

# About Towne

## TOWNE FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC.

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### MYRON TOWNE

Born into an industrious and prosperous family, Myron and his sister, Phinis learned to read well before they entered school. They were influenced by a solid family tradition of reading and a strong value for education. Their grandfather, Jahiel Warner, had set this tone having established a circulating library, the first in the county, in his own home. In addition, their father, John Towne, was on the school board and eventually elected as its director. When Myron and Phinis started school at the Forest Lake Centre School, they were under his watchful eye.

Myron was expected to move into the professional class upon com-

pletion of his education. His father had not received much education. He had become prosperous by migrating to a sparsely settled area where land was still cheap, but he knew the value of a good education. John Towne had been able to combine farming and a blacksmithing business. He expected that Myron would go East to attend college or the seminary where he could study for a profession.

#### Church Influence

In Northeastern Pennsylvania, more fruit was grown than could be consumed. The only way it

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**TOWNE FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC.**

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**MEMBERSHIP**

All membership inquiries should go to the Executive Office.

**NEWSLETTER**

Editor in Chief: Karen Evans  
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 (All newsletter articles and questions)

**Circulation Manager:** (open)

**Indexer:** Ann Tuohy

From the Editor—

I want to thank everyone who has submitted an article, sent me photos or let me know about significant events in their family. I did not get it all in this time, but I promise you that if you submitted an item to me, it will make it into *About Towne*. The next issue is December, so send me your stories, ideas for stories, family photos, ... The deadline for submissions for the Dec 2009 issue is November 1st.

I am especially interested in biographies and stories about Townes, interesting and little known historical tidbits, significant events in your family, genealogy tips, book reviews, technology resources for genealogy, etc.

The newsletter is for the members and about the members. Let know what you like (and don't) and what you'd like to see more of in each issue. I look forward to hearing from you. Email me at: [abouttownenews@hotmail.com](mailto:abouttownenews@hotmail.com)

*Karen Evans*  
 Editor, About Towne

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with members spread all across the country and even into England and Canada, the best way to remain connected is by telling our stories. I hope you will be inspired to tell one of yours.

Another way of sharing our heritage is by attending Annual Meetings. I'm looking forward to seeing you in Portsmouth!

*Elizabeth Hanahan*

**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

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

Greetings from soggy Connecticut! As I write this amidst another downpour, I hope that your summer has been better than ours. We certainly haven't had much of one so far here. I'm really glad that we got our roof repaired this spring or we would have floated away!

Plans are coming along nicely for our Annual Meeting in Portsmouth, NH on September 25-27, 2009. For those interested in furthering their genealogical skills, there are some good workshops planned. For those of you who are no longer actively researching, there are a multitude of activities in the Portsmouth area for people of all ages and interests. We will have area information available for you in the Hospitality Room. Once again this year, we will be offering our TFA throw for sale. Details about it can be found elsewhere in the newsletter and on our web site

[www.townefolk.com](http://www.townefolk.com)

This spring, I had the extraordinary experience of attending the celebration of the 184<sup>th</sup> birthday of Laura M. Towne at Penn Center in St. Helena Island, SC. There were events for three days to commemorate the achievements of Laura and her friend, Ellen Murray, founders of Penn School for freed slaves during the Civil War. These events were sponsored by both Penn Center which inducted the women in memoriam into the 1862 Circle at a banquet Saturday night, and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Beauford. Friday night there was a fundraising concert to benefit the Marshview Community Organic Farm, a program where community young people learn to grow food. During the intermission, we were treated to fresh strawberries from the farm while some of the children entertained us with some drumming. On Sunday, the entire Unitarian worship service was de-

voted to Laura and Ellen. Reverend Nate Walker, minister of the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia, Laura Towne's home church before moving South, gave a wonderful talk. You can see it on YouTube. Go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and do a search for "Unitarian Abolitionists: Furness and Towne". On that site, you can also see a video Reverend Nate made about Laura Towne and Penn Center for his congregation back home, which was also commemorating Laura Towne in their service that day. Other speakers included Janice Marie Johnson, Director of Lifespan Religious Education at Community Church of New York and Reverend Hope Johnson, of the UU Congregation of Central Nassau New York who traveled from Long Island, NY to be there. It was incredibly moving to hear all these people who are committed to carrying on Laura's ideals. Reverend Nan L. White, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Beauford, and Rosalyn A. Brown, Director of History and Culture at Penn Center, are to be commended for all their hard work in keeping Laura's legacy alive.

Towne descendents have over the years quietly distinguished themselves in championing human rights and service in many fields: education, the military, the arts, medicine and politics among others. If you know of someone whom you would like to see profiled in *About Towne*, let Karen Evans know at [abouttowne-news@hotmail.com](mailto:abouttowne-news@hotmail.com). She will give you suggestions on how to write it up. One of the most pleasurable aspects of our new web site for me has been receiving family stories sent when people register for the web site or submit changes. Sharing our heritage was one of the original goals of our organization. As we have grown into a large organization,

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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		
<b>Registration and Banquet Grand Total</b>		

**Best Western Wynwood Hotel & Suites**  
 580 US Highway 1 Bypass, Portsmouth, NH 03801

<http://www.wynwoodportsmouth.com/>

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.

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

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.

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

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

**Group:** Towne Family Association

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

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

<b>Arrival Information</b>
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
<b>Superior</b>		King Bed	One/Two persons	\$112.00	= \$120.96
		Double Beds	One/Two persons	\$112.00	= \$120.96
<b>All rates subject to NH state tax of 8% per night.</b>					

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.

## MYRON TOWNE

could be preserved was by drying or fermenting. The Towne family, as many households in their region, produced brandy and cordials. Other farms in the region grew corn however which when distilled became corn whiskey which was so potent that it led to the worst type of drunkenness. When the Towne's church voted to put an end to all consumption of alcohol, all forms of alcohol were removed from the Towne household. The family became "teetotalers". They even began adding a "T" after their signatures to signify that they were teetotalers.

In 1844, their church ruled that slavery to be an "abomination" to be "extirpated". The Townes agreed with the church's ruling and were incredulous over the right of others to lay claim or to own another human being. In their eyes, slaves, as God's creation, must be freed, hopefully by some peaceful, legal means.

### **Myron Towne: School Teacher**

In November 1848, when

Myron was 19, the school board engaged him to teach in the common schools of Forest Lake. He was a teacher for twelve years. Myron taught only the winter term each year. The remainder of the year, he farmed a small acreage near his parents' place, ran a small business and taught singing lessons. Myron only taught in winter because it was the winter months when the older boys would be in the classroom. Summertime teaching went to the young women when the boys were working in the fields. Myron also used the summer months to further his education at Harford University which was not far from his farm. The University had modest fees and a convenient calendar.

Myron offered an enriched curriculum for his upper section students. He added lessons in history, geography, and literature, as well as elements of science (also called Natural Philosophy). He also delighted in daily music lessons and used singing as a reward for good behavior and success in mastering particular aspects of

each day's lessons. In later years he liked to say that he had never had trouble with discipline, but that he achieved it by positive means. He also refused to use ridicule as incentive for doing school work as many of his contemporaries did.

The only objection Myron had to the teaching profession was that it did not provide an adequate income for a man; it had to be supplemented by some other occupation. Farming was the obvious answer, but Myron had more aspirations than to settle for life as a farmer.

### **Myron's First Marriage**

In 1853 Myron's sister, Phinis, married John Deuel and moved into the Deuel house to live along with younger brothers and sisters. With Phinis no longer at home, Myron felt lonely; he missed his trusted companion so he began to think of starting his own family. He met Sarah Wright in one of the singing classes he was teaching. She was nearly nineteen with fair skin, blue eyes and light brown hair that

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**TOWNE FAMILY ASSOCIATION MEETING  
PORTSMOUTH, NH**

Plans are well underway for this year's annual meeting.

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

#### Friday, September 25

**Hospitality Room:** Open 9AM

**Lunch:** on your own

**Board Meeting**

**Workshop:** Introduction to Genealogy

**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:** Chartology and Maps; TBD

**Social Hour:** 6 – 7P

**Banquet:** 7P

#### Sunday, September 27

**Breakfast and Departure**

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

For anyone just beginning their genealogy adventure, there will be an introduction to tracing your genealogy on Friday.

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Saturday afternoon, there will be a workshop by Gerry Miller. Gerry is a surveyor by vocation and map seller by avocation. He will have reproductions of antique maps on display and will also have maps for purchase. Check out his website at <http://www.antiquemapsnh.com> Additional workshops are in the works. Stay tuned for updates.

The Saturday banquet will begin with a social hour. Don't miss the opportunity to meet your cousins from all around the country.

The entertainment on Saturday will be by the "Gravestone Girls." They do a great presentation which includes information and history gathered specifically for the group they are presenting for. It is fun and interactive presentation, so you will not want to miss it. Check out their website at <http://www.gravestonegirls.com>

Because the entertainment on Saturday evening is interactive, the Gravestone Girls have a request of TFA members. They would like TFA members to e-mail them photos of gravestones and cemeteries in the areas where they live. These will be included in their presentation

(as much as possible). *The Girls* are centered in New England, to they are especially interested in getting photos from other parts of the country where the Towne descendents lived (and are living).

The photos of gravestones do not have to be limited to TFA related stones, but also can include stones that seem peculiar to certain areas and regions of the country.

E-mail photos to: The Girls at: the-girls@gravestonegirls.com. Let them know in your email that the photos are for the TFA meeting September 25–27th. If you have cemetery photos, but are unable to e-mail them, send them to Barry Cass at: 20 Springfield Rd., Somers, CT 06071.

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Breakfast and farewell until next year. Keep in touch with your cousins and with TFA through *About Towne* and the TFA website

<http://www.townefolk.com>

## RETURN OF THE TFA THROW

### RETURN OF A FAVORITE!

The Towne Family Association is pleased to announce that we will, once again, be offering our striking TFA throw for sale to our members. Those of you who have one know that they make wonderful keepsakes for everyone descended from William and Joanna Towne.

I used mine as a table covering for the TFA table at the New England Regional Genealogical Conference in Manchester, NH this spring and received numerous compliments on it.

The throw is 50" x70" and beautifully designed by Past President Connie Purvis and depicts along with a TFA logo, St. Nicholas Church in Great Yarmouth, England as well as the Nurse Homestead in Danvers, MA. As an added bonus, it is machine washable in cold water.

Go to our website [www.townefolk.com](http://www.townefolk.com) to see a photograph. The throws are available at a reduced price of \$52.00 (shipping is included). To order, send a check for \$52.00 each to Wilbur Purvis, Treasurer.

They will also be available for purchase at our Annual Meeting in Portsmouth, NH for \$45.00.

*Elizabeth Hanahan*

## WELCOME: NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

**Patricia Brown Alexander**  
Dodgeville, WI  
Rebecca

**Kevin Fowler**  
Virginia Beach, VA  
Jacob

**Darla Terry**  
Enid, OK  
Edmund

**Howard Pomranka**  
Estes Park, CO  
Jacob

**Charlotte Hatfield**  
Chebeague Island,  
ME  
Edmund

**Brenda Kaiser**  
Largo, FL  
Jacob

**Samuel Gibson**  
Aliso Viejo, CA  
Jacob

**Florence Towne Rose**  
Los Gatos, CA

**David Price**  
Peabody, MA  
Rebecca

**Marilyn Tracy**  
Laredo, MO  
Edmund

**Herbert Tully**  
Ross, CA



## HISTORIAN'S CORNER – THE NUANCES OF LANGUAGE (THEN AND NOW)

When using original sources, care must be taken that the modern reader does not read into the document something that isn't in the original meaning. Word meanings and language styles change constantly, and this process may very well have sped up over the last 50 years. Words and constructs that were well understood by their writers may whisper completely different messages today.

People of the 1850s through the 1950s who worked to improve race relations may have used what we today call the “n” word when describing people of darker skin tone or person from what they considered an “uncivilized” place. This did not mean that they were racists, but merely that word was used commonly by people of all kinds of sentiment. I remember my grandfather using this word, but honoring the people he worked with. Remember, actions must speak louder than words.

Another bit of confusion I happened across a couple of years ago is the romantic language that was so popular in the early 19<sup>th</sup>

century. The letters written to others of the same gender may be full of flowery sentiments and desires to “hold you to my breast and kiss you.” Sorry, again this means nothing. This is just the way some people talked, and again, actions must speak louder than words. If there is no mention of anything out of the ordinary, please do not assume it.

In the King James Bible, published in 1611, we find that Esau sold his birth-right for a mess of pottage. When you look at this do you see a dish of stew or breakfast porridge? This was a stew, one of many words to have gone out of common usage in the 400 years after the publication of the King James Bible. These words may be very close to another word that we use today in sound but not in meaning; or a word in common usage then and now may have a totally different meaning.

Certain subjects were not spoken or written about by polite people. Pregnancy might not be mentioned even by a woman writing to her mother, just an announce-

ment that the family has been joined by a new member well after the fact. Or the pregnancy might be announced in a convention such as “we will be joined by a little stranger in a few months” or some family shorthand. Don't take it for granted that the woman is going to say anything about “body functions” which included pregnancy and birth.

On the other hand, you may be surprised what you can find in a letter about the most astounding things. Reading letters home sent by Civil War troops, I found a reference to a sergeant and a medic living very close together. The writer seems almost relieved and amused when the sergeant had a baby; the situation wasn't what he thought at all.

So, when reading original sources, take care. Assume nothing that is not plainly spelled out. Whatever people of today are doing, good or bad, the people in the past were doing. People in the past just may not have mentioned it or may have used another word for it. Finally, try to find at least two sources before assuming anything is correct.

*Virginia Towne*

**D E A R T F A M E M B E R S :  
S E E K I N G Y O U R A S S I S T A N C E**

**Dear TFA Members:**

I am looking for an unpublished autobiography of Henry Robinson Towne. Has anyone ever run across this manuscript or know where I might find the unpublished autobiography of Henry Robinson Towne (February 1894)?

It was mentioned in the article on John Towne in the About Towne Vol. XXIII, No. 3 September 2003 p. 44. If I can find it, the manuscript would help in writing a biography on his aunt Laura Matilda Towne, a descendant of Edmund Towne.

As a proud Towne I have been fascinated by the story of Laura Matilda Towne - a woman who changed her world. I have been trying for some time now to gather facts about her. As I write this note, a quick trip to Salt Lake City is being planned in hope of find out something more about her.

If you have any data that you may have stumbled across or otherwise have gathered on her, her parents, her siblings or her friends, please contact me, Virginia Towne at: [vitowne@yahoo.com](mailto:vitowne@yahoo.com). My biography of Laura needs items if it is to be a full account of her life, and what a life it was! I hope to do her justice. Please don't worry that if you send something and it will be a duplicate; I am hoping to be able to verify everything and multiple sources are always a good thing.

Volunteers in Baltimore, Boston, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia as well as the Sea Islands in South Carolina could help me greatly by checking various public records in their spare time. Much of what is "known" about her is not verifiable and this would be a fairly straight

forward genealogy search - just as many of you do all the time.

Thank you, *Virginia Towne*

Email: [vitowne@yahoo.com](mailto:vitowne@yahoo.com)

Mailing Address: 1214 SW 124<sup>th</sup> St. #B-200,  
Burien, WA 98146

**Dear TFA Members:**

Some years ago when I found the marriage memorial and wedding souvenir of my parents' wedding published in Bangor, ME., by Rev. Samuel D. Towne, I wrote to the newsletter hoping to find someone who would give me some information on Samuel D. Towne.

I had no answers at that time but with so many new members, I am hopeful that maybe someone would have some tidbit of information. So, I am asking once again, does anyone have any information on Rev. Samuel D. Towne?

*Barbara Holden*

## MYRON TOWNE

*(Continued from page 46)*

she drew smoothly back from a center part into a heavy chignon at the back. They fell in love and both were eager for marriage despite their differences. Myron had developed into a studious, rather solemn man with little time for or inclination toward frivolity. His idea of recreation was reading, teaching Sunday school, and active involvement in the church. Sarah preferred the company of young people her own age and was indifferent to further education. She became bored by discussion of books and seemed to think that when she completed the eighth reader she had read enough.

Myron felt he must make money to provide for their future. He decided to build a sawmill on his property and open a post office in his home so that the Forest Lake citizens would not have to travel hours to get their mail. He accomplished this while continuing to teach in the winter months. He and Sarah were married in 1855. She soon tired of their life and the loneliness that accompanied being the wife of a man driven to work and leave her at

home. They divorced after only two years of marriage.

### **Myron's New Housekeeper**

About the time of Myron's marriage, Phinis returned home with her baby daughter Lydia. Myron offered her the position of housekeeper in his home telling her he would pay the going wage plus a room for herself and Lydia and all their meals as part of the contract. She was to operate the house as if it were her own. The only extra obligation would be the noon meal for the mill hands. Phinis accepted with enthusiasm. The arrangement worked well and Myron became the surrogate father and indulgent uncle to "Little Lydia".

### **Military and Public Service**

With the secession of the Confederate States after the presidential election of 1860, Myron, a student of the Constitution, saw this as a denial of both the fundamental law of the land and the democratic principle of majority rule. He felt a strong urge to respond to the calls of recruiters to raise state regiments composed of volunteers. He tendered his resignation as postmaster, and

at the same time, he submitted that of his sister, Phinis, to continue in that position.

Public service was part of the creed he inherited and practiced all his life. Hence, he enlisted in the Pennsylvania volunteers in 1862. He did not wait for the draft, but proudly volunteered for what he deemed a righteous cause. He listed his age as 32 and his occupation as "teacher". That he did not use either farmer or mill owner-operator to describe his occupation suggests that he had in mind to do more than carry a rifle. Before he took his assignment, he set about collecting an impressive list of endorsements which would be helpful in securing an officer's position in the army. On September 6<sup>th</sup>, the company was formally mustered into service. Travel to Harrisburg was always a dream of Myron's, but now he was to continue onto Washington, D.C. on his first trip aboard a train.

He noted the careless way that supplies were handled in Camp Seward, so he presented his petition for a clerical position feeling he could do a better job of bringing order to the chaos and inefficiency. He

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## MYRON TOWNE

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was summoned soon after that to the position of commissary sergeant, but his duties were more commensurate with quartermaster (a higher rank). He found the long columns with their tiny spaces for figures like the public school reports he'd been doing as a civilian. He not only requisitioned supplies for his troops, but he also studied tactics whenever possible. He and his regiment were ordered to join the Army of the Potomac in preparation for a spring offensive.

Myron had no difficulty fighting for the Union; however, he also realized that the freeing of the former bondsmen presented an opportunity for the army to utilize his teaching skills. Slaves were people with hopes and ambitions, talents and abilities and, if liberated, would likely enlist to prove their worth. Possibly the first glimmer of his own role in uplifting those who had been enslaved entered his mind.

### **First Lieutenant of the 45<sup>th</sup>**

### **United States Colored Troops**

Myron was involved in the chaos at Chancellorsville and the long and bloody battle at Gettysburg. To his dismay, he realized when it was over, that he had behaved like a "savage, killing with abandon." He concluded that war produced a reversion to barbarism which he deplored. He did not pride himself on his survival. He felt it was not so much fitness as much as luck.

After Gettysburg, he was hospitalized for two months with typhoid. That he survived either illustrates his fundamentally good constitution or the fact that it was not his time to die. He was considering a major step - to volunteer for service with the growing number of units in the branch designated as the United States Colored Troops. He regarded military service as part of citizenship. He believed the former slaves must be accorded full citizenship rights. He applied for the position but first were the engagements in The Wilderness and Cold Harbor. He continued serving as quartermaster, delivering rations to the troops, carrying them to the front, locating his

men and supplying them with much needed provisions.

Several times, he found himself close to the battle while bullets zipping past his ears. In July 1864, he was granted his commission as First Lieutenant in the 45th United States Colored Troops.

Myron wanted to begin teaching classes in the core subjects, but he realized that his immediate task was to teach the tools of war to his new recruits. Some believed Negroes would be excellent soldiers with their burning desire to prove their right to freedom while others thought they would throw down their weapons and run. Myron felt it was his noble cause to help the ex-slaves to prove themselves. He was proven correct when in battle, they performed in an almost unbelievable fashion. His men advanced at double-quick speed, nimbly sidestepping shells and leaping into the protected areas for cover. The freed men performed as an especially capable unit, well trained and very determined. There was an absence of stragglers and a cheerfulness with which the men en-

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## MYRON TOWNE

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dured long and rapid marches. They were especially concerned with the proposition of capture. In the South, any person who wanted a slave could claim a captured soldier as a fugitive, the property of the claimant. At the end of the war, Grant selected Towne's regiment to command the wagon train to Appomattox to witness the surrender of General Lee.

At the end of the fighting, instead of laying down their arms, Myron and his regiment were ordered to Texas. Napoleon III was sending French troops to Mexico in an effort to establish a puppet regime, and in an attempt to support Secretary of State William Seward in his dealings with the situation, troops were sent to the border. This was an opportunity for him to see more of the country and to study each area. At every opportunity, he would purchase whatever information he could on the history or geology of the vicinity to share with the men in his command; he called upon his memory to provide background to Spanish culture

and Mexican history. He also taught them to understand their bank accounts through arithmetic. After arriving at their destination, they had down time when he was able to teach them to read. He also made it his policy to lead his men by example by doing more than his share of the heavy labor.

His discharge came in November 1865, but first he and his regiment needed to return to Washington, D.C. They marched to the Gulf coast. The weather was sunny and pleasant and the men sang and joked as they marched. There they boarded a steamer and sailed well out to sea. As they lost sight of land, the sky turned dark and ominous. He heard the sailors muttering something about tropical storms called hurricanes that struck with little warning. Nervousness and terror swept through the troops. The ship reached Padre Island just as the storm struck. The intensity of the storm was so great that wind and waves slammed the ship onto the rocks and sand dunes and pounded it until it keeled over at an alarming angle. The storm continued to ravage the ship all night. In the morning, islanders

rowed out to the steamer, took off the passengers, crew and supplies. This was the last of the great adventures he was to experience before he mustered out. The military had consumed nearly four years of his life.

### Westward Bound

A short time after returning home, Myron found that his parents and Phinis were interested in moving to Lanark, Illinois. Meanwhile, he began to sell his land and made arrangements to move to a small town in northeastern Missouri, Kirksville. Phinis was able to visit Myron for a few days after he was settled in and she surmised that he needed a wife. He would cut timber every day and return to an empty house each night then have to prepare food for himself. Phinis decided that a properly arranged marriage of convenience was what he needed at his age, so she set about finding just the right wife for her brother. It didn't take her long to find Ellen Theodora Cole of Peru, Indiana. After much contemplation, Myron wrote to the lady and received a polite response which encouraged him to continue the correspondence. After his crops were harvested and he

*(Continued on page 54)*

## MYRON TOWNE

*(Continued from page 53)*

made the last major cutting of timber, Myron traveled by train to Peru. He discovered that Miss Cole had clearly made the most of her common school education; her manners were refined, and she presented an attractive appearance. They were married two days later and immediately left on the train bound for Missouri.

### Marriage and a Family

In the months that followed, Myron grew more and more pleased with his marriage. "Nellie" kept the house neat, clean and well decorated; she prepared good meals and they could share opinions and thoughts as well as joke with each other in a kind way. The future looked bright except that his scattered holdings in the county were not as productive as he'd hoped. He began to look for other enterprises. When she joyously announced her pregnancy in 1874, he was apprehensive. He worried about his prospects for their future. Frederick Winthrop Towne was born

in March 1875. Frail at birth; he had little hope for survival. He lived for only seven weeks.

The mournful parents snatched the first opportunity to leave Kirksville. It was a popular idea in the post-Civil War era that a change of scene would work wonders for the physical health and mental outlook of the grieving individual. Myron wanted a better life for him and his wife. He bought a hotel in Unionville, Missouri. Nellie's outlook brightened considerably and she dressed in better fashion and acted as a kind and gracious hostess and mistress of the establishment. Myron found running the hotel called for the skills of purchasing, distributing and record keeping that he had developed in the army. It was also far lighter work than farming or lumbering, and he could dress in better garments and keep clean. There were also intervals of free time in which he could read or write letters. He also added a livery stable with horses and buggies for hire by the drummers making the rounds of the country stores.

In February 1877, Nellie gave birth to a healthy

daughter, Fanny, and the mother's health seemed better than it had since their marriage.

On the last day of March, the Townes received word that Myron's father, John Towne, had died, and Myron must leave immediately. Nellie wanted to accompany him so that the family could see the new baby. Despite all of their precautions, Fanny became sick at one of the train stops. She never recovered and she died in her mother's arms on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Nellie's always frail health began to deteriorate. A physician determined she suffered from "consumption". He suggested Colorado as the preferred location for her to regain her health, but Myron doubted she could survive the trip to the West. Preparations for this sad trip came to a halt when Nellie, who had been only semiconscious for several days, breathed her last.

He continued running the hotel. However, it was difficult without a partner and companion. Just three years after Nellie's death a drummer arranged for Myron to meet his maiden aunt, Elizabeth Stew-

*(Continued on page 55)*

## MYRON TOWNE

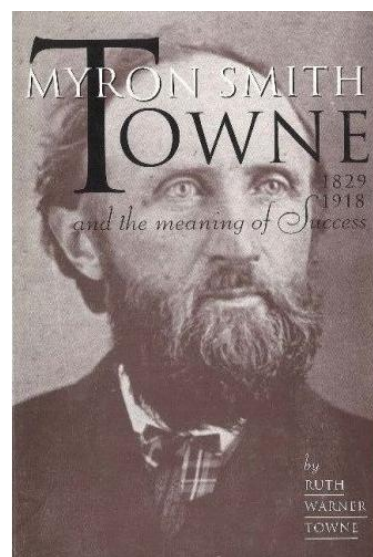
*(Continued from page 54)*

art. His arranged marriage with Ellen Cole had worked out well, so he seemed to think another contrived union would be equally good. Despite the fact that he was nineteen years her senior, that she had a noticeable lack of schooling and that she felt life had dealt her an unfair hand, Myron proposed marriage and "Lizzie" accepted. They were married within days, on June 14 1883, and they boarded the train to Unionville. Only six months after their marriage, the hotel caught fire and was declared a total loss. Its contents had been saved as well as the livery stable. Insurance did not totally cover the loss, and without the hotel, the livery stable did not do well. Myron and his wife moved their salvaged belongings into a small house in town. To add to his burdens, eight months later, a baby boy was born, Frank Warner Towne, and four years later another boy arrived, Myron Stewart Towne.

Myron sold the livery stable and moved to a farm

at the edge of Unionville where he operated a dairy. He gave his time and talent freely as a small political official and he was often the first to put down a dollar or even five dollars to start a church or civic drive for money to be used for some good purpose. He invested in several ventures in an attempt to accumulate an estate sufficient to leave to his much younger wife and two sons, the oldest of which (Frank Warner Towne) became quite a successful journalist and publisher. The younger of the two sons, Myron Stewart, however, is credited with the financial ruin of his parents. He had been indulged by his mother and allowed to get by with any behavior, no matter how bad. He was hopelessly immature, self-indulgent, and irresponsible. His escapades of careless spending were always explained away by his mother as she asked Myron time and again for the money to cover his foolishness.

In 1918, Towne suffered the last in a series of strokes. He lapsed into a coma and died December 10, 1918. Myron Smith Towne



possessed more than ordinary ability, a keen mind and a higher level of education than most people of his time and rural location. He took care of his family to his eventual demise. He had the quality of character which set an example to those of us who follow.

Submitted by: *Beverly DePriest*

**From:** *Myron Smith Towne and the Meaning of Success* by Ruth Warner Towne

## BE SURE TO INCLUDE SOURCES . . . "

All of you who have registered at our web site <http://www.townefolk.com> have been asked to include sources for all changes and additions submitted to our database. But just what does that mean?

In genealogy, there is no such thing as absolutely certain proof; any record or source of information may actually turn out to be wrong. When submitting material to TFA either on the web site or through our genealogist, Karen Towne, please be sure that you have checked, double-checked and triple-checked your sources. Be sure to use more than one source for each fact, especially if your original material came from family records or stories. These are frequently inaccurate in whole or in part for a variety of reasons, and have a way of perpetuating themselves as they are passed from generation to generation. Do not base conclusions on compiled books, indexes, or internet sources without examining the original sources on which these are based. We are fortunate that more original records have become available online. Generally accepted, though by no means infallible, sources include vital records, census records, probate files, land records, and family records such as bibles. I will be talking in more detail about this at our Portsmouth NH meeting in September, so if you have questions about documenting your work, be sure to attend! Our goal at TFA is to gradually verify all member submissions in our 66,000+ person database. This is a formidable task, but with your help, we can do it. Take a look at what we have, compare it to your material, and send us any well-documented changes and additions.

*Elizabeth Hanahan*

## FREE DOWNLOADABLE GENEALOGY FORMS

Looking for some blank forms that you can fill in during your genealogy research? You can download free, high-quality blank forms online from several web sites and print them on your own printer.

Family Tree Magazine has a huge collection of downloadable forms on the company's web site. The forms include pedigree charts, research calendars, note-taking forms, deed indexes, research journal, correspondence logs, family group sheets and census extraction forms. You can see this impressive collection of forms at

<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/forms/download.html>

Matt Misbach has an excellent collection of online, downloadable genealogy forums at <http://misbach.org>.

Ancestry.com has downloadable forms that are as nice looking as the commercially available forms. You can obtain a pedigree chart (called an Ancestral Chart), Research Calendar, Research Extract, Correspondence Chart, Source Summary and Family Group Sheet. You can do all of this at:

<http://www.ancestry.com/save/charts/ancchart.htm>

FamilySearch.org has a collection of online forms, including U.S., British, Irish and Canadian census extraction forms, family group sheets, blank timelines and more. The forms are available at

[http://www.familysearch.org/eng/Search/RG/frameset\\_rhelps.asp?Page=../research/type/Form.asp&ActiveTab=Type](http://www.familysearch.org/eng/Search/RG/frameset_rhelps.asp?Page=../research/type/Form.asp&ActiveTab=Type)

About.com offers a number of downloadable genealogy forms, including family tree fan

*(Continued on page 57)*



## FREE DOWNLOADABLE GENEALOGY FORMS

*(Continued from page 56)*

charts, pedigree charts, family group sheets and relationship charts. Take a look at [http://genealogy.about.com/od/free\\_charts/](http://genealogy.about.com/od/free_charts/) Canadian census forms for the 1851, 1901, 1906 and 1911 Canadian censuses may be downloaded from:

<http://www.ancestry.com/trees/charts/canadacensus.aspx>.

Similar forms for the 1841 through 1901 decennial U.K. censuses may be obtained at <http://www.ancestry.com/trees/charts/ukcensuses.aspx>.

All of the above are available free of charge.

Excerpted from Eastman's Genealogy Online, May 27, 2009

## SPLASH-UP PHOTO EDITOR

One of the best things about "cloud computing" is that hundreds of applications are available without installation. You can simply go to the application's web site and start using it. Many of these applications are available free of charge.

SplashUp is a surprisingly powerful editing tool and photo manager. It is easy to use, works in real-time and allows you to edit multiple images at once.

SplashUp will never compete with Photoshop or Photoshop Elements or any of the other commercial photo editing programs that sell for \$50 and up. However, it does have a surprisingly large list of features.

## SPLASH-UP

SplashUp supports layers and blending, features not found in many cheaper photo editors. It also has a number of filters such as sharpen, blur, pixelate, and more. It easily resizes photos and can also edit multiple photos simultaneously. Of course, the program will edit photos that are on your computer's hard drive. It will also directly edit pictures from FaceBook, Flickr, Picasa, SmugMug, or Photobucket. It will also save photos to those sites. SplashUp will also import pictures from most any other web site but will not be able to save to the web sites. It can always save your local disk drive(s). It will also grab pictures from your live webcam.

SplashUp works with any modern web browser on Windows, Macintosh or Linux. The supported browsers include Firefox, Safari, Internet Explorer, Chrome, and Opera.

SplashUp will never replace the commercial photo editing products but its price is very attractive: free. It is available to you at any time you are connected to the Internet. In my case, I had a very simple task: resize a photo. SplashUp did that within seconds without installing any software on my computer.

If you need a quick and easy photo editor, SplashUp will probably do the job.

You can try editing a few photos at <http://www.splashup.com>.

Excerpted from Eastman's Genealogy Online, April 11, 2009

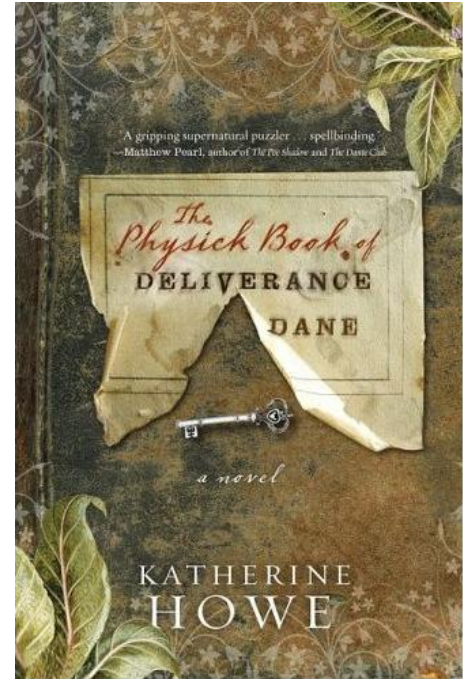
**T H E P H Y S I C K B O O K O F D E L I V E R A N C E D A N E  
B Y K A T H E R I N E R O W E**

Anyone who loves a mystery with genealogy, history, and anthropology will love this book. This is the first novel of author, Katherine Howe, a descendant of both Elizabeth Proctor & Elizabeth Howe, who were accused of witchcraft in the hysteria of 1692. Ms. Howe, a PhD candidate in history, also brings the unique perspective of the graduate student experience to her novel. The main character, Connie Goodwin, is a graduate student, who experienced the stress and politics inherent in that academic endeavor.

While the story takes place in and around Marblehead & Salem, MA, the story shifts between the present (1991) and 1681, 1682, 1692, 1715, and 1760. Deliverance Dane is the fictional “witch,” who was hung at the same time as our Rebecca Nurse. The author’s descriptions and characterizations from the historic periods are excellent.

While not an involved thriller like Agatha Christie’s mysteries, the general plot of Ms. Howe’s novel can be anticipated. The story is about Connie tracing her witch ancestor’s “almanac” to use as the basis for her dissertation. While she rummages around her ancestral home and in various archives looking for this

book, she learns more about her family and herself.



This book is excellent entertainment for those interested in genealogy & history. Be prepared for a somewhat unexpected ending.

Submitted by: *Linda Bixby Fulmer*

Howe, K. (2009). *The Physick Book of Deliverance Dane*. NY: Hyperion Books. Also available as an audio book.

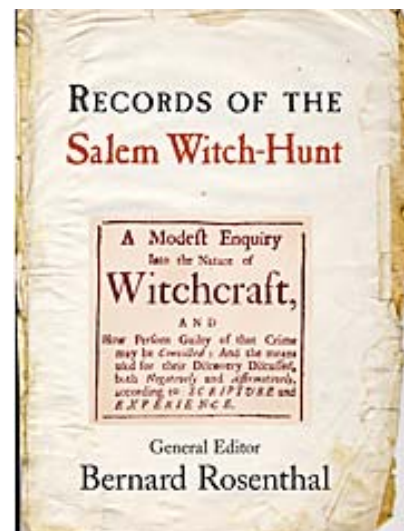
THE SALEM WITCH HUNT: ON THE RECORD BY  
RICHARD TRASK

The topic of 1692 Salem witchcraft remains a popular subject in both American history and literature, as well as with the national media. This month marks the culmination of a major witchcraft publication project in which the Peabody Institute and Danvers Archival Center have been intimately involved for the last eight years. The book, "Records of the Salem Witch-Hunt" is just published by Cambridge University Press and weighs in at 11 pounds, containing over 1,000 pages. The tome is the first comprehensive transcription of all of the surviving legal documents relating to the Salem witch events running from February 1692 to the end of 1693. A great many of these events took place in what is now Danvers and known in 1692 as Salem Village.

Professor Bernard Rosenthal author of "Salem Story" (1993) and professor at State University of New York at Birmingham, was familiar with a book I had produced in 1992 during the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the witchcraft events. Titled "The Devil Hath Been Raised", this book was initially underwritten by the Danvers Historical Society as a fundraiser and

included new transcriptions of the surviving witchcraft records of March 1692, the first month of the witch outbreak. For the first time in publishing history, I had arranged these legal records in chronological order. Professor Rosenthal asked if I would be interested in participating in a new edition of the over 1,000 witchcraft papers, and he accepted the challenge to have the edition reflect the chronological use of these legal documents. Library Director Doug Rendell and the board of trustees agreed to the participation of the Peabody Institute Library and the Archival Center, the only non-collegiate institution to become a co-sponsor. The project eventually attracted 11 international scholars as associate editors, including linguists and historians from the United States, Finland and Sweden. Assisting locally were library staff members Eva Veilleux and Mary Jane Wormstead, as well as Ethel Trask.

A major accomplishment of this work includes over 40 newly discovered witchcraft documents never before printed in such a work. A later edition of "The Devil



"Hath Been Raised" had included 17 documents or fragments of legal records discovered by me over the years. These documents were incorporated into the new edition, as well as several dozen additional documents located by editors in other obscure and previously unearthed sources. These newly located documents, including examinations of five accused witches, depositions and indictments, add important new knowledge to understanding of the witchcraft events.

New transcriptions of all the documents were also made, correcting many previous omissions and errors. Explanatory notes were also produced about the documents, including their often multiple use in various legal procedures in which accused persons often went through the proc-

*(Continued on page 60)*

**T H E S A L E M W I T C H H U N T : O N T H E R E C O R D**

*(Continued from page 59)*

ess of a preliminary hearing, grand jury and finally a trial. Another first for this edition is the identity of many of the transcribers of the documents through handwriting analysis. These identifications reveal insights of who recorded what, when.

Augmenting the documentary record is an appendix with brief biographical notes on all the hundreds of persons mentioned in these documents. The front matter includes several essays. General Editor Rosenthal wrote the historical introduction, while six of the professors contributed to a linguistic essay. I contributed an introductory essay outlining the legal procedures used during the witch trials and a brief history of the previous published versions of these records.

The project continued over many years in spurts of intense activity, followed by calmer periods. I and several of the editors, including Rosenthal, Margo Burns and Benjamin Ray of the University of Virginia, were able to spend many hours examining the original documents, including finding where, through ink changes, the documents had been added to at various times during the legal procedures, and where various documents had been cut and separated. Determining the original dates of creation of these documents, many of which were not dated included interesting historical detective work.

The book can be used as a reference book or read as an unfolding narrative of the events of 1692. Copies should be available for patron reference within the month, both in the

archive and in the reference collections. The volume's production is a major event in the intellectual history of the understanding of the 1692 witchcraft events, and a proud and important contribution by our public library and town archives.

[Originally published March 12, 2009 Danvers Herald. Reprinted with permission from the Danvers Herald]

**D I S C O V E R I N G  
T O W N E S A N D  
R E L A T E D L I N E S**

We will be spending time at our Annual Meeting in Portsmouth NH this year discussing documentation of genealogical material.

Do you have good sources which you have found to be reliable? Do you know of libraries, historical or genealogical societies, or other repositories which are particularly useful for our family lines?

Bring this information with you to Portsmouth so we can share what we know. If you are unable to attend, but would like to contribute suggestions, please share them in the Members Section of our web site  
<http://www.townefolk.com>

*Elizabeth Hanahan*

## O B I T U A R I E S

**PAUL RUSSELL MILLER**, age 75, of rural Hudson, died on Thursday, April 30, 2009 at home.

Mr. Miller was born near Hudson in Steuben County on September 15, 1933 to the late Ray Owen and Alice Mae (Stout) Miller.

He graduated from Kendallville High School in 1953 and married Joan Fannin on July 25, 1954 in Hudson. He was a lifetime Steuben County farmer and was employed with Monsanto in Ligonier for 32 years before retiring in 1995.

He was a member of the St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Chapel at Big Long Lake. Paul enjoyed tractor pulls and fixing up old tractors. He belonged to the Steuben County Antique Tractor Association, the Cedar Creek Tractor Association, and the Noble County Tractor Association.

Each year he looked forward to helping with the Riley Tractor Pull in Auburn. Paul also loved to put out and tend to his garden. His dog, Holly, was his faithful friend and golf cart companion.

Survivors include: His wife of 54 years, Joan Miller of Hudson; daughter, Kim and Pat Dunno; son, Paul and Renee Miller; son, Scott and Tam Miller; son, Tony and Gail Miller; daughter, Carla Miller; daughter, Amy Miller; daughter, Shelly MaHannah; 24 grandchildren and 30 great grandchildren; and his sister Treva Miller (a TFA member).

Preferred Memorials may be made to Riley Hospital for Children. Send online condolences to the family at [www.hitefuneralhome.com](http://www.hitefuneralhome.com)

**Roy Salem Towne Jr.**, 82, Bismarck (ND), passed away August 7, 2008.

Roy was born January 10, 1926 to Dr. Roy Salem Towne and Alice Jennie (Williams). He was a 3rd generation resident of Bismarck and went from kindergarten through 11th grade in Bismarck Public Schools. In his senior year, he attended Shattuck School, Faribault (MN) and graduated in June 1944.

On January 31, 1945, he was drafted into the U.S. Army as a private. He served overseas in the Philippines and Japan and was honorably discharged in November 1946.

Roy attended Bismarck Junior College for 1 1/2 years before transferring to the University of North Dakota where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Commerce. He then went on to the Stern School of Business (then known as the NYU Graduate School of Business Administration) and earned an MBA.

On June 27, 1953 he married Jane Clapp in Minneapolis. In 1957, he and his family moved to Bismarck where he opened an office for the John Kinnard & Co where he worked for almost 25 years. In career spanned nearly 43 years in the investment securities business in North Dakota.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Jane; his three daughters and sons-in-laws; his son and daughter-in-law; and eight grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to St. George's Episcopal Church, the Salvation Army or the Scottish Rite Speech Therapy Center for Children, 1009 Basin Ave., Bismarck, ND.



## 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 together on an article!

### **Submission Deadlines**

March Issue – January 15<sup>th</sup>

June Issue – April 30<sup>th</sup>

September Issue – August 1<sup>st</sup>

December Issue – November 1<sup>st</sup>

Please make all submissions electronically to [AboutTowneNews@hotmail.com](mailto: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, TIF, 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](mailto:abouttownenews@hotmail.com) or call (916) 631-4385.

**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			

<b>Name:</b>		
<b>Address:</b>		
<b>City:</b>	<b>State:</b>	<b>Zip:</b>
<b>Email Address:</b>		<b>Date:</b>
<b>Telephone (with area code):</b>		

**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.**



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