

# About Towne

Volume XLIV No. 3

July ~ August ~ September 2024

**Who is missing ?  
You are if you are not coming to  
Salt Lake City UT August 22-25, 2024**



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## TFA IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

***"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."***

**– Winston Churchill**

Because the Towne Family Association is a volunteer organization, we are always looking for members who can give a little of their time. Where can you volunteer?

Executive Board \_\_\_\_\_

Genealogy \_\_\_\_\_

Reunion \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_

Something else? \_\_\_\_\_

There are many talented members in our Towne Family Association. We would love to have you share your talents with all of us. Please let us know of your interest by e-mail to our TFA Nominating Committee: Barb Cole, Noreen Sheridan Farrar, or Cecilia Maskell at **[nominations@townefolk.com](mailto:nominations@townefolk.com)**

Let us know of your interest and how you might  
be willing to volunteer for TFA.

***"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."*** **– Sherry Anderson**



**About Towne** is the official voice of the all-volunteer Towne Family Association, incorporated in Delaware in 1989 and comprised of the 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) Bridges-Clayes/Cloyes—was jailed for witchcraft but escaped execution.

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## Welcome New Members!

**Heiden, Stacey\***

Elizabethton, TN

Mary &amp; Rebecca

**Jellison, Connie\***

Ivins, UT

Edmund

**Palmer, Barbara\***

Batavia, IL

Rebecca

**Quest, McKenzie\***

Meridian, ID

Joseph

**Ransone, Karlene & Clay\*\***

Norfolk, VA

Jacob

**Shively, Jill M.\***

Punta Gorda, FL

Mary

**Towne, Carla\***

Princeton, IL

(unsure)

**Woodcock, Karl\***

Frederick, MD

Mary

New Members as of May 2024

*Membership Type: \* Single , \*\*Family , or, \*\*\*Life*

## Looking to Contact

Introducing a new area: We will be posting names looking for lost members.

The following TFA members have incorrect/bad phone numbers, missing phone numbers, not replied to email requests for updates, incorrect postal mail addresses, etc.

**Cuyar, Tegan Shantell Towne**

Savannah, GA

**Prentice, Charlotte**

Lake Elmo, MN

**Puente, Gayle A.**

Emmett, ID

**Saylor, Carol**

Fairport, NY

**Tuohy, Ann D.**

Everett, WA

**Veach, Kendra**

Naugatuck, CT

## Dead Line for Hotel Reservations for 2024 Towne Family Association Reunion

**July 22, 2024**

**Please call Richard Williams at 801-606-2410**

**SureStay Salt Lake Plaza**

**At Temple Square**

**122 W South Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84101**

**Deluxe Room Rate ~ \$110   Standard Room Rate ~ \$100**

## President's Letter



Hello dear Towne Family cousins,

**Important:** Please check on your fellow TFA cousins. If you know of another TFA member that is NOT receiving communications through email or postal mail (quarterly *About Towne* newsletter) please email the membership coordinator through [membership@townefolk.com](mailto:membership@townefolk.com) and update us of the issue. We want to ensure everyone has appropriate contact details by email, address and phone.

Our communication abilities are only as good as our records.

Oh, how this year has flown by already! Spring arrived early with the extra rains helping to make everything grow even more quickly. Michigan planted annuals in mid-May rather than after Memorial Day, May 24, as normal and a HOT summer is in full swing. Speaking of Memorial Day and the upcoming July Independence Day for the USA, we honor those who helped to secure our freedoms. Much of the world is at odds, in one way or another, and we can appreciate the liberties our forefathers provided early on by leaving their homelands and migrating to these far away shores. The journey by ship took months and the environment in the new colonies was unknown and treacherous. We owe a great debt to our ancestors for taking that journey.



The TFA Board and committees have been busy with projects of; updating the genealogy database, investigating a secure website, processing membership renewals, investigating electronic payments, writing and publishing newsletter articles, updating TFA procedures, and planning for future reunions.

Enjoy your summer and the many family events; birthdays, graduations, weddings, and reunions. I have five distinct family reunions this year running from late June through October. It is already a busy season. I hope yours is wonderful, fun-filled, safe and healthy. Prayers to all the TFA members which are dealing with health issues. May you steadily make progress and soon return to your full activities.

Speaking of family, **HAVE YOU REGISTERED** for the 2024 Towne Family Association Reunion on August 22-25, 2024 in Salt Lake City Utah?

This reunion will be a grand event with visits to the renowned Family Search Temple Library.

**DEADLINES:**

Reunion registration: received by July 15, 2024

Room reservation: by July 22, 2024

SureStay Salt Lake Plaza at Temple Square

Richard Williams - **801-606-2410**

**\*\*Ask for the same TFA group rate if you come early or stay late.**

Please search the internet for the latest SLC Visitor Guide or check out the reunion information in this newsletter. The UTA TRAX train GreenLine704 runs between the airport and hotel so no car rental is necessary.

If by chance you need assistance, please email [reunions@townefolk.com](mailto:reunions@townefolk.com) with your information and request and we will attempt to assist you.

At the 2024 SLC reunion, we will have an annual membership meeting which will need membership voting on TFA officers and By-Law modifications. Check for complete details available in this *About Towne* newsletter.

**Annual meeting VOTING 2024 Salt Lake City Utah Reunion**

**TFA Officers (repeat):**

Executive Secretary/Membership Coordinator: Carolyn Cogswell as interim has agreed to continue as a nominee for this position.

Other positions open for election include; President (Brenda Cogswell), Vice President (Tamara Roberts), and Treasurer (Jan Nelson). All of the current officers have agreed to continue on the ballot for the position.

Any TFA member in good standing, dues is currently paid, interested in volunteering with any of these positions, please immediately provide your contact information and email [nominations@townefolk.com](mailto:nominations@townefolk.com).

**TFA By-law update (suggestions):**

**Please check on page 59 in this About Towne newsletter.**

Change the title of Executive Secretary to Membership Coordinator

Change the membership year to correspond with the Fiscal year; 1 July thru 30 June. This will help the Treasurer to properly categorize the membership within the appropriate fiscal year.

Change the TFA officers to expire in staggered years; President and Treasurer positions would expire on even years while the Vice President and Executive Secretary/Membership Coordinator would expire on odd years. This will allow for smoother transitions when new officers are elected. However, this means there will always be TFA officers to elect at the annual meeting.

Addition: Newly elected TFA officers will take their positions effective 1 January. The departing officers will continue through 31 December. The time between election and 1 January could be used as a transition period.

Do you have questions on your family lineage? Please contact the TFA genealogist through email via [genealogist@townefolk.com](mailto:genealogist@townefolk.com). No email? No issue; send your information through the US postal service to Elizabeth Hanahan, PO Box 367, Bethlehem, CT 06751.

Are you a story teller or want to document your families' story? How did your family come to be in your current location? Please consider writing about your family present or past and submit it to the **About Towne** editor at [editor@townefolk.com](mailto:editor@townefolk.com).

Future reunion locations are being explored so if you have any suggestions, please send your information to [reunions@townefolk.com](mailto:reunions@townefolk.com).

Do you have ideas or suggestions for TFA? Please provide your thoughts through the website "Contact Us" Comment or send an email to [president@townefolk.com](mailto:president@townefolk.com).

I look forward to seeing you in Salt Lake City, Utah, August 22-25.

I hope you are blessed with much sunshine from the skies above and being surrounded by family.

Brenda Cogswell  
TFA President 2022-2024  
[president@townefolk.com](mailto:president@townefolk.com)







## Historian's Corner

Virginia Towne

### Conformity

I have spoken about the conformity required in the new colonies of Boston Bay, Plymouth, and Salem Massachusetts. The case of Roger Williams (1603-1683) is the first that comes to mind when talking about people who didn't fit in. He should have fit in, educated at Charterhouse and Cambridge where he earned a BA in 1627. He took holy orders but, like so many, became a puritan at Cambridge. Williams became the private minister to a puritan gentleman and then married 20-year-old Mary Barnard in 1629.

He was one of the early arrivals in the colony, landing on February 5, 1631. There he was assigned duties in the Boston church while John Wilson returned to England to escort his wife to the colonies. Williams refused the assignment, finding that the church of Boston was corrupt, having not gone far enough in separating from the Church of England. He found that using civil officers to enforce the religious doctrine was also wrong and supported the separation of church and state, freedom of religion, and a complete separation from the Church of England.

Williams was then offered the church at Salem. Boston leaders objected to his being offered the church and he had to move on. Roger and Mary finally settled in Plymouth where he assisted in the church and even Governor Bradford approved his teachings.

This did not last long. In December of 1632 he published a tract that questioned the legality of Kings of England to give charters of land the Native Americans owned and questioned King James' claim to be the first Christian Monarch to discover the land. Governor Bradford now stated Williams had developed "...some strange opinions which caused some controversy between the church and him."

The Massachusetts authorities were upset when Williams moved to Salem in late 1633. He was summoned before the General Court in Boston in December 1633. Here he had to allow his tract to be destroyed and promised not to bring up the King's charter again. This didn't last too long though. In March and July of 1635 he was called before the court again for his opinions. He was against an oath of allegiance to the colonial government, and created controversy enough the oath had to be abandoned. He, of course, also brought up that bit about the King's Charters.

In October the court ordered him to leave the pulpit in Salem, which the town strenuously refused to accept. Sanctions against the town then pressured the citizens enough they had to give in and allow Williams to be pushed out of the church.

Williams was ordered banished in October 1635 after being tried by the General Court. Charges were sedition and heresy for his "diverse, new, and dangerous opinions", which he was known to spread. Note that new ideas here were dangerous ideas. The ideal was to fit in, don't rock the boat, don't expose people to new ideas, be like everyone else. Williams was allowed to remain in the colony because of his ill health, if he would just shut up. He didn't and escaped just in front of the sheriff in January 1636.

Williams founded Providence, now Rhode Island, and in 1637 drew up a charter outlining separation of church and state. This was a first in a world where state and religion had always been entwined. The Massachusetts authorities were frustrated in 1637 to realize that Williams was needed to help with the Pequot war, and that he was in a position to help them with his friendship with the Narragansett people who had taken him in when he was banished.

The colonies of Massachusetts, Plymouth and Connecticut disliked their neighbor and the freedoms that lived there. Quakers, Baptists, Jews, Church of England and Separatists lived together and worshiped separately. They were different.

The colonies formed a military alliance in 1643 to get rid of the settlers in the breakaway settlements and Williams was sent to England to get a charter for Providence Plantations. He was helped by the notoriety from his recently published book, a dictionary of Native American words. After receiving the charter he started for home, just ahead of the controversy from his second book. That book was condemned to be burnt.

Further excitements dotted William's life as Rhode Island was formed from the four settlements in the area and down and dirty politics raising its ugly head. Williams returned to England at least once more. He is also credited with creating the first Baptist church in America. He later dropped out and lived a spiritual life without a church. He finally died in 1683 at the age of about 80, feisty to the end. The other colonies continued to try to stifle his ideas, but separation of church and state became a founding tenant of our country a hundred years later.

Re-print from March, 2014

**Genealogist's Corner**

Elizabeth Hanahan

**Tips on Visiting the Family History Library in Salt Lake City**

Like when we visited the Genealogy Center in Fort Wayne last year, the key to having a successful trip to the Family History Library (FHL) in Salt Lake City is preparation. Since it houses so much material which can only readily be accessed there, it is easy to go down rabbit holes and start browsing everything that catches your eye, with the result you will return home without answering your own questions about your ancestors. Fortunately, the FHL has excellent online resources to orient you to the library and help you maximize your time while you are there. Spend some time at <https://www.familysearch.org/en/library/visit> to familiarize yourself with the layout of the building and collections available. Then go to How to Prepare for Your First Visit to the Family History Library <https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/visiting-family-history-library>.

Maps of the library are on the website to help you navigate the building.

Main floor: Discover experiences, classrooms, breakroom, play area

2nd floor: US and Canada film and research; Memory Lane (media scanning)

3rd floor: US and Canada books and research

B1 floor: International film and research; world maps

B2 floor: international books and research; scanning operations

The guest breakroom on the main floor includes microwaves, refrigerators, and TV so you can bring your own food or access the vending machines and make a day of it.

Before you come, you will want to go through your family tree to identify brick walls or questions which you want to answer. Bring with you as much information about those questions as you have. Prioritize those questions and, once you get to the FHL, work through them one at a time starting with the question you most want answered.

Next identify what resources the library may have to answer your research questions. Focus on those materials you can't access from home or at a FHL branch near you. There are two catalogs which you may access from home.

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/library/our-catalogs>. Either catalog can be searched, but it is best to use the new Library Catalog for books since it is constantly being updated as books are scanned and added to the collections.

The existing catalog on FamilySearch.org was last updated in September 2022 but is best to use for microfilm or microfiche because it includes access to many of the microfilms and microfiche physically located in the FamilySearch Library or the FamilySearch Archives. Make a list of the materials you want to review when you arrive, including call numbers and where they are located. The more you can do ahead of time, the more efficiently you can search. Be sure to bring blank flash drives to download information you find in their collections.



Help is available throughout the library, although staff may be more limited on Saturdays. You can't sign up in advance for research help in the library but it is available from any computer station by clicking the Get Help icon. A helper will respond as soon as available and you can keep working until help arrives. If on your own laptop scan the QR code or go to [bit.ly/FHLHelp](https://bit.ly/FHLHelp).

One of the newer features which I am excited to try is Memory Lane where scanning equipment is available for you to scan photographs, documents, slides, tapes and videos. This is free and reservations are not required, but since there will be so many of us who may want to access this service it is best to make an appointment in advance so the equipment you need is available. <https://www.familysearch.org/en/library/family-memories-preservation-center>.

Before you leave home, be sure to read the information on preparing your media for scanning, which usually means cleaning it carefully.

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/library/scanning-photos-documents-and-slides>  
preparing your photos, documents, slides and negatives  
<https://www.familysearch.org/en/library/films-video-and-audio-tapes>  
preparing your films, video, audio tapes

Be aware that films, videos and audio tapes are copied in real time and you are required to remain with your equipment throughout the process. Bring a book, your laptop or some other activity to keep yourself occupied until it is finished. Be sure to bring enough flash drives to save your results – at least 32 GB for a small file and 128 GB for large file. I would bring extra to be on the safe side.

If you are not able to come to our reunion, or if you need research help before or after your visit, free, 20-minute consultations via Zoom (40 minutes for DNA consultations) are available. They are designed to provide you with research guidance and help you plan your next steps. Visit the booking page to schedule an appointment. Consultations are given by specialized genealogists from the FamilySearch Library. You are limited to one virtual consultation per week and they are not able to send you copies of restricted or copyrighted materials.

One last thing to do before you arrive is not genealogy-related but will make your trip more enjoyable and less expensive. Go to <https://www.visitsaltlake.com/things-to-do/attractions/genealogy/familysearch-library/> to download the Salt Lake City discount passport which offers discounts to restaurants, shopping, and activities.



**Who Has**

**A**

**Story**

**To**

**Tell??**

**We are waiting!**

## Proposed Bylaw Changes:

Section 3.02 Membership is on an annual basis from **January 1 through December 31**. Dues shall be established by majority vote of the members at an annual meeting. Changes in dues for the following year become effective upon publication in the newsletter of the Towne Family Association, Inc.

Change membership year to **July 1 through June 30 effective July 1, 2025**.

Section 4.01 The elected officers of this association shall be president, vice president, **executive secretary**, recording secretary and treasurer, whose duties are specified in Article V;  
Replace executive secretary with **membership coordinator**

NEW Section 4.02 Newly elected TFA officers will take their positions effective 1 January. The departing officers will continue through 31 December.

NEW Section 4.03 Change the TFA officers to expire in staggered years; President and Treasurer positions would expire on even years while the Vice President and Executive Secretary/Membership Coordinator would expire on odd years.

Section 4.04 (currently 4.02) Appointed officers - no change

Section 4.05 (currently 4.03) no change

Section 4.06 (currently 4.04) - no change

Section 5.03 The **executive secretary** shall:  
Replace executive secretary with **membership coordinator**



## What You Need to Know About Using AI in Genealogy

By Elizabeth Hanahan

AI, Artificial Intelligence, is here to stay. It has been around since about 1959, constantly evolving, and is now incorporated in much of our life. Think *Alexa* and GPS. What has caught peoples' attention in the last year has been the rapid acceleration of *generative* AI in which the computer is trained to mimic human "thinking" by accessing huge amounts of data on which it has been trained to create novel responses on its own. To better understand AI and ensure safeguards for TFA, I attended a two-day online conference *Exploring Trends in Technology and Genealogy* in October 2023. It was put on by the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society and featured many of the leading experts in the field along with representatives from FamilySearch.org, NYG&B, and Find My Past. I have followed that up by watching several additional webinars and reading numerous articles and blog posts throughout the year. I now have been experimenting with some of the ways which might be helpful to me and TFA members conducting family research.

The main take-away from all of these is that AI does not, and will not, replace traditional genealogy, which must still be used to verify all information provided by AI but does provide many new tools to make researching quicker and easier. If you provide AI with a well-reasoned prompt, requesting that it include sources which you can check, it can do a credible job locating documentation and analyzing what it finds, but *it may not be accurate*. Just as you need to check information you find in online family trees or published family histories, you need to check what you get from AI. (see later example)

One thing to realize is that AI does not think and process information in the same way as a human being. Nor does it process information like a search engine. It is programmed to give you facts by looking for words, so does not necessarily find the *correct* facts. It has access only to the material it has been trained on, not the worldwide web, so has limits to what it can find although these databases are growing exponentially. The term for this is hallucinating, which basically means the computer made it up. AI is most helpful when you ask it about places or things about which you have some background information. If I asked it to tell me about Bridgewater, Vermont where I have done extensive in-person research, I would be likely to spot errors or inconsistencies. If I asked it about Vilnius, Lithuania where my maternal grandparents were from, I would need to check every fact since I know very little about it. Hallucination is something to be aware of, but since you should always verify information independently, it should not be that much of a problem. Do not skip this verification to avoid accidentally perpetuating errors.

What I have found to be most helpful in addition to locating records, are summarizing information, such as in journal articles, extracting information, such as the names and relationships mentioned in a Will or probate file, and transforming handwritten documents into typescript. This last is an evolving process so should improve before long and be more widely available. AI is also helpful in providing cultural context about the areas in which people lived and understanding of laws and customs. Whatever responses you get, always verify them.

Recently while working on the Hoover-database reconciliation project, a question came up about a certificate granted after intentions of marriage were filed. The date of the certificate did not agree with the date of the actual marriage. When I asked copilot, the chatbot program on my laptop, I received the following response

The **certificate given on July 22, 1765** in the attached document likely indicates **permission to marry**, rather than the actual date of the marriage. It signifies that **Samuel Town** and **Eunice Emors** received authorization to wed. The certificate served as an official record granting consent for their marriage. This looked like a correct response but clicking the link brought up “The British Army in North-West Europe 1944-1945” – an obvious hallucination, so this response needed further research. Traditional research into Massachusetts marriage laws found this response to be accurate but it took traditional research to confirm it. Always double-check, even if you think the response you got is correct.

I asked copilot to identify uses of AI for genealogy and cautions with this response:

*You are a genealogist for a family association. Please prepare a brief explanation of three ways AI might be useful in family research and three cautions to be aware of. Certainly! As a genealogist, I can provide insights into how AI can enhance family research, along with some important cautions to consider:*

### **Ways AI Can Be Useful in Family Research:**

#### **1. Automated Record Extraction and Indexing:**

- **Benefit:** AI algorithms can efficiently extract information from historical records, such as census data, birth certificates, and marriage records. This automation speeds up the process of indexing and organizing vast amounts of genealogical data.
- **Example:** AI-powered tools can scan digitized documents, recognize handwriting, and extract relevant details like names, dates, and locations.
- **Caution:** While AI can improve efficiency, it's essential to verify extracted data for accuracy. Errors may occur due to variations in handwriting or misinterpretations.

#### **2. Ancestry Prediction and DNA Analysis:**

- **Benefit:** AI algorithms analyze DNA data to predict ancestral origins and identify potential relatives. Services like **AncestryDNA** and **23andMe** use machine learning to match genetic markers across large databases.
- **Example:** AI can reveal hidden connections, uncover distant cousins, and provide insights into migration patterns.
- **Caution:** Privacy concerns arise when sharing DNA data. Users should understand the implications and risks before participating in genetic testing.

#### **3. Natural Language Processing for Historical Context:**

- **Benefit:** AI can analyze historical texts, newspapers, and letters to provide context for family stories. It identifies relevant events, cultural references, and social norms of the past.
- **Example:** By analyzing old letters or diaries, AI can help interpret language nuances and reveal family dynamics.
- **Caution:** AI may misinterpret context or miss subtle meanings. Researchers should cross-reference with other sources to validate findings.

### **Cautions to Be Aware of:**

#### **1. Data Privacy and Security:**

- **Concern:** AI tools often rely on large datasets, including personal information. Protecting privacy is crucial.
- **Action:** Ensure that any data shared with AI platforms is anonymized and stored securely. Understand the privacy policies of genealogy services.

#### **2. Overreliance on AI Findings:**

- **Concern:** Relying solely on AI-generated family trees or connections can lead to errors.
- **Action:** Use AI as a tool, not a replacement. Combine automated results with manual research and critical thinking.

### 3. *Bias and Inaccuracies:*

- **Concern:** AI algorithms may inherit biases from historical data or training sets.
- **Action:** Be aware of potential biases and validate AI findings independently. Consider diverse sources to avoid perpetuating inaccuracies.

*Remember that AI complements traditional genealogical research but doesn't replace the human touch.*

*Approach AI with curiosity, skepticism, and a commitment to preserving accurate family histories.*

   **Action:**

This response took less than *one minute* to prepare using copilot. All the information, organization and formatting are shown as copilot sent it and is a balanced, accurate description of implications for use of AI in genealogy. By limiting my prompt to three uses and three cautions, it had to prioritize available information which it did adequately although not exactly as I would have done. I did not specify a format for the information, so it was delivered in outline form, adding additional helpful information without being asked. For each usage of AI, it provided an example and a caution, and for every caution, it identified the concern and provided a mitigating action. I could have asked for source information and had it presented as a newsletter article, which would have saved me lots of time and been acceptable for the newsletter but would not have included information I considered specific to TFA. Any articles written partly or totally using AI must clearly be identified as such in the article. (This article, with the exception of the examples provided, is completely my own.) AI cannot access information behind paywalls, so will not locate any information on Ancestry.com or on the TFA database. What it has available is just what it has been trained on. My Heritage is implementing lots of innovations based on AI capabilities, but very often the source material leads back to My Heritage trees which are variable in attached documentation.

An example highlighting the pros and cons of AI research is provided below. In the Hoover book/database reconciliation project, we have been unable to find documentation for the births of most of the children of Timothy Nurs and Jane Caldwell listed in the Hoover book.

*Prompt: You are a genealogist with expertise in early Massachusetts genealogy. Timothy Nurs was born 17 Mar 1723/24 in Reading, Middlesex County, Massachusetts. His name has been spelled Nurss and Nurse. He married Jane Caldwell, born about 1721, on 3 June 1746 in Rutland, Worcester County, Massachusetts. Is Sarah Nurs, born 23 Dec 1749 in Barre, Worcester County, Massachusetts, their daughter? If she is, please give me sources proving it.*

*Certainly! Let's delve into the genealogical records to shed light on this lineage.*

**Timothy Nurse, born on March 17, 1723, in North Reading, Middlesex, Massachusetts Bay Colony, was the son of Francis Nurse IV and Martha Hartshorn. He married Jane Caldwell on January 18, 1745, in Rutland, Worcester, Massachusetts. He married Jane Caldwell on January 18, 1745, in Rutland, Worcester, Massachusetts<sup>1</sup>. Together, they had at least 5 sons and 3 daughters<sup>1</sup>. Timothy passed away on July 10, 1781, in Barre, Worcester, Massachusetts<sup>1</sup>.**

*Now, let's focus on Sarah Nurs. She was born on December 23, 1749, in Barre, Worcester County, Massachusetts. Is she indeed the daughter of Timothy and Jane? Let's explore the records:*

#### **1. Sarah Nurs (Bowden):**

**Birth:** December 23, 1749, in Barre, Worcester County, Massachusetts.

**Parents:** Timothy Nurse and Jane Caldwell.

**Marriage:** Sarah married Michael Bowden on December 15, 1669, in Topsfield, Essex, Massachusetts.

**Death:** She lived a long life, passing away on September 1, 1754, in Lynn, Essex County, Massachusetts, at the remarkable age of 103.

**Burial:** The exact location of her burial remains unknown<sup>2</sup>.



## 2. Sarah Nurs (Twiss):

- **Birth:** September 10, 1680, in Salem, Essex, Massachusetts Bay Colony.
- **Marriage:** She married Peter Twiss Jr. on December 20, 1699, in Lynn, Essex, Massachusetts Bay Colony<sup>3</sup>.

## 3. Sarah Nurs (Boston):

- **Death:** Sarah passed away, but her exact date of death is not specified<sup>4</sup>.

Considering the birth dates, it appears that **Sarah Nurs (Bowden)** is the most likely candidate to be the daughter of Timothy and Jane. However, there seems to be some discrepancy in the records regarding her birth year. Some sources indicate she was born around **1663/1664**, while others suggest **1749**. The Topsfield trial-related dates may be incorrect<sup>2</sup>.

In summary, while the evidence points toward Sarah Nurs (Bowden) being their daughter, further research and cross-referencing with additional records would be prudent to confirm this connection. Genealogy can be intricate, and sometimes even historical records have their mysteries! 🌟  
Learn more

1      [ancestors.familysearch.org](https://ancestors.familysearch.org)   2      [ancestors.familysearch.org](https://ancestors.familysearch.org)3      [ancestors.familysearch.org](https://ancestors.familysearch.org)  
4      [wikitree.com](https://www.wikitree.com)   5      [familysearch.org](https://familysearch.org)6      [wikitree.com](https://www.wikitree.com)   7      [ancestors.familysearch.org](https://ancestors.familysearch.org)  
8      [wikitree.com](https://www.wikitree.com)   9      [wikitree.com](https://www.wikitree.com)   10      [findagrave.com](https://findagrave.com)

While the conclusion reached was incorrect and did not connect Sarah to her correct husband, Thomas Rice, the first source does connect her to Thomas and her parents with documentation of her marriage and births of her children. It did not provide the documentation for her birth needed but did lay out a good review of the other possible Sarahs which is very helpful in ruling out records belonging to the wrong Sarahs. It also suggests that, given the variety of sources provided, the specific documentation we are looking for may not exist on publicly accessible sites. Since the computer retrieves information so rapidly, it would be easy to repeat this search for other of Sarahs siblings to see if any had birth records attached. Again, this analysis is helpful only because of the research we have already done. Without that background, given the detailed presentation and analysis of the AI material, someone might have been inclined to accept that Sarah married Michael Bowden in Topsfield. Accepting information without verification is how mistakes are made.

Rewording the prompt to ask for Timothy and Sarah to be documented as the parents of Sarah Nurs who married Thomas Rice, the response was this, including two of the sources identified above (edited):

- Unfortunately, there is no direct documentation explicitly stating that Sarah Nurs was the daughter of Timothy Nurs and Sarah Caldwell. However, we can infer her parentage based on other records. . .
1. While direct evidence linking Sarah Nurs to her parents may be elusive, the circumstantial evidence from their locations, dates, and family connections suggests a strong likelihood of her being their daughter. Genealogy often involves piecing together clues from various sources, and in this case, the marriage records and family relationships provide valuable context.
  2. For further research, I [copilot] recommend exploring local town records, church records, and probate records from Barre, Worcester County, Massachusetts, as well as any other relevant historical documents. These may yield additional details and help solidify the connection between Sarah Nurs and her parents.
  3. Remember that genealogy is like solving a historical puzzle, and each piece of information contributes to the bigger picture. If you have access to local archives or historical societies, they can be excellent resources for uncovering more about Sarah Nurs and her family.

In this instance, the computer returned a circumstantial connection between Sarah and proposed parents and went on to recommend appropriate in-person follow-up research.

Admittedly, I am a technology sceptic, but my experiences with AI have been positive and I can see ways it will expedite my research. Many issues still remain to be resolved with regard to ethics and copyrights, but, if used properly as a supplement to traditional research, I believe this will be very helpful.

Sources:

*Exploring Trends in Technology and Genealogy*, NYG&B 2-day conference 13-14 October 2023, featuring Joshua Taylor, Judy Russell, Blaine Bettinger, John Alexander of Family Search, Jen Baldwin of Find My Past, Carly Lane Morgan, Ryan Gleeson and Kalyn Loewer of NYG&B, Jonny Perl

Family Tree Webinars:

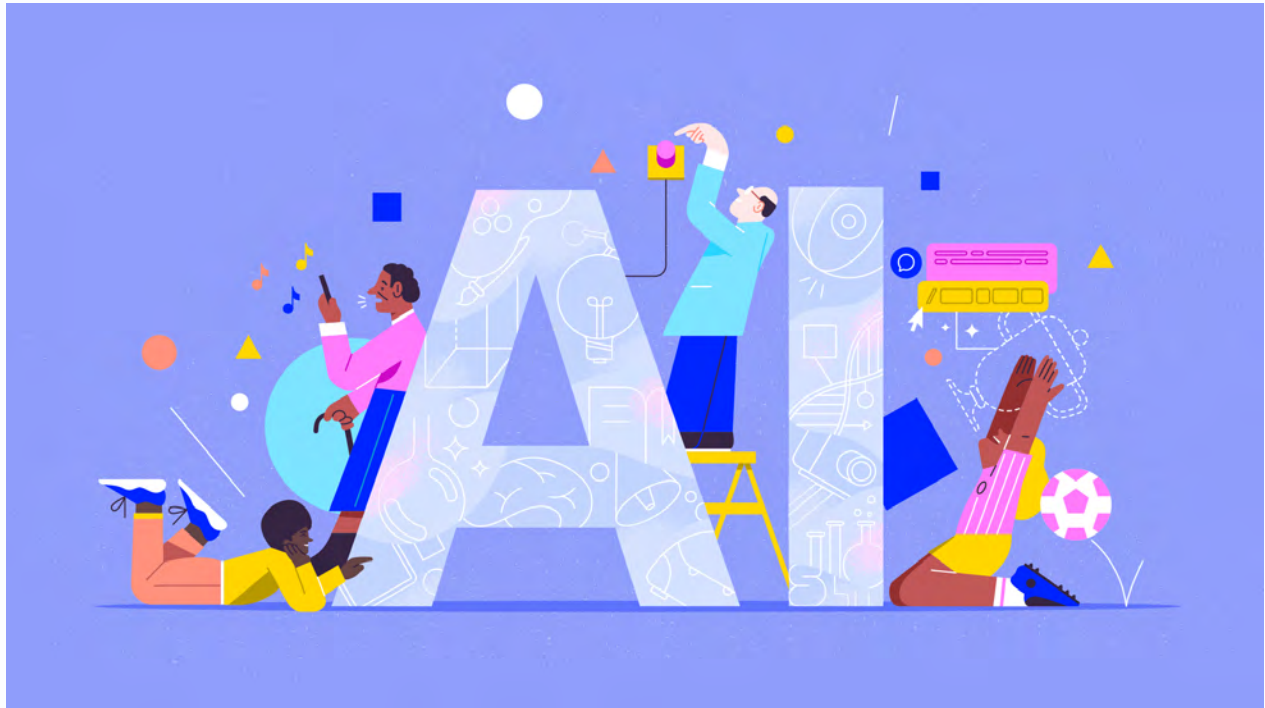
Alzo, Lisa A., M. F. A., *10 Ways AI Can Help You Find Your Elusive Ancestors*

Leeds, Dana, *7 Tips for Using AI as Your Genealogy Assistant*

Little, Steven. *Artificial Intelligence and Genealogy: New Beginnings in 2024.*

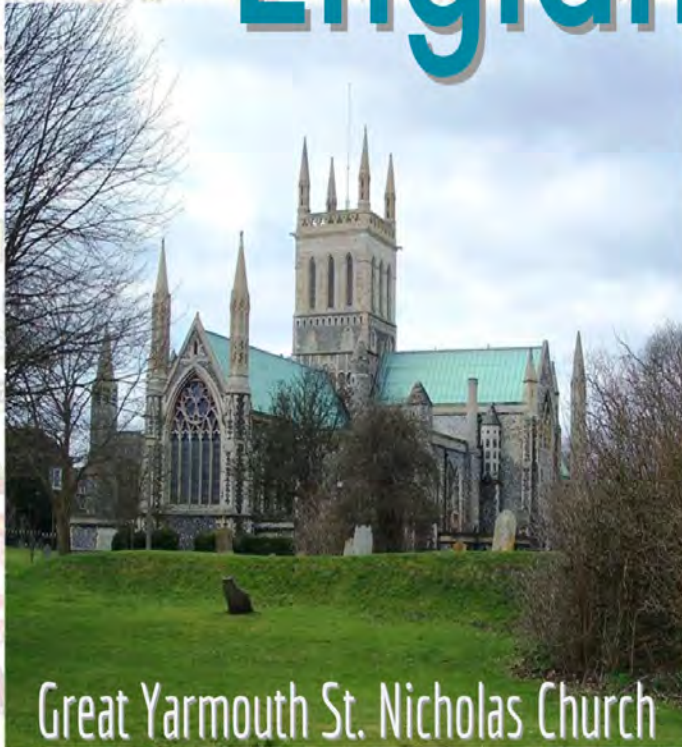
MacEntee, Thomas. *AI and Genealogy: Trouble Ahead?*

Tanner, James L., *Using Artificial Intelligence Tools to Expand Your Genealogical Research Library*





# England Trip?



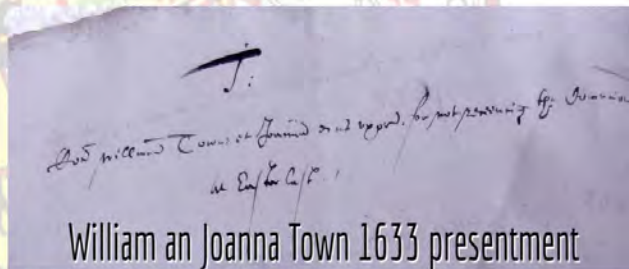
Great Yarmouth St. Nicholas Church

TFA is exploring another trip to England!

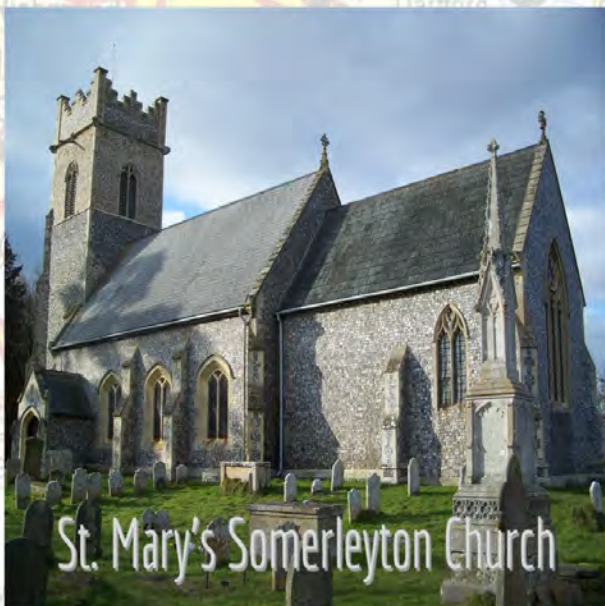
Have you ever wondered where the Townes, Estey and others lived before coming to the New World? If you are interested please send an email to

[Reunions@townefolk.com](mailto:Reunions@townefolk.com)

We will have limited space so only respond if seriously interested.



William and Joanna Town 1633 presentment



St. Mary's Somerleyton Church

We will be determining the dates and places we will be visiting soon. So keep an eye out in the newsletter and on the website for more information!



William Towne baptism  
March 18, 1598



## The Towne Connection to Prophet Joseph Smith, Jr. Founder of the Church of the Latter-day Saints Elizabeth Hanahan, TFA Genealogist

As we prepare for our reunion in Salt Lake City, you may not be aware of our connection to Joseph Smith, Jr. who translated and published the Book of Mormon and founded the Church of the Latter-day Saints in Fayette, Seneca County, New York on April 6, 1830. Born 23 December 1805 in Sharon, Windsor County, Vermont to Robert Smith, Sr. and Lucy Mack, he connects to the Towne family through the common ancestor pair Robert Smith and Mary French. Their daughters Mary and Phebe married John Towne and Jacob Towne, Jr. respectively, sons of Jacob Towne and Catherine Symonds. Their daughter Amye married Joseph Towne, son of Edmund Towne and Mary Browning.

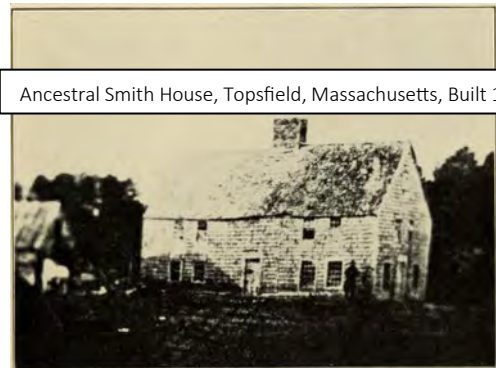
Their son Samuel married Rebecca Curtis, daughter of John Curtis and Rebecca Looke. Samuel and Rebecca's daughter Mary married Amos Towne, son of Joseph Towne and Amye Smith, named above. Their daughter Elizabeth also married a first cousin, Eleazer Gould, son of Zaccheus Gould and Elizabeth Curtis.



Joseph Smith, 1805-1844

Samuel, son of Samuel Smith and Rebecca Curtis, married Priscilla Gould, daughter of Zaccheus Gould and Elizabeth Curtis, which is where the Towne/Smith direct line splits off. Great-uncle of Joseph Smith, Jr., Samuel, son of Samuel Smith and Rebecca Curtis, married Rebecca Towne, daughter of Jabez Towne (Jacob, Jr., Jacob) and Triphenah Dwinell. Samuel Smith and Rebecca Curtis' son Asael married Mary Duty, and went on to father Joseph Smith, Sr. who married Lucy Mack, the parents of Joseph Smith, Jr.

The Smith, Towne, Gould and Curtis families, along with other colonial families, intermingled extensively in Topsfield, Massachusetts as seen above. The Smith homestead built there in 1690 was home to many generations of Smiths .



Ancestral Smith House, Topsfield, Massachusetts, Built 1690

For a good explanation of the ancestry of Joseph Smith, Jr. and his wife, Emma Hale, daughter of Isaac Hale and Elizabeth Lewis, see *Ancestry and posterity of Joseph Smith and Emma Hale : with little sketches of their immigrant ancestors, all of whom came to America between the years 1620 and 1685, and settled in the states of Massachusetts and Connecticut*, written by Mary Audentia Smith Anderson, the granddaughter of Joseph Smith, Jr. and Emma Hale. This book may be borrowed for one-hour time slots on Archive.org, select Books and Books to Borrow then search for "Ancestry and posterity". Select the "Joseph Smith and Emma Hale" book from the list.

<https://archive.org/details/ancestryposterit00ande>

Joseph Smith, Jr. was widely persecuted for his religious beliefs. His father-in-law was strongly opposed to his marriage to Emma Hale causing them to elope to New York. After their move to Illinois, he and his brother, Hyrum, were killed by a mob on 27 June 1844 in Carthage, Hancock County, Illinois. Following his death, many of his adherents moved westward following Brigham Young to Salt Lake City, Utah causing a split in the Church of the Latter-day Saints. Joseph's wife and mother were strongly opposed to this Brigham Young group.

Following the death of Joseph Smith, Jr. The Reorganized Church Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (RLDS) was formed 6 April 1860, with Joseph's son, Joseph, accepting leadership of the group and rejecting the leadership of Brigham Young and others. The president of the RLDS, until 1995, had always been a direct descendant of Joseph Smith, Jr., and over the years this branch has developed along different lines. Today it is the second largest denomination of the Latter Day Saints movement and since 6 April 2001 has been known as the Community of Christ. Additional information about the history of the RLDS Church may be found in an article by Sandra Tanner. <http://www.utlm.org/onlineresources/reorganizedldschurch.htm> and on Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community\\_of\\_Christ](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community_of_Christ).

Towne descendants may be found among the members of RLDS. One is profiled in an article co-authored by TFA member Terri Lambert, "Martha Ellen Towns and the Ledsworths." [https://townefolk.com/testing/documents/2014\\_4Q\\_vol\\_xxxiv\\_no\\_4\\_pgs81-106.pdf](https://townefolk.com/testing/documents/2014_4Q_vol_xxxiv_no_4_pgs81-106.pdf)

*Martha Ellen Towns and the Ledsworths. p. 81, 91.* Martha Ellen Towns was Terri's 3<sup>rd</sup> great-grandmother. She married Enoch Ledsworth, Jr. on 15 November 1863. They emigrated from Ontario, Canada in 1884 and settled in Port Hope, Huron County, Michigan. Enoch Ledsworth, Jr. is mentioned in the book, *Into the Latter Day Light*, on the life of Elder J.J. Cornish, a Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (RLDS) traveling missionary of this church in the 1880s. Enoch and Martha Ellen were baptized as members of the RLDS Church on 4 September 1879 (Early Reorganization Minutes 1872-1905, Book H.)

There are many other Towne descendants connected to Joseph Smith, Jr.'s line particularly in the Midwest. If you have a family connection, please consider sharing your story. Contact Cindy Merton for more information, [editor@townefolk.com](mailto:editor@townefolk.com).

#### Sources:

Towne Family Association, Inc. database. <https://townefolk.com/testing/index.php>

Anderson, Mary Audentia Hale. *Ancestry and posterity of Joseph Smith and Emma Hale*. Independence, Mo. : Herald publishing house, 1929.

About Towne. [https://townefolk.com/testing/documents/2014\\_4Q\\_vol\\_xxxiv\\_no\\_4\\_pgs81-106.pdf](https://townefolk.com/testing/documents/2014_4Q_vol_xxxiv_no_4_pgs81-106.pdf)

*Martha Ellen Towns and the Ledsworths. p. 81, 91*

Church History ,The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. <https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/landing/joseph-smith-prophet-of-god?lang=eng>

Tanner, Sandra. <http://www.utlm.org/onlineresources/reorganizedldschurch.htm>

Wikipedia. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community\\_of\\_Christ](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community_of_Christ)

## The Benefits of Going to a Family Reunion

### Cindy Merton

As we approach the upcoming deadline to register for the 2024 Towne Family Association Reunion, there are some things to consider. Who is my family? How am I related to them? Why should I want to know them? Why should I care about my family ancestors? There are many more questions you could ask yourself about attending a family reunion but let's work with these questions.

Who is my family? Before my mother started working on our family history my answer would have been the Coles and the Shanafelts. We grew up having a family dinner each Thanksgiving and each Easter with both sides of the family together. When we moved to Indiana after my father retired from the Navy my mom's parents came to our house every other Sunday for dinner and we went to theirs on the opposite Sunday. Two of my dad's sisters lived within two miles of us and we were blessed to spend a lot of time with them. We were a close family, and I knew my cousins many of whom were older than me and my siblings. I grew up with a good solid family circle and was lucky enough to share that with my children. Then my mom started on her search for more of our family history and we were blessed to find that we have many more cousins and that we come from a very intriguing family.

So, question 2 - How am I related to them? So, this is always a fun story to tell: when my mother was a child, her mother passed away and after a time my grandfather got married again. My step-grandmother came from a large family. My mom met the man she was later to marry when Grandpa Shanafelt got remarried, her new step-uncle! This does explain why I say both sides of the family got together at Thanksgiving and Easter and many other times. The cool thing is that this is not the first time our families merged though the history of our family and the only way we found this out is the research my mom has done. It is fun listening to mom explain how we are related to this person or that person and who their parents were, and while my children, nieces and nephews sometimes roll their eyes, they also stop and listen to hear our family history and take pride in that same history.

That leads us to question 3 – Why should I want to know them? Well, I will tell you this, we have a wide and diverse family. It is fun to hear all the family stories that are shared at a family reunion. There is a concept called the *"Six Degrees of Separation"* also known as *"Bacon's Law."* It asserts that any two people on Earth are only six or fewer links apart. They use acquaintance links but with research you can use family links to reach this also. We have links to Lucille Ball and Vincent Price for two. Then there are the links to the Salem Witch Trials we have and to helping settle this country. We have a lot to be proud of as a family.

Now to the fourth question – Why should I care about my family ancestry? It is important to share where you come from and how you got to where you are now. What led your family to settle where they did or what they did for a living and how that relates to you today. It gives you a sense of history and purpose.

Two years ago we started in Salem looking at the family and saw why they started moving out beyond Salem. Last year we gathered in Fort Wayne IN to continue to understand why the migration happened and how it proceeded. This year we will gather in Salt Lake City UT to see how much further that family was able to migrate after landing in the colonies in 1632. Come and meet your cousins and share your family stories of how your family got to where they are.





## Information For Travel To Salt Lake City, UT

We are so very excited, the TFA 2024 downtown Salt Lake City Utah reunion Thursday, August 22 to Sunday, August 25 is coming soon! It looks like it should be easy to get around using public transportation...so no vehicle required for the reunion. To help get you started, please use the Reunion Registration form found on page 43, which is due by July 25.

**Any questions please email [reunions@townefolk.com](mailto:reunions@townefolk.com)**

Our base for the reunion this year is the Best Western at Temple Square located at the Salt Lake Plaza Sure Stay Collection. Make sure to make your reservations soon: 801-606-2410. You will let them know you are with the Towne Family Association for the group room rate. If you are coming early and/or leaving late please reserve for those dates at the same time. If you are a Best Western "member" make sure to give your account number and you may earn some points. The hotel address is 122 W South Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84101-1471.

The hotel is across the street from TRAX Temple Square Station stop, both the Green and Blue Lines.

Our hotel is central to all of the locations we will be visiting during our reunion:

0.10 miles from the Family Search Library

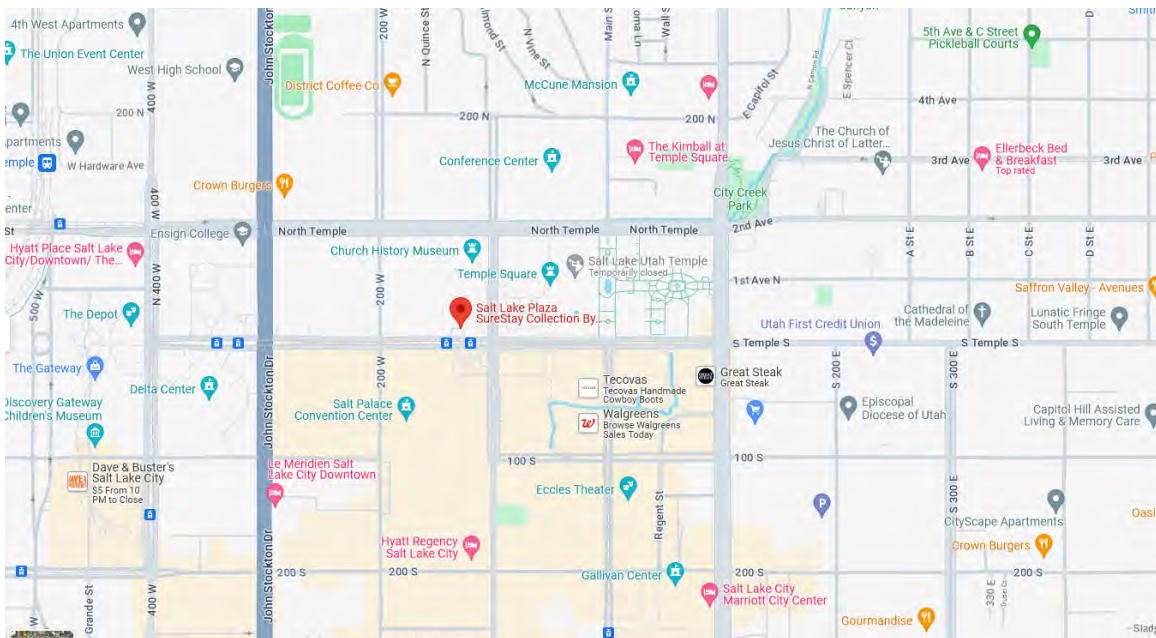
0.10 miles from Temple Square

0.20 miles from LDS Church Headquarters

0.10 miles from City Creek Shopping Center, a world class shopping and dining area

0.60 miles from Clark Planetarium (TRAX stop)

0.05 miles from TRAX (light rail) stop, both the Green Line (to/from airport) and Blue Line (near Amtrak) across the street from the Salt Lake Plaza Sure Stay



## MAIN ATTRACTIONS

**LDS Family Search Library** is a short walk from the hotel and located at 35 N West Temple St, Salt Lake City. Check the website to help you prepare for your visit/research at <https://www.familysearch.org/en/library>

### Posted Hours:

Monday: 9:00 am to 6:00 pm

Tuesday—Thursday: 9:00 am to 8:00 pm

Friday—Saturday: 9:00 am to 6:00 pm

**Temple Square** is a short walk from the hotel and is located at 50 N West Temple St, Salt Lake City. It is open daily with free admission. Most events are free to the public and do not require tickets. Check out the website to see what will be happening during the reunion: Visit Historic Temple Square in Downtown Salt Lake City Utah

**Driving:** parking at Sure Stay is \$10 per day.

**Flying:** Salt Lake International Airport is less than 8 miles from the hotel and the Airport TRAX station is located on the ground level outside the terminal on the east side. Passengers should exit door 1A and go east. One-way fare on the TRAX should be \$2.50 and you need exact change.

**Train:** Amtrak 340 South 600 West, Salt Lake City and is less than 2 miles from the hotel. The TRAX Blue Line 701 goes by the Sure Stay area. You can also get a taxi, Uber or Lyft.

**Public Transportation:** UTA provides bus, TRAX (light rail and FrontRunner connections throughout the valley and to the airport. UTA offers a free fare zone in downtown Salt Lake City area. The TRAX map is on the next page.

### A couple of websites to help you plan the trip:

<https://www.visitsaltlake.com/plan-your-visit/free-visitors-guide/>



<https://www.saltlakemagazine.com/salt-lake-magazine-current-issue>



STATION NAME	ADDRESS	STATION NAME	ADDRESS
West Valley Central	2750 South 3590 South	City Center	100 S Main Street
Decker Lake	3070 South 2200 West	Temple Square	155 W South Temple
Redwood Junction	1740 West Research Wy	Arena	350 W South Temple
River Trail	2340 South 1070 West	North Temple Bridge/Guadalupe	500 W North Temple
Central Pointe	2100 South 271 West	Jackson/Euclid	820 W North Temple
Ballpark	1300 South 180 West	Fairpark	1150 W North Temple
900 South	900 S 200 West	Power	1500 W North Temple
600 South	650 S Main Street	1940 West North Temple	1940 W North Temple
Courthouse	450 S Main Street	Airport	650 N 3700 W
Gallivan Plaza	275 S Main Street		

## WEEKDAY & SATURDAY TRAX Green Line to Airport via Downtown

West Valley Central	Decker Lake	Redwood Junction	River Trail	Central Pointe	Ballpark	900 South	600 South	Courthouse	Gallivan Plaza	City Center	Temple Square	Arena	North Temple Bridge/Guadalupe	Jackson/Euclid	Fairpark	Power Station	1940 W North Temple	Airport
First train departs WEST VALLEY CENTRAL to AIRPORT at 6:49 am																		
6:49	6:53	6:56	6:58	7:00	7:02	7:04	7:06	7:08	7:10	7:12	7:14	7:16	7:18	7:20	7:22	7:24	7:26	7:28
First train departs CENTRAL POINT to AIRPORT at 6:48 am																		
6:48	6:50	6:52	6:54	6:56	6:58	7:00	7:02	7:04	7:06	7:08	7:10	7:12	7:14	7:16	7:18	7:20	7:22	7:24
Trains run every 15 minutes																		
6:54	6:57	7:00	7:03	7:06	7:09	7:12	7:15	7:18	7:21	7:24	7:27	7:30	7:33	7:36	7:39	7:42	7:45	7:48
Last train departs WEST VALLEY CENTRAL to AIRPORT at 10:34 pm																		
10:34	10:38	10:41	10:43	10:46	10:49	10:52	10:55	10:58	11:00	11:02	11:04	11:06	11:08	11:10	11:12	11:14	11:16	11:18

## TRAX Green Line to West Valley Central via Downtown

Airport	1940 W North Temple	Power Station	Fairpark	Jackson/Euclid	North Temple Bridge/Guadalupe	Arena	Temple Square	City Center	Gallivan Plaza	Courthouse	600 South	900 South	Ballpark	Central Pointe	River Trail	Redwood Junction	Decker Lake	West Valley Central
First train departs AIRPORT to WEST VALLEY CENTRAL at 5:26 am																		
5:26	5:28	5:30	5:32	5:34	5:36	5:38	5:40	5:42	5:44	5:46	5:48	5:50	5:52	5:54	5:56	5:58	6:00	6:02
First train departs RIVER TRAIL to WEST VALLEY CENTRAL at 6:44 am																		
6:44	6:46	6:48	6:50	6:52	6:54	6:56	6:58	7:00	7:02	7:04	7:06	7:08	7:10	7:12	7:14	7:16	7:18	7:20
Trains run every 15 minutes																		
6:54	6:57	7:00	7:03	7:06	7:09	7:12	7:15	7:18	7:21	7:24	7:27	7:30	7:33	7:36	7:39	7:42	7:45	7:48
Last train departs AIRPORT to WEST VALLEY CENTRAL at 10:34 pm																		
10:34	10:38	10:41	10:43	10:46	10:49	10:52	10:55	10:58	11:00	11:02	11:04	11:06	11:08	11:10	11:12	11:14	11:16	11:18

## SUNDAY TRAX Green Line to Airport via Downtown

West Valley Central	Decker Lake	Redwood Junction	River Trail	Central Pointe	Ballpark	900 South	600 South	Courthouse	Gallivan Plaza	City Center	Temple Square	Arena	North Temple Bridge/Guadalupe	Jackson/Euclid	Fairpark	Power Station	1940 W North Temple	Airport
First train departs WEST VALLEY CENTRAL to AIRPORT at 5:21 am																		
5:21	5:24	5:26	5:28	5:30	5:32	5:34	5:36	5:38	5:40	5:42	5:44	5:46	5:48	5:50	5:52	5:54	5:56	5:58
First train departs CENTRAL POINT to AIRPORT at 5:22 am																		
5:22	5:24	5:26	5:28	5:30	5:32	5:34	5:36	5:38	5:40	5:42	5:44	5:46	5:48	5:50	5:52	5:54	5:56	5:58
Trains run every 30 minutes																		
5:51	5:54	5:56	5:58	6:00	6:02	6:04	6:06	6:08	6:10	6:12	6:14	6:16	6:18	6:20	6:22	6:24	6:26	6:28
Last train departs WEST VALLEY CENTRAL to AIRPORT at 10:01 pm																		
10:01	10:04	10:06	10:08	10:10	10:12	10:14	10:16	10:18	10:20	10:22	10:24	10:26	10:28	10:30	10:32	10:34	10:36	10:38

## TRAX Green Line to West Valley Central via Downtown

Airport	1940 W North Temple	Power Station	Fairpark	Jackson/Euclid	North Temple Bridge/Guadalupe	Arena	Temple Square	City Center	Gallivan Plaza	Courthouse	600 South	900 South	Ballpark	Central Pointe	River Trail	Redwood Junction	Decker Lake	West Valley Central
First train departs AIRPORT to WEST VALLEY CENTRAL at 6:09 am																		
6:09	6:11	6:13	6:15	6:17	6:19	6:21	6:23	6:25	6:27	6:29	6:31	6:33	6:35	6:37	6:39	6:41	6:43	6:45
First train departs RIVER TRAIL to WEST VALLEY CENTRAL at 5:56 am																		
5:56	5:58	6:00	6:02	6:04	6:06	6:08	6:10	6:12	6:14	6:16	6:18	6:20	6:22	6:24	6:26	6:28	6:30	6:32
Trains run every 30 minutes																		
6:39	6:41	6:43	6:45	6:47	6:49	6:51	6:53	6:55	6:57	6:59	7:01	7:03	7:05	7:07	7:09	7:11	7:13	7:15
Last train departs AIRPORT to WEST VALLEY CENTRAL at 10:09 pm																		
10:09	10:11	10:13	10:15	10:17	10:19	10:21	10:23	10:25	10:27	10:29	10:31	10:33	10:35	10:37	10:39	10:41	10:43	10:45



**TRAX Red Line to University Medical Center**

**TRAX Red Line to Daybreak Parkway**

**TRAX Red Line to University Medical Center**

**TRAX Red Line to Daybreak Parkway**

### TRAX Blue Line to Salt Lake Central

**TRAX Blue Line to Draper Town Center**

**TRAX Blue Line to Salt Lake Central**

**TRAX Blue Line to Draper Town Center**

Buy☐ Student/Youth

\$1.25

\$5.00

\$42.50

\$1.25

(flex routes only)

## 2024 Towne Family Association

Salt Lake City, Utah

August 22-25

Hotel: SureStay Salt Lake Plaza at Temple Square

122 W South Temple - Salt Lake City, UT - 84101

Speak to: Richard Williams - 801-606-2410

ROOM RATE: Standard \$100 Deluxe \$110 per night (+taxes+parking) ~parking is \$10 per day

**DEADLINE FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS: JULY 22, 2024**

Registration Fee \$45 per person (includes 2 Continental Breakfast)	#of people attending:	Subtotal:
Welcome Pizza Dinner \$13 per person	# of people attending:	Subtotal:
Banquet Dinner \$35 per person	# of people attending:	Subtotal:
		<b>TOTAL DUE:</b>

<b>Descendant(s) of:</b> Check each box that applies (If both spouses are related to Townes please use a separate form for each spouse)					
Rebecca	Edmund	Jacob	Mary	Joseph	Sarah
Member Name:			Member #:		
Address:					
Email Address:			Cell #:		
Additional Attendee Names:		1.	2.		
3.		4.	5.		
First time TFA reunion attendee?					

Make check payable to Towne Family Association, Inc.  
 Forward this form and payment no later than July 15th to:  
 Tamara Towne Roberts 4669 Ladigo Ln, Fort Worth, TX 76126-5487



# — Best Cooks in Towne —



## Laura Zerviah (Adams) Towne's Emergency Pudding Los Angeles Times, Aug 30, 1908 Martha Ades

3 eggs well beaten

3 TBS water

1 cup sugar

1 cup sifted flour

1 tsp baking powder

1 tsp vanilla

This is one that my great grandmother, Mrs. O P Towne, had published in the Los Angeles Times in 1908. The newspaper clipping shows she won second place (\$3) in the Pudding Cooking Contest for this recipe. I made this one with canned peaches and it pretty much tastes like standard peach cobbler. [Oliver Perry Towne was a descendant of Edmund.]

Place a layer of well sweetened fruit, either fresh or canned, in a flat pan. Add bits of butter and set in oven to get thoroughly hot while you make this batter.

Beat all well together, pour over hot fruit, bake in moderate oven.

Almost any kind of fruit except berries will be good. Peaches, apricots and rhubarb are fine. Serve with sour sauce by pouring cup of boiling water over spoon of sponge batter, add a cup of sugar, juice of lemon and lump of butter, boil all together.

Go to the cookbook page of our website for additional recipes.

[http://townefolk.com/testing/TFA\\_COOKBOOK.php](http://townefolk.com/testing/TFA_COOKBOOK.php)

**Do you have a favorite family recipe? Send it to Elizabeth at [cooks@townefolk.com](mailto:cooks@townefolk.com)**



**Pannell, Robert**  
**1924 ~ 2024**

Robert "Bob" Douglas Pannell passed away in Ajijic, Mexico on April 17, 2024.

Bob is survived by his wife, Joyce (Grimwood Whatley) Pannell; his daughters, Lyle Harvey (Sam) and Sarah Pannell; his four grandchildren, Alma- Rose Harvey, Elias Harvey, Virginia (Vivi) Pannell and Evelyn Grace Pannell; his sisters, Ruth Cole and Catherine Williamson; and many beloved nieces, nephews and cousins.

Bob was born on June 27, 1942 in McDuffie County, Georgia, to Richard Allen and Adele (Kellum) Pannell. He graduated from Thomson High School in 1960. He earned an AA degree from Oxford College at Emory University in 1962 and a BBA from Emory University in 1964. He graduated from the University of Virginia Law School with an LL.B. in 1968. He began his legal career in Atlanta at the law firm then named Smith, Cohen, Ringel, Kohler, Martin & Lowe. He practiced at other prominent Atlanta firms over the years specializing in corporate, securities, and merger and acquisition law and was managing partner at Nelson Mullins Riley and Scarborough. Two of his proudest career accomplishments were being general counsel for the Atlanta International Pop Festival in 1969, which preceded Woodstock, and being lead counsel for Home Depot's initial public stock offering (IPO) in 1981. Later in his career, he pursued his great passion for teaching and mentoring by becoming a well-loved adjunct law professor at Emory University.

Bob had two daughters from a former marriage, Lyle and Sarah; and four grandchildren, one of whom affectionately named him "Baba." He loved being "Baba" to his grandchildren and had only wished for more time to watch them grow up. He will be remembered for his intelligence, integrity, wit and charm. Bob was a skilled wordsmith and was the proud owner of all 20 volumes of the Oxford English Dictionary. He was a beloved mentor to many young lawyers who remember him for his ability to make complex legal concepts understandable. He enjoyed traveling and was most at peace when he was beside the water, which was a major factor in his decision to retire in the "eternal spring" climate of Lake Chapala in Mexico.

The funeral is scheduled for Friday, May 17, 2024 at 11 AM in the Mikell Chapel at The Cathedral of St. Philip with a reception to follow. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Bob's life. If you cannot join in-person but wish to watch, please email Sarah at [rdpfuneral@gmail.com](mailto:rdpfuneral@gmail.com) for a link to view the service. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to The Cathedral of St. Philip's Taize Fund.

Robert Pannell : His wife is a descendant of Jacob.



**Bennett, Marjorie Louise Snouffer**

**1926 ~ 2023**

Marjorie Louise Snouffer Bennett aged 97 of Powell, Ohio, passed away at home, on December 2, 2023.

She was born October 24, 1926, to John and Florence (Gardner) Snouffer. She graduated from Powell High School in 1944. She was preceded in death by her parents, and second husband, Willard Bennett.

Surviving are daughter Sherry (Stan) Carmichael, son Michael Harris, and stepdaughter Barbara (Bennett) Le Chaix. Also surviving are grandchildren Tiffany (Dan) Witt, Nikki (David) Klein, Brett Carmichael, Eliza (Rob) Wright, seven great-grandchildren and twelve great, great-grandchildren.

After High School graduation she attended Office Training School in Columbus to become a Civil Service Worker for the WWII effort. It was while working at the Columbus Army Depot that she met her first husband, Gerald Harris. In 1970 she married Willard Bennett and moved to "the farm".

Marjorie was a twenty-five-year employee of The Ohio State University, with faculty status, as manager of the Admissions Department. Upon retirement in 1991, she received the President's Award. Marjorie served her community as a member of the Powell Historic Review Board and as a founding member of the Powell-Liberty Historical Society. She was a member of the Powell United Methodist Church, the Powell Garden Club and the Ladies Club of Powell. She volunteered with the Ohio Lung Association, served the needy at "His Place", and was a highway "litter picker" for the OSURA clean highway project.

Combining her love of history and travel, upon retirement she joined the Ohio State University Retiree Association (OSURA) and other travel groups to become a world traveler, suitcase always at the ready. Marjorie was a lifelong learner and avid Wall Street Journal reader. She was interested in and enjoyed people of all ages and persuasions. In turn, she was loved and respected by all. In her own words, in addition to her immense love and pride for her family, her interests included "people, travel, reading, music, gardening, and water aerobics". Her family and many friends will sorely miss this dynamic woman.

William (1)- Rebecca (2)- Francis Nurse (3) - Benjamin (4) - Joshua (5) - Joshua, Jr. (6) - Samuel Rogers Nurse (7) - Isabel (8) - Delia E. Benton (9) - Byron Gardner (10) - Florence (11) - Marjorie(12)



**Sutphin, Vera May Hoch**  
**1925 ~ 2020**



Vera Sutphin passed at age 94. She was born and raised on a farm until attending college to obtain her teaching certificate. The farm supported the family through the years of the Great Depression. When Vera went to college to obtain her teacher certificate, she lived in housing for the first time that had running water and electricity. The farm didn't have electricity until in the 1940's when a new barn needed to be built and power tools were needed. Vera was active in 4H and sewing, and competed in sewing competitions. She later designed and sewed her daughter's wedding dress.

One of her fond memories of her college years was playing football. Because it was the early 1940's during WWII, there weren't enough men to field a team, but the school still wanted to have a Homecoming celebration so they asked for women volunteers. Mom was quick to sign up as a linebacker and selected the nickname 'Hank'. She already knew the game, having played it growing up with her brothers. On the appointed day, the Dainty Dodgers and Battling Beauties met on the field. Vera was proud to say that 'no runs came through me'! And her team won 13 to 0.

She met her husband in college while doing some tutoring. After marrying in 1948, they enjoyed many years of happiness together, first teaching together in a small country school in a town that no longer exists. They were the only two teachers - Vera teaching elementary grades and her husband teaching the upper grades. They returned every summer to college for nine years to finish their degrees. Eventually they moved to Colorado, and Vera continued her teaching career as a third grade teacher for another 20 years. After helping her husband obtain his two masters degrees, Vera continued her own education during the summers and weekends to earn her Master Degree in Education while working full time and raising her family. She received the honor of Teacher of the Year toward the end of her career.

Over the years, she enjoyed exploring the United States with their 2 daughters and husband. The family camped and fished all over the western United States. They spent part of every summer in Yellowstone Park.

In 1994, both had retired, and for the first 5 years they spent their winters in Arizona, and the rest of the time in either their home in Denver or at their summer home in the mountains.

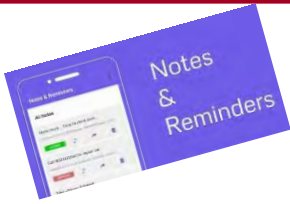
By 1999, Vera and her husband had sold their Arizona and mountain homes, and moved to full-time living in a retirement community in Denver where she shared her love of books by volunteering as part of the community library staff, eventually moving into the role of head librarian.

In addition to reading, doing daily crossword puzzles and working on family genealogy, Vera also enjoyed line dancing and walks along the Highline Canal. One of her hobbies was making beautiful stone 'gem' trees that she sold to various craft outlets and friends. When her oldest daughter and husband moved to the same retirement community, she had fun gardening with them in one of the community garden plots. Her genealogy research found a direct line back to the Mayflower and to one of the Salem witches. She enjoyed attending one "reunion of cousins" who were all descendants of the same Mayflower family.

In 2010, her husband passed away, but Vera continued to enjoy life volunteering at the library and supporting Children's hospital until her declining health forced her to move to an assistant living/skilled nursing facility in Louisville, CO. She remained there until her death, still reading her books, listening to the live music at her nursing facility, and beating everyone at group crossword puzzles. She remained bright and engaged until the very end.

Vera's 2 daughters, grandson and their spouses all live nearby, making it easy to visit her at her new home. Vera will be remembered by her family, friends and neighbors as a special lady who always had a smile. She will be missed by the many that loved her. A private graveside service will be held at a later time.

William(1) -Jacob (2) - John, Sr. (3) - Israel (4) -Israel, Jr. (5) - Joseph (6) - Noah (7) - William (8) - Bertha Beatrice (9) - Lena May Zimmerman (10) - Vera (11)



## MEMBERS' CORNER

Please consider writing an article about you or a family member for the Members' Corner to help us get to know our family members better. Send the article and photos to [editor@townefolk.com](mailto:editor@townefolk.com)



## Writers Needed

We are in need of articles to place in the newsletter each quarter. Please consider sending in a contribution to enhance our newsletter.



## Received from Gail Garda:

A Danvers (MA.) town meeting on May 21, 2024 approved a bylaw to preserve the historic Nathaniel Ingersoll's Tavern which played an integral role in the Salem Witch Trials and was described as possibly the structure with the strongest ties to the trials still standing in Massachusetts. Built in 1670, it had fallen into disrepair after it was purchased in 2011 by a New Hampshire resident who left it vacant hoping at some time to have it made into a museum. The approved "demolition by neglect" bylaw requires the owner to make structural repairs needed to prevent further deterioration or sell it to someone who will.

Read the full story here [https://wbsm.com/danvers-town-meeting-bylaw-save-ingersolls-witch-trials-tavern/?trackback=fbshare\\_mobile](https://wbsm.com/danvers-town-meeting-bylaw-save-ingersolls-witch-trials-tavern/?trackback=fbshare_mobile)



## Seeking a Publications Coordinator:

Publications Coordinator Duties

Updated 3.21.23 – Subject to Approval at April 2023 TFA Board Meeting

The appointed position of TFA Publications Coordinator works in conjunction with the Executive Membership Secretary, Newsletter Editor, and designated, qualified proofreaders, to review the quarterly TFA About Towne newsletter for publication. It requires a team effort to produce and finalize a well-written, interesting, and professional-looking newsletter for every TFA member.

Some of the duties include:

1. Part of the proofreading team for all TFA publications.
2. Works with the mailing house in mailing out publications.
3. Ensures our mail list is sent through the NCOA database for updates to mailing addresses.
4. Keeps printing costs in line.
5. Ensures Rebecca Nurse Homestead has TFA publications to hand out.



The Publications Coordinator Procedures are located on the TFA website:

[https://townefolk.com/testing/documents/procedures\\_pub\\_coord\\_v2.pdf](https://townefolk.com/testing/documents/procedures_pub_coord_v2.pdf)



# Towne Family Association, Inc. - Annual Membership Form

Membership Dues are Payable by January 1<sup>st</sup> of Each Calendar Year - **ALL PAYMENTS MUST BE MADE IN U.S. CURRENCY**

<b>Membership Type (Select One):</b>		<b>New Member:</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Renewal:</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>TFA Member #:</b>	
<b>Individual</b> (1 single individual)		\$22.00 (1 year) <input type="checkbox"/>	\$40.00 (2 years) <input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Family</b> (1 member, their spouse & children, 25 years or younger, living in the same household/same address)		\$25.00 (1 year) <input type="checkbox"/>	\$44.00 (2 years) <input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Life</b> (1 single individual) \$300 <input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Senior</b> (Free to any current member aged 90 years or older, with at least 2 years of paid TFA) <input type="checkbox"/>			
<b>Check Date:</b>			<b>Check Amount:</b>		
<b>Please enter first and last name of member(s):</b>			<b>Please enter member's birthday (month/day/year):</b>		
If you need more lines, please print this form and write names and birthdays for additional members on the back of the form.					
Street/PO Box:					
City:		State:		Zip+4:	
Country:		Telephone:			
Email:					
<b>ACTIVE MEMBERS:</b> Please check if any of the above information is a change in:					
Name(s): <input type="checkbox"/>	Membership Type: <input type="checkbox"/>	Address: <input type="checkbox"/>	Telephone: <input type="checkbox"/>	Email: <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>NEW MEMBERS ONLY: How did you learn about TFA?</b>					
Internet Search: <input type="checkbox"/>	Towne Cousins: <input type="checkbox"/>	Facebook: <input type="checkbox"/>	Friends/Family: <input type="checkbox"/>	Rebecca Nurse Homestead: <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other:					
<b>I descend from William and Joanna Towne through (check all that apply):</b>					
Edmund: <input type="checkbox"/>	Jacob: <input type="checkbox"/>	Joseph: <input type="checkbox"/>	Mary: <input type="checkbox"/>	Rebecca: <input type="checkbox"/>	Sarah: <input type="checkbox"/>
I am in the process of researching my Towne heritage, but I have not yet finalized my lineage:					<input type="checkbox"/>
I am not a Towne descendant, but I am a Friend of the Family:					<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>I wish to receive the award-winning quarterly <i>About Towne</i> newsletter by:</b>					
Online Link (color version): <input type="checkbox"/>			US Mail (black & white print version): <input type="checkbox"/>		
An online fillable version of this form is available at <a href="https://townefolk.com/testing/documents/memb_form.pdf">https://townefolk.com/testing/documents/memb_form.pdf</a>					
	Please make check payable to: <b>TOWNE FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC.</b>  Please send printed membership form and check to: Carolyn Cogswell, TFA Interim Executive Secretary 4375 Bankside Ave West Bloomfield, MI 48323-1203				

**Towne Family Association  
c/o Carolyn Cogswell  
4375 Bankside Ave  
West Bloomfield MI 48323-1203  
USA**

**“Return Service Requested”**



**Call for Member Participation—**We encourage all TFA members to submit articles for inclusion in the newsletter. Things like your personal family history, stories and traditions passed on by your ancestors; issues of genealogical interest: newspaper articles, book reviews, national/regional events, local gatherings, conferences, locations of interest; family health issues, DNA results, family tree research sites and software reviews; significant newsworthy events: births, deaths, graduations, marriages, promotions, publications, volunteer work...and, anything else you'd like to brag about!

**Newsletter Article Submission Deadlines are:**

**January Issue - November 7, 2024**

**April Issue - February 7, 2025**

**July Issue - May 7, 2025**

**October Issue - August 7, 2025**