

About Towne

Volume XXXII, No. 4

October-November-December 2012

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"The Towne family from America coming to Great Yarmouth, England" — Photo: James Bass, courtesy of the *Great Yarmouth Mercury* — Picture taken at St. Nicholas Church in Great Yarmouth, England in front of the TFA plaque.

OUR ANCESTRAL CHURCHES

by Judi Ruch

Rae Johnson—the New Editor

Due to illness, Carole Towne Seaton has had to step down from the position of editor. Rae Russell Johnson has agreed to assume the position so that Carole may concentrate on her health and recuperation. Rae Russell Johnson has been a member of the TFA since 2007. She is descended from Rebecca Towne Nurse and Mary Towne Estey.

Please send your articles for the TFA Newsletter to Rae's email address:

abouttownenews@hotmail.com

[Editor's note: The various forms of the Estey and Blessing surnames mentioned in the article are the spellings used on the registries in each of the various churches and towns.]

What a wonderful trip we had, from the very first moment we all met in the lobby of the hotel at Heathrow Airport and were welcomed so warmly by our president Elizabeth Hanahan! There were thirty-six of us, all related somehow, touring the Norfolk and Suffolk areas of England, home to our Towne ancestors and the churches associated with them. Our eight days so perfectly organized by Karen Johnsen and our English genealogist, Charles Farrow, that everything went very smoothly. Charles was so full of information on all the sites we visited that we clustered around him at every stop. And we had fun, too! The weather couldn't have been nicer -- being warm and sunny the whole time. Our headquarters in Norwich, Norfolk, England was at the Maids Head Hotel, the oldest hotel in Norwich, just recently renovated.

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For all new member applications,
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WELCOME

New Members!

TFA Website: <http://www.TowneFolk.com>

You can join or renew online
and read the latest membership news

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About Towne is the official voice of the all-volunteer Towne Family Association, incorporated in Delaware in 1989 and comprised of descendants of William and Joanna Blessing Towne and those interested in their family's history. William and Joanna emigrated with their family from Great Yarmouth, England, to Salem, MA, about 1635. In 1692, two of their daughters—Rebecca Towne Nurse and Mary Towne Estey—were hanged as witches during the Salem witchcraft hysteria. A third daughter—Sarah Towne Cloyse—was jailed for witchcraft but escaped execution.

Unless otherwise specified by the source person or copyright holder, all submissions become the property of the association for purposes of publication and inclusion in historical files. Published quarterly: March, June, September and December.



President's Letter

I hope this finds you enjoying the holidays! I would like to welcome Rae Johnson, who has been appointed as the new editor of **About Towne**. She has been working hard since returning from England to put this issue together, and I think that you will enjoy the results. I am very happy that we were able to find a new editor quickly since it is allowing for a smooth transition. You can contact her at AboutTowneNews@hotmail.com to share ideas for future issues. On another positive note, I am very happy to report that Carole Seaton is doing very well with her cancer treatments. She has helped Rae by providing guidelines and suggestions for editing and putting the newsletter together and will continue to assist with the transition as needed.

Our Towne tour of Norfolk and Suffolk counties in England was wonderful. All of the careful planning of Karen Johnsen and Charles Farrell paid off in an unforgettable experience. We were featured in a local newspaper when we spent the day at St. Nicholas Church, and all of the descendants were photographed in front of the plaque which had been donated. I do not know how long articles are archived online, but the link for newspaper is <http://www.greatyarmouthmercury.co.uk/news>. You can then search for "witches" and you may be able to see us in the news!

I have received thank-you messages from some of the churches that we visited. They enjoyed having us visit and were very appreciative of the donations we gave them. We were treated to tea in a church nearly every day, a totally unexpected surprise, and learned many interesting facts from the church wardens. The amount of history contained in those churches was amazing. Coming from a country that specializes in "planned obsolescence," the care that has been taken to preserve the past is truly impressive.

As surprised as William and Joanna Towne would have been to see so many of their descendants returning to St. Nicholas Church, they would be just as surprised to learn of the far-reaching impact of their descendants. The rededication of the Salem Witch Trials Memorial is a good example. Not only is it a memorial to those who lost their lives during the witchcraft hysteria of 1692, but it is also a symbol designed to oppose intolerance and injustice wherever it occurs. (If you would like to watch a video of the keynote address which was taken by Dan Dudley who was at the rededication ceremony, go to youtube and search for Greg Alan Williams.) Likewise, Laura M. Towne's founding of Penn School on St. Helena Island, SC, is being celebrated at Penn Center during this sesquicentennial year with events that help to promote the humanitarian values which she embodied during her life. The impact of Clara Barton and the Red Cross is well known. These are some of the most prominent Towne descendants who have devoted their lives to the public good in education, medicine, law, politics and the military through the generations since the witchcraft trials. Many of their stories have been told in past issues of **About Towne** which are available on our website, www.townefolk.com, and are a testament to the positive impact that can be made by individual efforts.

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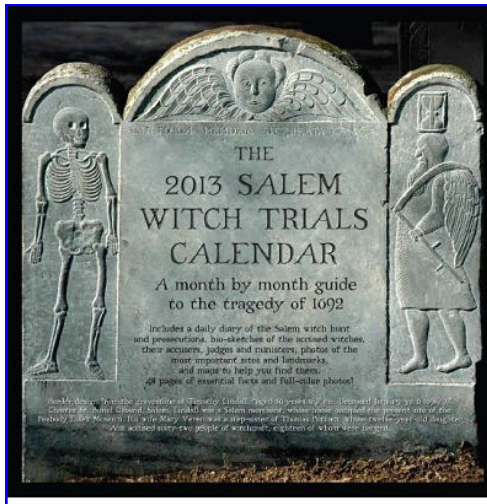
I hope you will consider carefully the call for nominations which you will find later in this issue. This may be your opportunity to make a difference in the future of TFA.

Finally, if you would like to find out what was happening the year that you were born, check out this web site that Gail Garda found which covers the years of 1900 to 2011. <http://www.infoplease.com/yearbyyear.html>

Best wishes for a happy and healthy new year!

Elizabeth Hanahan ∞

~The 2013 Salem Witch Trials Calendar~



Front Cover of the Calendar

One of the gifts that TFA presented to the Norwich Records Office in Norwich, Norfolk, England, on the recent journey to England was a 2013 calendar about the Salem Witch Trials. It had been passed around the bus before our stop at the office and it provoked a lot of interest in the group as to how to go about purchasing one for themselves or for their loved ones. Mr. Tim Kendall, the author of the calendar, kindly sent some information about the calendar so that all who would be interested may have the opportunity to purchase one.

Kendall, a noted archaeologist who lives in Salem, MA, has used his research expertise to craft *The 2013 Salem Witch Trials Calendar*: a month by month guide to the tragedy of 1692. It is a book in a unique format—a calendar. “The Salem hysteria began in January

1692 and lasted nearly twelve months—an entire year!” Kendall writes, “I thought if I designed the book as a calendar it would allow people to follow the story in real time, month-by-month. Plus, they could actually use it as a 2013 calendar. Here each month is contrasted with the same month in 1692, in which events are presented in day-by-day diary style. The pages are also illustrated with 67 color photographs of important sites and landmarks, gravestones and contemporary portraits of the leading figures, and important documents.”

The editor of the article about the calendar wrote, “I received a copy of Kendall's calendar, and after flipping through a few pages, found myself immersed for several hours. It is both visually appealing, with photos of houses and public buildings relevant to the trials, as well as historically accurate. It is much more than a calendar, to be read and referred to, beyond 2013, as much for its thrilling story as precise details “

The email address is <http://www.salemwitchtrialscalendar.com>, if you would like to order this calendar. The price is \$19.95 plus shipping and handling. ∞

Historian's Corner



The Historian in England

By Virginia Towne

England is a place steeped in history from before the conquest by Rome. In the earliest days we have little, but people have always been curious and have wanted to know what is over there. The Celts had a type of written language even before the Romans arrived; therefore, we have mention of the misty island to the west, although it is sometimes hard to determine which island they were talking about.

I arrived in England a few days before the TFA tour and visited Stonehenge, a site dating back before the written word. At some five thousand years old, its origin is shrouded in mystery. Because of the orientation of the stones, we know the makers were worried about being able to identify the solstices and were probably using it as a large and impressive calendar. Other uses may have been some form of worship or as a seat of power for the local chieftains or kings. Keeping track of time is still very important for agriculture and for people who hunt and fish. Burial mounds surround the site, making me believe there must have been a number of villages near the site or that it was regarded as being something like the Valley of the Kings in Egypt, which would be in keeping with the large structure in the center. Massive displays of building and huge burial mounds would show the power of the local tribes.

Stepping up in time, the Romans came and built a huge bathing complex at Bath. The natural hot mineral water was a place that they could come and bathe and relax after the arduous tasks of subduing the local populace. At about two thousand years old, it is still in good enough shape that you can easily identify the major areas of the baths.



St. Mary's, Blundeston,
with a Norman tower

Although Christian churches were a part of Britain from before the time of Roman conversion in the year 312, the massive buildings we see were not built until after the Norman invasion in 1066 when a more European influence came into the picture. This was also the time of building large defensive fortifications, castles, to defend the position of the conquering king, William I, or "the Bastard of Normandy" to give him the title he had been given at the time by many Englishmen.

We see his hand in the building of Leeds Castle south of London and at the Tower of London. At Leeds, like in most places, the palace consists of a collection of buildings from various times, as the previous buildings were pulled down and replaced with something better. The gatehouse at Leeds dates from the twelfth or thirteenth century, while other structures vary in age.

The same thing is true of the churches the TFA visited. Things happened over time to make the structures need repairs, and while some were true repairs, others were more in the nature of remodels or just plain "let's start over" rebuilding. St. Nicholas in Great Yarmouth was bombed during the second World War and the structure was

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Historian's Corner, continued from previous page



Rood screen, St. Mary's, Somerleyton — Charles Farrow giving details of the church

rebuilt with little left that is original; however they did a good job of reconstructing what had been there. Another church showed the heavy and flamboyant hand of the Victorians in gilding and fancying up everything.

Most of the churches we visited came from the time of building, the twelfth to the fourteenth centuries. They were built of stone, most being local rocks and flint in a lime grout. Massive towers were built from this simple material and still stand proudly, pointing our way to heaven. Driving down the roads you could see these beacons for the faithful still standing proudly over the trees.

I was transported with joy to find an intact rood screen with what looked to be angels painted in the Middle Ages. A rood screen separated the altar, the place for priests and monks, from the average person standing watching the service. Being seated during services was not for any but the aged or infirm, and then only at the side, until about the fifteenth or sixteenth century. Other relics included baptismal fonts where some of our ancestors were baptized and which were later defaced during the English Civil War and the time of Cromwell.

Being in England is an historian's dream. Here you see all those things you have always read about—real items you can see and touch that date from the times long ago. City walls, still standing proudly, market places and other such items make you feel at home with what you have spent your life learning. ∞



Side of baptismal font at St. Peter's Church in Freston defaced during the English Civil War

~TFA Tennessee Regional Meeting~ — Debbie Atchley



Group activity—Looking at Townefolk

The Tennessee Regional Meeting was held on October 13, 2012, at the Tennessee Genealogical Society meeting room in Germantown, TN. A Skype conversation with Margaret Press on the Towne DNA



Project was one of several highlights of the meeting. Another was a group activity of looking at the Townefolk website. The next meeting will be held on May 11, 2013, at the same place. — **Group picture: L to R — Jeff Atchley, Debbie Towne Atchley, Warren Towne, Dan Fuller, Tom Allen, Spencer Cook, Riley Atchley, Susan Gould, Herb Gould** ∞

Genealogist's Corner



Clarissa Harlowe Barton (1821~1912)

Missing Soldiers Office in Washington, DC

(William Towne>Sarah Towne-Bridges>Hannah Bridges-Barton>Clarissa Barton)

Research by Gail Garda, TFA Genealogist



100 years after her death, Clara Barton's Missing Soldiers Office in Washington, DC, is soon to become a museum. The office and small sleeping quarters were discovered in 1996, when the government-owned building, at 437-441 Seventh Street, was slated for demolition. From 1920 to 1990 the first floor was occupied by a shoe store, while the third floor office suite was left mostly untouched for decades. A construction carpenter, Richard Lyons, was sent in by the contractor to make sure nobody was living in the space before it was torn down. As the story goes, Lyons kept hearing a noise in the front room and felt something touch his shoulder. When he went to investigate he noticed a letter hanging from a crack in the ceiling. He found a ladder and climbed into the attic and discovered a treasure trove of government records, Civil War-era newspapers, letters, leftover wallpaper, nineteenth century clothing and a sign from Barton's Missing Soldiers Office.

The Board of Directors of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine (NMCWM) has signed an agreement with the United States General Services Administration (GSA) to manage the original site of Clara Barton's Missing Soldiers Office.

Clara Barton's life of service has been a role model for generations of nurses, teachers, social workers, doctors, and allied health professionals. A new generation of executives and public servants value the leadership and strong work ethic she exhibited with profound dedication to her cause. She cared little for personal comforts, instead choosing to comfort others.

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Genealogist's Corner, continued from previous page

"What she did in nursing is incredibly important and we don't want to diminish that at all. But to say that Clara Barton is a nurse is a gross understatement of her importance. The fact is that she was a relief organizer at a time when women didn't do that. At a time when women found that they had to get men involved in order to be taken seriously, Clara Barton bucked that system." George Wunderlich, Executive Director, NMCWM

Clara Barton was born in North Oxford, Massachusetts, in 1821 and worked as a teacher and government worker before tending to the soldiers in the Civil War. She went on to establish the American Red Cross in 1881.

== Civil War Activities == The Angel of the Battlefield

In 1861 when the Civil War broke out, Clara Barton was living in a room on the third floor of an early office block at 437-441 Seventh Street, NW, and was working as a copyist at the Patent Office. Women employed by the federal government were extremely unusual at this time; when first hired by the Patent Office in 1854, Miss Barton was one of only four women working in this capacity in all of the government agencies. She could not help but notice the undercurrents of war sweeping through the nation's capital, as the summer of 1861 brought a massive military buildup to the city. By June 1861, 75,000 troops were encamped on the hills surrounding the city of Washington, and in late July 1861, after the Confederate victory at Manassas Battlefield in Virginia, an additional 30,000 Union soldiers flooded the city to protect the nation's capital. The presence of these troops caused an administrative nightmare for the War and Medical Departments, which had neither sufficient medical supplies nor food stores to adequately supply the soldiers. Clara Barton longed to take an active role in the conflict; what she wanted most was to serve as a Union soldier, but her gender prevented this. However, the severe shortages of food and medical supplies at the beginning of the war did afford her the opportunity to participate more directly. Miss Barton purchased food from her own salary, prepared it, and distributed it to the city's hospitals and hilltop encampments, supplementing the troops' rations of hardtack and pork with pickled vegetables, jellies, pies, cakes, whiskey, and tobacco. News of this work spread to her former homes in New Jersey and Massachusetts, and friends there sent her additional supplies to distribute.

From this humble beginning, Miss Barton began a more concerted effort to collect and take supplies to the battlefields. In addition to food, she collected medical items, including bandages and salves, and other essential supplies like sheets and lanterns. The supplies quickly filled her rooms, so in December 1861 she rented space in a warehouse located somewhere near Seventh Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. By July 1862, she had filled three warehouses (in addition to her rooms) with donated supplies. In August 1862, with the permission of Colonel Daniel H. Rucker, head of the Quartermaster Depot in Washington, Miss Barton and two assistants traveled to Fredericksburg, where they distributed the supplies. In the coming years, Clara Barton took supplies and nursed wounded soldiers at Culpeper, Fairfax Station, Antietam, Alexandria, Frederick, the South Carolina Sea Islands, the Wilderness, Petersburg, and Richmond. Working near the front lines, and sometimes under enemy fire, Miss Barton proved herself a heroine in many perilous situations.

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Genealogist's Corner, continued from previous page

At the critical battle of Antietam, Clara Barton assisted at a makeshift hospital in a farmhouse that was under enemy fire. It was at Antietam that Miss Barton earned her reputation as "the angel of the battlefield," a nickname given to her by Dr. James Dunn. Putting her own life in serious danger, she nursed and comforted the wounded men as Confederate shells flew overhead and exploded around the house. In these harrowing circumstances, Miss Barton experienced some of the most memorable moments of the war.

Clara Barton had found a way to serve her country. She had found that she could "stand by the soldier between the bullet and the city hospital," providing supplies, medical assistance, and comfort to wounded men when they needed her help the most -- from the time they were injured until the ambulances could take them to the hospital. Her work gave her satisfaction, but she also faced many disappointments, as many men in the army believed women did not belong near the battlefields, and tried to deny her permission to bring her supplies to the troops. While she encountered periods of frustration and low spirits when her gender stood in the way of her desire to aid the Union troops, her persistence and courage proved to many doubters that women could play a critical part in the war.

== Civil War Activities == Missing Soldiers Office

As the Civil War drew to a close, Clara Barton searched for a way to refocus her activities. She conceived of the idea of establishing an "Office of Correspondence with the Friends of the Missing Men of the United States Army," which would work to identify Union soldiers who had been declared "missing in action." Such activity was authorized by President Lincoln in March 1865, and Miss Barton ran her Missing Soldiers Office from 1865 to 1868. In this position, she was technically the first woman to run a government office. Clara Barton opened this office at her own expense, and ran it from her rooms on Seventh Street, NW. She was eventually paid a flat fee of \$15,000 by the government for her efforts. The office received letters from families searching for lost soldiers, whose names were compiled into a master list divided by state. This list was published in newspapers, and was distributed nationwide and posted in post offices and other public places. People who had any information on the whereabouts of the bodies of fallen soldiers were to contact Miss Barton, who would then contact the soldiers' families. Most often the soldiers were identified as dead, although, on occasion, missing soldiers were found to be alive.

By June 1865, Clara Barton's master list contained 20,000 names. This same month, Dorence Atwater, a young Union veteran who had been held at Andersonville prison in Georgia for two years, arrived in Washington, and contacted Miss Barton. He told her that the conditions at Andersonville were inhumane, and the prisoners were subjected to extreme exposure, disease, and starvation.

While imprisoned at Andersonville, Atwater had been assigned the grim task of keeping a written record of the Union prisoners who died there. Atwater secretly kept a duplicate list of the names of the dead soldiers and their burial locations, which he smuggled out of the prison when released at the war's end. In July 1865, Miss Barton and Atwater traveled to Andersonville with Captain James Moore, an assistant quartermaster in charge of military burials, and, using this list, identified and marked the graves of 13,000 Union soldiers.

Continued on next page

Genealogist's Corner, continued from previous page

Clara Barton continued these activities until 1868, when she presented her final report to Congress. By her accounting, she had received 63,182 letters of inquiry, had sent 41,855 replies, and distributed 99,057 copies of her master list. In all 22,000 of approximately 62,000 missing Union soldiers had been identified. She also asked Congress to declare the tens of thousands of missing Union soldiers dead, so that their heirs could receive the death benefits that they were due. Once the Office of Missing Soldiers was closed, Miss Barton moved to a large house on Capitol Hill, and then departed for a trip to Europe. Her wartime career was over, but thanks to her energy and determination, she continued to accomplish remarkable things throughout her long life.

Article Source: ncr.gas.gov/historicpreservation/clarabarton/index.htm

The Board of Directors of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine (NMCWM) have signed an Operating Agreement with the United States General Services Administration (GSA) that will enable work to move forward to open Clara Barton's Missing Soldier's Office. The Clara Barton Missing Soldiers Office *is now undergoing restoration*. The first phase will be opening a Welcome Center on the first floor, tentatively scheduled to open January 2013. During this period, although public tours of the space are not available, special programs and events will be held regularly. For more information, please call Susan Rosenvold at 301-695-1864 or email clarabarton@civilwarmed.org. Meanwhile, interested parties can visit our other sites, The National Museum of Civil War Medicine, the Pry House Field Hospital Museum, or NPS's Clara Barton National Historic Site in Glen Echo, MD. ∞

Salem Witch Trials Memorial

20th Anniversary Rededication by Arthur J. and Jean L. Towne



Arthur Towne and Dan Dudley at Memorial;
Photo courtesy of Dan Dudley

On Sunday, Sept. 9, 2012, we attended the 20th anniversary rededication of the Salem Witch Trials Memorial, amongst a larger than expected audience. Jean and I were invited to attend the rededication as representatives of TFA and to represent the descendants of Rebecca Nurse. I was one of 20 participants who each represented a victim of the 1692 witchcraft hysteria. Each participant placed a bouquet of rosemary on a stone bench of the memorial in memory of each hysteria victim.

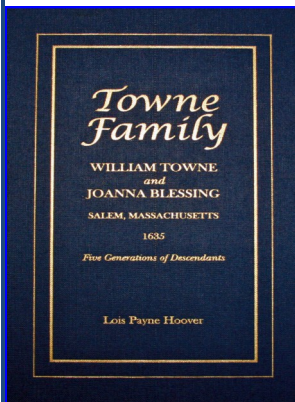
The Salem High School a cappella musical additions were most inspirational, and we were introduced to Mr. Hayden Hills Grove, the stonemason who originally built the memorial as well as completed the restoration. He was beaming from ear to ear!

Mr. Richard Trask, Archivist for the town of Danvers, a TFA member and a member of our TFA Archives Committee, was a participant as well. We also met several new and prospective TFA members and introduced them to our Web site.

Following the rededication a private reception was held for the sponsor—the Salem Award Foundation, some local dignitaries and the participants at the Peabody-Essex Museum, located adjacent to the memorial site. ∞

THE TOWNE BOOK

by Lois Hoover



Towne Family – William Towne and Joanna Blessing – Salem, Massachusetts 1635 – Five Generations of Descendants, published by Otter Bay Books, owned by Ann Hughes, who ran Gateway Press, Inc. for many years, is still available for purchase. The first printing was sold out and there are some left from the second printing. There will not be a third printing. Lois Hoover was the recipient of two awards for her excellent work in this book. The first was The National Genealogical Society 2011 Award for Excellence for a Genealogy and Family History. The second was The Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc. Grand Prize Winner of the 2011 Literary Awards Contest in Genealogy.

The book is seven inches by ten inches, hardcover, 520 pages, Smyth bound – the sturdiest and best binding available – and printed on fifty-pound, acid-free paper. There is a chapter for each child of William and Joanna containing their descendants. Cross references are provided when descendants marry, eliminating duplications. Each life event is documented with the source, page and text included. The main text is indexed; however, the endnotes are not included in the index. Females are indexed under maiden and married names and the parents of a spouse have been identified wherever possible. Years of birth and /or death are included in the index when there is a long string of people of the same name.

The price of the book is \$75, which includes shipping via Media Mail. California residents must add an additional 8.25% for sales tax. The book can be ordered from Lois P. Hoover, 24093 Eucalyptus Ct., Auburn, CA 95602-8226, with checks made payable to Lois P. Hoover.

If you plan to donate a copy of the book to a library, please contact me to avoid duplications. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (530) 268-9354 or email me at Lphoov@yahoo.com.



[Editor's note: I have been trying to find a copy of a book for several years on my Russell side written by George Ely Russell. This book is no longer in print and used copies are impossible to find. They are gone! So, if you have any interest in Lois's book which is full of good reliable information on the Towne family, you should take advantage of the chance now! They would also make very nice Christmas presents! Lois Hoover said that she would have some books boxed and ready to go for Christmas. —RDJ ∞

CORRECTION: The most recent issue of *About Towne* (Vol. XXXII, No. 3, p.51) contained an error in Carole Spencer's article about her Town relatives in Clark County, OH. The age of John, son of James and Martha Jane Nason Town, was incorrectly given as five and a half years in 1860. In fact his age at the time of the 1860 census was five months. We sincerely regret the error.--CTS ∞

Special TFA Milestone Anniversaries (1980 - 2012)



The Towne Family Association would like to recognize the milestone anniversaries of our current members celebrating over 25 years of membership in 2012. They have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to TFA and the pursuit of our Towne and allied families genealogical history. We thank you all for your continued support.

~Elizabeth Hanahan

Members since 1980:

Myrtle R. and Lucian Tisdell

Members since 1981:

Ella Mae Towne Pero*

Patricia A. Ostwald

Sally M. Pittman

Arthur J. and Jean L. Towne

Richard E. and Joanne L. Towne

Ann Tuohy

Marlene Cronk White

Emma Towne Mosher*

Gayle A. Puente**

Members since 1982:

Gladys and Wally Parsons*

Gilberta Town

E. Louis Towne*

Dorothy J. Towne*

Robert M. and Ann Towne

Ernest M. Gemmell**

Members since 1983:

James I. Dwinell

Barbara R. Holden*

Paula P. Mortensen

Vera, Marilyn & Sharon Sutphin

Charles L. and Patricia Towne

Ruth H. Turner*

Kay Clegg**

Members since 1984:

Anita F. Carson

Evelyn J. Hancock

Jeffrey Towne Pero

James F. Roome

Howard and Frances E. Towne*

Linda Stone**

Samuel H. Towne**

Members since 1985:

Dr. Ruby D. Gordon**

Members since 1986:

Victor and Connie Purvis

Ruth L. Hacker

Warren S. Towne

Dr. William S. Towne

Cynthia Warren Strickland**

Members since 1987:

Laura Contarino

Larry Dean Jensen

Martha Towne Kolaritz*

James R. and Shirley D. Patterson

Diane Draper Weidemeyer

Natalie Wilson

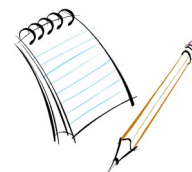
* Senior Life Members

** Life Members



TOWNE FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC.

Annual Meeting Minutes ∞ September 9, 2012 ∞ The Minster Church of St. Nicholas,
Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, England



President Elizabeth Hanahan called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. Elizabeth welcomed everyone to Great Yarmouth and St. Nicholas Church, where William and Joanna Blessing were married and most of their children were baptized. President Hanahan thanked the Reverend James Stewart, Paul Davies, Jane Jones and the church ladies for their warmth and hospitality.

Roll Call of Officers:

Present: President-Elizabeth Hanahan, VP Programs-Lynn Bolte, Executive Secretary-Virginia Towne, Genealogist-Gail Garda, and Acting Recording Secretary-Catherine Kauffman

Absent Officers: Acting 1st VP-Barbara Patterson, VP Publications-Ann Hagar-Koshar, Treasurer-Linda Bixby Fulmer, and Recording Secretary-Barry Cass

After acting recording secretary Catherine Kauffman determined that a quorum was present, the minutes of the 31st Annual Meeting in Salem, MA were approved as written. (M) Barbara Cole (2) Chuck Towne

President Hanahan asked for a moment of silence for those members who have passed away this past year.

President Hanahan communicated the good wishes from those members who were unable to join us in England

Tally of meeting attendees:

1. Jacque Ruch at 84 was our oldest member present.
2. Bob Buldoc at 44 was our youngest member present.
3. We had 10 first time attendees.
4. We had 6 new members present.
5. Chris Drucker from Ojai, CA, was the member who traveled the furthest.
6. Barbara Cole turned 71 today - Happy Birthday!
7. John and Laurie Deredita celebrated their 43rd anniversary on Thursday.

Charles Farrow updated us on his English Towne research. He has transcribed many documents in **About Towne**. He feels that there is still more to research on the Townes, Blessings and Clarkes. He also continues to do research on the spouses of the children of William and Joanne Towne—some of which has been reported in **About Towne** and others that have yet to be published in **About Towne**.

Continued on next page

Annual Minutes, continued from previous page

Officer and Committee Reports:

Financial-Treasurer Report - Linda Fulmer reported a \$7,764 loss which was due to the extra expenses at the Salem, MA reunion and the various contributions that were made out of our cash reserve, as voted at last year's annual meeting.

Auditor's Report - Linda Stone, TFA Auditor, gave a clean audit report.

Executive Secretary - Virginia Towne reported that we have 55 new members added after our last meeting. We have a total membership of 527 of which 56 are lifetime members. We have 17 members who are 90 years or older. Virginia proposed that a skills and interest questionnaire be sent out as part of the next dues notice to help our officers find skilled help when needed and also to aid the nominating committee.

Vice President of Programs - Lynn Bolte had no report as the annual reunion was incorporated into the trip.

Vice President of Publications - Ann Koshar reported that she has cut the printing and postage expense down from \$3,560 in 2009 to \$3,182 in 2011.

DNA Project - Helen Shaw read Margaret Press' report stating that since last year, the DNA project exploring the deep ancestry of William Towne has 36 participants with surnames of Towne - Towns - Tune. We learned more about Edmund's descendants and were able to help one person confirm his lineage to William. Another participant, who was not related to William, discovered and contracted a distant cousin in another country with a shared ancestor. We also know additional details about William Towne's deep roots, thanks to Paul Towne's additional deep clade testing. The refined haplogroup is now R1b1a2a1a1b1a. This represents a distant ancestor who likely lived in the past 4000 years. We are still researching to find out what is known about this subclade. We have spent \$438 subsidizing tests and \$153.40 on website hosting services and domain name costs. With the help of Paul Towne, we held a workshop at the Salem reunion, written articles related to the project in **About Towne** and will continue to provide updates and analysis on our website.

Website - Margaret Press reported that our website is getting more activity due to new features such as the cookbook page, recipe archive and the genealogy page open to all visiting the site. We have adjusted the privacy setting in our database to allow online access to our full tree to members without compromising privacy of living individuals. As a result we no longer offer one month courtesy access to nonmembers. There are still gaps and errors in our database, especially in material submitted years ago without documentation, which we are continuously working to fix. We have also added our first cemetery listing with photos of headstones.

Genealogist - Gail reported that she has added 700 new names to the genealogy database and made corrections by documenting sources from members' lineage submissions.

Archives Report - Arthur Towne reported that he loaned the TFA family genealogies from the Danvers Archival Center to Gail Garda for her use.

About Towne Newsletter - Carole Seaton reported that she is stepping down as the editor of the newsletter due to illness. Carole has enjoyed getting to know her new cousins and is so thankful to all the Towne descendants for this rewarding experience

Continued on next page

Annual Minutes, continued from previous page

Old Business:

Clayes House - TFA has determined that Oxfam holds the mortgage though we still can't move ahead with this as it is now in litigation with the MA attorney general's office.

Nurse Homestead - Glen Perry is the new president of the Nurse Homestead. Mr. Perry is holding many special events to generate interest and contributions to help with renovations.

All outstanding financial and tax issues have been resolved and we are now in compliance with the Internal Revenue Service.

New Business:

- ◆ President Hanahan would like a replacement for Carole Seaton as the editor of the newsletter.
- ◆ TFA will acknowledge member deaths with a card and a notice in the newsletter.
- ◆ Longevity certificates - It was moved and approved that TFA will award certificates to members who have belonged to TFA for twenty-five or more years.
- ◆ VP of Program - Lynn Bolte has agreed to stay on until the end of her term in 2013.
- ◆ Membership Roster - It was moved and approved that the membership roster will no longer be mailed to members but instead will be available on the *Members Only* section of the website. Printed copies will also be available from the executive secretary upon request.
- ◆ Bylaw Revisions - President Hanahan asked that members review the bylaws and email her any revision recommendations, particularly with regard to the nominating process. The Bylaw Committee will compile these revisions based on these suggestions and will publish a PROPOSED REVISION OF THE BYLAWS in *AT* prior to a planned membership vote at the October 2013 annual meeting.

Joseph's Descendants: L to R – Lynn Bolte, Jenny Foertsch, Cindy Brisker, Barbara Cole, Trudi Hovarter, and Karen Johnsen.



Jacob's descendants in Great Yarmouth



Joseph's descendants in Great Yarmouth

Jacob's Descendants: 1st row—Virginia Towne; 2nd row—Judy Magnussen, John Deredita, Judy Jennings, Janet Towne, Dianne Moran, Elizabeth Hanahan; 3rd row — Joanne Towne, Richard Towne, Judi Ruch and Charles Towne.

Continued on next page

Annual Minutes, continued from previous page

Recommendations to Membership:

- ♦ The executive board recommended that TFA donate \$500 to the Salem Witch Memorial restoration. It was moved and approved by the members.
- ♦ The executive board recommended that TFA pay Charles Farrow \$2000 for English Towne family research. It was move and seconded, but after discussion the motion failed.
- ♦ Chuck Towne moved that we pay Charles Farrow for 100 hours at 20 pounds per hour for English Towne research and have Charles Farrow submit quarterly progress reports. Karen Johnsen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Future Meetings:

- ♦ **2013** - Beaufort, St Helena, SC - Elizabeth Hanahan and Marilyn Towne Roy will be co-chairs. The meeting will be held Columbus Day weekend.
- ♦ **2014** - Topsfield, MA - Tammy Davis and Gail Garda will be co-chairs.
- ♦ **2015** - Midwest - West ?

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Kauffman, Acting Recording Secretary ∞

Edmund's Descendants: L to R - 1st row — Virginia Peterson, Judy Jennings, Christine Drucker, Barbara Cole, Trudi Hovarter, Karen Johnsen, Gail Garda; 2nd row—Marion Towne, Noreen Sheridan-Farrar and Ray Towne.

Mary's Descendants: L to R — John Deredita, Rae Johnson, Helen Shaw, Judy Jennings, Karen Johnsen, Elizabeth Hanahan and Catherine Troeger Kauffman.

Rebecca's Descendants: L to R — Rae Johnson and Helen Shaw



Edmund's Descendants in Great Yarmouth



Mary's descendants in Great Yarmouth



Rebecca's descendants

Ancestral Churches, continued from cover page



Our first visit was to **St. Mary's, Burstall**, where Christopher Eastie, grandfather of Mary Towne's husband Isaac Estey, was baptized on April 9, 1552. Christopher's brothers Thomas (1548), Jeffrey (1550) and William (1558) were also baptized here before the family moved to Hintlesham. The church, built in the early fourteenth century, is a fine example of a medieval country church. With its square tower, wooden porch, perpendicular hammerbeam roof and beautifully decorated windows on the north aisle, it was a perfect introduction to the English parish church.



Hammerbeam roof



St. Nicholas' Church, Hintlesham, was built on the same site as an earlier church existing at the time of the Domesday Book of 1086, which was a survey of much of England done for William I of England. The present church had to have been built or was in the process of being built in 1375 because a will from that time period mentions "building stone in the church." It is basically an early English church with a square west wooden porch, with decorated windows from a later period. Although parish registers have been lost, we know that Jeffrey Estie, father of Isaac, lived here in 1568 from a 1568 subsidy payment and from his will made in 1592.



St. Peter's Church, Freston, is the church of Jeffrey Eastie and Mary Salmon Eastie, and where they brought Isaac Eastie (Estey), husband of Mary Towne, to be baptized. Jeffrey's father, Christopher, married An Arnold here in 1586. An's family had lived here for several generations. The church with its 'medieval fabric' was restored after it fell into ruin in the late nineteenth-century. We were intrigued by the small Devil's Door, on the north side of the church opposite the font, through which the devil could escape during the baptism of infants. The devil had to have his own door because he was forbidden to use the same door as the "saints" or congregation. Much of the tower is original, and an unusual statue of *The Lady of Peace*, cut and carved from oak, stands in the churchyard. She was erected as a monument to honor the English soldiers who died in World War I.



The Lady of Peace

Continued on next page

Ancestral Churches, continued from previous page



While it is known that there was a Towne family living near **St. Margaret's Church, Lowestoft**, in the 16th century, no direct relationship can be established. This enormous church has a square west tower that remains from an earlier building and is crowned with a wooden copper-covered spire. Lofty arcades lead up to the clerestory windows. The beautiful roof was recolored in 1899 based on traces of medieval coloring that had survived. The great brass eagle lectern is medieval.

St. Mary's Church, Somerleyton, is where John Blyssynge married Joan Preaste in 1569 and baptized their daughter Julian in 1571. The relationship to Jone (Joanna) Blessing has not yet been definitely established but we all loved visiting this charming county church with its square tower.



St. Mary's, Blundeston, is the church where William Towne's parents, John Towne and Elizabeth Clarke, were married in 1597. Elizabeth had been baptized here in 1571; and her parents, John Clarke and Rose Fenne, married

here in 1563. The slender round west tower is most probably Norman, built after 1066, and the south wall was rebuilt in the fourteenth century. Blundeston is featured in the first chapter of the novel *David Copperfield*, Dickens' famous work.



Inside St. Mary's, Blundeston, notice the poppyhead on end of bench



St. John the Baptist's Church, Lound, is a simple or plain church on the outside, but inside, it is a "riot of mock medieval splendor," according to Charles Farrow. It has earned the nickname "Golden Church" dating from a 1914 restoration that recreated what a church might have looked like before the



Rood with crucifix, St John the Baptist's

Reformation. From the 1563 will of Thomas Towne it is clear that there was a Towne family established here, but no early parish registers have survived.

Continued on next page

Ancestral Churches, continued from previous page

All Saints' Church, Walcott, is where John Symonds and Ruth Fox, parents of Jacob Towne's wife Catharine, were married in 1624. Ruth's grandparents were married here in 1559 and her great grandfather, John Fox, was buried here the same year. This elegant church sits in a twenty-acre park managed as a nature reserve with a butterfly garden and hay meadow. In the Domesday Book of 1086 it was valued at 20d [pence]. What we saw is a total reconstruction done in the mid 1400s with a restoration in the nineteenth-century that consisted of the insertion of the east window, which left the early church unspoiled.



Holy Trinity Church, Caister, may be regarded as the "Blessing Church," since it was here that Jone (Joanna Blessing) was baptized in 1595. Her siblings, Margaret and John, were also baptized here. This same brother, John, was buried here. The earliest feature is the thirteenth-century nave. The south aisle was added around 1300. There were restorations made in the late 1800s.



Holy Trinity Church, baptismal font

All Saints' Church, Belton, is where William Towne's sister, Agnes, was buried in 1602 and where his brother John was baptized in 1603, leading to the assumption that William must have spent at least a year of his life here. The earliest feature of the church, the west round tower, was rebuilt in 1849. The original baptismal font was discovered in several large pieces under the altar just a few years ago.

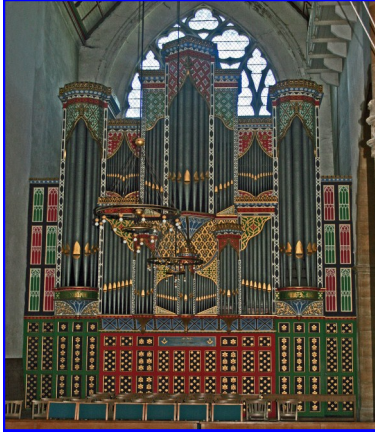


St. Nicholas' Church, Great Yarmouth*, now called a "Minster", which is any large or important church according to the Oxford English Dictionary, is the largest parish church in the United Kingdom. It is also the oldest parish church in Great Yarmouth, begun in the 1100s; and it is the church of the Townes. The parents of William are buried here, as is his sister Susan; William's brother John married here; William was baptized here in 1598; William and Joanna married here in 1620; and six of their children were

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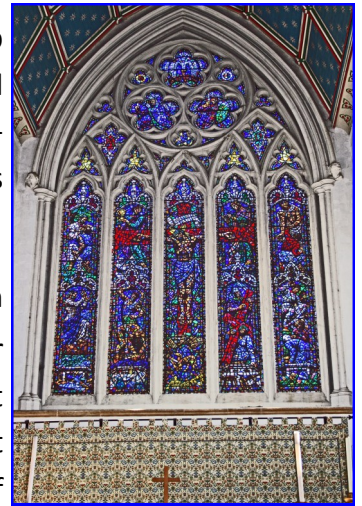
Ancestral Churches, continued from previous page

baptized -- Rebecca in 1621, John in 1623, Susan in 1625, Edmund in 1628, Jacob in 1631 and Mary in 1634; Catharine Symonds, wife of Jacob Towne, was baptized here in 1630. On Easter, 1634, it was noted that William and Joanna did not receive communion. They were then labeled as 'Separatists.' Presumably, this is the reason they left England for America.



Inside St. Nicholas Church

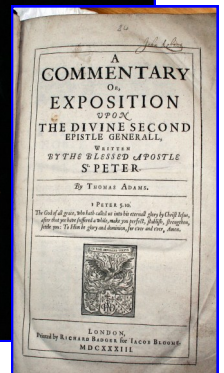
Begun by 1101, the church was dedicated in 1119. In 1220, the nave was extended and other additions made. There had been 18 chapels that were maintained by guilds or private families that are now gone, as are the statues, tapestries, roof shields, etc. In 1536 to 1550, during the Reformation, gravestones were turned into grind stones, the ornamental brasses were cast into weights, relics were sold to pay for the widening of the town's sixth harbor in 1548; the priory was used as stables. Following destruction from an oil bomb during World War II, it underwent restoration from 1950 to 1960.



Inside St. Nicholas Church



Norwich Cathedral was started in 1096 and completed by 1145 during the reign of William the Conqueror's son, Rufus. There were 4 fires in 1272, and during the Civil War of 1642 to 1649 there was considerable damage. Benedictine monks, sixty of whom lived in the priory until the Reformation, used the inner nave. The spire, second tallest in England next to Salisbury Cathedral, is 15th century. It was at this cathedral that we saw religious books once used at St. Nicholas Church in Great Yarmouth for church services in the 1600s.



St Peter's Epistle



St. Mary's Church, Old Newton, was the site of the marriage of Jeffrey Estie and Mary Salmon in 1624; they were the parents of Isaac Estey who married Mary Towne. The ends of the seventeenth-century benches at the back of the church are decorated with poppyheads, and there are remnants of medieval stained glass in the north nave windows.

Continued on next page

Ancestral Churches, continued from previous page



Holy Trinity Church in Lavenham was an unexpected stop in a wonderful little village. It was originally built in the twelfth century. When it was rebuilt in 1484, footings of a Roman temple were found. The medieval glass windows are outstanding and comprise the largest collection in the United Kingdom. The Lady Chapel, finished in 1496, is completely separate from the main church and may be the only parish church in England with a separate chapel. The church has no connection to our ancestors. ∞

*On December 9, 2011, the Lord Bishop of Norwich designated St. Nicholas Church, Great Yarmouth, A Minster Church. From then on , its official title is The Minster Church of St. Nicholas.

Judi Ruch's descent: William, Jacob, John, John, Abner, Parley (Perley), Peter Butler Towne, Franklin Sheffield Towne, Floyd Sheffield Towne, Eleanor Jane Towne Shores, Judith Shores Ruch

If you would like to help. . .

All of these churches are in need of contributions for repair and maintenance. On the last night in Norwich, the group participants, who all received a refund since our trip came in significantly under budget, discussed ways to help out. It was decided to have anyone who would like to make voluntary donations to specific churches or all of them, could send their donations to Linda Fulmer who will collect money until April 1st, when she will send the total donations to the churches. We will also be accepting donations for the Norfolk and Suffolk Record Offices and Norwich Cathedral, all of which spend considerable amounts preserving books and records hundreds of years old. If you would like to add a contribution to any of these places, send it along to Linda Fulmer, P.O. Box 5026, Carefree, AZ 85377 with instructions as to how you would like your contribution allocated before April 1, 2013. We would like to make these donations in recognition of the marriage of William Towne and Joanna Blessing on April 25, 1620. ∞



Call for Nominations

By Elizabeth Hanahan

Next year will see a number of changes in our executive board. I will be stepping down as president at the 2013 meeting. Vice President Barbara Towne Patterson has indicated that she will not be a candidate for president, and her term will end with mine. I have also been notified that Linda Fulmer, our treasurer, will not seek reelection when her term expires in 2013. Potential vacancies are listed below. If you would like more information about any of the positions, feel free to contact me at HanahanTFA@aol.com or the current officer.

The **president** is responsible for all administrative duties of the association and presides over the meetings of the association and the executive board. A broad understanding of the organization and strong problem solving skills are needed. This is a position with a great deal of public exposure both in person and through use of social media. Candidates for this position need to have considerable knowledge of current policies and procedures, so would most likely be drawn from the executive board.

The **vice president** fills in for the president as needed and is next in line to become president. Beginning in 2013, the vice president will likely also be chairperson of the program committee and assist the reunion chairperson with reunion planning. Candidates for this position should be a member of the current or past executive board, or someone who has been actively involved in the organization in one or more capacities.

The **treasurer** handles all financial transactions for TFA and maintains the books according to accepted accounting practices, reporting regularly to the finance committee and at least annually to the membership. Previous experience in some financial capacity is needed.

The **executive secretary** acts as membership coordinator for the association, maintaining the official membership and dues status listings; filling requests from prospective members for information pertaining to membership requirements; and providing the editor of the newsletter (or designee) and the publications committee with accurate and timely membership data for publication and dissemination. This person is the main contact many people have with TFA, so frequent personal interaction is required. Attention to detail, excellent organizational skills, and reliable internet service is needed.

Towne Family Association is your group. The next few years will be exciting ones, with many opportunities to shape the direction of the organization as we continue to grow. Many volunteer opportunities exist in addition to participation on the executive board. Please consider taking an active role! ∞

The first recipe is from the TFA cookbook, *Best Cooks in Towne*, printed in 1992. Artwork on these pages appeared in the original edition. Calligraphy above the next two pages was by Ella Mae Towne Pero: Rebecca Nurse homestead on next page was by William C. Strickland. Susan Yatsinko manages recipe selection and submits them for the website and newsletter, with the help of her daughter Rebecca. The second recipe is from: *A Second Taste of Caister, Cookbook of Holy Trinity and Saint Edmund churches in Caister-on-Sea*.—brought back from the TFA England trip of 2012.

Dining in the UK

by Rae Johnson

In September of this year, 2012, thirty-six members of the Towne family toured England together. The experience was very similar to the trips made before as it was a wonderful genealogical experience, and sometimes it was also an adventure in dining as well.

Breakfast at the two hotels, the Holiday Inn in London and the Maids Head Hotel in Norwich, was served buffet style, which included thick slices of grilled tomato, small boiled jacketed potatoes, baked beans, bangers (large sausages) as well as Canadian bacon and eggs. Americans have become accustomed to expecting spicier beans and sausages, so the blandness of the beans and bangers was surprising. When ordering toast, it was referred to as white or brown rather than white or wheat. Hot tea and coffee were plentiful.

Lunches were varied and served in a different style every day. Sometimes we had a regular sit-down lunch with salad, meat and small boiled jacketed potatoes, or sandwiches with desserts. On Wednesday, we had tasty hors d'oeuvres while sitting on sofas in a lovely garden room at Hintlesham Hall. For lunch on Saturday we had chips, but no fish, at the Great Yarmouth market place. They resembled the greasy french-fries that are sold at carnival stands—all clumped together in a paper cone. However, it is considered a treat to have eaten the “chips” from there. After the Sunday service at St. Nicholas in Great Yarmouth, the church ladies treated us to a sit-down lunch of tasty sandwiches and wonderful desserts. About two hours later, when we completed our annual meeting held at the church, the ladies again served us tea and coffee along with more yummy desserts. At the churches we visited in the late afternoons, the ladies there served us hot tea with milk or coffee and cookies or scones. All of them were so gracious and made us feel so welcome!

We also had a number of real English dishes for dinner just as the TFA travelers before us did. The dinners, like the breakfasts, were served buffet style. We had a choice between two or three main dishes every evening. One evening we had the Yorkshire pudding, which as mentioned in a previous article was not a pudding at all, but resembled an empty bowl shaped pastry served along with the roast beef. We also had smoked mackerel with creamed horseradish, continental meats, poached salmon, shoulder of lamb with mint sauce, pork loin with roasted apples and pan juices, and fisherman's pie topped with a cheesy mash. Also, of course, we had the small boiled jacketed potatoes for dinner as well. The English sure love their small boiled jacketed potatoes! The desserts were quite good. At the Maids Head we had apple and plum crumble with custard, date and almond tarts, bread and butter pudding, orange sponge pudding with marmalade sauce, tiramisu and the biggest hit of all was the crème brûlée served on Thursday evening. The Maids Head Restaurant did not make enough of any one dessert for all to have the same thing, plus they did not put out the desserts until they considered the main meal was done, so there was a mad scramble to be first in line for this dessert! They had kept four extra in the kitchen and I managed to get the last one of these. It tasted a little burnt on the bottom and that was probably why they had not put these four out, but it was still good. All-in-all, the food was quite good and we did not go hungry in England!

Continued on next page



~ Best Cooks

MRS. MACNAB'S SCONES (ABERDEENSHIRE)

Mrs. Macnab was the wife of a farmer who lived near Ballater. Such was her reputation as a baker that King Frederick of Prussia and other distinguished guests at Balmoral used to go over and have tea with her. It is not possible to impart Mrs. Macnab's lightness of touch, or the wine-like air of these regions, which doubtless contributed to her visitor's enjoyment; but here, at least, is the recipe for her celebrated scones.

* * * *

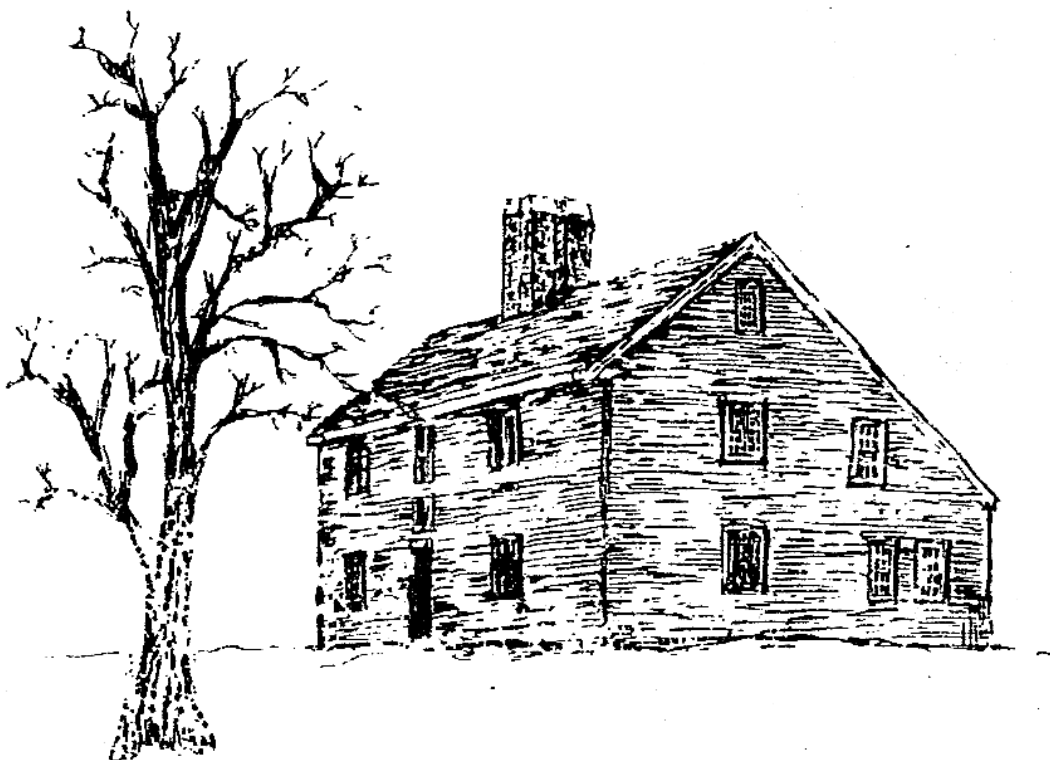
Mix thoroughly a pound of flour, a teaspoon of salt, a small teaspoon of soda and 2 small teaspoonsful of cream of tartar. Rub in 2 ounces of butter, and stir in gradually a beaten egg and a half a pint of buttermilk.

Turn out the dough on a floured board, flour the top and knead with the hand as little as possible. Cut off pieces of dough and flatten them with the knuckles, but do not roll out at all. Prick with a fork and cut into quarters. Bake in a pretty quick oven for from ten to fifteen minutes.

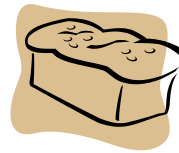
The secret of success lies in not working the dough with the hands except just once kneading it.

From *The Scots Kitchen--Its Lore and Recipes*

* * * *



in Towne



MARION'S SCONES

1 pound Self-Rising Flour
Small slice of Lard
About 3 ounces Sugar
1 Egg beaten with a little Milk

4 ounces Soft Margarine
2 teaspoons Baking Powder
Sultanas
A little warm Water

Rub together the flour, margarine, lard and baking powder. Add the sugar and some sultanas. Mix in egg and milk mixture, and then mix in a little warm water.

Press out on a floured board to about one-half inch thick - no less. Cut into rounds and put on a greased baking tray.

Bake at 400 degrees F. for about 15 minutes. Should make about 16.

Recipe is from: *A Second Taste of Caister, Cookbook of Holy Trinity and Saint Edmunds churches in Caister-on-Sea*. (Towne Family Trip, England - 2012). A picture of Holy Trinity Church, Caister, where Joanna Blessing was baptized in 1595, is in the article "Our Ancestral Churches" by Judi Ruch on page 77. ∞

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We are Mitt Romney's Distant Cousin

Willard "Mitt" Romney, the 2012 Republican Presidential Nominee, is a descendant of William Towne and Joanna Blessing. He is descended from Rebecca Towne Nurse. He was born on March 12, 1947 in Bloomfield Hills, MI to George Romney and Lenore LaFount. He received his BA degree from Brigham Young in 1965, and a joint Juris Doctor and MBA from Harvard in 1975. He married Ann Davies in 1969. They have five sons and sixteen grandchildren. He worked in his father's MI campaign for governor in 1962, then worked as an intern in his father's office. He was the founder of Bain & Company, served as governor of MA from 2003 – 2006, and was president of the Salt Lake City Olympic Games Organizing Committee.

Mitt's Towne family line: William Towne, Rebecca Towne Nurse, Elizabeth Nurse Russell, Ebenezer, Ellis, Oliver, Nancy Russell Berry, Robert, Rosetta Mary Berry Robison, Alma Luella Robison LaFount, Lenore LaFount Romney, Willard "Mitt" Romney. ∞



Glenn R. Mairo, 58, died Friday, September 14, 2012 at the VA Medical Center in West Roxbury, MA after a lengthy illness. He was born October 23, 1954, in Chelsea, MA. He was the son of Beverly (Hatch) and Robert L. Mairo. He graduated from Masconomet Regional High School in 1972 and attended the Boston Conservatory of Music. He is survived by his son, Maxfield Mairo of Maine, his sister and brother-in-law, Michele and Robert Pszeny of Boxford, two nieces, one nephew and two grandnieces. Glenn Mairo was a life member of the TFA since 2006, and an honorary Towne and Rebecca descendant, due to his love of the Nurse Homestead. The following is a tribute written for Glenn Mairo by a long-time friend and fellow TFA member, Richard Trask.

Farewell and Thank You!

Just recently Danvers and the region has lost a good friend and adopted son. Glenn Mairo was neither a native nor a resident of Danvers, but his impact in this town and elsewhere was very significant.

Born in 1954, Glenn became a lover of music, history and education. Attending the Boston Conservatory of Music, Glenn was an accomplished drummer. He became head percussionist with the United State Air Force Band playing for Presidents and fallen heroes. A musical historian who melded research with performance, Glenn participated as an 18th century re-enactor drummer in the 200th anniversary of the Yorktown Virginia Victory Celebration in 1981, and marched and drummed in multiple Danvers Memorial Day events with the Danvers Alarm List Company. As a frequent volunteer at Mount Vernon, Virginia, he drummed the funeral procession on the 200th anniversary of the death of George Washington, and I watched him on a cold 5:00 a.m. March morning at the Alamo in San Antonio, TX, as he musically commemorated the bravery of its defenders. His interests were myriad. Glenn's path crossed with such diverse people as actor Jeff Daniels and Defense Department Undersecretary Paul Wolfowitz. He did research and writing in colonial history, 19th century coins, aboriginal history and archaeology, and was researching for a book about sculptor Daniel Chester French. Glenn became an adopted son of Danvers by serving many years with the Danvers Alarm List Company and the Rebecca Nurse Homestead; being an active Trustee of the Danvers Historical Society and chair of its education committee, teaching hundreds of Danvers school kids a love of knowledge and history; and most recently Glenn was founder-director of Essex Harmony, a musical ensemble performing New England music of the pre Civil War era. Regionally Glenn volunteered with the Essex Heritage Commission and was a fervent supporter of the Towne Family Association. With his passing I have lost a personal friend who shared many of my idiosyncrasies and a man who was so full of ideas, enthusiasm and knowledge.

Richard B. Trask

Danvers, MA ∞



Crystal Renee Moore Hitch of Delphi, IN, died August 14, 2012. She collapsed while attending her son's football practice and died at Indiana University/Arnett in Lafayette, IN. She was born October 14, 1972, in Lafayette to Don R. Moore II and Connie L. Christensen Moore and attended Carroll Consolidated Schools. She married John R. Hitch on October 14, 1989. She was a homemaker and had worked at Subaru and at Frito-Lay for over two and a half years. She was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary for over 35 years, a member of the Carroll County First Families, and Carroll County Historical Society. She enjoyed helping at the Carroll County Historical Museum with spinning and other projects and loved quilting. She loved gardening and growing flowers. She enjoyed outdoor activities and taking trips with her husband on their motorcycle. She traveled with her Grandmother Moore to Salem, MA, where they attended the 2011 TFA reunion (see **About Towne**, Vol. XXXI, No. 3, p. 62), visited homes their ancestors built in the 1600s and enjoyed whale watching. Along with her husband, she is survived by sons John R. Hitch, Jr. and his wife Amanda, Thorn Hitch and Walker Hitch, both at home; her father and stepmother; her mother and stepfather; two brothers; her paternal grandmother, TFA member Phyllis Davis Moore of Delphi, her father-in-law and mother-in-law; and her granddaughter.∞

William Towne, Rebecca Towne Nurse, John Nurse, John, Elizabeth Nurse Bigelow, Betty Bigelow Barnes, Betty Barnes Ray, Lucy Ray Harriman, Joel Harriman, George, Ruby Edna Harriman Davis, Phyllis Davis Moore, Don Moore, Crystal Renee Moore Hitch.



Birth of Jesse Logan Wood

Welcome Jesse Logan Wood, born to lifetime TFA member Dayna Wood and husband Tony on March 6, 2012 at Alice Peck Day Hospital Birthing Center. Jesse joins brothers Nicholas (26), Jordan (25) and Noah (4) in the Edmund line. Jesse is the 25th great-grandchild of charter member Emma Towne Mosher. They currently live in Hartford, VT.∞

William Towne, Edmund, Joseph, Nathan, Aaron, Aaron Town, James, Elmer, Emma Rose Towne Shepard Mosher, Fredus Lincoln Shepard, Dayna Joy Shepard Wood.



Birth of William Bradford Towne IV

William Bradford Towne IV was born on August 31, 2012 at the base hospital in Camp Pendleton near Oceanside, California, to Marine First Lieutenant William Bradford Towne III and Brianna Katherine (McGhee) Towne. William is descended twice from Jacob, both through his son, John, and his daughter, Deliverance. William is also the third great grandchild of William B. Towne Sr. (now deceased), co-founder of the Towne Family Association and first editor of **About Towne**.∞

William, Jacob, John, Ephraim, Edmund, Edmund, Edmund, George, Herbert, Herbert, William B., William B., William B., William B. IV and also William, Jacob, Deliverance Towne Stiles, John, Abigail Stiles Emery, Daniel, Ezra, William, Elia Emery Clinkard, Clarence, Arline Clinkard (Herbert) Towne, William B., William B., William B., William B. IV

Genealogy Reminder:

If any member would like to share their genealogy research questions or brickwalls; reviews or opinions on genealogy software, books, or your favorite websites, with other members, it can be posted on the TFA website in the new "Genealogy Corner", or in the "What's New", or "Most Wanted" sections; and also included in the newsletter. Please send via email to Gail Garda at gggenealogy@comcast.net.

Editor Reminders:

- ◆ The deadline for article submissions for the March issue will be January 15, 2013. Please send submissions to AboutTowneNews@hotmail.com
- ◆ Please visit the TFA website at www.TowneFolk.com to see this newsletter in color, get recipes, explore the Towne family tree, the "Genealogy Corner" mentioned above, and many other interesting topics!



*May you have a very
Merry Christmas and
a joyous and pros-
perous New Year!*