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# **The Towne Family Memorial**

**Hubbard Edwin 1n**

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**Author: Hubbard Edwin 1n**

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THE  
TOWNE FAMILY  
MEMORIAL:

COMPILED FROM THE

NEW ENGLAND HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL REGISTER,  
TOWNE MANUSCRIPTS, PUBLIC AND FAMILY RECORDS;

FOR

A. N. TOWNE, Esq., San Francisco, Cal.

BY

EDWIN HUBBARD, Chicago, Ill.

CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY,  
AND THE CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY.



CHICAGO:  
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## INTRODUCTION.

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In 1878, the undersigned was applied to by Henry Towne, Esq. (*No.* 783), a member of the Board of Trade, of Chicago, to arrange the Genealogical Memoranda of the "ANCESTRY and DESCENDANTS" of the late John Towne, Esq. (*No.* 776), of Georgia, Vt., for publication, in pamphlet form, for private distribution; from family records and memoranda in possession of the family. An examination of the published vols. of the New Eng. Hist. and Gen. Reg., Vols. xx and xxi, revealed a wealth of information, relative to the early history of the family, both in England and America, that, altho it did not give the line of my employer below his great grandfather, yet served to awaken fresh interest in the subject.

A copy of this little pamphlet, of only sixteen pages, coming to the notice of A. N. Towne, Esq. (*659*), general superintendent of the Central Pacific Railroad, at San Francisco, led to an application from him, through Mr. Henry Towne, for information relative to his line, from the common Ancestor. An examination of the published memoranda of the late Wm. B. Towne soon showed his line of descent, from a brother of the ancestor of Mr. Henry Towne, in the 2d American generation. As in the former case, the published memoranda was only brought down to





the fourth generation; it became necessary to visit New England, to consult the Town and Probate Records of S. W., Mass., and N. E., Conn.

The courtesy of John Ward Dean, Esq., librarian of the N.-E. H. G. Soc., in allowing comparison of material already collected with the unpublished memoranda of the fifth and and sixth generations of the family, greatly facilitated inquiries necessary to establish this line as well as that of the late John Towne, Esq. (*No.* 732), of Philadelphia. The result of these efforts is herewith submitted to the present generation of the "Descendants of WILLIAM TOWNE and JOANNA BLESSING," with the sincere wish that, with all its imperfections, it may stimulate others to continue investigations, until a collection shall be gathered worthy of the name.

EDWIN HUBBARD,

COMPILER.

Chicago, Ill., August, 1880.

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Although this pamphlet is intended mainly for private distribution, yet a few copies may be retained in the hands of the Compiler, in order that any one who may find the name of a parent or grandparent, in the published list, and shall desire to have any line brought down to the present time, may have the same printed, in the form of PART FOUR, or Appendix, and have the same bound up with the first three parts. Application for this may be made to the Compiler.

EDWIN HUBBARD,

Room, 16 Farwell Hall,  
Chicago, Ill.



THE  
TOWNE FAMILY.

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PART ONE.

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HISTORICAL MEMORANDA

OF THE NAME IN ENGLAND, FROM A. D. 1274 TO 1630.

Copied from the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, vol. xx, p. 367, and vol. xxi, p. 12-15, as published by the late,  
WM. B. TOWNE, Esq., of Milford, N. H.

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The name of TOWNE, or *Town* and *Towns*, as it is sometimes spelt, is not one of frequent occurrence.\* It may, however, be found here and there, generally in communities of Anglo-Saxon derivation, and though surnames began to be used in England about the time of the Norman Conquest, and, from century to century, for three or four centuries, continued to be adopted till they came into general use, this name does not seem to be one that met with much favor.

The earliest existence of it, known to the writer, is A. D. 1274, when William de la Towne, of Alvely, a village in Shropshire, about twenty miles South-east of Shrewsbury, the capital of the county, was, at that time, engaged in the prosecution of a suit-at-law against one of the officers of

\* The remark that "The name is not one of frequent occurrence" is probably true, as regards the name in England; yet, in this country, it is believed there are few families deriving their name from a single pair, that can show a larger number of descendants than "WILLIAM and JOANNA (*Blessing*) TOWNE, of SALEM, MASS." Counting only the descendants of the TOWNE daughters, of the first and second generations, a list of more than ten thousand might easily be made out, without coming down later than the earlier portion of the nineteenth century.—E. II.

