



# Townsend Society Genealogical Journal

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THE TOWNSEND SOCIETY OF AMERICA  
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# Townsend Genealogical Journal

Newsletter of the Townsend Society of America

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The Townsend Genealogical Journal is published three or four times a year by the Townsend Society of America. Distribution is free to members of the Society. Submissions by the membership are invited: articles and photographs of historical and genealogical interest are welcome. Every effort is made to protect submissions, however, the Society cannot be responsible for lost items. Photographs may also be sent in electronic format.

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The Townsend Society of America holds an annual meeting every year on the last Saturday of October at 225 Townsend Square, Oyster Bay, NY.

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## Matthew Townsend, 1817-1879 From England to America

By Tony Townsend

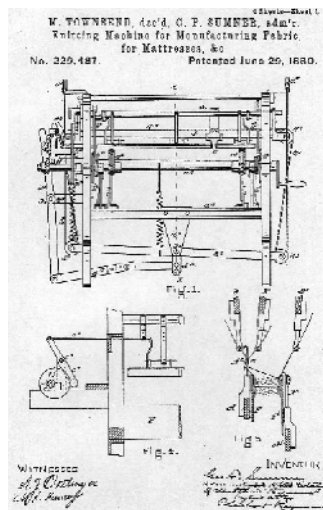
Matthew Townsend was born 14 February 1817 in the village of Cropston, Leicestershire, England and was baptized 23 February 1817 at All Saints Church in the village of Thurcaston. He was one of seven children born to Samuel and Rebecca Towns(h)end. Samuel was born 1774 in Lenton, Nottinghamshire. The Townsends had lived in Lenton for around 200 years, dating back to Erasmus Townshend, a basket maker, in 1638.

Samuel worked as a framework knitter, one of many at that time. Knitting in those days was a cottage industry where all the members of a family were employed in the same work. The diet of knitters was said to be bread, cheese, gruel, tea and a little meat. They would have worked long hours in cramped conditions using only candlelight.

Around 1820, the family moved to the city of Leicester and lived in Pasture Lane in the parish of St. Margaret's Church. Little is known about Matthew's childhood but we believe he learnt the skills of a framework knitter at a very early age. It was probably a case of necessity as his father died in 1827.



Portrait of Matthew Townsend

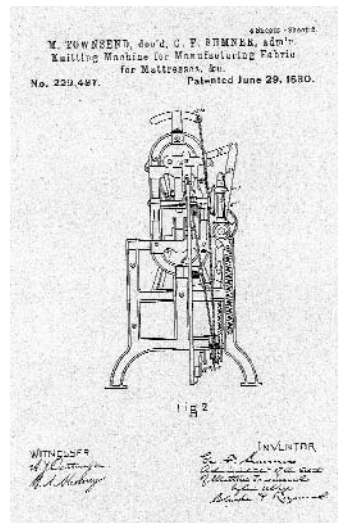


Townsend Knitting Machine - front view

Matthew married Maria Howe at St. Mary's Church, Leicester on 24 September 1839 and lived in Mill Lane, Leicester. They had five children: Henry, born 1836; Elisabeth Jane, born 1841; Emma Henrietta, born 1843; George Matthew, born 1847, and Frank Alfred Howe, born 1852. The 1841 census shows Matthew's occupation as a framework knitter living in East Bond Street but by the 1851 census he is a hosiery manufacturer living in Market Street. He owned two factories, one in Marble Street and one in Watling Street, and produced fancy knitted goods.

Between 1847 and 1856 Matthew registered five inventions with the patent office for improvements in knitting. One of these inventions was for the Latch Needle which he patented 13 February 1849, as No. 12474. This new type of knitting needle eventually replaced the bearded needle used on the hand frame invented by William Lee in 1658 and led the way for the introduction of numerous automatic knitting machines. In 1857 he declared bankruptcy due to reckless trading, and all

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**Townsend Knitting Machine - side view**

that he owned was sold at auction. As with so many inventors, it seems his business took second place.

Matthew left Leicester without telling anyone and went into hiding. He eventually turned up in Aberystwyth, Wales. The bankruptcy led to his separation from his wife and children. At some stage he supposedly sold the manufacturing rights for the Latch needle to Joseph Pool, a hosiery manufacturer in Leicester, and to Hine Mundella & Company of Nottingham. Some time between 1857 and 1859 he began a relationship with Clara Foster who had an illegitimate son Frederick in 1859. Although the father's name is not on the birth certificate, I believe Matthew was the father.

Having lost everything, he decided to start a new life in America. Matthew, Clara and Frederick arrived in Portland, Maine in January 1860 then went to live in Chelsea, Boston, Massachusetts. Later they lived in Canton, Norfolk County, Massachusetts. It wasn't long before Matthew and Clara started a new family: Clara was born in 1862; Matthew in 1864, and Lillian in 1867. The 1870 United States census showed Matthew, aged 53, working as a woollen manufacturer; Clara, aged 28, keeping house; Frederick 11, Clara 8, and Matthew, Jr. 5 attending school, and Lillian 3 still at home.

Matthew's older brother Samuel Townsend was born in Leicester, England in 1812. Samuel, his wife Louisa (Rawston) and their children also emigrated to America about the same time as Matthew and settled in Canton. The two brothers began a knitting business on the site that is now Draper's Mill.



**Matthew's Workshop, Leicester**

For reasons unknown, Samuel moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to work with his nephew Henry Townsend. Henry was the oldest of Matthew's children with his estranged wife Maria (Howe) Townsend. Henry, his wife Hannah and son William Arthur, born 1859 in Leicester, emigrated to the United States in the early 1860s. The 1870 and 1880 United States' census for Philadelphia shows Samuel and Henry living in Germantown on the north side of the city. Samuel worked as a hosiery knitter and Henry as a stocking weaver. Henry's younger brother Frank Alfred Howe Townsend and his wife Eleanor (Fretsom) joined them about 1872. While living in Philadelphia, Frank and Eleanor had two children: George, born in 1875 and Arthur Howe, born in 1877 (my grandfather), then they returned to Leicester, England about 1880.

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By 1863 Matthew Townsend had formed a partnership with Charles Draper in Canton, Massachusetts. They purchased the 'old Billings farm' near the corner of Washington and Dedham Streets. There they erected a large factory and a number of tenement houses. In 1865, Townsend and Draper organized a corporation under the name of Canton Woollen Mills. In 1866, the company advertised a paid-in capital of \$1000. The mills operated for about two years then the company failed. The reason for this was perhaps a lawsuit brought by Walter Aiken, owner of a latch needle patented by James Hibbert of Rhode Island. The suit was against Matthew Townsend for infringement of the patent. Hibbert's patent of 9 January 1849 preceded Matthew's by a few days. In his defense, Matthew told the court the latch needle was invented in France in 1806 but he could not produce evidence of this. Aiken won the case by default, so Matthew had to stop making and using latch needles. In April 1869, the property was sold at auction and was purchased by Draper and George Sumner. Matthew continued to manufacture goods in a small mill before moving his business to Worcester, Massachusetts in 1872. He returned to Canton in 1878.



**Townsend Mill, Canton, MA**

After his return, Matthew Townsend went into business with George F. Sumner in the Everett Mill, manufacturing woollen and cotton goods. He was in business with Sumner until he died on 31 March 1879. In the last years of his life Matthew filed three more patents: Carpet-Linings and Stair-Pads on 28 June 1878; Knit Fabrics for Mattresses 28 Jun 1878, and a Knitting Machine for manufacturing Fabrics for Mattresses on 23 October 1879. The patents filed in 1878 were filed by Matthew, and the patent filed in 1879 was filed by George F. Sumner as administrator of Matthew's estate. A notice was published in the Canton Journal for three weeks, inviting relatives of Matthew to claim his estate but none came forward.

His sons' Frederick and Matthew, Jr. moved to Hingham, Massachusetts about 1882. Frederick Townsend married Carrie Cook Cushing on 8 May 1883 and they had ten children: Ralph Cushing, born 1884; Ethel May, born 1886; Harold Watson, born 1887; Howard Warren, born 1888; Ella May, born 1889; Leslie Cushing, born 1892; Norman Watson, born 1893; Stanley Matthew, born 1894; Carleton Frederick, born 1897, and Doris Foster, born 1898. The family was recorded on North Street in Hingham on the 1900 census and Frederick was employed as an edge setter.

Matthew Townsend, Jr. married Cora Atwood Sprague on 6 August 1884 and had four children: Jessie Lillian, born 1885; Fred Allison, born 1887; Cora Mildred, born 1888, and Dwight Thornton, born 1891. In 1900, they also lived on North Street in Hingham and Matthew, Jr. worked as a teamster.

Additional family information:

Massachusetts:

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Fred Allison Townsend (s/o Matthew, Jr.) married Frances Douglass in September 1914 in Somerville, Massachusetts. In 1930, they lived on Stirling Street and he was a draughtsman (draftsman). Children were Gordon, Robert and Virginia.

Dwight Thornton Townsend (s/o Matthew, Jr.) married Bessie McKenna in June 1903 at Waltham, Massachusetts. In 1920 they lived on Fort Hill Street, Hingham and he was a pipe fitter. Children were Ruth Marion and Dwight Thornton.

Philadelphia:

Samuel Townsend (older brother of Matthew, Sr.) and Louisa (Rawston) emigrated to Massachusetts and then Philadelphia. Their children were: Sarah, born 1847; Matthew, born 1852; George, born 1855, and Vye, born 1864. Children were born in Leicester, England.

Matthew Townsend (s/o Samuel and Louisa) married Hannah Taylor in 1879 in Philadelphia and their children were: Herbert, born 1881; George, born 1883; Harry, born 1886, and Irene, born 1894. Children were born in Philadelphia.

## My Townsend Line From Thomas Townsend of Lynn, Massachusetts

By **Betty I. Dillon Ray**

**(Continued from Fall 2007)**

After the death of his first wife, Mary Haskell, *Jonathan Townsend, Jr.* married Olive Phinney/Phiney or Finney on 10 September 1789 in New Salem, Hampshire County (in 1811 the northern part of Hampshire County became Franklin County), Massachusetts. She was born 20 September 1769 and died 4 June 1862 in Concord, New York. Jonathan and Olive had nine children: Uziel, Suel, Olive, Huldah, Noah, Elvira, Hosea W., Diadama and Adin. The children were born in New Salem with the exception of the last, Adin, who was born in Concord, Erie County (created from Niagara County in 1821), New York, where Jonathan had moved with his family in 1812. Suel, Olive, Noah, and Adin all died in Concord. Uziel died in Illinois, seventeen miles west of Chicago. Their father, Jonathan, Jr., died in the town of Collins, Erie County, New York on 21 October 1838.

Public records of New Salem, Massachusetts show that Jonathan was a grantee, 1796-1812, an occupant, 1798, a grantor, 1803-1827, and in 1827 Olive, wife of Jonathan, was a grantor. The 1800 and 1810 United States Census, New Salem, Hampshire County, Massachusetts show **Jonathan, Jr. and Olive** with the proper number of children in the right age groups.

Children of **Jonathan Townsend and Olive Phinney**:

**Uziel** Townsend was born 2 May 1790 at New Salem and died 13 August 1864 in Illinois. He was married 10 February 1811 in New Salem to Patty Wheeler who was born in New Salem and died in 1844, Concord, Erie County, New York. They had two sons: Albert was born in Concord and died young; and Gilbert Wheeler

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Townsend was born 12 February 1812 in Concord and married on 6 April 1828 to Esther Twichell, born 11 October 1810. Gilbert and Esther had eleven children including: Mary L. born 1829; Dulcena, born 1830; Albert born 1832; Lysander born 1834; Perry born 1835; Charles born 1838; George born 1840; Augustus born 1842; Cyrus born 1845; Eliza born 1847; and Martha born 1848. "Gilbert W. Townsend died Nov. 7, 1886 at his residence at (Oak Park) Illinois, suddenly, of heart disease."

**Suel Townsend** was born 27 January 1793 in New Salem, CONTINUED BELOW

**Olive** was born 7 July 1795 in New Salem and died 2 January 1826 at home in Collins, Erie County, New York. She married a farmer named Kendell Johnson in Concord, Erie County. They had five children: Kendell, Sarah, David, Charles, and Ruth.

**Huldah** Townsend was born 15 December 1797 in New Salem and died in March 1894. She was married on 9 December 1816 in Concord to Enoch (Sinclair) now St. Clair, born 1 September 1790 and died 3 April 1873. [St. Clair was the original family name & they have now resumed it.] Huldah and Enoch had eleven children: Roxalena 1818-1822; Louisa L. 1821-1905, m 1847 E. Ralph Bennett; Elizabeth S. called "Betsy" 1823-1889, m 1855 Peter M. Huffman; Benjamin 1825-1825; a son 1829-1829; L. Josephine 1830-1908, m 1849 L. M. Stevenson; R. Clementine 1833- 1886, m 1860 Charles J. Tobey; Laura E. b 1835; Mary J. b 1837, m 1864 Thomas W. Jones; and Augustine D. b 1839, [who] "was an educated farmer," m 1 January 1872 Florence Jackway of Benton Harbor, Michigan.

**Noah** Townsend was born 13 February 1801 in New Salem and died on 14 February 1853. Noah "was a farmer and resided in said Concord on his farm adjoining said Townsend Hill homestead, (and died there) where his widow & 3 unmarried daughters now (Feb 1878) reside." He was married 11 April 1822 in Concord to Achsah Wheeler born 6 September 1803 and died 28 March 1885. They had six children: Permelia b 1826; Sanford 1829-1895, m 29 April 1860 in Boston, Erie Co., NY to Sarah M. Foster; Sally b 1831, m 1863 Simeon Palmer who died 1882; Almeda 1833-1897; Louisa E. b 1837; and Harrison H. 1840-1895, m 1867, resided Pontiac, Illinois in 1877 (he had a daughter, Hatty May b 5 November 1878).

**Elvira** Townsend was born 30 August 1803 in New Salem and died 7/14 August 1890. She was married in 1821 "at her father's in Concord, Erie Co., NY" to William Fuller Owen who died 28 June 1867. "She now (Feb 1878) resides in Spring

Corners, Pennsylvania - her husband was a Physician and died at said Spring Corners, where they had resided for many years." They had two children: Philemon - "Their son Philemon Owen has a wife and has had 5 children, three of which were living at last accounts, he resides at said Spring



Townsend House, Concord, MA

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Corners 1878. Philemon's wife Huldana died (June 22nd 1887 aged 59 years) at Springboro, Pennsylvania." Elvira's second child was Miranda who died young.

**Hosea** "William" Townsend was born 30 March 1807 in New Salem, the seventh child of Jonathan Townsend and Olive Finney. "Jonathan Townsend husband of Olive Finney is oldest child of Jonathan Townsend and Huldah Newton. The above record of him and his family by his second wife I copied from the Record in his Bible which I think is correct, although the Record of Father's Birth as furnished me by Erasmus Briggs says father was born in 1765. See Fol. 88. HWTownsend". Hosea "William" Townsend was married 20 December 1829 in Buffalo, Erie County, New York to Margaretta Ruden born 15 October 1813 in Lower Canada. Hosea died 1 November 1894 and Margaretta died 9 June 1900. They had seven children:



**Margaretta Rudin,  
wife of Hosea Townsend**

Margaretta Ellen Townsend b 1831, m 2 November 1859 Hiram T. Green and had one child, George Townsend Green 1866-1869.

George Washington Townsend b 29 January 1833, d 24 October 1902, m 31 October 1861 in Buffalo to Hattie A. Austin, b 23 August 1839.

Richard Allen Townsend b 30 April 1835, d 24 January 1908, m 19 December 1860 in Buffalo to Mary M. Adams b 1 February 1839, and had 4 children by 1880.

Mary Townsend b 11 April 1837, d September 1911, m 9 June 1863 in Buffalo to George Smith Wardwell b 22 August 1829 and d 18 October 1895. They had six children.

Sarah Townsend b 20 April 1839, d 29 January 1903, m 13 August 1861 in Buffalo to Frank M. Chandler b 30 March 1835, and they had five children.

Edward Bennett Townsend b 10 April 1846, d 15 October 1898, m 21 May 1868 in Buffalo to Anna Philena Courter b 17 May 1843, and they had four children.

Samuel Miles Spencer Townsend was b 10 June 1849 and d 9 September 1853.

**Diadamia** Townsend born 13 May 1810 in New Salem, died 21 March 1883, married 1828 in Buffalo to Alanson Wheeler born 16 November 1804 and died 17 March 1883. They had two sons: David Wheeler b 1832 and Charles Wheeler b 1842. "Diadamia Townsend was the 8th child of Jonathan Townsend and Olive Finney, She was born in New Salem, and with her father's family removed to said Concord, Erie Co. N.Y. and now resides with her husband & their two unmarried sons on their farm on Wheeler's Hill which is about one mile from her Father's old homestead on Townsend's Hill. (Feb. 1878) Her husband is a farmer and David Wheeler, her son, is a surveyor."

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**Adin** Townsend was born 10 August 1813 in the town of Concord, Erie County, died in 1844, and was married in Boston, Erie County to Electa Mitchel. They had four children: Olive, Betsy, Charles and John. "Aden Townsend was the 9th and youngest child of Jonathan Townsend and Olive Finney. He was born at the old Townsend Hill homestead in said Concord, where he continued to reside until his father sold out this farm and then he went with his father to the then town of Collins, Erie Co., N.Y. where they bot another farm on which he resided the remaining part of his days. His widow married again and they all went west."

### CONTINUED

"**Suel Townsend** was the second child of Jonathan Townsend and Olive Finney. He was born in New Salem, Franklin County, Massachusetts. He was a farmer, and then a Blacksmith and Miller, he removed in the spring of 1812 to what was afterwards Townsend's Hill in said Concord, & for some years continued at home with his father & worked at Farming & Blacksmithing until he owned a farm which had a grist mill and Blacksmith Shop on it (situate about 3 miles from his fathers), where he removed & continued there until he died. Both of their children went to Ohio & in 1877 they resided in Grant Co., Wisconsin."

Suel was born 27 January 1793 and resided in Concord, Erie County where he died 29 September 1827 at about age thirty four. He married Polly Wheeler in Concord. After his death, Polly (Wheeler) Townsend married a man by the name of \_\_\_\_\_ Olger. Suel and Polly Townsend had two sons: *Lysander A. Townsend* and Suel Wheeler Townsend.

Wheeler or Suel Wheeler Townsend, as it was given in some Wisconsin records, was the youngest son of Suel and Polly (Wheeler) Townsend. He was born 22 May 1823 in Concord and died at Mount Hope, Grant County, Wisconsin on 17 December 1900. Suel Wheeler left Ohio and went to Wisconsin with the five Loomis brothers and Truman Mayhew in 1851 where they settled on what was then known as "Loomis Ridge", but later known as Bethlehem. The John Loomis family had also left Concord, stopped in Ohio for awhile then went on to Wisconsin. It is possible they all traveled together or one group followed the other, for I believe their mothers, Polly Wheeler and Mehetable Wheeler, the mother of the Loomis brothers may have been sisters.

Suel Wheeler Townsend's obituary tells us that he settled in Little Green Valley, where he lived upwards of forty years. He moved to Mount Hope seven years before his death. The funeral was conducted by Rev. G. A. Bird at the Methodist Church, 20 December 1900, after which the remains were interred in Bethlehem Cemetery.

Wisconsin Land Records from the Land Office at Ashland show that Sewell W. Townsend obtained 40 acres of land on 2 October 1854 under document number 17009; Suell W. Townsend obtained 120 acres on 1 November 1855 under document number 21738; and Snell W. Townsend obtained 40 acres of land on 1 June 1858 under document number 29978.

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Suel Wheeler Townsend married his sister-in-law, Lydia Multer Townsend, after her divorce from his brother, Lysander.

**Lysander A. Townsend** was the oldest son of Suel and Polly (Wheeler) Townsend and was born in 1815 in Concord. He was twelve years old when his father died and probably stayed in New York with his mother for a few years. Lysander died 19 June 1891 according to a page in a letter written by his granddaughter Daisy Loomis to her sister Anna Laura Loomis Clark (my grandmother) and placed in the Clark family Bible. Daisy had copied the information from a page in the Loomis family Bible belonging to their parents, William Edwin Loomis and Sarah Adelia (Townsend) Loomis. So far I have not found any death date for Lysander A. Townsend to confirm or dispute the one given here. Lysander seems to be very elusive as sometimes his surname is spelled differently (i.e. Thompson).

Lysander was married to **Lydia Esther Multer** "on or about 30 October 1839 in Ohio" from Lydia's sworn statement in her divorce papers filed later. An IGI search for Ohio tells us they were married on 31 October 1838 in Geauga County, Ohio and that the source was *Marriage records, 1806-1920. Ohio. Probate Court, (Gauga County)*. Lydia Esther Multer was born 18 April 1823 in Worcester, Otsego County, New York and was a daughter of John Multer and Sarah Cole.

Lysander's second wife was also named Lydia.

The census tells us they lived in Ohio for a number of years where they had five living children before moving to Wisconsin about 1856 where two more were born. They appear on the 1840 Huntsburg, Geauga County, Ohio census which shows Lysander A. Townsend as age 20-30 (born 1815) and a female age 15-20 (Lydia Multer born 1823). No children are shown on this census however I received information recently that they had a son, Charles Townsend, who was born and died on 17 December 1839, so he would not have appeared in the 1840 census.

In the 1850 census, taken on 21 August, they are still in Huntsburg, Geauga County, Ohio. L. A. Townsend is 35, a farmer, born in New York and Lydia (Multer) is 28, born in New York. Children listed are: M. (Lydia Melinda) age 9, female, born in Ohio; Sarah age 6, female, born in Ohio; M. A. (Mary) age 4, female, born in Ohio; and J. S. (John Seaberry) age 1/12, male, born in Ohio.

Sometime before 1857 they moved to Wisconsin where they are found in the 1860 census of Millville, Grant County (post office: Mount Hope). They were living in the household of his brother, Suel Wheeler Townsend, age 35, who has no family in the household, a farmer, born in New York. Lysander is 45, a miller, born in New York; Lydia (Multer) is 37, born in New York; Mary is 14, born in Ohio; John is 10, born in Ohio; Mark is 7, born in Ohio; and Ray is 3, the first of the children to be born in Wisconsin. Daughters Lydia M. and Sarah were not with the family because they had married and were no longer living at home. Jessie L. was not born until 1862.

Marriage registrations for Grant County, Wisconsin, newspaper items and the census confirm the following children for Lysander and Lydia (Multer) Townsend:

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Lydia M. (Lydia Melinda) Townsend, born about 1841, was married on 27 March 1854 in Millville, Wisconsin to James Ellis, a farmer from Millville, born in Salem, Massachusetts.

**Sarah A. (Sarah Adelia) Townsend**, born about 1844, was married on 29 January 1860 at Ellenboro, Wisconsin to Wm. E. Loomys, a farmer from Millville, Wisconsin. Sarah was 16 when she married William Edwin Loomis.

Mary (Mary A.) Townsend, born about 1846, was married 17 August 1865 in Mucoda, Wisconsin to G. W. Anderson, an artist from Woodman, Wisconsin.

John S. (John Seaberry) Townsend was born about 1850. (He should have been on the Marriage Registrations for Grant County, but I apparently overlooked him because I didn't find him there - Betty Ray). He was married to Mary Gosner (or Gosmer) on 18 September 1871 in Mount Hope, Grant County, Wisconsin according to the International Genealogical Index v5.0 (IGI). The submission has the following information correct: his middle name Seaberry; his birth date and place, 6 May 1850 and Ohio; his death date, 15 July 1935; and his father's name. But the IGI member submission incorrectly identifies his mother as Lydia E. Winderwork. Lysander's second wife was Lydia Elizabeth Winsworth of Grant County. Lydia Winsworth is incorrectly named Lydia Winderwork on the marriage registrations. John S. Townsend could not have been a son of his father's second marriage because Lysander was married to his first wife, Lydia (Multer) Townsend, from 1838 until their divorce in 1863 when John was 13. In addition, Lydia (Multer) Townsend names him as her son in her divorce papers and in her will. He is also listed with the family in the 1850 census in Geauga County, Ohio as J. S. age 1/12.

Mark Wheeler Townsend, a teacher from Mt. Hope, Wisconsin, born about 1853, was married on 11 February 1882 at Lancaster, Wisconsin to Olive Esther Libby, daughter of Charles Libby and Elizabeth Fawcett.

Ray (Phillip Ray) Townsend, a farmer from Patch Grove, born about 1857, was married 9 February 1901 in Mt. Hope to Mary Pearson, daughter of George Pearson and Almeta Busee of Bridgeport, Crawford County, Wisconsin. The Fennimore Times, Fennimore, Wisconsin, (Feb. 13, 1901, 5a5 13p060) carried a news item: "Married at the home of Mrs. Townsend of this place, Ray Townsend of Bloomington to Mary Pearson, Rev. G. A. Bird officiating."

Jessie (Jessie L.) Townsend, born 1862, named Wheeler Townsend and Lydia Multer as her father and mother when she was married on 12 September 1906 in Mt. Hope to Jay Snider, a farmer who was from Mt. Hope and was born there. The Fennimore Times, Fennimore, Wisconsin (Sep. 5, 1906, 1a2) says: "Mrs. S. W. Townsend has issued invitations to the marriage of her daughter Jessie to Mr. Jay Snider next Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock at her residence."

**Lysander and Lydia (Multer) Townsend** were divorced in 1863. A copy of the divorce papers was obtained through the Wisconsin Room, Karrmann Library, UW-Platteville, 1 University Plaza, Platteville, WI 53818-3099. Lydia filed her complaint on 5 June 1863 in the Circuit Court, Grant County, Wisconsin, for the

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October term 1863. She stated that Lysander had willfully deserted her and the children for more than one year; that they were married on or about 30 October 1839, in Ohio; that together they moved to Wisconsin more than seven years previous to the date of filing, and that during their marriage she gave birth to seven children: Lydia M., Sarah A., Mary (16), John S. (12), Mark W. (10), Phillip R. (6), and Jessie L. (1), the last five being minors or dependent children.

On 4 August 1863, Lysander filed a counter suit; he denied deserting plaintiff and his children. He said she refused to cohabit with him for six years previous, that he did support her and his children until sometime in 1862 when he learned she was pregnant. He denied being the father of the last named child, Jessie L.; accused Lydia of adultery with some person unknown to the defendant, and said that in May 1862 she became the mother of Jessie L. Townsend. During this time Lysander lived at Millville, Wisconsin.

The settlement awarded Lydia the cattle and sheep, which were in her possession, in lieu of alimony. The four oldest minor children were allowed to choose which parent they wanted to live with. Lysander had to agree not to bind any of them out for seven years after the settlement.

Lysander and Lydia both married again after gaining their freedom from each other. Lysander married 2nd Lydia Elizabeth Winsworth, while his ex-wife Lydia Esther Multer married 2nd Lysander's brother, Suel Wheeler Townsend.

## **Corrections to Robert B. Miller's 1901 NYG&BR Article "Hawxhurst Genealogy" Based on the 1916 and 1924 Oyster Bay Town Records**

**by Rebecca Walsh**

In 1901, Robert B. Miller's article "Hawxhurst Genealogy" was published in the *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*. Miller's four-page article is a primary source of information for Christopher Hawxhurst who settled in Oyster Bay, New York in 1665. Researchers need to be aware, however, that there are mistakes in Miller's information according to the 1916 and 1924 volumes of the *Oyster Bay Town Records*. Specifically:

1. Christopher Hawxhurst had a son named Christopher. According to Miller, Christopher and his wife Mary Ruddock were married about 1655 and had five children: William, Mary, Jane, Sarah and Samson. However, in Volume I on pages 555 and 556, there is a 20 May 1693 document in which Samson states he is selling land which his deceased brother Christopher had purchased from the Indians on 1 June 1682. Their brother William confirmed the sale:

"I Samson Hawxhurst of Oysterbay in Queens County on Long Island now Called Nassau in ye Collony of New Yorke for & in ye Consideration of ye Sume of fifteen pounds of Currant Silver money of this Collony in hand paid and by me ye Sd Samson receivd of John Pratt Junr of ye Same place...Sell & Confirme unto John pratt aforesd all that of a Certaine

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Tract of Woodland wch was fformery purchased of ye the Indean Proprietors of Matenacock Lands **By Christopher Hawxhurst Late of Matenacock deceased Brother to ye Sd Samson** ...ffourty Acres of Land, as ye Indeans Deed for Sd Christopher for Sd Land Bearing Date ye first Day of June 1682 doth planly demonstrate, wch Deed Stands Recorded in Oysterbay in ye Booke A: page 137... .IN WITNES whereof I have hereunto: Sett my hand & Seal the Twentyth Day of May in ye year of our Lord one Thousand Six Hundred Ninety three...I **William Hawxhurst Brother to ye abovenamed Samson do hereby Confirme."**

2. Christopher Sr.'s son Samson was the son-in-law of Mill John Townsend by 1694. Although Miller's article states that Samson married Hannah Townsend on January 18, 1698, Samson was Mill John's son-in-law four years earlier according to an 11 October 1694 document in Volume I on pages 601 and 602:

**"I JOHN TOWNSEND ye son of HENRY TOWNSEND Senr** Oysterbay...for & in ye Considracon yt David Underhill of Oysterbay aforesd hat Granted & Confir'm's unto Samson Hawxhurst of Cedarswamp in ye Bounds of Oysterbay aforesd **my Son in Law**...ye Eleventh Day of October in ye year of our Lord **one thousand Six hundred Ninety ffour...**"

3. Christopher Sr.'s son William probably did not have a wife and two children. Miller listed William as having a wife, name unknown, and two children. However, in a 20 October 1702 Oyster Bay town record William deeded all of his property to his brother Samson without making provisions for a wife or any children. William did include the provision that he would continue to live on the property until his death. The document is in Volume II on pages 541 and 542:

TO ALL CHRISTIAN PEOPLE to whome this present Deed of Gift Shall Come or In any wise appertaine Be itt Known that **I William Hauxhurst of Matenacock In ye Bounds of Oysterbay** In Queens County on Nassaw IsLand In the province of Newyork and In Consideration of my Naturall Affections and Brotherly Love which I have towards **my Younger Brother Samson Hauxhurst** of the Township of Oysterbay aforesaid and for many other good Causes and Considerations me ye Said William Hauxhurst Especially Moveing Have Given Granted alienated Enfeoffed assigned released madeover and Confirmed and by these presents Do ffreely Cleerly and absolutely Give Grant alienate Encoffe assigne release makeover and Confirme un[to] my abovesaid Brother Samson Hauxhurst and his Lineal Heires that a[re] Lawfully Begotten of his own Body forEver all that of my Certaine Right of Lands & meadow which I have within the patten and Town[ship] of Oysterbay Both Divided and undivided... Butt I the Said William Hauxhurst Do Except and reserve to my Self ye whole use and benefitt of all ye a bovesaid granted Land and premises During my Naturall Life But after my Decease all to Return to my Said Brother Samson Hauxhurst and His Lineal Heires as abovesaid according to ye tenure of ye above-said Deed forever In Witness whereof I have hereunto Sett my hand and fixed to my Seale this twentieth Day of October in ye first year of her majesties Reigne Annoq Domini one thousand Seven hundred & two. Signed Sealed and Dilivered In presence of Thomas Jones John Townsend Nathaniel Coles William his X Mark Memorandum yt on ye Day and Date within written the within Named William Hauxhurst personally appeared before me Edward White Esqr one of her majesties Justices of ye peace for Queens County and acknoleged ye within written Deed of Gift to be his reall act and Deed Edward White x.

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William had the deed recorded the day it was written. Although it is possible that William had children after 1702, it seems unlikely. This is the last document in the Oyster Bay Town Records involving William Hawxhurst. Regarding William's daughter Sarah, Miller listed a daughter Sarah for both William and Samson:

Miller identified Samson's daughter Sarah as having been born on March 28, 1702 and having died on April 11, 1728; no other information is given.

Miller identified William's daughter as having married Tristram Dodge in 1726; no other information is given. (The marriage index of St George's church in Hempstead lists the date as 13 January 1727).

Miller might have assumed the death date of 1728 didn't apply to Sarah Hawxhurst Dodge because in Tristram Dodge's 1779 will he referred to his wife Sarah. However, there is a 1758 Oyster Bay town record in which Tristram Dodge of Oyster Bay identifies his wife as Sarah Weekes, the daughter of Joseph Weekes of Matinecock. It seems most likely that Sarah Hawxhurst, the daughter of Samson, was born in 1702, married Tristram Dodge in 1727 and died in 1728. After the death Sarah Hawxhurst Dodge, Sarah Weekes became Tristram's second wife.

Regarding William Jr., the son Miller listed for William Hawxhurst, Miller simply stated that he married Mary Chapman on August 24, 1758. The marriage year is questionable. It seems more likely that the William Hawxhurst who married Mary Chapman connects to the Hawxhurst family in some other way.

In conclusion, Robert B. Miller's article Hawxhurst genealogy is a very important genealogical document. However, the first two volumes of the Oyster Bay Town Records should be used to correct Miller's information. These corrections will help researchers more accurately understand the Hawxhurst family of Oyster Bay.

## Four Early Virginia Settlers Named Townsend

*by Liane Fenimore*

On the Townsend Society website, we have a section which lists persons named Townsend who appear on ship passenger lists bound for the Americas. Unfortunately, not many lists have survived and this is particularly true for those sailing to the New England colonies or New York. A number of immigrants on the existing lists headed to Virginia and researchers have long speculated about 'who was who' on these lists. The Virginia sources cited most frequently in this section of the website are the four volumes of Peter Wilson Coldham's "Complete Book of Emigrants, 1607-1776" and the extensive "Passenger and Migration Index" series by P. William Filby and Mary K. Meyer which draws on many sources. Both sets are standard research tools and found in all genealogy libraries. (Filby is available on Ancestry.com)

Those Townsends bound for Virginia between 1620 and 1635 included Henry Townsend, Thomas Townsend (Townson), a second Thomas Townsend (Townson), and Richard Townshend/Townsend. The least well-documented man

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in this group is the second Thomas. Richard Townshend can be followed in considerable detail.

With the help of two books published in 2007, "Adventurers of Purse and Person, Virginia,

1607-1624/5," 4th edition, R-Z, edited by John Frederick Dorman and "Virginia Immigrants and Adventurers, 1607-1635: A Biographical Dictionary," by Martha W. McCartney, it is possible to learn more about these early immigrants. "Adventurers of Purse and Person" is a very detailed look at the founding families of Virginia and the article on Richard Townshend and his six generations of descendants is eighteen pages. Dorman provides detailed information about the descendants of Richard's two granddaughters, however he found no evidence that there were male Townshend heirs beyond grandson Robert. All four men are treated in "Virginia Immigrants" which includes annotated biographies of various lengths based on known primary sources.

The first man, Henry Townsend, left no descendants in the Virginia colony because he died shortly after arriving. A man called George Thorpe had chosen Henry and two other men to be his servants. They left England in February 1620 on the 'London Merchant' and traveled to the Berkeley Hundred. Whether Henry had family in England is not known.

The next two men arrived some fifteen years later in 1635. They were Thomas Townsend, aged 26, and Thomas Townsend, aged 14. The two men, whose relationship is unknown but who were very likely kinsmen, landed on January 2, 1635 having sailed on the 'Bonaventure.' More is known about Thomas, Sr., because he had married Mary Whilhelme in England. Mary was the daughter of Christian Whilhelme, a Londoner who had invested in Virginia governor John Harvey's enterprises and whose son had also migrated to the colony. Thomas, Sr., did not stay in Virginia but returned to England where he worked as a potter manufacturing delftware. The 1630 will (probated 1631) of Christian Whilhelme identifies his daughter Mary and her husband Thomas Townsend.

There is nothing further on Thomas Townsend, Jr. He appears to have either died shortly after arriving or gone back to England.

The fourth man, Richard Townshend/Townsend, arrived on the "Abigaile" in 1620, aged about 14. Although printed sources usually give his age as 19 when he arrived (Filby says 24), this is likely incorrect. Richard was listed on the Muster of 1624/5 as a servant, aged 19, in the house of Dr. John Pott. Later, when he and his wife were passengers returning to Virginia in August 1635, he gave his age as 28. Both of these ages are consistent with a birth date circa 1606 or 1607. Since he was apprenticed February 20, 1621/2, one might expect him to be 14 or 15 rather than 20 or older.

Townshend lived in Dr. Pott's household in James City. In 1626, he testified that Dr. Pott was supposed to have been teaching him to be an apothecary but was not doing so. After Townshend presented their agreement to the court, Dr. Pott was ordered to either train his apprentice or start paying him. By 1629, Richard

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Townshend was serving as a burgess for the area between Archer's Hope and Martin's Hundred. He served as a member of the Council of State until his death. The date and location of his death are unknown. It is known that he sailed to England in 1648 but his wife described herself as a widow by early 1651.

Several (land) patents were issued to him including one in Charles River County in March 1639/40. On February 10, 1647/8 he sailed to England as Captain Richard Townshend, Esq. on the 'Honor of London.' Richard left power of attorney to a friend to conduct his business but it required the consent of his wife Frances. In February 1650/1 Mrs. Frances Townshend, widow, took out a patent for 2200 acres in what is now King George County. Richard's 1639/40 patent was re-patented by his son Francis in early 1652/3 as son and heir.

Richard Townshend's wife, Frances Baldwin, was the sister of Robert Baldwin of London and William Baldwin of Glapthorne (not Glassthorpe, as it is sometimes written), a village in Northamptonshire, England. After her husband's death she married Richard Jones, lived in York County, and was widowed again by 1653. In 1660, she married Robert Williams of Stafford County.

Richard Townshend and Frances Baldwin had only two sons, both of whom are documented in patents and estate documents.

1. Francis Townshend, born about 1633, died before July 1660 without issue. Proof of his parentage can be found in his own will where he leaves his father's former estate in York County (and other acreage) to his Baldwin uncles in trust for his mother.

2. Robert Townshend, Sr. was married in 1665 to Mary Langhorne, born in Newton Brownshall, Northamptonshire, England and they had two daughters and one son. His parentage is documented when he inherits his share of his father's property in York County and later his mother's lands in Stafford County. He died in 1675. His widow returned to England but came back to Virginia. She died before 1694 when letters of administration were granted for the estate of Mary Townshend of Newton or Higham Ferrars, Northamptonshire, who died in Virginia.

Robert and Mary had:

1. Frances, born about 1667, married 1) about 1683 Francis Dade, 2) 1695 John Withers and 3) 1699 Rice Hooe.

2. Mary, baptized 1669 in England, married March 15, 1691/2 to John Washington. A deed dated 1694 describes land patented in York County in 1639/40 by Richard Townshend that was granted to Robert Townshend as brother and heir to Francis Townshend [who was granted it in 1652/3], descending to Mary Washington [as daughter and coheir of Robert Townshend].

3. Robert Baldwin Townshend, Jr. who is mentioned in the January 10, 1675/6 will of his great-uncle Robert Baldwin of Huntingdonshire, England. Dorman could find no further mention of him and believes he died young and without issue.

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Although there are Washington, Dade and Hooe descendants of the two granddaughters, Frances and Mary, there are no known male descendants of Richard Townshend and Frances Baldwin. A son William Townshend was assigned to this couple in several secondary sources but there is no documentary evidence to support this. Other sources place a William Townsend born about 1680 in York County as a son of Robert Townsend, Jr. but Robert's parents did not marry until 1665 and he was clearly described as a son of Mary Langhorne Townshend in the Baldwin will, so is a child of that marriage. Robert could have been born as the first child in 1666 or after 1670/71.

These two genealogy books about early Virginia settlers provide a wealth of information for researchers and clear up some misconceptions regarding the Townsend immigrants. The new edition of "Adventurers," which was prepared to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Jamestown, is more than 1000 pages and covers 46 families. There are 201 footnote citations in just the Townshend article. "Virginia Immigrants" is 833 pages and includes more than 5500 individuals, including all persons named Townsend who were in the colony during the pertinent time frame. Both books should be available in larger genealogy libraries and some public libraries. (Search [www.worldcat.org](http://www.worldcat.org) and enter the title and your zip code for the library nearest to you.)

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1. McCartney, Martha C. *Virginia Immigrants and Adventurers, 1607-1635*. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2007, p. 698. Referencing Virginia Colonial Records 3:199, 260-262.

2. Men and women described as servants may not have been in the strict sense, i.e., that they were valets or maids. Sometimes the status of these individuals, once in the colony, was higher than would be expected of someone normally in those occupations.

3. *Virginia Immigrants*, p. 698.

4. "Two important English will sources that contain Townsends." Townsend Genealogical Journal, Volume 5, Number 2, p. 17. The will can be downloaded from [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/wills.asp](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/wills.asp)

Will of Christian Whilhelme, Galley Potmaker of Saint Olave, Southwark, Surrey, 9 April 1630, PROB 11/157.

5. Dorman, John Frederick, editor. *Adventurers of Purse and Person, Virginia, 1607-1624/5, Families R-Z*. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2007, p. 408.

6. *Adventurers*, p. 409.

7. It is very possible that there were other children who died in infancy.

8. Richard 28, Frances 21, Francis 2 sailed to Virginia on the 'Globe' 1635. See Coldham, [www.townsendociety.org/Members\\_Only/Passenger\\_Lists/PassengerLists.asp](http://www.townsendociety.org/Members_Only/Passenger_Lists/PassengerLists.asp)

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9. *Adventurers*, p. 409.
10. *Adventurers*, p. 409.
11. "Two important English will sources that contain Townsends." Townsend Genealogical Journal, Volume 5, Number 2, p. 17.
12. *Adventurers*, p. 410.
13. *Adventurers*, p. 411.
14. *Adventurers*, p. 412.
15. This William Townsend apparently married Sarah Churchill, daughter of Henry of Steeple Claydon, Buckinghamshire, England. He was described as a doctor in an 1687 court suit. The couple had 3 sons. Hayden's Virginia Genealogies.
16. *Adventurers*, p. 409. "Niece Townsend, the mother of Baldwyn and Mary." Niece refers to Mary Langhorne, wife of Robert Baldwin's nephew-in-law, Robert Townshend, Sr.

## News From On-Line

### ***New Anti-Spam Feature on Query Board***

Those of you who read and post to the query board on our site may have noticed flurries of undesirable postings. Working with our web-hosting team, we have implemented what we hope will be a solution.

The new anti-spam feature is an "image-validation system," which requires that the person posting to the board manually type in the letters and/or numbers contained in a unique image. Since automated spam programs cannot read an image, only a "real person" will be successful in posting.

### ***New York Wills***

NewEnglandAncestors.org (NEHGS) continues to add to its database of wills, administrations and guardianships in New York state from 1787-1835. You do have to join the society to get access to their extensive online databases. They currently offer a reduced cost for Ancestry.com if you are a member of their organization.

Abstracts of Wills, Administrations and Guardianships in NY State, 1787 - 1835. 55,020 additional records added. This week, an additional 48,429 records have been added to this database from the counties of Ontario, Orange, Tioga, and Washington.

[www.newenglandancestors.org/research/database/ny\\_probate/](http://www.newenglandancestors.org/research/database/ny_probate/)

### ***Vermont Maps Online***

The Vermont State Archives has digitized hundreds of maps, some dating back to the mid-eighteenth century, and is making them available on their website.

<http://vermont.archives.org/research/database/index.htm>

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### **World Vital Records with 850 million names**

World Vital Records is a subscription site with a large number of family histories on it. Some of the Townsend histories are available on our website. When records first go on this site, they are free for a limited number of days so it is worth checking regularly.

<http://www.worldvitalrecords.com/default.aspx>

World Vital Records has also partnered with Simmons Historical Publications in a new service to make more than 765 of its books accessible online. The books contain valuable genealogical information such as vital records, census records, deeds, wills, newspaper abstracts, court records, tax lists, and maps. This first launch of the Simmons Historical Publications data includes a collection of more than 40 books containing records from western Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina.

<http://www.worldvitalrecords.com/contentlisting.aspx?cat=shp>.

### **Berkshire, England Documents**

For those of us researching English roots, a listing of wills and other documents archived by the Wiltshire County Council in Berkshire, England is available on the web. Clicking of the reference number of the documents of interest results in more information and, in many cases, the actual documents can be viewed. A simple search on the name Townsend yields over 100 Townsends. The service is currently free.

<http://history.wiltshire.gov.uk/heritage/>

### **U.S. GNIS Useful for Genealogists**

The Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) is the Federal standard for geographic nomenclature. The GNIS contains information about physical and cultural geographic features of all types in the United States, holds the Federally recognized name of each feature and defines the feature location by state, county, USGS topographic map, and geographic coordinates. The database also includes names or spellings other than the official name, feature designations, feature classification, historical and descriptive information. Many, but not all, cemeteries are listed, and each profile has links to several mapping features.

<http://geonames.usgs.gov>

### **Strong Genealogical Research Tool for Canada**

thatsmyfamily.info was launched and is maintained by Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BAnQ). Library and Archives Canada (LAC) partners with BAnQ to oversee the evolution of this project.

The search tool, free of charge and available in French and in English, leads to genealogy and family history databases hosted by federal, provincial or territorial archives centres and libraries, or by other partners.

<http://thatsmyfamily.info> or [voicimafamille.info](http://voicimafamille.info) for French

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## **FamilySearch Wants Feedback**

FamilySearch labs is a beta site for the genealogy site, FamilySearch.org, and they are interested in feedback on the new family history technologies on the site. If you click on Family Search Indexing, you can sign up to test the site and give them your feedback.

<http://labs.familysearch.org/>

## **Passings**

### **Charley Eugene Townsend**

Charley Eugene Townsend passed away at home in Fort Collins, CO, Tuesday, December 4, 2007. Charley, son of E.A. and Nelle E. (Halsey) Townsend, was born July 2, 1929, on the family farm in Decatur County, Kansas.

After attending school in a one-room schoolhouse, he graduated from Decatur Community High School, Oberlin, KS in 1946. Charley then graduated from Kansas State University with a B.S. in Agronomy (1950) and an M.S. in Plant Pathology and Plant Genetics (1951). After completion of his degrees at Kansas State, he served in the U.S. Army as an assistant biologist at Camp Dietrich, Frederick, MD. In September 1954, he returned to the University of Wisconsin at Madison and acquired his Ph.D. in Plant Breeding and Plant Genetics. In 1956, he accepted a position as a plant geneticist with Agricultural Research, USDA, a cooperative program involved with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the College of Agriculture at Colorado State University. Charley spent his entire career with the USDA and retired in 1994.

Charley is survived by Hilda, his wife of 49 years; a daughter, Cindy Townsend Sakala and son-in-law Criss Sakala of Fort Collins; two grandsons, Kellen Sakala of Nashville, TN, and Holden Sakala of Fort Collins. He is also survived by a sister, Alda Rick of Austin, TX. He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Tom Townsend; and sister Aneta Hageman.

Charley was a member of the Townsend Society (T-383), and descended from the Townsendville, NY line of Townsends. His niece is Diana Hart, who is also a member and contributes information to the mailing list and website.

### **Byron Jared Townsend**

Byron Jared Townsend, 90, died Tuesday, October 23, 2007 in Columbus, OH.

Byron Townsend was born August 5, 1917 in Buffalo Lake, MN to Wyman L. and Emma (Fischer) Townsend. He earned a BA from Moorhead State Teachers College, MN in 1939 and an MA from the University of Montana in 1953. Mr. Townsend served in World War II as a 1st Lieutenant in the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers in England, France and Germany. He received the Purple Heart. After the war he taught school in Glendive, MT and Peterborough, England. In 1956, he became an elementary school principal for the U. S. Air Force, England and was stationed at USAF bases there as well as Wheelus Air Force Base, Tripoli, Libya. Mr.

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Townsend, Professor Emeritus, joined the faculty of Muskingum College, New Concord, OH in 1964 where he taught until retirement.

He was predeceased by his wife Beryl Townsend (June 2007), his brothers Clyde F. Townsend, MD, and Lynn W. Townsend, CA, and a sister Elvira Townsend, NM. Mr. Townsend is survived by his children Liane and John Fenimore of Columbus, OH, Kerry and Mike Ward of Waldo, OH, John and Mary Jo Townsend of Columbus; grandchildren, Jack and Shannon Fenimore of Grandview Heights, OH, Ross Fenimore of Santa Monica, CA, and Peter Fenimore of Marion, OH; Justin and Anna Folk of Delaware, OH and Alex Folk of Marion; Nicole, Alyssa, Jeffrey and Christina Townsend of Columbus. Mr. Townsend has a surviving sister, Myrle Warren, of Mandan, ND.

Byron participated in a DNA test that linked us to the Oyster Bay Townsends and he was quite excited with the results since I had spent many years trying to trace our line. Not afraid to knock on a door or contact a distant relative, he was very supportive of my efforts. Even in his mid-eighties, he accompanied me on a research and cemetery trip to central Michigan, snoozing in the library and patiently trooping through the cemeteries with me.

### **Betty Haley**

Betty Loucille Haley, born Betty Loucille Townsen, passed away December 1, 2007, at her Abilene residence.

Betty was born June 17, 1935, to Jasper Pinkney Townsen and Velma Loucille Stephenson in Tuscola, Texas. A native of Abilene, she attended Abilene High School and graduated in 1953. She also attended Hardin Simmons University.

She was married to LTC Ret. Robert Howard Haley December 18, 1959, and was a loving wife to LTC Ret. Robert H. Haley, mother to Andrea Christine "Tina" Haley and John David Haley, and grandmother to three grandchildren.

Throughout the course of her life, she served as a member of many volunteer organizations in the military. Betty received the Clara Barton Award from The American Red Cross in 1972 for exemplary service to the organization and her community.

She was a person of great humor and wit and was well known to many members of the community. She worked for several local businesses including First Security Savings and Loan and National Census Bureau. Mrs. Haley was also a member of The First Baptist Church of Abilene.

### **Marshall Andrew (Matt) Townsend**

Marshall Andrew (Matt) Townsend was born in Long Beach, California in 1947 and passed away October 14, 2007 at Stanford Hospital.

A retired Sebastopol resident for eight years, he enjoyed helping his neighbors set up internet service through the WSCICC (No Cat) Co-op. He was very interested in genealogy, especially the Townsend branch. He loved off-roading and was an avid 4-wheeler along with his son Paul. He enjoyed taking Sunday drives, watch-

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ing his grandchildren play sports, fishing (especially in Florida), tinkering with mechanical things, and had an enthusiasm for learning new things.

He was treasurer and webmaster of the Townsend Society in Oyster Bay, NY; board member of West Sonoma County Internet Co-op; moderator of the Northern California Chapter of Liberty Off Road Special Teams Club (LOST KJ); and a volunteer for Forgotten Felines of Sonoma County.

Matt was one of the first 500 employees of Intel Corp. He worked as an electronics engineer during most of his 17 years of employment there. He changed careers after completing his Computer Science degree from Chapman University. He worked as a computer scientist in Sierra Vista, AZ and in Monument, CO where he started his own consulting company, Ayuup Inc. and retired in 1999.

He is survived by his wife Laura Emma (Mittelsdorf) Townsend; father Paul Franklin Townsend; son Paul Hisashi Marshall of Windsor, CA and daughter Tamiko Ruth House of San Jose, CA; grandchildren Kyle Robert House, Zachary Marshall House, Ella Hanako House, Ryan Howard Marshall and Jacob Tyler Marshall as well as his brothers Stanley Keith Townsend of Payson, AZ and Larry Dean Townsend of West Chicago, IL.

Matt was preceded in death by his mother, Ruth Laverne (Lippold) Townsend.



### **Matt Will Be Missed**

Matt Townsend was central to much of what the Townsend Society does. He was our webmaster, our treasurer, our idea man, and very often the person who kept us on track.

What we will do without him, we do not know.

As our webmaster, Matt revamped the website to make it easier to use and give it a more updated look. He worked with Lew Townsend to set up a new DNA page so that members could post their DNA results. Our website is now lovely to look at with terrific graphics and colors. It is without doubt one of the nicest genealogy society pages on the internet.

As treasurer, Matt kept his eagle eye on our bottom line.

He worked closely with David Townsend on the sale of the old house and museum, and our move into new office space.

To get Liane Fenimore to agree to be editor of our quarterly journal, Matt said he would do the paste-up for her. As our editor will admit, Matt was much better

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with QuarkExpress than she could ever be. Liane says he was a great e-mailer and loved to toss around ideas for areas of research or ideas for journal articles. He always contributed his share of news to the journal.

Twice a year he flew to Oyster Bay, New York for a week or so to help our president, Lew Townsend, on any number of projects. This past year they worked for many hours getting the old house ready to sell, getting the furniture and collectibles to auction, and then organizing the move into nice new office space.

Matt was a task-master. He, Lew, our director, and our journal editor exchanged many emails trying to decide how to catalog our collection to make it easier for everyone to find things. None of us knew much about cataloging, but Matt was determined, and the project is well underway.

Matt loved to discuss Townsend genealogy of any sort, but he especially liked to debunk some of the fanciful notions about the origins of the various Townsends who came to America. He was quite sure that we were ordinary folk.

He, Lew and Liane spent a lot of time trying to track down their own line of Oyster Bay Townsends, and they followed any clue that appeared. Matt was good on the internet and Liane followed up with microfilm as they searched through parish registers and wills. It was wonderful fun.

Matt was a constant presence at the TSA office, always available via instant messaging for questions, brainstorming, feedback and information. "The man in the computer" shed light on genealogical ambiguities, moderated differences of opinion on office and cataloging policy and procedure, coached, prodded, cajoled and encouraged. He was a smart, savvy, funny companion every day.

### **Call for Volunteers and Articles**

Don't forget we always have a need for volunteers. Transcribers, indexers, web site maintainers, and such. The more we can catalog the more we can put on the web site for other member's research. Contact [director@townsendsociety.org](mailto:director@townsendsociety.org) for info.

We always welcome contributions from members of the Society and encourage you to put pen to paper. Articles can be short or long but do need to be Townsend related. Your account of breaking through a brick wall (or trying to) or your great-great-grandparents adventures as they migrated west across the country are just a couple of ideas that could develop into an article.

If you have read something in a past Journal that needs to be updated or that you have new information about, we would certainly like to include this. Bible records, genealogies, cemetery inscriptions, 1790 census families, data on groups of people, interesting wills, DNA discoveries, family peculiarities - surely there is something you can find to write about. Don't worry about spelling or grammar, we will be happy to help out.

Our Journal deadlines are January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15. Please contact me, Liane Fenimore, at [editor@townsendsociety.org](mailto:editor@townsendsociety.org).

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### THE 2007 ANNUAL MEETING

*Report prepared by Harry Macy, Secretary*

The Annual Meeting of the Townsend Society was held on Saturday, October 27, 2007, in the Society's new headquarters at 225 Townsend Square, Oyster Bay. The meeting was called to order by President Lewis Townsend at 2:10 p.m. Thirteen persons were present, including Vice-President Richard Townsend, Trustees David Townsend and Alice Bernice Townsend Perks, and Trustee Emerita Ethel Townsend.

The President announced with great sadness the sudden passing of Matt Townsend, Webmaster and Treasurer of the Society and one of its most enthusiastic supporters for many years. He expressed appreciation for all that Matt had done for the Society and asked those present to observe a moment of silence in Matt's memory.

As this was the 45th annual meeting of the Society and the first meeting to be held in its new quarters, the President briefly reviewed the organization's history. He noted that the Society was formed in 1962 following a Townsend Tea held at Raynham Hall, Oyster Bay. Its future was ensured in 1980 when member Helen Hart Townsend of Nyack, New York, died leaving the Society her substantial estate. Some of those funds were used to purchase the house at 107 East Main Street, Oyster Bay, which functioned as a headquarters and museum for the next 27 years. The Society's new home at 225 Townsend Square is primarily a genealogical and historical research facility, with space for meetings and for selected Townsend artifacts from the former house.

The President reported that membership during the past year continued to average 550, from all parts of the U.S. and several other countries. He expressed his thanks for those members who had volunteered their time and services to the Society during the year, including the officers and trustees and especially Lucy Stauring, Karen Overholt, Linda Hendley, Laveta Townsend, Deborah Townsend, and the other Journal and web contributors over the past year.

David Townsend reported that the house at 107 East Main Street had been sold in February 2007 for \$665,000. An additional \$25,000 had been realized thus far from sales of contents of the house by South Bay Auctions. The sale of the house marked a significant change in the Society's financial situation, which was now better than ever before in its history. The President thanked David for his handling of the house sale and the move to the new space.

Allison Putala, who took over management of the headquarters in June 2007, reported that she was continuing the work of cataloging the files in the collection and scanning books and documents. The long-term goal was to tie all the Society's databases together so that they could be accessed with a single search.

Trustee and Editor Liane Fenimore was unable to be present due to the death of her father. The President extended the sympathy of all present to Liane. He reported that the Journal had had a good year and that new material and ideas for

## Townsend Genealogical Journal

the publication were always welcome. He thanked Liane for her excellent work on the Journal.

David Townsend as chairman of the Nominating Committee presented his report, placing in nomination three officers and one trustee to fill expired terms, namely Lewis Townsend as President, Richard G. Townsend as Second Vice-President, and Harry Macy as Secretary, all to serve the term 2007-2010, and Gary B. Townsend as Trustee for the term 2007-2011. 25 proxies had been received on-line and one by mail, all in favor of the slate. There being no votes against the slate by those present, the President declared the slate elected. David Townsend also noted that the offices of First Vice-President and Treasurer were vacant along with two trustee positions. He reported that the board had approved the temporary appointment of Lewis Townsend as Acting Treasurer and himself as Assistant Acting Treasurer.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. Those attending enjoyed refreshments while touring the new research facility and observing demonstrations of the website.

### Queries

**Sharon Johnson** is looking for information on Andrew Townsend, b. ca 1830 GA, who appears on the 1860 Paulding Co., GA census with his wife, Martha (Farlow), b. ca 1835 GA, and three sons. He died by 1865 when his widow married James Cole. She and Cole appear on the 1870 Paulding Co., GA census. From both these censuses one learns that Andrew had five children: Andrew, b. ca 1856; James, b. ca 1858; John L., b. ca 1860, d. bef. 1870; Henry, b. ca 1861; and Martha, b. ca 1862. The children are listed incorrectly as Cole's on the 1870 census with their mother.

Some list an Andrew Townsend, b. ca 1830 Habersham Co., GA as the son of Thomas Townsend, b. ca 1783. I cannot confirm this and don't know that he is the same Andrew as the one in Paulding Co., GA.

I am specifically interested in the daughter of Andrew of Paulding Co.: Martha, b. ca 1862 GA.

Any leads will be greatly appreciated. [sharonvinemont@comcast.net](mailto:sharonvinemont@comcast.net)

**Randy Townsend** is interested in identifying the parents of Alvah Townsend, b. 1806 NY, likely at Patterson, Putnam County (previously part of Dutchess). I believe his mother is Rhoda Cleveland, based on information found in the will of Rhoda Cleveland from 1814 in which she mentions a son Alvah Townsend, age 8. No mention of a husband. Clevelands and Townsends were apparently neighbors according to information received from Liane Fenimore.

Does anyone know of any connection to a possible father for this child? Likely the father may have died prior to 1814 or the parents weren't married. Thank you. [caintown@shaw.ca](mailto:caintown@shaw.ca)

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**Christina** - I hope someone is able to share some information about Thomas O. Townsend (not Thomas C. Townsend). He was born in NC around 1810; he was an attorney in Lowndes Co., GA and appeared in court records as such through 1850. He was listed on 1840 Lowndes Co. census (also listed were Jesse, Allen & John Townsend). T.O. was not listed in 1850, by then he and his wife Mahala Sloan have disappeared. I have not verified any connection with these other Townsends though it is possible there was one. Jesse, John and Allen seem to be part of the Burval, Townsend group, but T.O. does not. Distant cousin?

Thomas and Mahala's children: Jacques (1835), Lot (1841-1898) Antoinette (184-) and Pauline (1845) were all born in Colquitt, Taylor or Lowndes Co., GA. Thomas and Mahala were married in Taylor Co., GA in 1832. These children are all living with Sloan family members by 1850, in Colquitt and Lowndes Co's. Later some of these children moved to Florida.

My line is Lot; he's buried in Taylor Co., FL. I have his Civil War pension information and information regarding his wives and children through a various census. But I do not have any information on his parents. Any information regarding T.O. and Mahala would be greatly appreciated. This Thomas O. Townsend is not the Thomas who lived in Habersham Co. Ga. (or his son).

As far as I can tell, this T.O. is not part of the Townsend family written about by Joseph Burval. I have his book, Benedictus Townsend of South Carolina, and I have corresponded with Mr. Burval who agrees. But it seems there must be some connection since some of those Townsends were living in Lowndes Co. the same time as T.O. Townsend. On the 1840 Lowndes Co. census there was an unknown older male living with Thomas Townsend.

Also, the connection between Lot Townsend and Elijah Townsend that is found on some Ancestry sites does not appear to be accurate. I hope someone is willing to help with this mystery. Thank you for your interest and help. I look forward to hearing from the extended Townsend family. Christina. [gondeks@road-runner.com](mailto:gondeks@road-runner.com)

**Ruth Fisher** says she has been looking for the whereabouts of Jennie Townsend/Tousen/or ?.

Her mother was Cora May Edwards Townsend, daughter of Jennie and J.T. Edwards. Father: D.A. or D.A.R. Townsend. Does anyone have any information they can share with me? She was my 'half' Aunt born abt. 1880. I do not know who or if she married. The story I was told was Cora got kicked out of the Townsend and Edwards families because she divorced. Would really like to know the story.

In 1870 they were in St. Louis, MO: Joseph(38) and Jennie(31) Edwards; Cora(11) . . .

In 1880 living in Henry Co., TN: D. A. Townsen, 29; (Running Mill) wife: Cora Edwards, 20; (m.12-15-77-Henry Co., TN) JENNIE TOWNSEN, 1; J. T. Edwards, 46 VA, father-in-law tobacconist . . .

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By 1900 in Crittenden Co., AK: Cora's other children: Joseph(10), Macum(7), Roberta (5) JONES. And her stepchildren Crete Jones(13), Rubye Walker(6). And lastly Liddie Walker(2)dau.of Cora. No mention of Jennie T. . . .

Cora was an Edwards, married DA Townsend, then Joseph Jones, then John Walker. Cora was my grandmother; Macum was my father. THANK YOU for any help. ruth@prodigy.net

**Stanley Shaw** is studying the Shaw line: I am interested in information about Rachel Townsend. My line shows that Rachel Townsend married Aaron Shaw in Seaville or Egg Harbor, Cape May, NJ in 1790. Rachel's father was Daniel Townsend married to Rebecca (Corson) Townsend. Daniel was the son of Richard and Millisent (Somers) Townsend. Aaron Shaw is six generations back from me. I am wondering how to get more information on this Townsend line? Thanks, Stan. ssshaw@uiuc.edu

### DNA Update

Calling more Townsends!!!

I know that there are still more of you out there that have yet to have your DNA tested to identify or confirm your Townsend family group.

The Townsend Y chromosome DNA testing project stands at 120 sets of results, but only one new test kit is at the lab at this time. And for the first time we are no longer in the 100 largest surname projects. While we do have a number of persons who are expanding their tests to get more specific information, we would very much find the genetic fingerprint for more family groups, such as Repentance, and to try and tie some of you who have hit "brick walls" into identified Townsend family groups.

Remember that while we are testing Townsend males, often it is the family historians and females who can get a male relative involved.

Please check out your Society's website DNA page and email me for guidance.

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