetic with the Confederate cause, which made them targets of the local mob who believed they cut down a flag. They were dragged and pulled from their houses, assaulted, and dragged down Main Street. Zeno and Cornelius were found innocent after two other young lads confessed.

In 1869 Zeno was arrested by the U.S. Marshall for running a small distillery without a license.



**James  
Lawrence  
Wales**

B. February 27, 1770  
D. July 3, 1840

After a liberal bequest to the town, South Brimfield was renamed “Wales” in his honor. James was well respected citizen. He was born, lived and died in Wales. His family were owners of the Wales Hotel and had business interest in the Wales Manufacturing Co in town.

He was married on January 20, 1793 to Polly Fletcher.

During his lifetime he served as a Justice of the Peace. Eleven years of Chairman of the Selectmen. Ten years as Chairman of Assessors and three years as the Town Treasurer.

## SYMBOLS

- Anchor:* Hope.
- Angel:* Rebirth or resurrection; spirituality, agents of God, guardians of the dead.
- Clasped hands:* Marriage, close bond, unity, affection even after death. The person who died first holds the other’s hand, guiding the spouse to heaven.
- Daisy:* Gentleness, youth.
- Dove (flying):* Resurrection.
- Fern:* Sincerity, sorrow.
- Garland:* Victory of the redemption.
- Ivy:* Immortality, fidelity, undying affection.
- Lamb:* Usually marks the grave of a child. Purity, innocence, sacrifice.
- Lily:* Majesty, often used on women’s graves, innocence, purity, resurrection. Restored innocence of soul at death.
- Lily of the Valley:* Purity, humility.
- Morning Glory:* Youth, resurrection, mourning, farewell, brevity of life.
- Obelisk:* From an Egyptian form; power, lord over all, creator.
- Roses:* Completion and the brevity of earthly existence. Love, beauty, hope unending love.
  - Bud of rose:* Normally a child under 13.
  - Partial bloom:* Usually a teenager.
  - Full bloom:* Deceased died in prime of life.
  - Rosette:* The Lord, hope, promise and love.
- Scroll:* Scriptures.
- Scythe:* Death.
- Thistle:* Earthly sorrow; Christ’s crown of thorns, Scotland = country of origin.
- Torch/Flame:* Immortality of the spirit, resurrection.
  - Inverted torch:* Extinction of life. Death.
- Tree:* Life. *Trunk* = shortened life; *Severed branch* = immortality.
- Weeping Willow:* Sorrow and mourning.
- Wheat sheaves:* Divine harvest; often represents the aged.

Brochure information came from the archives of Palmer Journal, Ancestry, Springfield Republican and the Gardner Book.



## Cemetery Walk

(self-guided)

At

## Wales Cemetery #2

3 Main Street  
Wales, Ma.

**Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>  
10 am – 2 pm**

**Sponsored by the  
Wales Historical Commission and  
Wales Historical Society**