

**Gardner, Thomas**, b.7-16-1857 in Plano Illinois, d. 3-9-1933 in Milwaukee. Gardner was born in Kendall County, Illinois, fifty miles southwest of Chicago, to Scotch immigrant parents. When he was still an infant his father was killed in a railway accident, and he was taken to Scotland by his mother. His early life appears to have been spent in Edinburgh, where he probably received some training as an artist. Records there indicate that he was living in Edinburgh between 1859 and 1869 and that seven of his works were exhibited there during this period. It has also been reported that he was an art student in Germany. Returning to the United States around 1880, he settled in Wisconsin and is listed in the Milwaukee City directory for the first time in 1885, which probably means that he had arrived in the city the previous year. In Milwaukee he worked for a time as a scenery painter, probably in collaboration with Louis Kindt. In 1884 he joined forces with Kindt to produce a panorama of "The Battle of Lookout Mountain," which was successfully exhibited in Milwaukee. In 1885 he was one of several who assisted Kindt in painting a panorama of "The assault on Vicksburg." Milwaukee City directories during the 1890's give his occupation as artist or painter, while the 1900 census reports his occupation as fresco painter. He later became a clergyman and for the last twenty-eight years of his life was the minister of St. Paul's Methodist Church in Milwaukee. A large altar- painting, which he made for this church is now in the possession of Calvary United Methodist Church in West Allis. Wisconsin.