

About Towne

T O W N E F A M I L Y A S S O C I A T I O N , I N C .

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ELECTRONIC FAMILY TREE CAN LEAD TO GOOD HEALTH

By Lauran Neergaard Associated Press
 [Reprinted with permission from the Associated Press.]

It happens all the time: Filling out that clipboard at the doctor's office, you can't remember what cancer killed Aunt Sally or when Dad had his heart attack.

A good family health history is far more important than a gene test in predicting your future medical needs, but it's hugely underused.

The government has begun offering a free new service to try to change that - helping people compile one at home, e-mail it to relatives who can fill in the gaps, and even pop it straight into their doctors' computers.

Quiz enough extended family about who battled what disease, and you can fill it out in as little as 20 minutes.

"That is an amazingly positive investment," said Acting Surgeon General Steven Galson, whose office spearheaded the new initiative. "You're going to help your doctor learn a lot more about you by spending those 20 minutes, and you can share that invested time around your family and with your physicians way into the future."

The goal: Just as people create ancestral family trees, create a family health tree. It may sound old-fashioned in this era of gene discovery. But genetics specialists use these "pedigrees" to look for patterns of inherited illnesses that can provide a powerful window on someone's brewing health risks.

"Family health history is the first genetic test but it encompasses much more than genes," says James O'Leary of the nonprofit Genetic Alliance.

A family's shared environmental or lifestyle factors are key, too. Add that together, and a family health tree "is the way you identify what is important to pay more attention to," he explains.

Consider: Maybe Dad's deadly heart attack at 60 isn't his 40-something son's top risk, much as he focuses on that tragedy. The real red flag might be the prostate cancer that Dad survived at age 48 and that killed his own father and brother in their 50s.

Yet between patients who don't know relatives' intimate health details and rushed doctors who don't push for it, family health histories too often are brushed aside. A survey by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found

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From the Desk of the Editor

It is my distinct honor to take on the responsibility of Editor-in-Chief of *About Towne* beginning with this issue. You will notice with this issue that About Towne has a bit of a different look to it and incorporates new features such as a focus on “health and family history” as well as applications of technology to aid in genealogical research and preservation of history and records.

In the September issue, I would like to share what “we” (the TFA membership) have been up to since the last meeting. Sort of like “What I did on my summer vacation”. So, please, send me your photos and your stories. There will be a photo montage and a series of stories highlighting what we’ve been up to in 2009.

About Towne is for you and about you, the members, so I want to hear from you. What would you like to see in the newsletter? More of something? Less of something? Tell me what you like and do not like; what you want to see; and what is relevant for you. **E-mail** me at: abouttownenews@hotmail.com or **call** me (916) 631-4385.

My goal is to make the newsletter timely, relevant and an “interesting read.” You will notice in this issue several “stories”. Everyone has a story to tell and anecdote to share. I was reminded of this a couple of weeks ago when I visited my grandmother, Emma Mosher, and read the beginnings of her auto-biography. So many poignant and funny stories—events that shaped her life and her children’s lives (and most likely her grandchildren’s as well). Sto

I look forward to hearing your story and your ancestors stories, funny anecdotes and poignant .

Karen Evans, Editor-in-Chief, About Towne

About Towne is the official voice of the Towne Family Association, Inc. Please address all submissions to the proper office. See membership notices in this issue for membership information. Unless otherwise specified by the source person or copyright holder, all submissions become the property of the association for the purposes of publication and inclusion in historical files. Published quarterly: March, June, September, and December.

P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

For a number of years, I have thought it would be fun for Towne Family Association, Inc. to be represented at the New England Regional Genealogical Conference which is held every two years, but the timing has never worked out. This year, I was able to arrange to host a TFA table at the Society Fair which was held Thursday, April 23, 2009 at the Expo Center in Manchester, NH. It was a wonderful experience. I spoke to numerous people with Towne or related family ancestors who were unaware of our organization. Others, who were familiar with TFA, were delighted to see our table there. I also spoke to a number of people who did not know of any Towne connections but who were interested to learn of our history. Everyone I spoke to was invited to attend our annual meeting in Portsmouth, so maybe we will see some of them there. We also got one new membership application and I am hoping to get others. Friday and Saturday, I attended several workshops on a variety of interesting topics. I will be presenting some of what I learned at our Portsmouth meeting. It was definitely a beneficial experience and one which I would like to repeat when NERGC meets in Springfield, MA.

For the past month, I have had the opportunity to work with the Census Bureau on one of the first phases of the 2010 U.S. Federal Census which will occur on April 1, 2010. My job has been to go house to house to verify addresses and map all potential living quarters on a handheld computer. It has been a wonderful opportunity to get a behind-the-scenes look at a resource on which we rely so heavily to do our research. I can't help but think how much easier future genealogists will have it not to have to decipher all that tricky handwriting!

A sad note as I sit down to write this. I have just received word of the passing of longtime member, Wayne Riggle, on April 14, 2008. Over the years, he has been an active participant in TFA and a

regular attendee at annual meetings. Our condolences go out to his wife, Ruth, and the rest of his family.

There have been more changes to our Board since the last newsletter. Jim Patterson has had to resign as Vice President of Publications due to Shirley's ongoing health issues which, I am pleased to report, are steadily improving. Jim Roome had to step down from all TFA activities in February to deal with some health issues of his wife, Marie, and himself. Both of these men have been longtime volunteers to TFA in many capacities and will be missed. We wish them well and look forward to their renewed participation in the future. I have also received the resignation of Norman Towne as Vice President of Programs due to personal issues. While a new addition to the Board in 2008, his participation, though brief, is greatly appreciated. Linda Stone has once again stepped in to assist Barry Cass with final planning of our Portsmouth meeting. Barbara Patterson, a host of our highly successful 2001 Portsmouth meeting has also volunteered to help out.

Our meeting in Portsmouth is coming together nicely. September on the New Hampshire coast is spectacular and Portsmouth is only a short drive from most New England points of interest. Whatever type of activity you enjoy, you will likely find it nearby. Our Hospitality Room will give you the opportunity to meet new cousins or reconnect with those from previous meetings and workshops are being planned to help further your research. Hope you will be able to join us!

Elizabeth Hanahan, President, Towne Family Association, Inc.

ELECTRONIC FAMILY TREE CAN LEAD TO GOOD HEALTH

fewer than 30 percent of Americans have ever collected health information from relatives to compile one. And some surprising recent research suggests that when people do, accuracy varies by disease: They do much better at listing which relatives had breast cancer than who had ovarian cancer, for instance.

"It's terribly frustrating and I'm sure it's prone to many errors," said Dr. Doug Henley of the American Academy of Family Physicians of the clipboard-in-the-waiting-room ritual.

Nor do patients necessarily know what ailments to list. Heart disease or cancer, sure. But what about Mom's string of miscarriages? That your grandmother and her three sisters share osteoporosis' classic hunched back? Or the blood clot that made your sister have to give up oral contraceptives?

The surgeon general's office issued the first attempt

to guide creation of family health trees in 2004, with a form patients could print out and carry to the doctor.

The Web site address is:

<https://familyhistory.hhs.gov>.

It's private; users download the information to their own computers. Then they can e-mail a tree-in-progress to family members to fill in missing information. And with a simple keystroke, relatives can "re-index" the tree so that instead of showing the biggest health risks for Cousin Sue who started the project, Cousin Bill can see what risks are more prone to his side of the family.

Finally, the tool is readable, even customizable, by many of the computer systems that doctors are using to create "electronic medical records,"



TFA NEEDS YOU!!

Towne Family Association, Inc. is notable among family organizations for its durability, remaining active into its 29th year. Its success has been largely due to a small group of highly committed people who have devoted countless hours throughout these 29 years to helping the organization run smoothly. In order for TFA to continue to exist, we need new members willing to volunteer their time either as an officer or a committee member.

Do you enjoy planning parties or other events? Consider being nominated for **Vice President of Programs** and help local program hosts organize our annual meetings.

Are you an organized person? Do you have experience with email delivery of newsletters? Consider being nominated for **Vice President of Publica-**

tions or volunteer to be on the **Circulation Committee**. These jobs involve arranging printing and distribution of our newsletter, and next year will be exploring an email option for interested members.

Do you have experience with web design? Volunteer to help **maintain our web site**.

Do you have any other ideas which you would like to see implemented? Send us your suggestions at <http://www.townefolk.com>.

Please consider taking an active role in your organization. We cannot continue to do it without you. For more information or to volunteer, contact Elizabeth Hanahan at HanahanTFA@aol.com or at P.O. Box 367, Bethlehem, CT 06751 (phone in evenings 203-266-7042).

G E N E A L O G I S T ' S C O R N E R

T O W N E R C E M E T E R Y , C R O W N P O I N T , N Y

Dawn Robinson and I have taken several trips to New England for family research. One of our latest trips was to Crown Point, NY. Crown Point is where our mutual ancestors Joseph and Mary (Averill) Towne lived. We (Dawn and I) are descended from their sons Joseph and John who migrated to Michigan.

So that our trips are fruitful, Dawn and I try to plan ahead. First, before each trip, we plan the libraries and cemeteries we want to visit. Then, we call the library and explain the purpose of our visit and to plan our visit around their hours of operation.

When Dawn called the library in Crown Point, she learned that Anna Towne was a member of the local genealogical society. We contacted Anna and she told us that Joseph and Mary Towne were buried in a private cemetery that bordered the property she and her husband Arthur owned. Dawn and I were very excited to see this cemetery and the tombstones.

Several phone calls were made to Arthur and Anna Towne about our trip and the day came when we left Michigan and made our way east. Arthur made plans to meet us when we arrived in Crown Point. They lived up on the mountain and the road curved this way and that way with forests everywhere. When Arthur Towne walked toward our vehicle, Dawn and I, at the same time, noticed how much he resembled my father, Orville Lloyd Towne in his build and the way he walked. It was uncanny.

Arthur took us around the mountain to the Towner Cemetery where Joseph and Mary (Averill) Towne are buried. We never would have found this cemetery on our own. Later, Anna sent us a listing of all the Townes that are buried in the Towner Cemetery.

I don't think we could find the cemetery on our own again. We don't know if anyone takes care of the cemetery now that Arthur and Anna no longer live there. The headstones for Joseph and Mary were on an incline and could have fallen

over by now and covered with debris and lost. We are very grateful to Arthur and Anna for their assistance and kindness. We never would have accomplished this without their help.

These are some of the names found in the cemetery:

Town, Joseph, d. April 28, 1845, age 74 years. Husband of Mary (Averill) Town.

Town, Mary (Averill) d. Oct. 26, 1857, age 80 years., wife of Joseph Town

Town, Cordelia B., b. 1839 d. no date, wife of Alonzo Town.

Town, Alonzo, 1834-1912, husband of Cordelia town, son of Silas & Ruth (Towner) Town

Town, Ruth M. , daughter of Silas & Ruth (Towner) Towns, Aug 9, 1838, age 5 years 5 months

Town, Laura, daughter of Silas & Ruth (Towner) Town, d. April 4, 1865, age 21 years. 7 months

Town, Ruth (Towner), wife of Silas Town, daughter of Ephraim & Rhoda (Taft) Town

Town, Silas b. Oct 14, 1798 – died April 6, 1878, husband of Ruth (Towner) Town

Town, Foster Clark, son of Harris & Sarah Ann (Clark) Town, b Sept. 13, 1847



TOWNE FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC. ANNUAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 24-27, 2009

MEETING AND BANQUET RESERVATIONS

	# of people	Total
Registration @ \$15/person		
Prime Rib Aus Jus @ \$29.00		
Chicken Cordon Bleu @ \$22.50		
Vegetarian Meal @ \$22.50		
Registration and Banquet Grand Total		

Saturday, Banquet 7:00P at the hotel

Cost includes tax and gratuity. Meal includes: Salad, Roasted Red Bliss Potatoes, Vegetable and Apple Crisp with Whipped Cream

Make Checks Payable To "TFA".

Send to: Wilbur L Purvis, TFA Treasurer, 2214 SW Spence Ct., Troutdale OR 97060-3119

Name:
Address:
City/State/Zip:
Email:
Names of those attending:

Best Western Wynwood Hotel & Suites

580 US Highway 1 Bypass, Portsmouth, NH 03801

The Best Western Wynwood Hotel and Suites in Portsmouth, NH is an executive meeting hotel recognized for outstanding quality customer service. Each guest room in the hotel is tastefully furnished with individual climate control, remote-control cable TV, free high-speed Internet, party table or desk, a refrigerator, coffee maker, microwave oven, iron and ironing board, and hairdryer.

A continental breakfast, served on the first floor, is included in the cost of each room. The hotel also features an exercise room and indoor and outdoor pools. There is parking for RVs on site.

Seacoast New Hampshire and nearby southern Maine offer plenty to do. Sample the food at the area's many great restaurants. Few places in the country are more beautiful than the Seacoast in September. Try a whale watch, take a Steamship harbor cruise, or visit the Isles of Shoal. The Kittery (ME) Outlet Malls are just across the bridge and the many small shops in Portsmouth offer a wide and unique sampling of fine merchandise.

Portsmouth is home to [Strawberry Banke](#), America's third-oldest community. There you can explore the many restored houses from colonial times and watch artisans ply their trades as in earlier days or you can ride a trolley and follow the [Portsmouth Harbour Trail](#) of historic houses. Portsmouth was the ship-building center of America in those days.

Of course, a leisurely stroll on the beach is also a wonderful thing to do and there are several close by: Hampton Beach, Wallis Sands and Rye Beach. York Beach, ME is only minutes away. There are several colonial fort sites in the area as well.

**BEST WESTERN WYNWOOD HOTEL & SUITES
GROUP RESERVATION REQUEST FORM**

Group: Towne Family Association

Thursday, 9/24/09 through Sunday, 9/27/09

Name:
Company:
Address:
City/State/Zip:
Telephone: ()
Sharing a Room with: (If you are sharing a room, submit only one form)

Arrival Information
Arrival Day/Date:
Estimated Arrival Time:
Non-Smoking/Smoking:
Number of Nights:

Please check the preferred accommodations below:

	# of Rooms	Room Type	Occupancy	Rate	With 8% tax
Superior		King Bed	One/Two persons	\$112.00	= \$120.96
		Double Beds	One/Two persons	\$112.00	= \$120.96
All rates subject to NH state tax of 8% per night.					

If accommodation request is not available, the closest comparable accommodation will be offered.

CHECK-IN: AFTER 4P/CHECK-OUT: BY NOON

The cut-off date for reservations is **AUGUST 15, 2009**. After this date, reservations will only be accepted on a space available basis. **Special group rates will be valid prior to the reservation cut-off date ONLY.**

To guarantee your reservation by 4P, your credit card number and expiration date must be enclosed with this form. Payment for the balance of your reservation can be made upon arrival with a major credit card, traveler's check or cash. Personal checks will not be accepted. We honor the following credit cards: American Express, Mastercard, Visa, Diners Club, Amoco Multi-Card, Carte Blanche and Discover Card.

Card # _____ Exp Date _____

I understand that I am liable for one night's room and tax which will be deducted from my deposit or billed through my credit card in the event that I do not arrive or cancel by 4P on the date indicated. (Reservations not guaranteed will be cancelled at 4P). A cancellation number is required for verification in the event of a billing dispute.

Signature _____ Date _____

NO Pets are allowed in this hotel.

PLEASE SEND THIS COMPLETED FORM TO: Best Western Wynward Hotel & Suites, 580 US Hwy 1 Bypass, Portsmouth, NH 03801 ATTN: Reservations. For questions or additional information, please call: (603) 436-7600.

MEET THE TOWNE FAMILY GENEALOGIST: KAREN TOWNE

Karen Towne was born to Orville Lloyd Towne and Leona (Baumunk) Towne in 1945 in Big Rapids, MI. At the time of Karen's birth, her dad was stationed on Leyte Island in the Philippines so her mom went home to stay with her parents. The same day Karen was born, the flag was raised on Mount Sarabachi on Iwo Jima. Following her dad's return from the War, she and her parents moved to Muskegon. Karen is the oldest of five children, four sisters and one brother, and still lives in Muskegon with her two dogs Teddy and Tara, 12 year old husky/Labrador mixes. During good weather the dogs get a walk every day. Muskegon has the most beautiful beaches which offer the opportunity to take them to the beach in the summer where they enjoy an area set aside just for dogs.

Karen's working career spanned more than forty years in the accounting field. Having retired a year ago, she can now enjoy the many things she was not able to when she worked. Simple things - sitting in the backyard, reading genealogy magazines with the dogs playing nearby - are a great joy.

Karen is a member of the area genealogy group, a Victorian society, a bible study group, volunteer at the senior center, and usher at the Frauen-

thal Center for the performing arts. In the future, she would like to take continuing education classes at the local community college, learn needlepoint, quilting, and painting. In addition to these interests, she enjoys cooking from scratch, baking, and making homemade soups.

Sparking a Interest in Genealogy

Karen first became interested in genealogy when she was twelve. On her 12th birthday, she received her Towne family genealogy from one of her cousins, Eleanor Towne.

Meeting Cousins and Making Connections

In 1987, on a genealogy bus trip to the Allen County Library in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, Karen came across the newsletter, "About Towne". As soon as she returned home, she called her cousin Eleanor to tell her of her great find. Karen and Eleanor traveled to England on the first TFA trip in 1990. This was such an interesting adventure that she also went on the 1994 trip. The accommodations, food, people, the Roman ruins, and the old churches proved to be a wonderful experience. She met people on both trips that have remained friends over the years. Linda Fulmer, from the 1990 trip, and Karen have traveled to several genealogy conferences around the Midwest. Mary Ann Olson,

from the 1994 trip, and Karen traveled together through the northwestern states and talk nearly every week. In 1991, Eleanor and Karen drove to Kennebunkport for the annual TFA meeting, where she presented a slide show of our England trip.

Genealogy and Research

Karen is a member and past regent of the Muskegon DAR chapter through her ancestor, **Thomas Towne**. She will be president of the Colonial Dames XVII Century, Muskegon chapter, from April 2009 to March 2011, through her immigrant ancestors, **William and Joanna Towne**. Her chapter has raised money through yard sales, cookie sales, and non-profit organization sales at the local Younkers store and has donated all the vital record books issued for colonial research in the New England states to the Hackley Library in Muskegon.

Her travels in search of ancestors have also taken her to New England with a Towne cousin, Dawn Robinson. On one trip, Dawn and Karen experienced the excitement of finding the tombstones of Joseph and Mary (Averill) Towne in Crown Point, New York, in a small family cemetery (Please see the article in this issue of About Towne). They are descended from two of Joseph and Mary's sons, who

MEET THE TOWNE FAMILY GENEALOGIST: KAREN TOWNE

migrated to Michigan in the early 1800's. During these trips, they visited many libraries and cemeteries and met the most helpful people along the way.

She has researched and presented programs about the Salem trials and Dolley Madison. Her future research for programs will include Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Abigail Adams, the building of Washington D.C., the White House, and the founding fathers' attitudes about religion in schools and government.

Over the years, as she has talked to older family members about their lives, she has realized one very important thing. They are gone now and she did not ask them enough questions. She said that now is the time to pursue the brick walls on her family tree and see if she can be successful in breaking through on any of them.

Karen Towne's Lineage

(1) William Towne married Joanna Blessing, (2) Joseph Towne married Phoebe Perkins, (3) Joseph Towne married Abigail Curits, (4) Elisha Towne married Mercy Foster, (5) Thomas Towne married Elizabeth Towne, (6) Joseph Towne married Mary Averill, (7) Ira Towne married Rebecca (Ruby) Prouty, (8) Elias Towne married Almira Lewis, (8) James Ari Towne married Isabelle Hall, (9) Charles Henry Towne married Edith Musetta Bunker, (10) Orville Lloyd Towne married Leona Baumunk (11) Karen Towne born 2/23/1945, married and divorced. Four younger siblings: Nancy, Marlene, Kimball and Pamela.

ELECTRONIC FAMILY TREE CAN LEAD TO GOOD HEALTH

something Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt calls key to ushering in better quality health care.

Even if your doctor hasn't gone digital, keeping a printout of the tree's detailed information in a patient's chart still provides crucial information, such as steering someone away from gene tests they don't really need.

But a small pilot study at Partners Healthcare in Boston suggests the digital potential. Embedding the e-family tree straight into software that adds in a patient's test and exam results produced a personalized report on cancer risk in minutes.

"This is the new frontier," said Leavitt, who points to a family that discovered a pattern of inherited colorectal cancer and now is exploring earlier colonoscopies to prevent death. "Information is at the root of good health."

TOWNE FAMILY ASSOCIATION MEETING PORTSMOUTH, NH

Plans for our Annual Meeting are well under way. Rooms at the Hotel have been blocked starting Thursday for those that want to arrive a day ahead. For those of you that might travel earlier or stay later, inquire about costs for additional nights when you book your room for the meeting. Make sure you call early. **Deadline for the special rate is August 15.**

The closest airport is Manchester, NH, but both Portland, ME and Boston, MA are ~ 1 hour from Portsmouth. There is ground transportation available from any of the airports to the hotel. Buses, limousines and shared vans make regular trips to and from all of the airports. There is a train that runs from Portland and from Boston to the station in Durham, NH. Rental cars are also available at the airports.

Campgrounds are numerous near Portsmouth: [The Exeter Elms Campground](#) (603) 778-7631; Great Bay Camping LLC, Newfields, NH (603) 778-0226; and [Tidewater Campground](#) Hampton, NH (603) 926-5474 or explore this website for other options <http://www.ucampnh.com/dir-sea.asp>.

The Estey branch of the family had a successful organ business in Brattleboro, VT. There is a museum there now. For more information, check the website at <http://www.esteyorganmuseum.org/>. The museum is ~2 hours from the hotel. Call before you visit. The hours change periodically.

The Seacoast offers a wealth of historical and genealogical information. The Special Collections at the University of New Hampshire's Dimond Library (<http://www.izaak.unh.edu/>) is in Durham (~20 minute drive) is a good resource.

The NH Historical Museum, the State Library <http://www.state.nh.us/nhsl> and the state archives <http://www.sos.nh.gov/archives> are located in Concord (~1 hour away). Concord is also home to several historic sites such as the *Christa McAuliffe* Planetarium/*McAuliffe*-Shepard Discovery Center. Hampton, NH is home to an extensive Genealogical library is only 10 minutes away go to <http://www.hampton.lib.nh.us/genealog/index.html> for more information..

Information about Maine's archives is available at <http://www.maine.gov/sos/arc/research/homepage>. Contact information for Maine's resources on genealogy and history is at http://www.maine.gov/portal/facts_history/genealogy.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, September 25

- **Hospitality Room:** Opens - 9 am
- **Lunch:** on your own
- **Board Meeting**
- **Workshop:** Genealogy Sources
- **First Timers' Gathering**
(Hospitality Room)

Saturday: September 26

- **General Business Meeting:**
8:30A – Noon with a mid-morning break
- **Lunch:** on your own
- **Afternoon Workshops:** TBD
- **Social Hour:** 6 – 7P
- **Banquet:** 7P

Sunday, September 27

- **Breakfast and Departure**

Friday evening we are planning to offer those interested the chance to dine together (at one's own expense) at one of the nearby restaurants specializing in seafood and having an ocean view. There will be more information on this event in the September issue of About Towne.

Any time the hospitality room is open drop by, help yourself to a beverage and a snack and join in conversation with some of your *cousins*.

THE STORY OF PHINIS "POLLY" TOWNE BY BEV DEPRIEST

Phinis "Polly" Towne was born in 1828 to John and Rachel Towne of Forest Lake, Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania. She and her brother, Myron, grew up with a love of books and of reading thanks to their maternal grandfather, Jehiel Warner, who started the township's first library – right in this own home. Needless to say, Phinis and Myron were both well read and could read long before attending the local school.

In 1853, Phinis decided to marry a young man by the name of John Deuel. John Deuel came from a large family in Middletown, PA. In the eyes of her family, he did not find favor and was not considered [by her father and brother] to be a good choice. When someone tried to defend him by saying he was a "good boy", John Towne snorted "Good for nothing!" But then again, no one was likely to appear good enough for Phinis in the eyes of her father and brother.

History does appear to support the family's disfavor for John Deuel. After the wedding, the couple moved to Middletown, Pennsylvania to live with his parents and younger siblings. Within a year, the couple's first child, a son, Wellington Bonaparte Deuel, arrived. Myron was astounded at the child's name and asked his sister what she meant by such an incongruous name. She dodged the issue by saying she would call the baby, "Welly". "Welly" died just over one year later and on June 27, 1856, the couple's second child, this time a girl, was born. She was named Lydia Rachel Deuel.

Within three years of her marriage, Phinis left John Deuel and returned home with Lydia to live with her parents. Her explanation of why she left John Deuel was vague. She said only that he had left to look for work and that she refused to stay any longer with his family. She displayed no grief or expectation of his return. From that day to the end of her life, she had no further contact with him.

In 1856, after Myron's wife, Sarah, left him, he asked Phinis to run his household as if it were her own. He paid her to keep his home and cook for himself and his laborers. This afforded her an income and eased the burden she felt her return had placed upon her parents, John and Rachel Towne.

In 1862, Myron resigned as postmaster Forest Lake, PA, to enlist in the Army of the Potomac in 1862. As his replacement, he submitted Phinis's application for the position. Phinis became postmistress in upon his departure and served in that position until [a proper government retirement could be attained].

Later she operated a small loan business which she had inherited from her father. She was a good businesswoman and quite successful.

According to the 1870 census, Phinis is 42 years of age and lives with her daughter Lydia and her family in Kirksville, Adair County, MO. When Lydia died of typhoid fever in 1874, Phinis took Lydia's baby daughter, Mary Eliza Burdick, to raise. Phinis spent the rest of her days with Mary, and later, Mary's family. Phinis "Polly" Towne" died in 1882 and is buried at White Rock, SD.

Phinis's story is in *"Myron Smith Towne and the Meaning of Success"* by Ruth Warner Towne.



Phinis Towne Deuel

OUR COUSIN: NEW BOSTON, NH SELECTMAN RODNEY TOWNE

On March 10, 2009, Rodney Towne was elected [for a three year term] as a Selectman for the town of New Boston, NH.

Rodney has the opportunity to tell the people of New Boston something about himself as the election neared. Here is what Rodney told the townspeople:

I was born and raised in New Boston, the third of four sons born to Howard and Francis Towne. I attended New Boston and Goffstown schools. During my early years, I worked in New Boston at Hillcroft Farm and then for Oliver and Him Dodge at Dodge Farms. The skills I learned in these jobs – handling livestock, operating large trucks and heavy equipment – served me well in my early fire service career.

In 1972, I became a member of the New Boston Fire Department, attaining the rank of Training Officer, and was elected to the Board of Fire Wards.

In 1978, I joined the Con-

cord Fire Department, moving their in 1982. I graduated from NH VoTec College with an associate degree in fire science and obtained a certificate in management from NHTI. In 1982, I started working part-time for NH Fire Training, attaining the rank of Deputy Chief in charge of both instructor and course development. I also had supervision of eight district coordinators. In 1988, I took a full-time position with NHFST with the rank of Assistant Chief. I was put in charge of three deputy chiefs as well as all in-house training programs. I also coordinated and participated in assessment centers for the hiring and promoting of chief officers. During this time, I represented the Chief of NHFST at many national meetings. My job with NHFST ended with state layoffs in early 1990.

At this time, I became a founding partner of a company providing equipment and techni-

cal rescue training around the country. In the summer of 1990, I went to work for the Hudson Fire Department then transferred to the Nashua FD in 1999 where I retired in 2007.

I returned to New Boston in 2005 and soon reactivated my membership with NBFSD where I was promoted to Deputy Chief in 2008. Coming home to New Boston was great. Best of all, I fell in love and married Gina Catalano.

Rodney Towne's Lineage

(1) William, (2) Edmund, (3) Joseph, (4) Nathan, (5) Aaron, (6) Aaron, (7) James, (8) Frederick, (9) Howard, (10) Rodney

Submitted by: Emma Towne Mosher

T F A D N A P R O J E C T U P D A T E B Y M A R G A R E T P R E S S

Since September 2007, the Towne Family Association has been conducting a Y-DNA project through Family Tree DNA in order to:

1. explore the "deep roots" of our ancestor William Towne
2. map out how changes in some of his Y-DNA markers corre-

spond to his sons' descendant lines

3. Help Towne descendants confirm or eliminate relationships, validate paper trails, and direct their further research
4. Help others with the sur-

name or variants (e.g. Toone/Tune) discover whether their family is related to William's line, and if so, how far back.

T F A D N A P R O J E C T U P D A T E

Deep Roots

From our test results, we have determined that William Towne (or more accurately - the father of Joanna Blessing's sons) belonged to **Haplogroup R1b1b2**. Haplogroup assignments are made based on a small number of mutations that occurred in the Y-chromosome over the course of thousands of years. Each mutation originated in a single man, and was then passed down to all his male descendants. Based on the dispersal of the mutation in men living today, predictions can be made about where each of these ancestral individuals lived. (The mutations used in genealogical DNA testing and haplogroup assignment are contained in "junk" DNA - not in the genes themselves. No medical or physical characteristics are associated with these marker locations.)

In the December 2008 issue, we described one of the first mutation branch points defining William's line 45,000 years ago in northeastern Africa (the marker is known as M89). This man's descendants were part of the second wave of migrations out of Africa into the Middle East. The next mutation of this type in William's line (M9 mutation) occurred about 40,000 years ago in a single descendant born in Iran or south-central Asia. His clan followed the herds eastward along the Eurasian steppe over the course of several thousands of years, probably arriving in the Pamir Knot region of what's now known as Tajikistan.

A subsequent mutation (M45) occurred in one of this man's descendants born in central Asia around 35,000 years ago. At this time the clan was following the big game herds north to Siberia, encountering the increasing cold, and expanding glaciers of the last ice age.

Somewhere between 28,000–35,000 years ago an additional mutation (M207) showed up in the line. This mutation is considered to define the R Haplogroup. This man was part of a group heading westward, ultimately into Europe, where the distribution of

his descendants would eventually predominate.

We'll continue tracing the journey of William Towne's patrilineal ancestors in our next update, or you can follow the trail of R1b1b2 on the National Geographic Genographic website -

<https://genographic.nationalgeographic.com/genographic/index.html> (Click on Atlas of the Human Journey).

Project results

At our next reunion in New Hampshire, we will be running another workshop to explain our DNA project and update the cousins with the latest results and what they all mean. Our project website at <http://www.worldfamilies.net/surnames/towne/> summarizes our findings so far and is updated as test results come in. To see our results so far (14 participants), click on *Y-results* from the above site.

Previous updates on the project appeared in *About Towne* - Dec 2007, Mar 2008 and Dec 2008 issues. These articles - and further discussion - will soon be available on our website <http://www.townefolk.com> - click on the DNA Project link.

HOW TO JOIN THE PROJECT:

Go to <http://www.worldfamilies.net/surnames/towne/> and click on *order*. This will get you our group discounts on Y-DNA test kits - cotton cheek swabs - which start at \$99. Partial subsidies may still be available for TFA members - contact us at townefolk@allies.com for further information. We strongly recommend you get at a minimum a **37-marker test**. 12-markers can confirm (to a degree) or disprove you're descended from William, but will not tell you which son you descend from.

Only men with surname "Towne" or variants are likely to carry William's Y-DNA markers (the markers we test).

MY MITOCHONDRIAL DNA STORY BY KAREN EVANS

Late last year (2008), I happened on the National Geographic Genographic project and was intrigued. Always interested in science and people, I decided to send for the kit, swap my cheeks, and learn about my “deep ancestral” maternal heritage.

My Branch on the Human Family Tree

My DNA results identified me as belonging to a specific branch of the human family tree called **haplogroup U5**. Haplogroup U5 contains these subgroups: U5, U5a, U5a1, U5a1a, U5b, U5b1, U5b1b and U5b2 (Reminded me of the pea experiments that I did in Junior High).

The map shows the direction that my maternal ancestors took as they set out from their original homeland in East Africa. While humans did travel many paths during a journey that spanned many thousands (tens of thousands) of years, the lines on the map represent the dominant trends in these migrations.

Over time, my descendants made it to northeastern Europe, where most members of Haplogroup U5 are now found.

“Mitochondrial Eve”

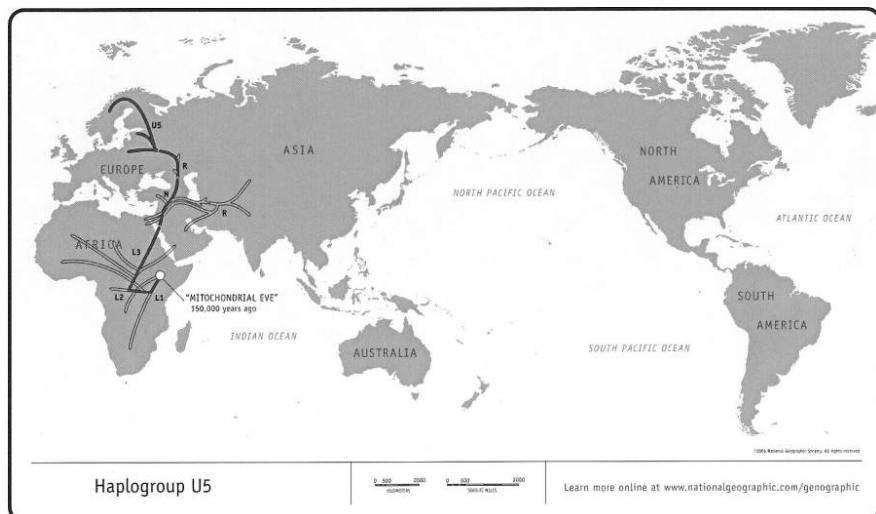
The story begins in Africa between 150,000 and 170,000 years ago with “Mitochondrial

Eve”. She was given this name in 1987 when population geneticists discovered that **all** people alive today can trace their maternal lineage back to her. Pretty incredible.

She was not the first female human however. Homo sapiens evolved in Africa ~200,000 years ago and the first hominids appeared nearly 2 million years before that. What is exceptional about Eve is that she was a survivor – hers is the

These groups are referred to as **L0 and L1** and these individuals have the most divergent genetic sequences of anyone alive today. This means that they represent the deepest branches of the mitochondrial tree. And, current genetic data indicates that indigenous people belonging to these groups are found only in Africa.

At some point, after these two groups co-existed in Africa for thousands of years,



only lineage from that distant time to survive today.

The L Haplogroups: The Deepest Branches

Ancestral Line: “Eve” > L1/L0

Mitochondrial Eve represents the root of the human tree family. Her descendants, moving within Africa, eventually divided and characterized by a different set of mutations that their members carry.

there was an important change. The mitochondrial sequence a woman in **L1** mutated. A letter in her DNA changed. The descendants of this woman went on to form their own group, **L2**.

Haplogroup L2: West Africa

Ancestral Line: “Eve” > L1/L0 > L2

L2 individuals are most predominant in West Africa. Because L2 individuals are

MY MITOCHONDRIAL DNA STORY

TFA DNA PROJECT

found at high frequencies and widely distributed among western Africa, they represent one of the predominant lineages in African-Americans.

Haplogroup L3: Out of Africa

Ancestral Line: "Eve" > L1/L0 > L2 > L3

My next sign-post ancestor is a woman who was born ~80,000 years ago and who began haplogroup L3. It's a similar story to L2. A letter in one woman's DNA changed and these descendents formed **L3**.

L3 is important because while L3 individuals are found all over Africa, they also moved north.

These L3 ancestors are significant because they were the first modern humans to leave Africa. My L3 ancestors moved north leaving Africa completely and eventually gave rise to two haplogroups that went on to populate the entire world.

Haplogroup N: The Incubation Period

Ancestral Line: "Eve" > L1/L0 > L2 > L3 > N

Haplogroup N comprises one of two groups that were created from the descendents of L3. **M**, the first of the two groups, was the result of the first tidal wave of migration of modern humans out of Africa.

These people followed a coastal route east out of Africa and eventually ending up in Australia and Polynesia.

The second wave of migration continued north across the Sinai Peninsula. Descendents of these migrants formed haplogroup **N**. These individuals likely co-existed with other hominids such as Neanderthals. The ancient members of haplogroup N are responsible for many sub-lineages which spread across Asia, Europe, India and the Americas.

It is interesting to see the parallel track/overlap in the migration of the male ancestor in Williams line (Marker M89) ~45,000 years ago.

Haplogroup R: Spreading Out

Ancestral Line: "Eve" > L1/L0 > L2 > L3 > N > R

After a few thousand years in the Near East, haplogroup R individuals began to move and explore. The story of **R** is complicated – these individuals can be found almost everywhere. Descendents migrated along the same pathways as group N. Because they lived side-by-side and moved together, the genetic lines are convoluted and entangled – geneticists are working to unravel those stories.

Haplogroup U: Toward the Black Sea

Ancestral Line: "Eve" > L1/L0 > L2

WHAT ABOUT WOMEN?

Unfortunately (or fortunately!) women do not carry Y-chromosomes, so only men can participate in the Y-DNA project. We do have women ordering discounted mtDNA (mitochondrial DNA) tests through our project – see our website for further details.

If we can locate any descendants of Joanna Blessing through an exclusively female line (e.g. through daughters of daughters etc of William's daughters) we would be very excited to see the results, since they would represent Joanna Blessing's deep roots as well. Contact us if you think you might be a candidate. (Males can carry this mtDNA, if their mothers descend from an unbroken female line.)

See you in Portsmouth this September! Meanwhile, watch our website for continuing updates.
<http://www.townefolk.com>

Margaret Press, DNA Project Committee

GENOGRAPHIC PROJECT

GENEALOGIST'S CORNER

The Genographic Project

A Landmark Study of the Human Journey

Where do you **really** come from? And how did you get to where you live today? DNA studies suggest that all humans today descend from a group of African ancestors who—about 60,000 years ago—began a remarkable journey.

The Genographic Project is seeking to chart new knowledge about the migratory history of the human species by using sophisticated laboratory and computer analysis of DNA contributed by hundreds of thousands of people from around the world. In this unprecedented and of real-time research effort, the Genographic Project is closing the gaps of what science knows today about humankind's ancient migration stories.

The Genographic Project is a five-year research partnership led by National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Dr. Spencer Wells. Dr. Wells and a team of renowned international scientists and IBM researchers, are using cutting-edge genetic and computational technologies to analyze historical patterns in DNA from participants around the world to better understand our human genetic roots. The three components of the project are: to gather field research data in collaboration with indigenous and traditional peoples around the world; to invite the general public to join the project by purchasing a Genographic Project Public Participation Kit; and to use proceeds from Genographic Public Participation Kit sales to further field research and the Genographic Legacy Fund which in turn supports indigenous conservation and revitalization projects. The Project is anonymous, non-medical, non-profit and all results will be placed in the public domain following scientific peer publication.

<https://genographic.nationalgeographic.com/genographic/index.html>

Town, Rhoda Jane, daughter of Harris & Sarah Ann (Clark) Town, died Jan 25, 1849

Town, Mathew M., son of Harris & Sarah Ann (Clark) Town, d. May 24, 1868, age 2 yrs.

Town, Sarah Ann (Clark), wife of Harris Town, d. May 14, 1877, age 52 yrs.

Town, Harris, Aug 3, 1823 – Sept. 28, 1902, husband of Sarah Ann (Clark) Town

Towne, Seth, husband of Matilda (Bentley) Towne, son of Silas & Ruth (Towner) Towne.

Towne, Matilda, wife of Seth Towne, b. 1829-d. July 23, 1903

Town, William H., son of Seth and Matilda Town, d. July 19, 1862, age 13

Towne, Nahum B., Oct 7, 1810-1894, husband of Mehitabel (Barnes) Towne, 1809- July 7, 1880, age 70

Towne, Simon L., son of Nahum & Mehitabel Towne, Oct 1, 1863

Crossman, Mary E. (Towne), daughter of Seth & Matilda Towne

Towner, Olive, wife of Ichabod A. Towner, d. Feb 25, 1860, age 79 years

Towner, Ichabod A., husband of Olive Towner, Jan 18, 1845, age 58 years. 7 months

Towner, Ephraim Jr., husband of Sophronia Towner, son of Ephraim & Rhoda

Towner, Sophronia (Bartlett), wife of Ephraim, no dates Towner

MY DNA STORY

> L3 > N > R > U

Genetic diversity characterizes haplogroup U and because of this diversity it is thought that this woman likely lived ~50,000 years ago.

Haplogroup U5: My Branch on the Tree

Ancestral Line: "Eve" > L1/L0 > L2 > L3 > N > R > U > U5

My branch of the clan split off from the rest of the group and headed north to Scandinavia. U5 is quite restricted in its variation to Scandinavia, and particularly to Finland. U5 individuals are also found in North Africa and the Near East – but with much less frequency.

So, there you have it. My genetic history back to "Eve".

For more information on Genographic Project, go to

<https://genographic.nationalgeographic.com/genographic/index.html>

(Excerpted from the Genographic Project (A research partnership of National Geographic and IBM), Genetic History of Karen Evans February 6, 2009.



E N G L A N D
T R I P -
P O S T P O N E D

O B I T U A R Y W A Y N E M A R S H A L L R I G G L E

Wayne Marshall Riggle, 84, of Arden, NC, went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at Heather Glen of Ardenwoods following a short illness. He was under hospice care.

He was born on April 12, 1925 at Rhinelander, WI, a son of Robert and Una (Dailey) Riggle. He married on 24 July 1948 to Mary Karzis, who died in Feb. 1973; and he remarried on 22 August 1974 to Ruth Evelyn Compton. He had also resided in Evanston, IL before locating to the western North Carolina area more than 15 years ago. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his brother, Robert, and his first wife.

He was employed as a technical director with Wells Manufacturing Corp., in Skokie, IL, for more than 30 years before retiring in 1990. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Hendersonville, the American Foundries Society, and was an officer with the local chapter of Sons of the American Revolution. He was a long-time member of the Towne Family Association, Inc. and he and his wife attended many annual meetings. He also was the publicity chairman for the association for many years. His family states that he was an unique individual with many interests and enthusiasms and will be missed.

He is survived by his loving wife, Ruth Compton Riggle; a daughter, Valerie Schmieder and her husband, John, of Milford, PA, granddaughter, Erin Schmieder of Washington, DC.

Donations can be made to Four Seasons Hospice & Palliative Care, 571 So. Allen Road, Flat Rock, NC 28731.

Wayne Riggle's Lineage: William [1], Joseph [2], Joseph [3], David [4], David [5], Ebenezer [6] Howard [7], Howard [8], Alice [9] Towne m. John Dailey, Una Beryl Daileym. Robert F. Riggle, Wayne M. Riggle

Health issues and the unsettled state of the economy have necessitated a postponement in our planned trip to England this fall. Our English genealogist, Charles Farrow, has done a masterful job creating a wonderful itinerary for us, but we do not have enough people able to go at the present time. We are hoping to be able to make the trip in 2011 and will be discussing this at our Annual Meeting in Portsmouth, NH this fall.



CALLING ALL STORYTELLERS, WOULD-BE AUTHORS AND ASPIRING WRITERS

TFA is looking for your participation in keeping the newsletter fresh and filled with member stories, genealogy, news, events, uses of technology for genealogy and research, books of interest, health, wellness and family history and of course, genealogy.

Here are a few of the regular features that we hope to have in each issue:

- Genealogist's Corner
- Meet Members and Cousins
- Stories and anecdotes of our ancestors
- Health, DNA and Family History
- Technology for Genealogy and Record-keeping
- Regional events, gatherings and conferences of interest
- Significant news and events in the lives of our members (e.g., births, deaths, promotions, publications, volunteer work)

Don't worry if you are not a "writer", send me your ideas and we will work on an article together!

Submission Deadlines

March Issue - January 15th

June Issue - April 30th

September Issue - August 1st

December Issue - November 1st

Please make all submissions electronically to AboutTowneNews@hotmail.com. Send files in a word processing format (such as Microsoft Word, WordPerfect). If you have photos to include, please include with your submission and send in JPG, BMP, GIF, or some other picture format).

If you have any questions, ideas for columns or regular features or any trouble submitting articles, please contact the About Towne Editor, Karen Evans, at abouttownenews@hotmail.com or call (916) 631-4385.

2009 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

TOWNE FAMILY ASSOCIATION

For renewal of membership in the Towne Family Association, Inc.

Make checks payable to: Towne Family Association, Inc.

Send to:

Wilbur Purvis, TFA Treasurer
 2214 SW Spence Ct.,
 Troutdale, OR 97060-3119

Dues	Status	Amount	
	Active	\$15.00	
	Family (two members)	\$19.00	
	Additions at the same address	\$4.00	
	Life Member	\$250.00	
Total Enclosed			

Name:		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Email Address:		Date:
Telephone (with area code):		

Send all address and name changes to:

Wilbur Purvis, TFA Treasurer
 2214 SW Spence Ct.
 Troutdale, OR 97060-3119

IF A TFA MEMBER MOVES AND DOES NOT INFORM TFA AND THE US POST OFFICE OF THE ADDRESS CHANGE, THE MEMBER WILL NO LONGER RECEIVE THE ABOUT TOWNE NEWSLETTER.



**TOWNE FAMILY
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Circulation Office
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Troutdale OR 97060

Address Service Requested

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**TFA ANNUAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 25-SEPTEMBER 27
PORTSMOUTH, NH**

Best Western Wynward Hotel & Suites

580 US Hwy Bypass

Portsmouth, NH

Hotel reservations must be made directly with the hotel by **August 15**. Call 603-436-7600 and identify yourself as part of *The Towne Family Association*