

**AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF  
FRANCIS TORREY TOWNSEND  
AND GENEALOGY OF THE  
TOWNSENDS**

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Autobiography of Francis Torrey Townsend and Genealogy of the Townsends by Francis  
Torrey Townsend

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**F. T. TOWNSEND,**  
**AT THE AGE OF 76, MARCH 5, 1905**

**AUTOBIOGRAPHY**  
**OF**  
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## THE TOWNSENDS.

### CHAPTER I.

**W**HEN a small boy I remember hearing my teacher say to his oldest class in school: "Young men, your life is before you, now make your mark in the world."

This leads me to ask myself, "What kind of a mark have I made?" I fear that in writing my Autobiography the reader will see that the mark I have made is very dim, so much so that but few have seen it. The mark is made and cannot be changed. It is said that some men make renown by their wit, but I have failed for want of stock.

To begin with I think it best to go back and give my pedigree, by giving the Townsend Genealogy which I have secured during the past six or eight years. The Townsend families of England and America are of mixed stock of Saxon and Norman origin and of great antiquity in the county of Norfolk, England. Walter Atte Townsend, son of Sir Lodovic De Townsend, a Norman Nobleman whom Collins in his Peerage of England, puts it the head of this family, flourished soon after the Conquest.

The Townsends had a large tract of land granted them by William the Conquerer.

The above dates back to 1066 where the name originated from Latin names meaning Towns end. You find them named all along in England as holding high office<sup>s</sup> under the English Crown close to the Kings, such as belonging to the Priva Council, and officers in the English Army. Some were raised to the Peerage. Sir Charles Townsend was minister to George the Third and was one of England's most powerful orators. All through the History of England you find their names among the most prominent of the officials and literary men from 1066 to 1635 when three brothers came to America. Among them was my great, great, great grandfather, Thomas Townsend, whose family records follow.

Here is where our records commence in America at Lynn, Mass. The figure before names denote the number of the generation in America. b stands for births, m for marriage, and d for death.

#### 1. THOMAS TOWNSEND,

son of Henry, was b in Norfolk County, England, and moved to London, and from there to Lynn, Mass. in 1635, near to the Iron works. He was b Jan. 8, 1594, and d Dec. 22, 1677. Was m to Mary (probably a sister to Annie, wife of John Newgate, a merchant in Boston, as he was called brother-in-law.) She died Feb. 28, 1692.

They had the following named children: Thomas, b 1637; Samuel, b 1638; 2 John, b 1640; Andrew, b 1642; Elizabeth, b 1644. Some of their descendants remain in Lynn at this day, others were among the first settlers on Long Island.



In going back we find that Henry Townsend was the son of Thomas, who was the son of Sir Robert, who was the son of Sir Roger Townsend, and so on down to 1066.

In the number of generations given is, in the direct line of the branch that I belong to

## 2. JOHN TOWNSEND,

son of Thomas, was b in Lynn, Mass. in 1640; d Dec. 4, 1726. He m for his first wife Sarah Pearson, Mar. 27, 1668. She d July 9, 1689. Their children were George, who first m Rebecca Cowdry, 2nd m Elizabeth Crane: Sarah, b Sep. 4, 1673, m Stephen Weston: John, b Mar. 17, 1675, d Jan. 1757: Mary, b Sep. 2, 1677, d July 6, 1717: Hannah, b Feb. 11, 1680: Elizabeth, b Nov. 9, 1682, m Jonathan Nichols, Apr. 11, 1753: Noah, b Aug. 30, 1686, d Dec. 15, 1713: Ebenezer, d July 3, 1689. For second wife he married Mehitable Brown Apr. 23, 1690. She d July 1735. Their children: Thomas, b Oct. 7, 1692, d June 1, 1716: Mehitable, b Apr. 28, 1695, d 1695: Martha, b Aug. 14, 1697, d May 27, 1729.

3 Daniel, b Apr. 1, 1700, d Oct. 10, 1761. He m Lydia Sawyer Oct. 18, 1726. She d Apr. 30, 1749. They were m by Rev. Daniel Putnam of Reading, Mass. Their children: Lydia, b Aug. 24, 1728; John, b July 14, 1731; Mehitable, b June 10, 1734.

4 Thomas, b Aug. 23, 1736, d July 27, 1814; Daniel, b Dec. 26, 1738, killed at the battle of Lexington, Mass.

Apr. 19, 1775; Dorcas, b Sep. 18, 1741; Jacob, b May 6, 1744, d June 20, 1749; Martha, b Apr. 10, 1746, d June 18, 1749; Betsey, b Mar. 30, 1749.

#### 4. THOMAS TOWNSEND,

son of Daniel, b Aug. 23, 1736, d July 27, 1814. He m Susanna Green, she died Feb. 19, 1813. Their children: Thomas, b Aug. 2, 1763, d Aug. 19, 1783; Susanna, b June 8, 1765, m Elisha Bigelow, she d Mar. 10, 1845; Dorcas, b May 29, 1868, m Wm. Hayward, she d June 8, 1853; Mehitable, b Oct. 12, 1770, m Nicholas Brown, she d Aug. 12, 1819; Aaron, b May 16, 1773, d Apr. 17, 1846; Sarah, b Jan. 21, 1776, d Aug. 21, 1778; Anna, b June 8, 1778, d Oct. 14, 1865.

5 William, my father, b Sep. 8, 1780, d Dec. 19, 1865; Thomas, b Dec. 15, 1783, d Apr. 4, 1861. The church at Lynn, Mass. shows the dates of the baptism of the above family. Thomas, Senior, Aug. 29, 1736; Thomas, Jr., 1st, Nov. 6, 1763; Dorcas, June 5, 1768; Mehitable, Oct. 14, 1770; Aaron, May 23, 1773; Anna, June 14, 1778; Sarah, Mar. 17, 1776; William, Sep. 20, 1780; Thomas, Jr., 2nd, Dec. 21, 1783.

Aaron, son of Thomas Townsend, for first wife m Lydia Swain, by whom he had children as follows, and who they married: Almond, m Elvira Butler; Louisa, m Amasa Parker; James Swain, m Elvira White; Mary, m Wm. Smith, who raised a large family in Arkansas; Otis Aaron, m Lucia Cady; Caroline A., m Wm. White, in

Tennessee. After the death of her husband she m his brother. She sent one son into the Union Army, who is now living in Florida. Aaron Townsend for his second wife m Mrs. Mary Buck, for third wife he m Mrs. Betsey Stone.

Almond, son of Aaron Townsend, had the following named children; Charles, d at Rutland, Vt.; Eugene, d at Brattleboro, Vt.; James A. lives at Ottawa, Ill. at this writing, 1905, had four children, Mary, Myra, Charles, and Waldo, the latter is deceased; Henry H. lives at Ottawa, Ill., and has three daughters; George W. lives at Ottawa, Ill., has no children; Carrie, d at Bridgewater, Vt.; and John lives at the latter place and has one son, Frederick, who is married and has one son.

Anna, daughter of Thomas Townsend, m Wm. L. Hawkins, a great musician and school teacher, and held town offices of all kinds and was postmaster for many years at Reading, Vt. Their children were: Lewis, b June 23, 1798, d Apr. 29, 1875; Wm. A., b May 24, 1800; d July 7, 1869; Alfred, b Sep. 30, 1803, d Jan. 31, 1885; Isabella, b Feb. 23, 1806, d Sep. 14, 1825; Ferdinand, b Feb. 14, 1808, d Dec. 26, 1893; Horatio, b Mar. 3, 1810, d Mar. 31, 1815; Josiah Q, b Mar. 14, 1812, d June 18, 1882.

Carlos, son of Lewis Hawkins, is a noted musician and resides at Reading, Vt.; is a farmer, has a sawmill and manufactures rakes; is town clerk and has been for 15 years; his son, Don C., and grandson, Harland, are great musicians and the trio make quite a band by themselves.