

TOWNE GENEALOGY

JOHN MATTHEWS

Towne Genealogy

JOHN MATTHEWS, Genealogist,

Editor and Publisher of

"Matthews' American Armoury and Blue Book"

(Sole Agents for Sale of this Work in U.S.A. and CANADA

- - - G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS, New York City) - - -

"Hints for Tracing an Anglo-American Pedigree."

"List of Wills, 1700 to 1725, in the Prerogative
Court of Canterbury, England, of Testators
living or dying in America."

"Wills proved in the Principal Court of Probate,
England, from the year 1630." (*In progress.*)

93 & 94, Chancery Lane,

LONDON, ENGLAND,

June 10, 1902.

EDWIN EUGENE TOWNE, Esq., Newtonville, Mass., U. S. A.

Dear Sir, — I have received your favor of the 28th ult. enclosing information relating to your branch of the "Towne" family, and for which I am obliged. With regard to your wish to establish the ancestry of William Towne, b. 1600, I have little doubt this could be done, and would be pleased to take the matter in hand for reasonable fees. It occurs to me that possibly you may be able to interest some members of the family to share in the expense; if so, I would be pleased to give you some idea of the cost.

Yours truly,

JOHN MATTHEWS.

LONDON, ENGLAND,

July 4, 1902.

EDWIN EUGENE TOWNE, Esq.

Dear Sir, — With regard to the probable expense of tracing the ancestry of William Towne, b. 1600, I would suggest a fee of one hundred dollars (\$100). For this amount I would search "Towne" wills proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, which is the principal registry, and covers nearly the whole of England and Wales. By this means, in all probability, definite evidence regarding his parentage would be obtained.

Should it afterwards be deemed desirable to further extend the search, I would, in making my report, fully advise you.

Awaiting your reply,

Very truly yours,

JOHN MATTHEWS.

LONDON, ENGLAND,

August 28, 1903.

EDWIN E. TOWNE, Esq.

Dear Sir, — I beg to inform you that the first volume, second edition, of above work has been issued to subscribers.

As an appendix to this edition I purpose giving, when possible, the pedigree of each family bearing arms, showing the line of descent in this country.

With regard to the ancestry of William Towne, of Salem, Mass., born *circa* 1600, I have little doubt, if you will allow me to search the records here, I can fully establish his parentage, and in all probability trace his descent back for several generations. The work in which I am engaged, compiling the "Year Books of Probates," gives me exceptional advantages in making researches, as will have to be examined to prove connections.

I trust you will allow me to enroll your name as a subscriber to the work, for which purpose an order form is enclosed. Being a subscription work, issued in parts to subscribers only, it is admitted into the United States free of duty.

Awaiting the favor of an early reply, I am,

Yours very truly,

JOHN MATTHEWS.

LONDON, ENGLAND,

September 23, 1903.

EDWIN E. TOWNE, Esq.

Dear Sir, — Many thanks for your favor of the 12th inst. Your suggestion as to a small advertisement should, I think, result in your obtaining sufficient funds to enable me to make certain researches likely to result in definite evidence being obtained regarding William Towne, of Salem. If you can get together this amount, or even part of it, I shall be pleased to take the matter in hand, with every hope of being successful.

If you will send me a copy of your book on the Towne family, I shall be pleased to exchange it for mine. There is no duty payable on books coming into this country.

Send it through the mail in the ordinary way, book post.

With regards,

Yours very truly,

JOHN MATTHEWS.

LONDON, ENGLAND,
October 30, 1903.

E. E. TOWNE, Esq.

My dear Sir, — I have received your esteemed favor of the 10th inst., and also your valuable work on the Towne family, and for which accept my thanks. I will forward the volume containing your record so soon as it is published.

I hope you will be successful in obtaining the money to enable you to instruct me to make searches, which I believe will result in definite evidence being obtained.

In haste for mail, I remain,

Yours very truly,

JOHN MATTHEWS.

LONDON, ENGLAND,
January 27, 1904.

E. E. TOWNE, Esq.

Dear Sir, — Your esteemed favor of the 10th inst. has been received, and for which I thank you. I regret to hear that you have found such difficulty in collecting subscriptions for the proposed research. I feel interested in the matter myself, and shall be pleased to at once take the work in hand if you think best to send me the amount already collected. You may rest assured that I will do my best to obtain definite information regarding your ancestor.

Awaiting your reply,

Yours very truly,

JOHN MATTHEWS.

LONDON, ENGLAND,
March 16, 1904.

E. E. TOWNE, Esq.

Dear Sir, — Many thanks for your esteemed favor of the 2d inst., enclosing draft for fifty dollars on account of search fees as arranged, re the coat of arms and ancestry of William Towne, of Salem, b. circa 1600.

The matter shall receive my best attention, and I shall be pleased to advise you from time to time as the search progresses. I sincerely hope that I shall be able to send you definite evidence of his descent. Thanking you for your letter and enclosure, and with regards,

Yours very truly,

JOHN MATTHEWS.

LONDON, ENGLAND,
July 6, 1904.

E. E. TOWNE, Esq.

Dear Sir, — I have to acknowledge the receipt of your esteemed favor of the 20th ult., enclosing draft, value six pounds (£6); a further payment on account of search fees, for which I am much obliged.

In answer to your enquiries, I am of opinion that the ending of the name Towne-raw or rowe signifies "street," or what used to be termed a row, especially in the eastern counties.

"Visitation" refers to the visitations of the heralds which were from time to time to record the pedigrees and coats of arms borne by the landed proprietors and small gentry throughout the country.

"D. & h." stands for daughter and heiress; "s. p.," died without issue; "Archd. Ct.," Archdeacons Court, where the will was proved.

I am noting all parishes where I find families of the name resided at about the period required. If you could only get together sufficient money to enable me to search parish registers, and also to examine the wills of testators of the name, we are bound to get splendid results, but of course you will easily understand that the amount I am limited to does not admit of much work in this direction. If you could get two or three wealthy members of the family to join together in the expense, I should be able to visit the different districts and examine parish registers and the wills proved outside the Prerogative Court of Canterbury. A draft for say one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150) would enable me to do a lot of work in this direction.

Thanking you for your letter and hoping you will be able to get members of the family sufficiently interested in the search to raise the necessary funds,

Yours very truly,

JOHN MATTHEWS.

LONDON, ENGLAND,
June 15, 1904.

E. E. TOWNE, Esq.

Dear Sir, — Your esteemed favor of the 27th ult. has been received, and in reply to same I send you extracts from my notes which I have been making from time to time in the course of researches relating to the family of TOWNE.

So far as my searches go at present, I have not found by whom

the coat of arms for Towne was originally borne. It has been recorded by several well-known authorities, and appears to have been taken from Haleian Manuscripts, Nos. 1392 and 1459; Cotton Manuscripts, Tiberius, p. 1, and Glover's Ordinary. You will find the blazon quoted by Burke Berry, who was for fifteen years register clerk to the Heralds College, and in the "Ordinary of British Armorialia" by the late John W. Papworth and Alfred W. Morant, F. S. A., — Towne or Town and Attowne, — "Arms argent, on a chevron sable three cross-crosslets of the first; crest, — on a rock, a tree growing proper."

From printed calendars of wills, the following entries appear for testators of the name:

Prerogative Court of Canterbury from 1383 to 1604.

1555, Richard Towne, or Toone, of Harpeswell, Co. Lincoln. Act of probate, Archd. Ct. of Stowe (F 42 Moore).

1581, Edmund Towne, of St. Andrew, Hereford (16 Darcy).

1583, John Towne, of Church Lawford, Newbold-on-Avon, Dunchurch, Rugby Bridge, Co. Warwick; Butterworth, Woscote, Co. Leicester; and Crick, of Northamptonshire (23 & 26 Rowe).

Year Books of Probates from 1630 to 1639, P. C. C.

John Towne, of Delaware, parish of Brested, Kent, will (73 Audley) proved June 20, 1632, by nephew, Robert Towne.

John Towne, of parish St. Olave, Southwark, Surrey, admon with will (43 Goare), March 22, 1636-7, to Joyce Becke, alias Hutchinson, Alice Garnell having died.

James Towne, of Little Leighs, Essex, will (125 Goare) proved September 1, 1637, by Giles Mursley.

Wills, Consistory Court of Lincoln, 1506 to 1600.

1534, William Towne, of Lincoln, No. 20.

1541, John Towne, of Irby, No. 204.

1554, William Towne, of Halliwell, No. 208.

1558, William Towne, of Ailsby, No. 68.

1561, John Towne, of Stainton, No. 24.

1567, Ralph Towne, of Grimoldby, No. 48.

1591, John Towne, of Newton, No. 198.

Abstracts from Lincolnshire Wills, from 1500 to 1617.

No. 195, Henry Towne-rowe and Geo. Hartgrave, exors. to will of John Sacheverell, of Horncastle, gent. (proved July 8, 1573).

No. 8, will of Henrie Ascoughe, of Morebie, Lincoln, gent., "I make Raphe Towne-rawe gent my friende supervisor" (proved January 25, 1601).

No. 53, will of Margery Neale, proved October 12, 1611, "to my lovenge frende Mrs. Towne-rowe and to George Towne-rowe her sonne my godsonne."

Northampton and Rutland Wills, 1510 to 1652.

1531-38, William Towne, of Syresham, Northants, 157.

1638, Thurston Toone (or Towne), of Collingtree, G 98.

Berkshire Wills, 1508 to 1652.

1561, Thomas Towne, of Aldermaston, E 203.

1602, William Towne, of Waltham, J 1057.

Leicestershire Wills.

1538, Thomas Towne, of Osgathorpe.

1554, Nicholas Town, of Stapleton.

1576, Ralph Towne, of Osgathorpe.

Lichfield Wills, 1516 to 1652 (the Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry included, until 1541, the whole of Stafford, Chester, Derby, parts of Shropshire, Warwick, Lancashire, Westmoreland, and Yorks, small portions of Flint and Denbigh, also few Nottingham, Leicester, and Lincoln).

Lichfield.

1565, Robert Towne, No. 60.

1577, Alice Towne, No. 84.

1579, William Towne, No. 105.

1543, John Toone, No. 10.

1547, Lawrence Toone, ad., No. 61.

1548, Henry Toone, No. 74.

1545, Richard Toone, No. 40.

1554, John Tone, No. 65.

1592, Lawrence Toone, No. 28.

1573, Nicholas Toone, No. 16.

1569, Henry Tone, No. 112.

1593, Henry Toone, No. 91.

1624, Thomas Towne, No. 247.

1605, John Towne, No. 187.

1635, Nicholas Towne.

1633, George Towne.

1635, Edmund Towne.

1638, William Towne, inv.

1638, John Towne, ad.

1617, John Toone, ad. 246.

1623, Richard Toone, 183.

1648, Georg Toone, of Smethsby, ad.

1650, Ralph Toone, of Codnor Lane.

Wills at York Registry.

1530, Richard Toun, chaplayne (bur. Cottingham).

1552, Rawfe Towne, of Owstweke, par. Rosse.

1579, George Towne, of Little Newton (bur. Long Preston).

1598, Elizabeth Towne, of Braswell.

1601, Agnes Townes, of Lowdham, Nottinghamshire.

1597, William Townes, of Lowdham, Nottinghamshire.

1602, John Towne, of Hipperholme, Pontefract.

1607, Jane Toun, of Hellifeilde (bur. Long Preston).

1609, Nicholas Toun, of Hurstwoodd, Lancashire.

1603, Nicholas Toun (Thornton, Craven).

1616, William Towne, of Lower Merclough, in Cliviger, Co. Lanc.

1618, William Towne, of Riggend, par. Burneley, Co. Lanc.

1618, Richard Towne-end, of Shaye edge, in Sowerbie, yeo.

1612, Giles Towne, of Bolton, near Bolland, living in Craven.

1616, George Tounes, of Pontefract.

1650-51, George Towne, sen. of Norland.

MISCELLANEOUS

Lincoln Marriage Licences, 1598 to 1628.

1617, May 16, Edward Towne, of Grantham, glover, aged 22, son of *Richard Towne, of Braceby*, yeoman, and Margerie Lillic, of same, aged 20 (Braceby).

1621, December 24, Robert Oxman, of Threckingham, husb., aged 27, and Ellen Towne, of same, spr., aged 26.

1622, December 30, William Thompson, of Coulby, aged 30, and Ellen Towne, of Sudbrook in Ancaster, spr., aged 28. Her father, John Towne, consents (Ancaster).

1624, February 21, Simon Hardy, aged 30, and Mary Townes, of Witham (Manthrop).

1604, May 7, Rd. Toyne and Elizabeth Jackson (St. Peter in Eastgate).

1627, April 12, Ric Toyne, of Leesington, weaver, aged 20, and Ellen Hackney, of Teavelby, spr., aged 20 (St. Peter at Arches).

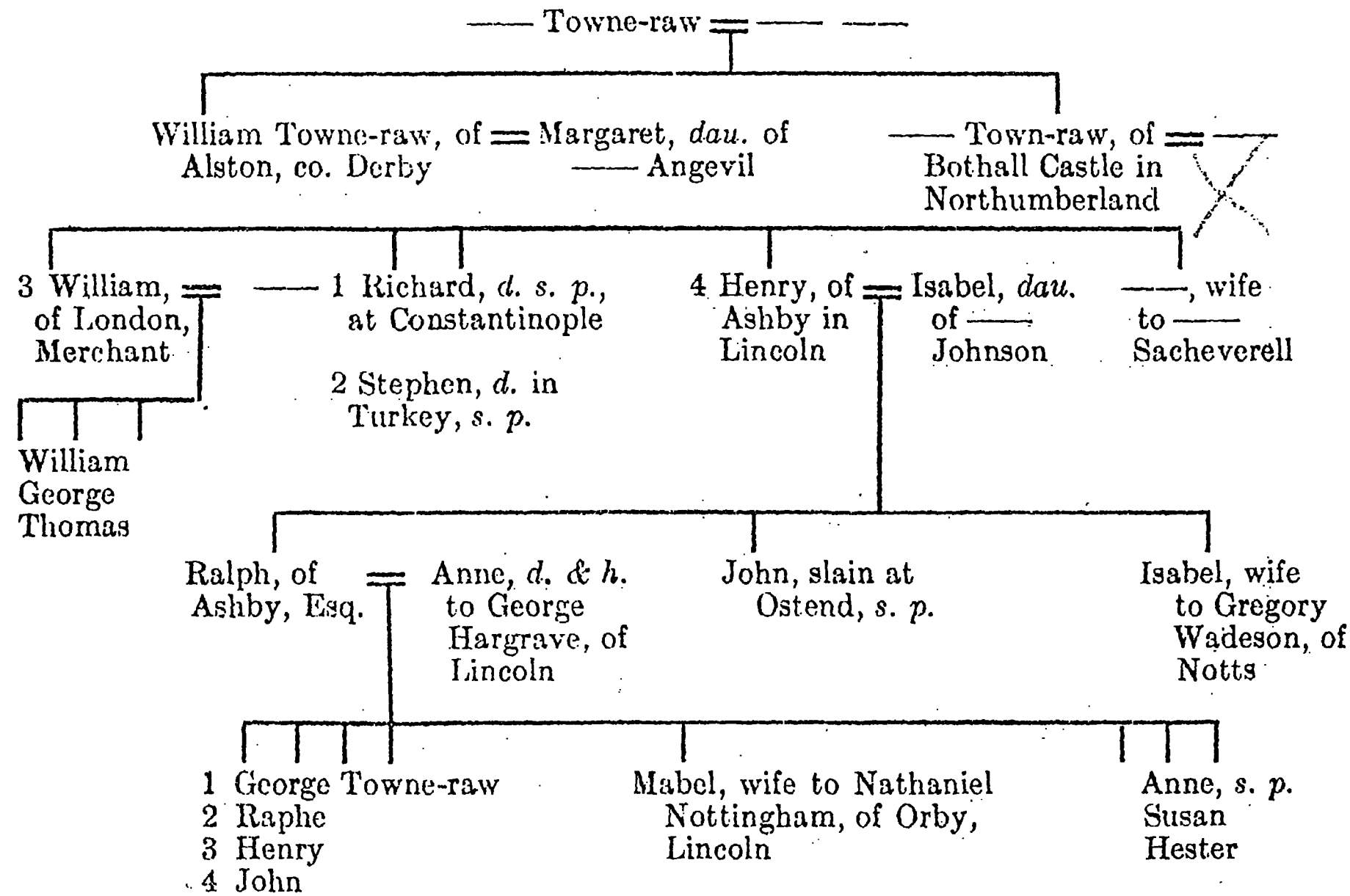
1616, July 14, Henry Towne-rowe, of St. Martins, Lincoln, baker, aged 23, and Alice Greswell, of St. Michaels, spr. (his parents dead), (St. Michaels on Mount).

Lincolnshire Notes and Queries.

Ralfe Town-row, of Ashby, in list of Lincoln gentry, 1634.

John Towne-rowe, of Louth, in list of Lincoln gentry, 1606.

Visitations of Lincolnshire, 1562-64, made by Robert Cooke, alias Chester:



TOWNE GENEALOGY

Visitation of Lincolnshire, 1592, made by Richard Lee, Richmond Herald, for Robert Cooke, Clarenceux, Harl. MS., 1550, no reference is made to the above family.

Institutions of Benefices in the Diocese of Lincoln, 16th Century.

(Rev.) Leonard Towne, clerk, presented by Elizabeth Fairfax, widow, to the vicarage of Swarbie, vacant by the death of John Clarke, admitted 10th March, 1558-9.

London Marriage Licences.

1524, Clement Towne and Eliz'th Alen, at St. Botolph, Bishopsgate.

1591, John Towne, of St. Stephen, Coleman Street, London, gent., and Eliz'th Warde.

Ancient Deeds in the Public Record Office, London.

Hereford, C. 174, Demise by Thomas Breynton, of Hereford, gent., to John Towne and Agnes, his wife, of land, etc., in Welyngton. 8 Nov., 6 Hen. VII (1491).

Warwick, C. 1882, Grant by John le Graunt to John Tone, of Solihull, of a plot of land, etc., in Solihull. 19 Edw. II (1326).

I have just had my notes copied as they appear. It is hardly necessary to give all the many authorities I have examined, which are voluminous.

I think it very probable that the pedigree of "Towne-raw" given in the Lincolnshire Visitation may be connected with the family of Towne.

You will, of course, readily understand that there is much work to be done, and that if money is collected, I shall be able to push ahead with official records, such as wills, Chancery proceedings, and parish registers, where testators of the name were settled at the period of William's emigration.

Awaiting your reply, and with kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

JOHN MATTHEWS.

LONDON, ENGLAND,
August 5, 1904.

E. E. TOWNE, Esq.

Dear Sir, — I have just returned from Great Yarmouth and find your letter of the 21st ult. enclosing draft for £4.0.0 account of search fees, for which I am much obliged.

I have examined the register of St. Nicholas Church, and, I am glad to inform you, with success. The following entries I have extracted:

"WILLIAM TANE son of NICHOLAS and CYSSELEY, baptized 1 Jan., 1599."

"WILLIAM TOUNE and JOANE BLESSING, married 25th April,

1620, both of Yarmouth." (You will observe that the month is April, not March, as stated in your book.)

With regard to the spelling of the name "TANE" (which is the same as TAUNE or TOWNE): The entry was doubtless made by the then parish clerk, who spelt the name as pronounced. The present parish clerk, who was looking over the register with me, first pointed out the entry, saying, "This is the one you are in search of." He is thoroughly conversant with the registers of St. Nicholas, of which parish he has been clerk for upwards of forty years, and of the peculiarities of the spelling of the names therein, and is convinced that this is the entry of William Towne's baptism.

I also find that a John TAUNE was one of the two bailiffs of Yarmouth, 1488, and that John TOWNE, the elder, was mayor in 1494. These two persons are doubtless ancestors of William TANE (TAUNE or TOWNE), and I have every reason to believe that if sufficient money is obtained to enable me to devote a large portion of my time to the search and also to cover out-of-pocket expenses, which mount up considerably, I shall be able to trace back the line to the above-mentioned persons, and probably to a much earlier date.

If you can arrange to send me a lump sum of say one hundred dollars, I think it will be sufficient to enable me to exhaust the records accessible at Yarmouth.

I am well satisfied with the result of my work so far, and hope that you will be the same, and that you will be able to get members of the family to subscribe the necessary funds for further searches. With kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

JOHN MATTHEWS.

LONDON, ENGLAND,
September 2, 1904.

E. E. TOWNE, Esq.

Dear Sir, — In answer to your esteemed favor of the 17th ult., The entry in the parish register of St. Nicholas, Great Yarmouth, reads as follows: "William TANE, son of Nicholas and Cysseley, baptized Jan. 1, 1599." The parents' name is "TANE" or "TOWN"; when the surname is given for the child, the surname of the parents is seldom mentioned.

The register book of St. Nicholas dates back to 1558, but the whole was recopied in 1599. I have no doubt as to the above entry being that of the baptism of William Towne, who married Joane Blessing. They were both of Yarmouth, and the date of his birth would agree with the date given in the Towne genealogy.

In Vol. xxxv, p. 87, "Town Rate of Topsfield, 1688," you will find the name spelt "TOUNE."

In the Visitation of Norfolk, John "TANNE" (or "TOUNE," the "n" and the "u" are written alike in early writing) married Margaret, daughter of William Stubbey.

In the Visitation of Kent, 1619, pedigree of "Watton," with arms consisting of ten quarterings, the third quarter, "Argent, on a chevron sable, three cross-crosslets ermine," is given for "TOWNE." William Watton de Addington married Benedicta, daughter of Thomas TOWNE de Towne Place, Throwley, having issue a son, Robert, who died 1470. This record of the Towne arms is an important find, as it shows that the arms ascribed by Burke to "ATTOWNE" should also have been given for TOWNE of Towne Place, "de" and "at" are equivalent for "of," and "de la" which you ask about is "of the."

I note what you say regarding the difficulty you have in getting together more money so as to enable me to extend my searches. It would appear to me, now that the parentage of William has been discovered, the information obtained should be a great encouragement to members of the family to have the earlier generations searched for, which I am fully convinced can be traced back to a very early date.

If you can arrange to send me, in one payment \$150, I shall be able to go ahead quickly and do really better work than if small payments are made from time to time. Hoping that you will be successful in your endeavors to raise this amount, and with kind regards,

Yours very truly,

JOHN MATTHEWS.

LONDON, ENGLAND,

November 5, 1904.

E. E. TOWNE, Esq., 18 Berkley Street, Springfield, Mass.

Dear Sir, — I have received your esteemed favor of the 25th ult. informing me of your change of address, for which I am obliged.

Since my letter of September 2, I have not been able to obtain any further information prior to Nicholas, father of William Town, your ancestor. There is considerable expense entailed by searching official records, and I am unable to work in this direction without a further advance. If you can arrange to get together the \$150 asked for in my previous letter, I shall be able to go well ahead with

the search. I believe that I can trace the family back for a number of generations prior to Nicholas.

Hoping that you will be successful in collecting the necessary funds, and with kind regards,

Yours very truly,

JOHN MATTHEWS.

LONDON, ENGLAND,

November 25, 1904.

E. E. TOWNE, Esq.

Dear Sir, — I regret to hear that you do not consider I have done sufficient work for the amount received. Although you have not received very much general information regarding the Towne family, I have made a most exhaustive search among the genealogical collections contained in the British Museum library, and have spent much time on the matter, besides making a special journey to Yarmouth in order to personally examine the parish register of St. Nicholas Church, where I really did not anticipate finding the baptismal entry of William, as I understood by your book that the registers had already been examined.

With regard to the coat of arms, I find no further information than that already known, but it is quite possible if search is made among the official records as suggested, some proof of this may be obtained.

It is important now to search official records in the public record office, such as "Chancery Proceedings," which give information (largely genealogical) relating to nearly every family holding landed property from 1558, also "Feet of Fines" records of certain legal conveyances of landed property dating from temp. Richard I. Also, it will be necessary to examine early Towne wills proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, and in the Norwich Registry and perhaps Suffolk, for which I shall have to pay considerable out-of-pocket expenses.

If you remember, I arranged to establish the parentage of your William Towne, estimating the cost at \$150, which has been done, and I cannot possibly commence on official records without a further advance. At the same time, should I come across any information likely to be of interest in the course of my many searches, I would be pleased to inform you.

I hope you will be able to raise funds to enable me to go ahead on the lines indicated.

Yours very truly,

JOHN MATTHEWS.