

About Towne

Volume XXXIV, No. 3

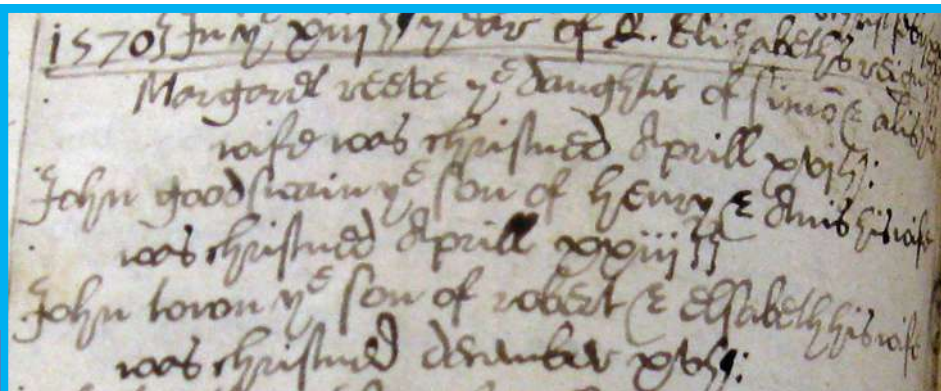
July-August-September 2014

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Baptismal Record found for William Towne’s Father? By Charles Farrow, Consulting Genealogist for TFA

As is so often the case, an exciting find turns up when least expected. Searching through the first parish register of Haddiscoe from 1558 - 1600, in Norfolk Record Office, an entry caught my eye:-



The last two lines read: "1570 — John Town the son of robert & Elisabeth his wife was christned December xvth" (15th) [NRO: PD 208/93] Permission given by NRO

The photo of this entry, which is reproduced here by the kind permission of Norfolk Record Office, is a close up of a small part of the page on which this entry is made. A photo of the entire page has been sent to TFA archives.

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A Somber Moment at the Witchcraft Victim’s Memorial in Danvers Reunion Article begins on page 74



Rebecca Nurse Monument
Located at the Nurse Homestead,
Danvers, MA

Manacles on Victim’s Memorial →



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WELCOME

New Members!

Katrinia and Martin Bowser
 Eugene OR
 Rebecca & Edmund

Lawrence Davies
 Jacksonville, FL
 Joseph

Anne Towne Gerdes
 Seattle, WA
 Joseph

Samuel Hackett
 Commerce City, CO
 Sarah

Lorraine & Juno Hickman
 Lansing, MI
 Joseph

Cheryl Jones
 Oklahoma City, OK
 Jacob

Janet Kaster
 Spring Valley MN
 Rebecca

Charles Bruce Lloyd
 Hagatna, GU
 Mary

Lisa Martino-Taylor
 Wildwood, MO
 Rebecca

Karen E. Pinkerton
 Smithville, TX
 Edmund

Terri Pulleyblank
 Harrison Twp, MI
 Jacob

Vicki Simon
 St. Louis, MO
 Rebecca

Cynthia G. Thomas
 Plano, TX
 Rebecca

Brian Towne
 Greendale, WI

S. Rebecca & Robert Westbrook
 Sugar Hill, GA
 Rebecca

Christine & Sterling Williams
 Mason, OH
 Mary

Melissa Yager
 Camden, NY
 Mary

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

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President's Letter



Visiting again in the Danvers, Massachusetts area brings back wonderful memories of my Dad taking me to the Nurse homestead and other family sights on the way to Portsmouth, NH, for my first East Coast meeting. Those attending the reunion for the first time are making memories, and many of us remember past years and the tours to the many family points of interest.

A special thanks to Gail Garda, Tammy Davis, Arthur and Jean Towne for all their good work in making this year's reunion in Danvers such a great success!

We honored Lois Hoover for the gift of her wonderful book, *Towne Family, Five Generations of Descendants*. We purchased a clock to present to her. We also raffled off the last of the books that Lois had printed. Lois was very exacting in the construction of the book as well as its content. It is the best researched book on the family and it is specially constructed to last at least 100 years. I will take your name if you would like to buy a copy of the book in the future. If there is enough interest, we now have the right to reprint the book, thanks to Lois's generosity.

Many older members are no longer with us, Jim Roome passed away this year, which saddens those of us who knew him. Last year was especially bad with many people leaving us behind. Yet this is family, some are born and some die. These are the records and memories that we collect, that make us one. Our family is made up of people who are first cousins sometimes eight or nine or ten times removed. Yet when we meet, we are all one family. We may have our differences at times, but we can discuss them like reasonable people. Cheerful good manners prevail when we get together.

We will be meeting in Vancouver, Washington, for the TFA reunion on September 18-20, 2015. It has been something like twenty years from the time of the Portland, Oregon reunion. Come and see the great Northwest! Fly into Portland, Oregon and take the shuttle to the Lodge, which is only about five minutes away and across the Columbia River. Mt. St. Helens is a little to the north, Mt. Hood smiles from the Portland side of the river.

Next year is a TFA election year. Please do consider taking a responsible position in the Towne Family Association. There is an old saying, "you get out of something just what you put into it." This is so very true, being active in the association gives you friends all over North America and beyond.

A lot of people say they would be glad to do something when they have the time. Sadly, having time usually means waiting until they have nothing to do, a condition that usually only happens shortly before death. Also, it is very hard, I understand, to get much done after death, so please consider giving of your time and energy now to keep the family strong. Let an officer know you are interested or have your name entered from the floor. We need good officers if we are to continue into the future.



Virginia Towne presenting plaque and gift of clock to Lois Hoover for her book.

Virginia Towne

Baptismal Record — Continued from Cover



Could this be the baptism of William Towne's father John? Haddiscoe is in Norfolk, but only 5 miles as the crow flies from Blundeston, where John got married in 1597. There are no other Town Baptisms here in this period, no Marriages, and no Burials. It would seem that Robert & Elizabeth did not stay very long in Haddiscoe.

This area of Norfolk has not been searched for any Town entries, so there is a possibility of finding more relating to the family. There is a Marriage Index covering southeast Norfolk, but sadly there are no Town marriages in this. We have already seen that Edmund Towne married at Somerleyton, Suffolk, and then moved to his bride's parish of Woodton, Norfolk (see "About Towne" Vol. XXXI No. 1 p. 10)

Have we any other reference to Robert Town? If we refer to the Will of Thomas Towne of Lound, made in 1563, he had a brother Robert, to whom he gave £3 (see "About Towne" Vol. XXXI No. 1 p. 9). Lound is only 5 miles from

Haddiscoe, so the chances that Robert, the father of John, is this Robert are extremely high.

For those of you who came on the Tour in 2012, we passed Haddiscoe Church on the way from the Norfolk Record Office to Lowestoft. With its tall round tower, the church standing raised above the flat surrounding marshes can be seen from a considerable distance. Hopefully, the picture of the north side will bring back memories, as this is how we saw the church as we passed. The Font in which John Town was baptised is a good example of a Perpendicular East Anglian type, with seated lions against the stem and angels and the signs of the Evangelists against the bowl. Both these pictures are reproduced by the kind permission of Simon Knott (<http://www.norfolkchurches.co.uk/>).

Haddiscoe will certainly have to be featured in any future Towne Ancestral Tour (TAT). If more searching is done, who knows how many more places will have to be added to the next TAT? ∞



Editor's note: You might enjoy checking out Simon Knott's website, where you will find these pictures and many more pictures of this church and other churches located in Norfolk County, England. Charles mentions the name of the site above. — RRJ



Printing and Publishing in Early America

By Virginia Towne

As we have seen, the first years of the Bay Colony were filled with building the infrastructure, housing and public buildings, getting organized. They were getting along well, but still depending on the ships from England when the Towne family arrived. Ships with barrels of everything from soap, candles, clothing, special foods, and - of course - books. The ships sailed back with barrels of fish and furs, the holds of the ships were filled with fragrant woods. What the colonists could make for themselves they did; but that left a lot of items, common in England, locally unavailable to the colonists.

By 1638 the first printing press was in operation. The *Oath of a Freeman* was printed in that year. This was a broadside showing the oath that acknowledged the government of Massachusetts Bay and a signer of the Oath was made a freeman and eligible to vote. The freemen were a select group and open only to those the leaders felt worthy.

In 1640 *The Whole Booke of Psalmes Faithfully Translated into English Metre* commonly known as the *Bay Psalm Book* was printed. This was a book that was to be used as a hymnal in service. The translation was done by 30 ministers including Richard Mather and John Eliot. The book was used for over a century and went through several printings and editions. Putting a book together is a considerable undertaking, and underscores the idea that things were getting better as now time could be taken for things other than food and shelter. A note, if you have one of these in your attic, one sold in 2013 for \$14.2 million.

In 1650 Anne Dudley Bradstreet (1612-1672) was given permission by the Reverend John Woodbridge to publish the poems she had written. Her book was titled, *The Tenth Muse Lately Sprung Up in America*. She had arrived in the colony in 1630 along with her husband Simon Bradstreet and her parents in the first group for the Bay Colony. This group landed in Salem, but quickly moved down the coast. In 1632 she became a mother for the first time and went on to have eight children. Both her husband and her father helped found Harvard in 1636 and both became governors of the Colony. Two of her sons graduated from Harvard and a gate there is named in her memory.

Anne was not considered strong, although she survived smallpox and other ills and was still able to mother all eight of her children. In the long evenings when her husband was away taking care of business, Anne would write. The first book is not considered to be her best, but it did make her the first woman to have a book published in the new world. After her death, further poems were published under the name *Several Poems Compiled with Great Variety of Wit and Learning*. Apparently she had revised her work herself before she died and it is celebrated as her greatest work.

Did women in the colony accept a secondary role? "*Now say, have women worth? or have they none? Or had they some, but with our queen is't gone? Nay Masculines, you have thus taxt us long, But she, though dead, will vindicate our wrong, Let such as say our Sex is void of Reason, Know tis a Slander now, but once was Treason.*" Ann wrote that in the poem *In Honour of that High and Mighty Princess Queen Elizabeth of Happy Memory*.

Yet she was happy in her marriage as shown in her poem *To My Dear and Loving Husband* when she states "*I prize thy love more than whole Mines of gold, Or all the riches that the East doth hold.*" This and other writings indicate that she loved her husband and so he must have valued her, not just as a household appliance, but rather as a thinking and logical being, for intelligent women need to be valued if they are to love so fully.

The early printed texts were meant for improvement of the reader. Books of sermons were common. Poems were for light reading and improvement, novels need not apply. ∞

From the editor's desk . . .

A few months ago, Tom (my husband) and I were discussing what we believed TFA meant to us and how important it is to keep it alive and well for future generations. Without saying what we each had planned to do, we went to our separate computers in separate rooms and each wrote up what we thought about the association and its importance. I thought that as editor, I have the right to write an editorial once in a while. There is some duplication of thoughts and facts in what we wrote, but I would like to present both articles back to back to state what each of us believed and how we got to that point. Tom's will be first, then mine. . .

On the Shoulders of Giants

Some Observations on the Towne Family Association by a Non-Towne TFA Member

By Thomas Johnson

It is always interesting to discover how Towne Family Association members first became aware of the TFA and what prompted them to join. My wife, Rae, and I had both been researching our genealogy with no idea that it would lead us to 17th century Salem and the witchcraft hysteria. I was the one who found the initial link to Rebecca Nurse, and I still remember Rae's initial shock and disbelief when I told her that her ancestor had been hanged for witchcraft. Further research confirmed my findings and also uncovered a further link to Mary Estey. When I learned that the Nurse homestead still stood in Danvers, we made plans to travel to Massachusetts and explore Rae's ancestry further.

The feeling one has when standing in the Nurse homestead is indescribable. The house speaks of the life that the Townes and Nurses led and the tragedy that began to unfold there. You feel the presence of those 17th century ancestors; you are surrounded by "a great cloud of witnesses" who were forced to endure the martyrdom imposed on them and who did so with a courage and unshakeable faith that we could only hope to achieve if we were called upon to endure similar persecution.

We learned that members of TFA had visited the homestead only a week or so earlier and had laid a wreath at the obelisk in the cemetery there. This was the first that we had heard of the Towne Family Association, and after some research, we joined the TFA. Rae is a descendant of both Rebecca and Mary, and you might describe me as a Towne family consort. Towne family Y-DNA has determined that the Towne males are part of the R1b1 haplogroup. My own Y-DNA haplogroup is I1-M253, which is found primarily in Scandinavia. My ancestors were the Norse – the Vikings who invaded East Anglia in 865 A.D. under the leadership of Ivar and Halfdan Ragnarsson, sons of Ragnar Lodbrok and Aslaug (yes, the same Ragnar Lodbrok depicted in the *History* channel series, *The Vikings*). Ivar Ragnarsson (also called Ivar the Boneless) killed King Edmund, named the region "East Anglia" and left rulership to his brothers Halfdan and Ubba. My ancestors, then, made their own contribution to East Anglian history by way of DNA – a tradition which I have continued.

The quotation which seems to most aptly fit the present role of the TFA is one attributed to Sir Isaac Newton from a letter written in 1676 where he said, "If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants." Actually Newton wasn't the first to make such an observation. In 1159 John of Salisbury wrote, "Bernard of Chartres used to compare us to [puny] dwarfs sitting on the shoulders of giants." He pointed out that we see more and farther than our predecessors, not because we have keener vision or greater height, but because we are lifted up and borne aloft on their gigantic stature." Today, you can find the inscription "STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS" on the edge of the 2-pound British coin.

The more one learns about the Towne ancestors, what their core values were, their steadfastness in remaining true to their faith, the more you come to realize that they were giants in their own right. Today, TFA does, in essence, stand on their shoulders and bears witness to their vision of a free America and the struggles that must be endured to fulfill that vision.

Continued on next page

Editorial — Continued from previous page

How do we carry that vision forward and impart it to future Towne descendants? TFA members share the blood and the heritage of those courageous early settlers. The best way to honor them is to assume leadership roles to enable TFA to continue its mission to communicate those inspiring messages from their past to Towne descendants of the future. ∞

Now mine . . .

Editorial: My reflections on being a Towne Family Member . . .

In the Spring of 2007, my husband Tom and I purchased the latest version of Family Tree Maker along with a subscription to Ancestry.com. We had dabbled with an older version off and on over several years, but had been unable to go beyond our 2xgreat grandparents (on my Russell side they were Josiah Russell and Abigail Luce born in the late 1700s.) This time, however, we were able to go beyond Josiah and Abigail in Stowe, Vermont, and take the line back to Salem and Danvers, MA to Rebecca Towne and Francis Nurse. Tom was the one who actually discovered her and rushed to tell me what he had discovered. A few months later, I decided to trace back the lines of the Russell wives. Josiah's great grandfather, Jonathan Russell had married a girl named Hannah Estey. I only had to go back two more generations to find Mary Towne Estey. When I read the information that she also had been hanged as a witch in Salem in 1692, my first thought was Ancestry.com must be full of wild misinformation. There was no way that this could be correct. Tom and I started digging deeper by running searches on the internet and we discovered that the information was true about Rebecca and Mary, and not only that, but that Rebecca's house still stood and was open to the public. Tom and I decided that we had to go to Danvers to see this house and walk where Rebecca and mostly likely Mary had walked over three hundred years before.

In late September 2007, we arrived in Danvers and went immediately to the Rebecca Nurse Homestead. It was not open at the time, but Robert Osgood was there. He was gracious and talked to us for quite a while regarding the homestead, my Russell line, etc., even though he was packing up to move. He told us about TFA and how they had been there just two weeks before and had left a wreath on Rebecca Nurse's monument. We went back on Saturday when the place was open to tourists. To our good fortune, the Danvers' Alarm company re-enactors were there dressed in Revolutionary War era garb. We talked to them and specifically to Don Perry about the history of the place, the Revolutionary War, Rebecca Nurse, etc. Already, I had come with a sense of great admiration for Rebecca Nurse, having read Charles W. Upham's book, *Salem Witchcraft*, but being there, then watching the video in the meeting house, and walking where the Towne family had walked was inspirational. I picked up the brochure to join TFA in the little store on the farm and sent it in as soon as I arrived back home. Since then, through TFA, books and the internet, I have learned so much more about the Towne family including what they represented and what we should represent to the world.

Why am I telling you all this? Well, it is tell you that we all are the Towne family's legacy. Each and every one of us are either descended from the Townes or are married to one of the Townes. William and Joanna Blessing Towne left England because they wanted the freedom to worship as they chose and not as they were ordered. They were labeled "Separatists" by the government and would have been punished for not attending communion in the Anglican church if they had stayed in England. Rebecca Blessing Towne Nurse was willing to face death by hanging than renounce her Christian Faith and avow that she was a witch. She faced her death with dignity and grace,

Continued on next page

Editorial — Continued from previous page

never wavering from her faith even though the “church” had excommunicated her just days before she was taken to the gallows. Before her death, her family came together and fought valiantly to try to save her — this fact has been passed down to us as their legacy. Mary, knowing that her sister had already died and that soon she would face the same fate, wrote a letter from prison where she was waiting for her sentence to be carried out, asking not for her own life to be spared, but made a case for the courts to stop the witchcraft trials before more innocents were accused and convicted.

It is from this great family that we are descended. We have the right to be proud of our lineage, but we also have the duty to pass this legacy on to our descendants. TFA was founded by people who thought that this legacy needed to be preserved. It has been over thirty years since TFA was begun. There have been articles about TFA’s founding in *About Towne* and about the surprising number of very talented and hard working people who came together then to establish this great association. We have attended the last three TFA reunions and have met many intelligent, talented and dedicated people at these meetings. Many have been very active in the organization, other people come to learn and just enjoy themselves and perhaps educate their children or other relatives when they return home. All are welcome, wanted and needed! However, if we are going to keep TFA alive and prospering as it was in the beginning, we need people who may feel like they would like to take part in the group, but do not know exactly what they might be able to do or wonder if there is something they could do. We need a genealogist right now, and as Virginia mentioned in her President’s Letter, the elections will be coming up again next year for most of the officer positions. Think about what you would like to do. If you do not wish to be an officer, perhaps there is something that no one has thought of yet, something that would fit in with your own natural talents. Perhaps it is to write your history and/or thoughts for the newsletter. Let Virginia or one of the other officers know about it.

With all the turmoil that is going on in the world today, I believe that there is a lesson that we need to teach others, descendants and non-descendants, about the Townes and that is to stand up for our family, our faith and our values no matter what happens around us. I feel, and I have talked to other TFA members who feel the same way as I do, that there is a purpose for our knowing what our ancestors went through, and it just might be that some of us will be put in that same situation some day. Then we will have to choose which way we will act — to take a stand or go along to get along! We have to be prepared and prepare others, while having a good time doing it in TFA!

As the editor of *About Towne*, I have made many friends with other members, officers and contributors to the newsletter. It has been a great experience. I can say from my personal observation that there is a general trait that tends to be passed down in the Towne Family and that is that the Townes come from a long line of strong men and women! I am happy and proud to be a part of it! . . . **From the editor’s desk-RRJ ∞**

"Towne Cousins" Facebook Group

Connect with distant "Towne Cousins" throughout the world by joining this Facebook group. This is a fairly new site for Towne Family Association members and non-TFA members to share information and pictures. Dianna Estee Emerson (Mary 8th GGM) got the idea for the group when she noticed a lot of Towne comments on a prominent genealogy website. Such invitations are an excellent way to spread the word about the TFA, so feel free to do so.

Can't locate the group on Facebook? No problem! Contact Dianna via email at violet1117ski@gmail.com and she will send you an invitation. ∞

The Gould Family of Bovingdon and Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, and Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire

By Charles Farrow , Consulting Genealogist, Towne Family Association

Part 3: Records can mislead

In the last issue of "About Towne" (Vol. XXXIV No. 2 pp. 37 – 41) Part 2 ended midway through a much longer piece I had written, and which I unfortunately cut in the wrong place, thus losing the point I wanted to make. The article ended abruptly with the end of Thomas's Will. This is what should have appeared as the final paragraph:-

"Once again we have a Will which mentions no land, indicating that like his father, Richard, Thomas owned no lands. Further evidence to support this is found in the Subsidy Rolls for 1523/4, 1526, 1527 and 1541, which all show first Richard and then Thomas as paying 20s tax on goods worth £20, not on lands. So we can safely assume that both Richard and his son Thomas owned no lands, can't we?"

If I have lost the "cliffhanger" ending intended for the last issue, at least I can now make the point that records can mislead us. Every conclusion we make on the evidence before us can at best only be tentative, and subject to revision if further evidence becomes available. The survival of the Manor Court book for Hemel Hempstead 1529 – 1543 [HALS: D/EX 640 M15] reveals a very different picture of Richard and Thomas as I will now show. These books are written in Latin, so I have freely translated the relevant entries, leaving out the repetition and the legal jargon at the end of each entry.

The Manor of Hemel Hempstead extended across both Hemel Hempstead parish and the hamlets of Bovingdon and Flaunden. Sadly, the book ends just too early for the death of Thomas Gold in 1546/7, and the next surviving book covers the period 1569 – 1593 [HALS: D/EX 640 M16]. This is what the earlier book has to say about Richard Gold at a Court held on 2nd October 1531:-

"The Homage present that Richard Gold has died and that at the time of his death held by copy of the court roll of this Manor one messuage [*house*] with curtilage [*the garden and land immediately surrounding the house and used with it*] and land adjoining containing 83 ½ acres of land sometime Walter at Mille, with a Cottage with curtilage containing 1 acre and 1 rod of land situate next to Campions Croft formerly Elener at Gate sometime in the occupation of Thomas Berngam, one Toft and one yardland with 4 Assarts [*lands cleared of trees*] containing in total 19 ½ acres of land called Hertes, one Croft called Losst Croft situate between a Cottage of Henry Honor and land of the Lord containing 3 acres of land, 4 ½ acres of land situate in Merlreeding formerly Alferd, 8 acres of land situate in Debereding sometime John Rogers and 6 acres of land sometime John Preest situate in Bovyngdon, paying for the said messuage 1 black horse and for the 2 cottages 12d. And it is found that Thomas Gold son of the said Richard is his heir, who places himself in mercy and he is admitted to the messuage, cottages, curtilage, toft, croft and land with the appurtenances to him and his assigns at the will of the Lord King and he pays to the Lord a fine of 33s 7d etc."

NB References to Walter at Mille and Elener at Gate are clearly to early owners before surnames became generally used, so probably some 200 years out of date by 1531.

So Richard was a substantial landowner, with more than 100 acres of land in Bovingdon. Unlike many copyhold landowners, Richard had never surrendered his lands to the use of his Will. This would have enabled him to leave portions to his children. Instead, he chose to allow the law whereby the eldest son inherited all land to take its course. What is most surprising is that no Subsidy was levied on the value of his lands. It is the same with son Thomas, no land given by his Will, and subsidy levied only on goods, despite the extent of the lands he had inherited. The inference is that like his father, he allowed the law to take its course, and for his eldest son to take all his lands. However, a note of caution must be inserted here, since the court book ends in January 1543, and Thomas lived on for another 3 – 4 years. During that time he could have made gifts of some or indeed all of his lands, as was the case with later generations.

Continued on next page

The Gould Family — Continued from previous page

Having shown the substantial nature of Richard's wealth, it is not surprising to find that he and Joan were commemorated by a brass plate on the floor of the south aisle in Bovingdon church. The inscription, which was incised in the brass in 2 or 3 lines of black letter script, is recorded as:-

"Of your charite pray for the soul of Rychard Gold and Joan his wife, which Ric. decessed y^e xxix day of August, an. 1531, whos soul Jehu perdon."

The reader was asked of his charity to pray for the soul of Richard Gold & Joan his wife; that Richard died on 29th August 1531; and Jesus was asked to pardon his soul. At this time, the Roman Catholic church was universal. It was believed that when a person died, their soul went to Purgatory, where they were punished for their sins, until such time as they were expiated, when they would go to Heaven. To assist this process, it was believed every prayer made for that person helped reduce the time spent in Purgatory. Having an inscription on the floor asking for prayers was a standard practice for those who could afford it. Whilst it was not in the nave, the main part of the church, but in the side aisle on the south of the nave, which is not a prime site, Richard's will specified burial before the picture of St Christopher. This was one of the most popular pictures in any church, so many people would walk over it whilst doing their devotions before St Christopher, and would have been moved to say a prayer for Richard & Joan. Here, too, son Thomas was to be buried, next to his father, although there is no record of any inscription for him.

This brass inscription is recorded by Robert Clutterbuck in his "History & Antiquities of Hertfordshire" Vol. 1 (1815) p. 326, but sadly it has not survived. This is all the more regrettable, since four other inscriptions of a later date remain in the chancel. Bovingdon church was rebuilt under the direction of the architect, Thomas Talbot Bury, in 1845. It is quite possible that the brass had been removed before the church was rebuilt. Little value was placed on such things, and the metal had a value when melted down. Thankfully, Clutterbuck got there before the vandals.

Having placed both Richard and his son Thomas in their proper place in 16th century society, can we learn anything of the previous generation? Richard's father, Thomas Golde, died in 1521, before the commencement of the earliest Manor Court book in 1529, but one can hazard a guess that had earlier records survived, we would have found that he, too, held lands of this Manor. His brother John Golde, however, died in 1536/7, (see "About Towne" Vol. XXXIV No. 1 p. 15) and for him we have these entries in the Manor Court book:-

At a Court held on 12th January 1534 "the Homage present that John Gold of Bovingdon senior out of Court surrendered into the hands of the Lord by the hand of Thomas Hays in the presence of William Gold and Thomas Gold junior tenants of the Lord of this Manor one Cottage with pightle [*small piece of land*] adjoining and one meadow containing one acre And the Lord grants the Cottage with pightle and meadow with the appurtenances to Margaret Gold daughter of the said John Gold to hold to her heirs and assigns at the will of the Lord by the rod of this Manor by all services and payments and a fine of 10d etc."

Margaret is not mentioned in her father's Will, so this was her settlement, probably done in anticipation of her marriage. Another entry in this Court book shows who she married, and what happened to the property:

At a Court held on 9th March 1542 "the Homage present that Margaret Thomson sometime the wife of William Thomson died after the last Court holding of the Lord one Cottage with pightle adjoining and one meadow containing one acre of land and that William Gold is the brother and heir of the said Margaret And the Lord grants the said Cottage with pightle adjoining and the said meadow to the said Thomas Thomson until John Gold son of William Gold is 21, who is now aged 9, on this condition that the said William Thomson to pay to the said William Gold his heirs or assigns annually during the term of years the sum of 2s on the usual dates and by equal portions And that the said William Thomson will keep the said Cottage in sufficient repair during the term And the Lord grants the said Cottage with pightle and meadow to the said William Gold his heirs and assigns at the will of the Lord by the rod etc."

John was not just anxious to make provision for a daughter. He divested himself of all his copyhold lands to his sons William and Henry before his death:-

Continued on next page

The Gould Family — Continued from previous page

At a Court held on 29th May 1537 “the Homage present that John Gold senior before his death out of Court surrendered into the hands of the Lord by the hand of Thomas Gold in the presence of William Gold and Thomas Hey tenants of the Lord of this Manor one Cottage with garden adjoining and five closes called Cokkes feld, Banwaterfeld, le Crofte ante portam, Smithfeld and Banwater Crofte situate in Bovingdon containing in total by estimation 27 acres with a heriot [*payment made to the Lord on the death of the tenant*] of 6d And the Lord grants the said Cottage garden and Closes with the appurtenances to William Gold son of said John and his heirs and assigns at the will of the Lord by the rod by all services and payments due etc.”

At the same Court held on 29th May 1537 “the Homage present that John Gold senior before his death out of Court surrendered into the hands of the Lord by the hand of Thomas Hey in the presence of William Gold and Thomas Gold tenants of the Lord this Manor one messuage with curtilage garden and orchard adjoining and 20 closes [*enclosed land*] called Bonnance feld, Bonnance Crofte, 4 acre, le Crofte, at Grove, Custmerfeld, Webb acre, Chester Crofte, Isles Crofte, Whitlane Crofte, Weytys, Plegmer, Thornefeld, Finches, Homefeld, Mowse Crofte, Dell Feld, Little Dell Feld, Waterfeld and Reding situate in Bovingdon containing in total by estimation 86 acres and a heriot of one cow And the Lord grants the said messuage, curtilage, orchard and closes with the appurtenances to Henry Gold son of the said John and his heirs and assigns at the will of the Lord by the rod for all services and payments due in chief etc.”

The ending in 1543 of the first Manor Court book, and the gap until 1569 when the next surviving one begins, presents us with an enormous challenge. All we have are Wills and four Subsidy Rolls, none of which give a clear steer on what happened in the years between 1543 and 1569. Instead of looking at these items, we will move forward to 1569 and see what there is in the way of links to the emigrant Zacheus Gould.

At the first Court recorded in the new Court book on 7th June 1569, Thomas Goeld is one of the Capital Pledges, indicating that he was a substantial landholder with a capital messuage. What else can we find out about this Thomas? Quite a lot. He next appears at a Court held on 2nd July 1583:-

“It is found by the Homage that since the last Court Thomas Gold of Bovingdon has surrendered into the hands of the Queen as Lady thereof, by the hand of William Howe in the presence of William Maine & Thomas Shakemable customary tenants of this Manor one messuage situate and being in Bovingdon and all lands appurtenant to the said messuage containing by estimation 140 acres mor or less and Thomas Gold granted the same to John Gold his son and his heirs for ever Then comes the said John Gold and prays to be admitted to the messuage and premises and the Queen by the Steward grants to have and to hold the said messuage and premises to the said John Gold and his heirs for ever by the rod at the Will of the Queen and an annual rent of 56s 7d to hold in chief etc.”

For a reason which is not now apparent, amongst the Wills proved in Huntingdon Archdeaconry Court Hitchin Division during the early 1600s, there is preserved a Deed executed by Thomas Gould in 1589:-

“To all Xpian [*christian*] people to whom this present writinge shall come Thomas Gould of Bovingdon in the County of Hurlf[*ord*] [*Hertford*] yeoman sendeth greetinge in our Lord God everlastinge

Know ye me the saide Thomas Gould as well for the naturall zeale and fatherly love and affection that I have owe and doe beare towards and unto my welbeloved sonn John Gould as alsoe for divers other good causes and consideracons me at this present specially movinge Have given grannted and confirmed And by theis presentes doe give grannt and confirme unto the said John Gould all and singular my goodes Chattells Credits and debts moveable and unmoveable as well Ryeally as personally, quicke as dead, of what kinde quallity nature or Condition soever the same or any of them are or be, and in what place soever they be or shall or may be founde as well in my owne custody and possession as in the possession powre handes and Custody of any other person or persons whatsoever

To have and to hold all & singular the said goodes Chattells Credittes debtes & all other the aforesaid premisses unto the said John Gould his Executors Ad[*ministra*]tors and Ass[*ign*]s to his and their only proper uses and behoofes freely and quietly for ever and without any manner of challenge clayme or demannde of me the said Thomas Gould or of any other person or persons whatsoever for me in my name, by my cause

Continued on next page.

The Gould Family — Continued from previous page

meanes consent or procurement And without any money or other thinge therefore to be yeilded payde or doone unto me the said Thomas Gould my heires Executors or Administ[rators]

And I the said Thomas Gould all and singular the aforesaid goodes chattells Credites and debtes to the said John Gould his Executors Administ[rators] and Ass[ign]s to the use aforesaide against all people shall warrant and for ever defende by theis presentes

And further Know yee that I the said Thomas Gould by the payment of six pence of lawfull money of England at the ensealeinge and delivery hereof unto the said John Gould have put the said John Gould in possession and seizon of all & singular the premisses before in and by theis presentes recited or menconed

In witnes whereof to this my presente writinge I have put to my hand and seale the syxe and twentieth day of February in the one and thirtith yeare of the Raigne of our Sovereigne Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of England France and Ireland Queene defender of the faith etc. [1589]

Thomas Gould his marke

Signed sealed delivered and possession taken accordinge to theeffect [*the effect*] of this deede in the presence of Henry Mayne John Gould thelder [*the elder*] and William Gould with others”

[HALS: 3HW423]

This extremely wordy document, with its endless repetition, is a legally binding deed of gift by Thomas Gould to his son John Gould of all his goods and personal possessions. In my experience this is a rather unusual thing to do, and raises the question whether some radical change in Thomas’s situation was about to take place. He had already divested himself of a messuage and 140 acres of land as noted previously. One could therefore conclude that he felt near to the point of death and was disposing of the remainder of his possessions. That this can hardly be the case is demonstrated by the subsequent entries in the Manor Court book, which make it clear that he still had large holdings of land undisposed of at this time. It is certainly likely that the next two entries in the Manor Court book relate to gifts made around the same time as this deed, but even if that was the case, Thomas had a messuage and 82 acres of land undisposed of, as we shall see. It is therefore difficult to understand what motivated Thomas to make this disposition of his goods and chattels. Perhaps he and Alice were moving in with John, and wanted to ensure that there would be no dispute between John and his brothers about the ownership of these items when Thomas died.

If we return to the manorial records, we find that at a Court held on 27th May 1589 there are two entries for Thomas Gould:-

“It is found by the Homage that since the last Court Thomas Gould of Bovingdon surrendered into the hands of the Queen by the hand of William Mayne in the presence of John Knight and Henry Tracher customary tenants of this Manor one close called by the name Further Flanden Feild containing by estimation 10 acres more or less situate next a road called Walters Lane on the south to the use of John Gould his son and his heirs for ever And the said John Gould comes to this Court and prays to admitted to the said Close And the Queen by the Steward grants to have and to hold the said Close to the said John Gold and his heirs for ever by the rod at the Will of the Queen and an annual rent of 5s to hold in chief etc.”

“It is found by the Homage that since the last Court Thomas Gould of Bovingdon surrendered into the hands of the Queen by the hand of John Knight in the presence of William Mayne and Henry Tracher customary tenants of this Manor one house and one acre of land adjoining more or less situate and being in Crowchfeild in the occupation of Richard Chargeleye to the use of William Gould his son and his heirs for ever And the said William Gould comes to this Court and prays to be admitted to the said house and acre of land with the appurtenances and the Queen by the Steward grants to have and to hold the said house and land with appurtenances to the said William Gould and his heirs by the rod at the will of the Queen at an annual rent of 4d to hold in chief etc.”

William Gould did not enjoy this property very long, for at a Court held on 23rd May 1592:-

Continued on next page

The Gould Family — Continued from previous page

“Jury present that since the last Court William Gould died holding of the Queen one Cottage and one acre of land with appurtenances at Crowchfeild and that Richard Gould is his next heir and that the Queen should receive for a heriot one cow price 21s Then Richard Gould comes to this Court and prays to be admitted to the said Cottage and one acre of land with appurtenances and the Queen by the Steward grants to have and to hold the said messuage and premises to the said Richard Gold and his heirs for ever by the rod at the will of the Queen and an annual rent of 4d to hold in chief etc.”

Although it does not indicate the relationship between William and Richard, as we will see shortly from another entry at this Court, Richard was William’s brother.

At a Court held on 1st June 1591, Thomas Gould was back with his son John:-

“At this Court come Thomas Gould and John Gould and in open court surrender into the hands of the Queen by the hand of Thomas Smyth Steward of this manor one messuage situate in Bovingdon Street with all lands belonging to the messuage containing 140 acres land more or less except one close called Further Flanden Feild containing by estimation 10 acres more or less to the use of John Gould and his heirs for ever And the said John Gold comes to this Court and prays to be admitted to the messuage and premises and the Queen by the Steward grants to have and to hold the said messuage and premises to the said John Gold and his heirs for ever by the rod at the Will of the Queen and an annual rent of 56s 7d to hold in chief etc.”

At a Court held on 23rd May 1592, Thomas Gould disposed of the last of his copyhold lands to his son Richard:-

- “It is presented by the Homage that before the last Court Thomas Gould of Bovingdon surrendered into the hands of the Queen by the hand of Thomas Shakemable in the presence of John Gould of Strete and Thomas Hart customary tenants of this Manor one messuage situate in Walters Lane in Bovingdon aforesaid with 80 acres of land with appurtenances in the tenure or occupation of Richard Gould his son and of 2 Cottages or tenements situate and being at Deane End in Bovingdon aforesaid in the tenure of John Holden and Abraham Horsley and one close called Keenes by estimation 2 acres of land more or less and abutts on Hide Lane in Bovingdon aforesaid to the use of Richard Gould his son and his heirs for ever And the said Richard Gould comes to this Court and prays to be admitted to the said messuage and tenement and the rest of the premises with the appurtenances The Queen by the Steward then grants seisin to have and to hold the said messuage and tenement and the rest of the premises with the appurtenances to the said Richard Gould and his heirs for ever to hold by the rod at the will of the Queen paying for the same the annual rent of 43s 5d and rendering all other services due to the Queen in respect thereof and he is admitted etc.”

We have no date of death of Thomas Gould, and there is no Will for him, nor does it appear that Administration of his goods was applied for. All we can say with certainty is that he was dead before a Manor Court held on 28th May 1594, when his widow Alice claimed her third in the property which had been given to Richard.

Richard Gould did not retain his inheritance for long, preferring to pass it to the next generation. At a Court held on 12th June 1593 there are four consecutive entries, confirming that he and his wife Elizabeth had four sons, Jeremie, Zacheus, Nathaniel and John:-

“And it is presented by the Homage that Richard Gould out of Court on 27th May 1593 surrendered into the hand of the Queen by the hand of Henry Axtell in the presence of Thomas Umphrey, Robert Coleman & John Gould senior customary tenants of this Manor two closes called Venyce Hylles containing by estimation 12 acres more or less abutting on a road called Venice Hill Lane & a road called Jeyes Hache Lane to the use of Elizabeth his wife for a term of 50 years remainder after the end of the term to Zaccheus Gould his son and the heirs of his body And the said Elizabeth comes and in open court & prays the Queen to be admitted and she is admitted for a term of 50 years by the rod at a rent of 6s etc.”

“At this Court it is presented by the Homage that the said Richard Gould out of Court on said 27th May 1593 surrendered into the hand of the Queen by the hand of Henry Axtell in the presence of Thomas Umphrey & Robert Coleman customary tenants of this Manor one Cottage or tenement being in Crouchfeild with one acre of land more or less in the parish of Hemel Hempstead to the use of Elizabeth his wife for a term of

Continued on next page

The Gould Family — Continued from previous page

80 years remainder after the end of the term to Nathaniel Gould his son and the heirs of his body And the said Elizabeth comes and in open court & prays the Queen to be admitted and she is admitted for a term of 50 years by the rod at a rent of 4d etc. and a heriot after the death of the said Richard is set at 6d etc.”

“At this Court it is presented by the Homage that the said Richard Gould out of Court on said 27th May 1593 surrendered into the hand of the Queen by the hand of Henry Axtell in the presence of Thomas Umphrey, Robert Coleman & John Gould customary tenants of this Manor one messuage or tenement situate & being next to a road called Walters Lane in Bovingdon with a barn & meadow adjoining and one close called Newcroft & one close called Fower Acres & one close called the Crofte & one close called Three Acres & one close called Berrodde Acre & one close called Parramose & one close called Butlers And three closes and one Spring called Parkes & one close called Wentes containing by estimation 60 acres more or less situate & being in Bovingdon aforesaid and the occupation of the said messuage or tenement to the use of Elizabeth his wife for a term of 12 years remainder after the end of the term to Jeremie Gould his son and the heirs of his body And the said Elizabeth comes and in open court & prays the Queen to be admitted and she is admitted for a term of 20 years by the rod at a rent of 29s 7d etc. and a heriot after the death of the said Richard is set at 26s 8d etc.”

“At this Court it is presented by the Homage that the said Richard Gould out of Court on said 27th May 1593 surrendered into the hand of the Queen by the hand of Henry Axtell in the presence of Thomas Umphrey, Robert Coleman & John Gould customary tenants of this Manor one Cottage or tenement situate & being at a place called the Deane in Bovingdon in the tenure or occupation of John Houlden & Abraham Horsley with two gardens adjoining & appurtenances and one close called Keenes containing by estimation 2 acres more or less abutting on Hydes Lane on the west and one close called Longacre containing by estimation 3 acres 3 rods more or less abutting a road from the church of Bovingdon called the Hayeland on the west & a close in tenure of George Lovett on the south and one garden or meadow containing by estimation one rod more or less abutting on the Kings highway at a place called Prattes Crosse on the south & west to the use of Elizabeth his wife for a term of 40 years remainder after the end of the term to John Gould his son & the heirs of his body And the said Elizabeth comes and in open court & prays the Queen to be admitted and she is admitted for a term of 50 years by the rod at a rent of 8s etc. and a heriot after the death of the said Richard is set at 6d etc.”

We know just a little more about Richard Gould. His wife Elizabeth, as we will see in a later article, was sister of Robert Coleman. Richard and Elizabeth, as we have seen, had at least four sons, Jeremie who was born about 1583, since he was at least 21 in 1604, John who was dead by 1609, Nathaniel, and Zacheus who was born about 1589, since he was at least 21 in 1610. This agrees with the age Zacheus gave in his deposition made in Salem Court on 26th March 1661, when he said he was 72 years old. Precisely when Richard died is not recorded, but Elizabeth was called a widow at a Manor Court held on 28th May 1594. Richard left no Will, and it was not until 5th May 1597 that Elizabeth obtained Administration of his goods. From the entry in the Act Book for the Huntingdon Archdeaconry Court Hitchin Division, we learn that there were two daughters, Sarah and Priscilla then living. [HALS: AH5/3 fol.62] It is quite possible that they had other children, but in the absence of the Parish Register, we have no record. ∞

HALS = Hertfordshire Archives & Local Studies

Explanations of words and terms within quotations from original documents are added in italics within square brackets. — Charles Farrow

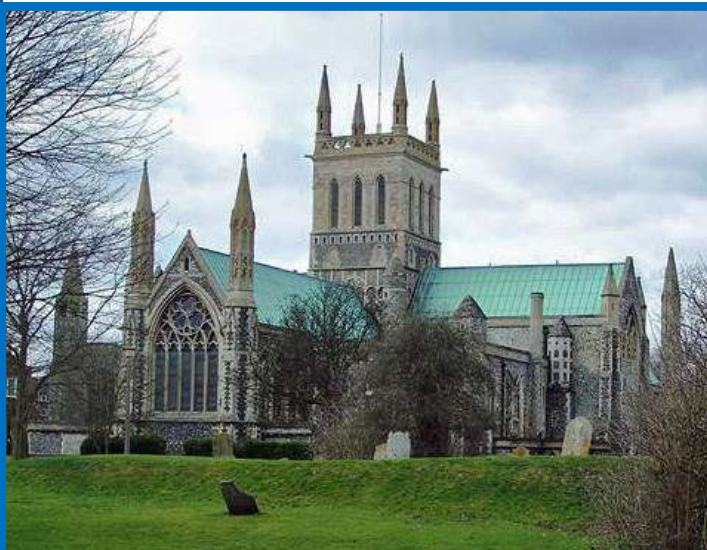
Winner of the Raffle at the Reunion

The TFA raffle winner of the miniature model of the Rebecca Nurse home created by Don Perry was Barry Cass. **Congratulations, Barry!**

The Minster Church of St. Nicholas Great Yarmouth

Formerly called the Priory and Parish Church of St. Nicholas Great Yarmouth

by Karen Johnsen



The Minster Church of St. Nicholas - pictures/ Karen Johnsen

On Sunday, September 9, 2012, the Towne Family Association had the pleasure of holding our annual meeting in The Minster Church of St. Nicholas Great Yarmouth. We were invited to attend the Sunday morning service called the Sung Eucharist. This was led by the Rector, the Reverend Chris Terry. It was a very meaningful service and the congregation welcomed our participation.

Each year at our TFA Annual Reunion, we authorize a donation of



Lunch after service in the church

money to the St. Nicholas Great Yarmouth Church. In 2012 we gave the church additional funds above our regular donation as we were allowed to have our annual meeting at the church and we were served a wonderful lunch and, later, a scrumptious afternoon tea with a variety of tasty desserts. They were repairing the tower, fixing the organ and working on many maintenance projects. So after returning home, we continued to raise funds to help with the upkeep, maintenance and repairs of the church. In April of 2013 we presented a donation of £576.42 pounds in honor of the marriage of William Towne and Jone (Joanna) Blessing on 25 April 1620.



Time for tea with delicious desserts

St. Nicholas church has a very interesting history having been founded in 1101 and consecrated in 1119. Over the years the church has gone through many changes. Unfortunately, in 1942, during WWII, the church was completely gutted in a German air raid. The bombing and the fire that followed nearly destroyed the church leaving only the Norman tower and the walls standing. It was rebuilt and re-consecrated in 1961. In December of 2011 the church celebrated its 50th anniversary of the re-consecration. And on December 9th, 2011 the Lord Bishop of Norwich designated St Nicholas Church, Great Yarmouth a Minster Church. From then on, its official title is The Minster Church of St Nicholas. This church is considered the largest parish church in the country. And it is also one of the most beautiful churches. To learn more about this church go to their web site: <http://www.gtyarmouthminster.org/> Certainly for the Towne Family Association, this was the most important church in England that we visited as this is

Continued on next page

Great Yarmouth Church — Continued from previous page

where William Towne and Joanna Blessing were married and this is where they baptized 6 of their children.

There is a plaque for the Towne Family on the wall in the church honoring William and Joanna Towne and telling about the Witchcraft Hysteria of 1692 when Rebecca Towne Nourse, Mary Towne Eastie (Estie) and Sarah Towne Cloyse were all falsely accused of witchcraft. Rebecca and Mary were hanged and Sarah was spared when it was decided that this was hysteria and that those accused were not really witches. Spectral evidence was no longer allowed. With no real evidence, those remaining in jails were eventually freed.

I felt as though we were walking on “Holy Ground” as we visited The Minster Church of St. Nicholas, participated in the church service, had a tour of the church and walked on the church grounds. How wonderful to walk on the very ground where our ancestors once walked. The interior of the church has been transformed and is quite modern, but parts of the exterior of the church still reflect an “Early English” style. Visiting this church and meeting the people in the congregation was the highlight of our trip.

Our TFA group visited the Norfolk Record Office in Norwich where we were able to see the original records for the Towne family in the Great Yarmouth Parish Registers. The source identification for records for 1-17 below is NRO, PD 28/1. The source for records 18 - 22 are noted with each record. Thanks to Charles Farrow our English Researcher for locating most of these church records on our behalf and also for accompanying us on our England tour in September of 2012.

Records related to William Towne’s parents:

1. John Towne, Senior, pauper, father of William Towne, burial record 13 Sep 1627.
2. Elizabeth (Clarke) Towne, mother of William Towne, burial record 7 Sep 1630.

Records related to William and Joanna Towne:

3. Wyllyam Towne baptismal record 18 Mar 1598/99, son of John Towne and Elizabeth Clarke. (Spelled William in later records.)
4. William Towne and Jone (Joanna) Blessing marriage record 25 Apr 1620.

Six of William and Joanna Towne’s children were baptized at St. Nicholas of Great Yarmouth. One child’s death is also recorded as she died young.

5. Rebecka Towne baptism 21st Feb. 1620/21.
6. John Towne baptism 16th Feb 1622/23.
7. Susan Towne baptism 26th Oct. 1625.
8. Susan Towne early death and burial 29 July 1630.
9. Edmund Towne baptism 22nd June 1628.
10. Jacob Towne baptism 11th March 1631/32.
11. Mary Towne baptism 24 August 1634.

William and Joanna Towne had two additional children who were born after they arrived in America. Joseph Towne was born about 1639 in Salem, Essex, Massachusetts. Source: Essex County Quarterly Court Records, vol. 2:205; “In Salem, June 26, 1660, Joseph deposed he was 21 years of age.” Sarah Towne was born about 1642 in Salem, Essex, Massachusetts. “Sarah joined the Village church in 1690, being then about forty-eight years of age.” From the book on the “History of Topsfield, Massachusetts” Topsfield Historical Society, 1940, page 324.

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Great Yarmouth—Continued from previous page

The following records relate to the Blessing family. It is thought that Margaret, Julian and Alice are related to Joanna Blessing. There are marriage records for 2 of these women in the Great Yarmouth parish records. There is additional information about these Blessing women and their lives in the book, "Massachusetts & Maine Families" by Goodwin Davis pages 186-199. Charles Farrow is planning to do some more research on the Blessing family in the future to help determine relationships.

12. Margaret Blessing and Robert Buffam marriage record 23 August 1613. Margaret is the sister or half-sister of Jone (Joanna) Blessing.
13. Julian Blessinges married Thomas Goose July 31, 1622. Further research is needed to determine her relationship to Joanna Blessing.
14. Alice Blessing married a man from Great Yarmouth with the last name of Firmage. The marriage record has not been found as yet. Firmage is also spelled Fermace, Formais, Fearnmayes, Feiremayde, Vermage, Vermaes, Vermaz, Vermayes, Vermasse and Vermages. When Alice was in a Salem town meeting on Oct. 29, 1638, she is referred to as "widow Alice Vermais." She refers to Robert Buffam as her brother-in-law. She made her will Feb. 8, 1656 and died the following day. In the will she includes: "To my sister Joan Towne, my old cloth gown." ("Massachusetts & Maine Families" by Goodwin Davis pg. 188-192 & 195-199.)

Additional records from the St. Nicholas Great Yarmouth parish registers related to the Towne family:

15. John Towne, brother of William Towne, married Jane Bootes 31 Jul 1623.
16. Suzan Towne, sister of William Towne and daughter of John Towne and Elizabeth Clarke baptized March 2, 1605/06.
17. Katteren Symons baptismal record 18 Apr 1630 "Katteren dau John & Ruth Symons." Katteren Symonds and Jacob Towne married in America. Jacob is the son of William and Joanna Towne. (Last name spelled Symons, Symonds, or Symondes) Note that Charles Farrow wrote an article on the "Elusive Symonds Family" in *About Towne*, June 2012, Vol. XXXII, No. 2, page 34. This article lists many more records for the name Symondes in the Great Yarmouth parish registers.

The following records are not in the Great Yarmouth parish registers. DN refers to Diocesan deposit and Y/C refers to the Great Yarmouth Borough records. These records are also held at the Norfolk Record Office.

18. Bishop's Visitation 1633 Presentment of William & Joanna Towne for not receiving Communion at Easter last. DN/VIS 6/4
19. Archdeacon's Visitation 23 Oct 1634 Presentment of William & Joanna Towne. DN/ANW/2/71
20. On 5 Nov 1608, John, a gardener, apprenticed his son, William, "for 14 years from 2nd Feb. next" to a basket maker. Abraham Robbertes of Yarmouth. Great Yarmouth Enrolled Apprenticeship Indentures of William Towne. Y/C 4/302.
21. On 25 Apr 1635, "William Towne, gardener of Yarmouth, apprenticed his 12 year old son, John Towne, to Lyonell Gibson, cooper of Great Yarmouth to "8 years from 14th June next." He was to receive "Double apparel, a thicksle, a howell & shave, and to be made a freeman." Great Yarmouth Enrolled Apprenticeship Indenture of John Towne. NRO Great Yarmouth Borough Record, Y/C 4/327. Note: A cooper is a barrel maker.
22. The next record for William and Joanna shows them being cited for failing to appear for communion" (1633) and the last record for them is on the 26 September 1635, where they are referred to as "Separatists William Towne and Joanna his wife." (Norwich Consistory & Archdeaconry Visitation Records). It is about this time that the Towne family left Great Yarmouth and moved to Salem Village in the Massachusetts Colony of New England in America.

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Great Yarmouth — Continued from previous page

Editor's note: Pictures of the apprenticeships and the "failing to appear for communion" appeared in *About Towne*, Vol. XXXIII, No. 1 pages 8-9. The other information on family data 1-17 is located at NRO, PD 28/1. ∞



← View of inside St. Nicholas Minster Church in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, England.



View of the organ pipes behind Elizabeth Hanahan, Stan Johnsen and the Rector, The Reverend Chris Terry, after the church service.



THE PARISH OF GREAT YARMOUTH

The Revd Chris Terry,
Team Rector and Rural Dean of Great Yarmouth

Mr Charles Farrow
9 Drayton Hall Lane
Scarning
Dereham
Norfolk
NR19 2PY

8th May 2013

Dear Mr Farrow,

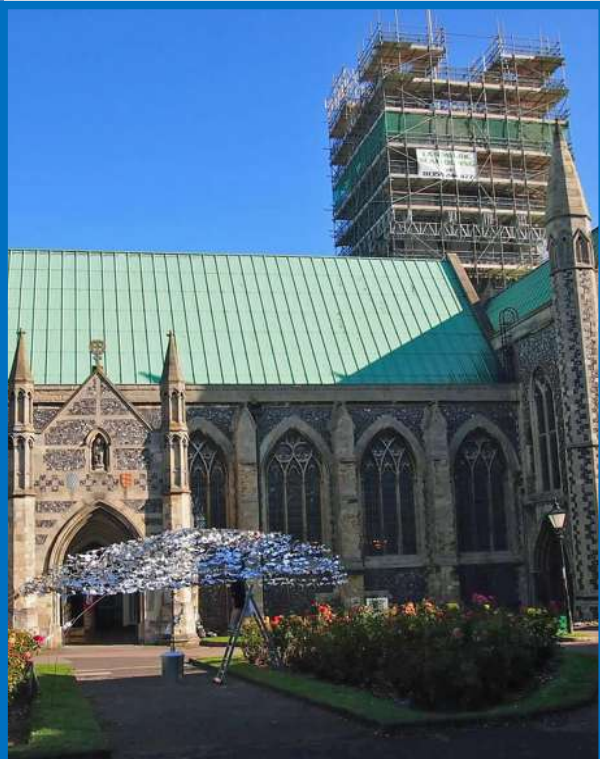
Thank you for your very generous donation of £576.42 to Great Yarmouth Minster in honor of William and Joanna Towne's marriage.

We are pleased to hear that you enjoyed your visit to The Minster and the lunch and tea.

Yours sincerely

M. Lawrence

Marion Lawrence (Miss)
Parish Co-ordinator



The tower being repaired — Gail Garda/Shutterfly

← Thank-you note for the donation from the Parish of Great Yarmouth

The Rectory Town Wall Road, Great Yarmouth. Norfolk NR30 1DJ
01 493 842915 email gyteamrector@btinternet.com

One Missionary Church in Many Places
Registered Charity no 1138632



Northwest Regional Meeting of 2014

By Virginia Towne



Left to right: John Russell, wife- Jonnie Russell, Jeanne Smith, Forest Towne, wife- Shirley Towne (hidden), and Paula Towne

The Northwest contingent of the TFA met in Vancouver, Washington, July 19th for their second annual meeting. First was the meet and greet at the Heathman Lodge, then on to the Clark County Museum. Our plans were slightly disarrayed by the “Cruisin’ the Gut” (car show) and parade, but we made it to the museum located in a former Carnegie Library. Exhibitions included

one on the effect of the Civil war in the area, native basket weaving, the industry in the area, and other interesting items.

After a short lunch break, we all made our way to the library for a presentation on the Genealogical Forum of Oregon. This center has a large amount of data and books available for research with volunteers to help us in our research. It is open to all with a small fee or membership.

Seventeen people were in attendance at the meeting that followed. Next year’s regional was assigned to Teresa Towne White and Ivon Young. They will coordinate on setting up the meeting and running it next year.



Left to right: (Opa) Ivon Young, wife- Nancy Young and Donna Pangburn



Stephanie Young, Lara Peterson (daughters of Ivon and Nancy Young), Al Goodwin (hidden), Jim Gotts (hidden), and Virginia Towne

Committees were set up for next year’s TFA reunion. The tour was decided, a trip to historic Fort Vancouver and then to the End of the Trail Museum in Oregon City, the oldest city in Oregon and, in fact, the end of the Oregon Trail. Assuming no further budget cuts causing closure of parks and museums, John Russell will begin firming up that tour and speakers for the banquet.

Considerable discussion about the possibility of the TFA ordering another printing of Lois Hoover’s book took place. A paper was sent around and a number of people signed as being interested in about 25 copies of the book. ∞

Pictures courtesy of Penny York

2014 TFA Reunion in Topsfield, MA – “Going Back To Our Heritage”

by Tammy Davis and Gail Garda

Thank you to all the TFA members and cousins who gathered at the DoubleTree Hilton in Danvers, MA for our 34th annual reunion. We had fantastic weather as we toured the streets, homes, and cemeteries of our ancestors in Danvers, Topsfield, and Boxford. It was a fun time of reminiscing and getting to know new cousins in the “Ipswich” Hospitality Room. We are especially grateful to **Jean and Arthur Towne** who managed the reunion folders and the registration process in addition to providing the posters that decorated the room, as well as the assistance they provided with the “Rebecca Nurse Homestead” gift shop sales.



On the tour, a visit to Marilyn Roy's husband Bertram's grave at Pine Grove Cemetery

The two bus tours led on both Friday and Saturday afternoons were very informative and fun. Some of the highlights of our tours included: a stop at the Witchcraft Victim's Memorial in Danvers; a visit with Sean Ward, the new owner of “Witch Hill” (aka the “Peirce Farm at Witch Hill”) that was the former home site of Isaac Estey, Jr., where in 1692, his mother, Mary (Towne) Estey, was arrested for the second time and taken to jail; and a refreshment break at “Putnam's Pantry,” the old 1850's Putnam family shoe factory, converted in 1951 to a candy and ice cream shop, currently run by 10th generation Putnam descendants.* Of course, we also stopped at the “Rebecca Nurse Homestead,” which is always a favorite spot for TFA members, with its beautiful landscape and the historical significance it provides to our Towne family's heritage, and then the Towne-Treadwell walking path and bench, with its breathtaking view of William and Joanna's land, was another highlight of our tours. We also visited some of the many cemeteries where our ancestors were laid to rest, as well as seeing

the homes and farmlands where they had once lived. Special thanks go to **Tom Johnson** for his photography of the reunion and to **Noreen Sheridan-Farrar** for her help with the reunion and planning the tour routes. The two tour guidebooks prepared by Gail were such a big hit, they will be made available to TFA members for a small donation, so that future visitors can retrace the steps of the tours. Funds raised will go to TFA.

On Friday evening we had a wonderful welcome reception in the hotel's “Living Room,” along with a book signing/sale by author, Marilynne K. Roach, of her new book — *Six Women of Salem: The Untold Story of the Accused and Their Accusers in the Salem Witch Trials*. Following the reception, we enjoyed a delicious dinner and were entertained by three guest speakers. Marilynne overviewed her new book and read a poignant excerpt to us. Then we heard from Chris Barenfeld, the owner of the historic 1756 John Towne Farm in Boxford (aka i-Farm LLC). Chris presented a slide show about John, Asa, and Hiram Towne and their family who once lived on the farm, and read some poetry written by them about the farm and family. Chris also shared her vision for the continuing restoration and agricultural regeneration of the farm. Lastly, we saw a Youtube video created by Janice Thompson, in which she portrayed Sarah Towne Clayes, telling the story of her life. The video ended with an update on the Sarah Clayes House Preservation Project. (Video will be posted on the website soon.) With the help of Karen Johnsen, our annual raffle was a big success, plus we auctioned off two books — Lois Hoover's *Towne Family, Five Generations* and Derek C. Salmon's *A Salmon Family History*. Saturday morning we were up early for a buffet breakfast and the annual business meeting, followed by the second round of tours in the afternoon. Sunday was a free day, but many stayed in the hospitality room for fellowship and a one-on-one website tutorial with either Margaret Press or Elizabeth Hanahan, while others participated in free-style tours. To conclude the reunion, we gathered for a good-bye wine and cheese reception on Sunday evening. It was wonderful to be together for the 34th reunion in Topsfield and we hope to see many of you again in Vancouver, Washington (September 18th -20th) next year!

*They are descendants of Israel Putnam, the famous General at the Battle of Bunker Hill, who is a descendant of Joseph Putnam, who spoke out against the witchcraft trials. ∞ Pictures of the 2014 reunion follow on next three pages →

Saturday Evening Dinner at the DoubleTree by Hilton Boston North Shore in Danvers



← Table 1 — LtoR — Susan Gould, Herbert Gould, Art Britcher, Pam Silver, Marcia Fiedler, Herbert Britcher, Candice Dawes

Table 2 — LtoR — Bruce MacWilliams, Amy Hall, Barry Cass, Trudie Hovarter, Barb Cole, Marilyn Roy, Cheri Towns →



← Table 3 — LtoR — Margaret Press, Paul Towne, Linda Towne, Doug Emerson, Bannon Emerson, Lisa Emerson, Dianna Emerson, Elizabeth Hanahan



Table 4 — LtoR 1st row — Judi Ruch, Joanne Towne, Rae Johnson, Tom Johnson, John Town, 2nd row — Catherine Kauffman, Charles Towne, Alice Town Spencer →



← Table 5 — LtoR Amber Ackerson, Lizzie Ackerson, Donna Pangburn, Nancy Young, Ivon Young, Carol Cruise, Gary Cruise



Table 6 — LtoR — Keith Womack, Laura Womack, Stan Johnson, Karen Johnsen, Barbara Shaw Hanno, Helen Shaw, William Chapman →



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Danvers Dinner— continued



Table 8 — LtoR — Mark Magnussen, Judy Magnussen, Bob Dixon, Marilyn Dixon, John Deredita, Laurie Deredita, Pat Towns, Marion Towns →

← Table 7 — LtoR — Christine Barendsfeld, Tammy Davis, Bob Davis, Alex Carter, Carole Carter, Dinah Torrey, Tracy Peter, Eleanor Matthews, James B. Matthews



← Table 9 — LtoR — Cassandra Richardson, Virginia Towne, Marilynne Roach, Michele Maurice, Dorothy Piacentini, Debbie Town Gough, Diane Town, William S. Towne, Ian Richardson, Will Richardson



Towne Children Descendant Groups



Family Descendant Groups

- ↑ Edmund Towne Descendants
- ↗ Rebecca Towne Descendants
- Jacob Towne Descendants

Continued on next page

Towne Descendant pictures — continued



Mary Towne Descendants



Joseph Towne Descendants



First time attendees — Three Generation Emerson Family including the “youngest member” attending the reunion, Bannon (age 5) in front. Dianna, Lisa and Doug in back. Nurse homestead in background.



First Timer— Art Britcher — Oldest member attendee.



First Timers — John Town and his sister, Alice Town Spencer, at the Rebecca Nurse Homestead. John won the bid and was able to purchase the last Lois Hoover’s *Towne Family, Five Generations* book for his sister, Alice.



← Bus 1 & Bus 2 ↓
Towne Descendants At the Peirce Farm at “Witch Hill”



Sean Ward,
owner of
Peirce Farm





Jacques Ruch, 85, of Lake Monticello, Virginia passed away on Friday, January 17, 2014, at his home. He leaves his loving wife of 43 years, Judith Shores Ruch; his son, Georges and daughter-in law, Olga; his granddaughters, Rachel and Jacqueline; and cousins in Switzerland and France. He was preceded in death by his parents, Jacques Ruch of Switzerland, and Cecelia de la Guardia Ruch of Costa Rica; and his sister, Jacqueline Ruch Harle of England. Born in New York City, Jacques and his family moved to France and Switzerland, when he was six years old. He was educated at a Jesuit academy in Geneva, and when he was 17 the family moved back to New York City, just at the end of World War II. Uncle Sam was so happy to see him that, as an American citizen, he was immediately drafted into the Army Air Corps and stationed in Paris as an MP. His professional career was with JP Morgan for 36 years from which he retired as an officer in 1984.

He and Judi lived in New York City, and had a little house in Sherman, Connecticut, so the family could escape the city on weekends and vacations. In 1980, they bought a farm in Palmyra, and when they retired they moved down, raising beef cattle for 20 years, loving every minute and the people of Fluvanna County, Virginia. In 2004, they really retired and moved to Lake Monticello. With a love of travel, he and Judi explored the far corners of the earth. Described as a "voice of reason" by friends, Jacques was actively involved in numerous county affairs, with tentacles across political lines and a wonderful sense of humor. In addition, he was president of the Ruritan Club, president and currently treasurer of the Historical Society and also of the Heritage Trail Foundation; he was on the Steering Committee of the Fluvanna Taxpayers Association, and a former member of the Farm Bureau and Chamber of Commerce. In Sherman, he was president of the Timber Trails Club.

He grew up playing tennis and sailing on Lake Geneva, and had a life-long love of skiing. Had it not been for WWII, as Swiss National Swimming Champion, he would have represented Switzerland in the Olympics. He continued playing tennis in New York City, and Sherman, and later at Lake Monticello, as well as playing golf here for many years and skiing whenever the chance arose. Burial in Monticello Memory Gardens will be private. A memorial service was held 11 a.m. Thursday, January 23, 2014, at Bethel Baptist Church in Palmyra, Virginia. The family requests that any donations be made to the Fluvanna County Historical Society, or to the Heritage Trail Foundation or Hospice of the Piedmont. Sheridan Funeral Home in Kents Store, Virginia, is in charge of arrangements.



Judi and Jacques Ruch

Jacques Ruch's wife, Judi, is a Jacob Towne descendant. Judi and Jacques were on the tour of England that TFA took in 2012. They were great travelling companions! ∞



Charlotte Clair (Welch) Dunn. was born November 10, 1925 in San Jose, CA. She died April 25, 2014 at Mercy Hospital after a short illness.

She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Anthony T. Dunn, two of her five children, Teresa Freborg of Oakridge, OR, and her son, Anthony Jr. of Paradise, CA. She is also survived by two grandchildren, Andrew Freborg and Sandra Freborg and a great-grandson Aidann Freborg.

After graduating from Sacramento Junior College, she enlisted in the U.S. Navy, where she became an electronics technician. While in the Navy, she met her husband and traveled with him to his various duty stations. She and her daughter Teresa graduated together from San Diego State in 1977.

She was a piano teacher for many years, but her interest turned to genealogy, and she became a family historian tracing her family and the families

of her clients. She delighted in discovering her connection to history, particularly the American Revolution.

As per her wishes, her ashes will be scattered at sea by her son.

Her favorite charity was the San Diego Humane Society.

1) William Towne, Joseph, John, John Towne Jr., William, Sarah Town Richardson, Stephen, Eliza Richardson Welch, Stephen, Russell, Charlotte

2) William Towne, Edmund, William, Mercy Towne married John Towne, Jr., (listed in the first line.) ∞



Dorothy Marie Jorski Towne was the seventh child born to Andrew and Sophia Jorski, a prominent family in Harrah, Oklahoma. She was a graduate of Oklahoma College for Women, now known as Oklahoma University of Art and Science. The advent of World War II put her plans on hold to study Spanish in Costa Rica.

During the second half of World War II she worked at Love Field, Dallas, Texas, and subsequently in Memphis, Tennessee, Westover Air Force Base, Massachusetts and Washington, DC, as a journalist and editor of Army Air Corps and Air Force publications. During the Berlin Airlift she was a historian based at Airlift headquarters in Wiesbaden, Germany.

In 1951 she married then Major Raymond Lester Towne, Jr., at Walter Reed Chapel in Washington, D.C.

After active duty in the Air Force, the family moved to Long Beach, California. During that time, Mrs. Towne acquired a Masters Degree in Religious Studies from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. She established and taught Scripture Study classes in her parish, St. Bartholomew's, and several other parishes in Long Beach.

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Obituaries — Continued from previous page

In December 1981 Mrs. Towne and her husband moved to Colorado Springs. For several years she led Scripture studies at Soldiers Chapel, Ft. Carson, was a sacristan, lector and involved in the RCIA process at St Paul's Catholic Church. She also authored a booklet on the history of Pauline Chapel, "A Journey of Faith", and worked to list the Chapel on the National Register of Historic Places.

She is survived by her children: Raymond Lester Towne III (Karen), Claremont, California; Sarah Margaret Towne Di Cicco (Albert), Pasadena, California; Andrew James Towne, Colorado Springs; a step-daughter, Christine Towne Drucker, Ojai, California; and two grandchildren: Julia Helen Victoria Di Cicco and William Raymond Towne.

Mrs. Towne's Funeral Mass was held at St Paul's Catholic Church on June 14th at 11am. Her remains will be inurned next to her husband, Colonel Raymond L. Towne, Jr., USAF, ret., at Arlington National Cemetery, date pending. Memorials may be made to St. Paul's Catholic Church, 9 El Pomar Road, Colorado Springs, 80906.

Dorothy's husband , Raymond Towne, is descended from Edmund Towne.



A young Dorothy Jorski Towne

A Note from Dorothy's daughter, Sarah Towne Di Cicco:

"The obituary for my mother was one largely composed by my mother herself.

I do know that she and my father Col Raymond Towne, Jr., USAF ret. were part of that early group, along with my father's cousins Ella Mae Pero and Warren Towne, who enthusiastically lifted **About Towne** off the ground.

My mother loved attending the reunions—the last being the one my daughter Julia and I arranged in Salem three years ago. Many memories of our drive from Wellesley packed into a giant Lincoln with my mother, sister, Christ, Julia, luggage and all the planted table decorations.

Do please be in touch should you have any questions. I miss my mother very much. At present I am at the family home in Colorado Springs taking care of estate stuff. Her funeral Mass on June 14th was truly beautiful." ∞

