

Townsend Ties

Marian Mc Clure Carter of rural Coatesville, owner, has permitted a number of Townsend Family letters to be photocopied. The William Townsend to whom these letters were written, was a great grandfather of Marian Carter. The Danville and the Plainfield Public Libraries have copies of these letters.

Background information on William Townsend was found in Willard Heiss's "Abstracts of The Records of The Society of Friends in Indiana" and some added notes were found in William Wade Hinshaw's "Encyclopedia of America Quaker genealogy" in the Plainfield Library Historical Room.

William Townsend of Perquimans County, North Carolina, married his first wife, Nancy Copeland, daughter of Eli and Ann, at Eli Copeland's house 1803 - 1st mo - 18th day.

Rich Square monthly meeting records give Nancy's birth date as 1796 - 6th mo - 19th day.

Minutes of White Water monthly meeting show the Townsend Family in Indiana, received on certificate from Centre monthly meeting, north Carolina 1820 - 5th mo - 27th day. At that time William and Nancy had children; Eli, Josiah, Elizabeth and Catherine. The minute for 1824 - 3rd mo - 20th, states that William Townsend and children Eli, Elizabeth and Josiah were granted a certificate to White Lick Monthly Meeting.

Original land owners records show that William Townsend entered land in Guilford and Liberty Townships in 1825.

He was a consistent voter beginning in 1826.

Ruth Mitchell Pritchard

1. Poem signed Mary Ann Townsend
She was a daughter of Calvin Townsend,
married a Martin, whose daughter Mrs. McClure
was Marian McClure Carter's mother
2. Letter August 11 — From Frederick Newby
3. 11th mo 10th 1835 Esther Hollowell "Black Sarah"
4. 4th mo 4th 1847 Rebeckah Parker Rich Square
5. September 29, 1850 Martha + Daniel Ramsey Richland Co.
6. May 18, 1851 Daniel + Martha Ramsey no address
7. 9th mo 23rd 1851 Benjamin + Martha Ann Copeland ^{no address} no address
8. November 2, 1851 Daniel + Martha Ramsey ^{To Wm + Ann Townsend} + Catherine Ramsey
9. January 18, 1852 Daniel + Martha Ramsey no address
10. March 14 1852 Daniel + Martha Ramsey ^{Richland Po} "Flour Story"
11. June 20, 1852 Daniel + Martha Ramsey Highland, La.
12. August 10, 1852 From William + M. A. Outland
To Rebecca Parker Plainfield
13. July 4 1853 Daniel + Martha Ramsey Richland Co
14. 8th mo 20th 1855 To Cousins Wm P. Outland
and Mary A. Outland
15. Will of William Townsend

March 14 1852

Often Remembered Father & Mother this may
in form you that we are all tolerable well at present
truly hoping when those few lines may come to hand they
may you all enjoying a good degree of health and strength
we received your letter last evening which was dated they
22 of last month which was a great satisfaction to us to hear
from you though sorry to hear that Mother was so unwell
and that they eyesight had failed so much for it is such
a melancholy thing to lose they faculty of sight and yet retain
they faculty of hearing that which we can not see well she
said that you have had they coldest winter that has been
for they 12 or fifteen years well you have not had as
cold a winter as we have for our coldest weather they mercury
stood 27 degrees below zero and i can tell you it was some one
thing you have not had that we have and that is they wind i do
think i can say in truth that i never did see and hear as much
wind in all my life as i have since we have been in iowa
just our common winds here you would think it was a storm
in indiana they is now a blowing to all night well i reckon
i must quit about they wind for i no that you are tired
of hearing about it before now as to george stalkers coming
back this spring they will not come they staid all night
at our house three weeks ago last fourth day on their
way back they on the next day down to William

Shenkan on pleasant plain prairie and has rented
a place down their two miles and a half south of Richland
so we cant get him to oregon i dont want any of you
to think hard of what we said about going to oregon for
we had no thought of going there we said it because that is all
^{we} we can hear tell of here is going oregon and Father we
thank the very much and take it as a kindness from a
Father for that money ^{sent} me for to get a barrel of
flour to start to oregon with but i am going to get
some flour to start back to indiane with for we aint
had any biscuit in our house but once since last June
and we would not of had that but some movers staid
here they night before christmas and they had a sack
of flour in their wagon and their horse ^{got} to it that night
and tore their into and spilt some on the ground and after
they went away i went and gathered up enough to make
us a first rate mess i think uncle Joel hodgin is doing
very wrong for selling out and moving to iowa for i
just do now that him nor aunt lizze will not like they
country if they was here to day they would say well
well dont this beat out any thing well Father we
bin hinting about comeing this some time and now
iam just a going to come out right plain about it
iam a going to come back sell or not sell if iam
permitted to live that long and i want to now what
the and they rest of the thinks about it for we can rent our
place most any time we say so but daniel is a fraid we

cant get ^{house} any to go into nor nothing to do but i tell
him he can work enough in harvest and corn gathering & and
get enough wheat and corn to last us a year and the balance
of his time he can work at something else and i certainly can
get something to do for i have improved right smart in
sewing and good many other things and Mother i have got my
flax and toespun and is awaiting for the weather to turn warm
so i can have the loom in the porch for ther aint room enoug^h
in the house to have the loom in it and i made two kettles of soap
yesterday which is first rate they reason we cant sell our
place is because the emigration to oregon is so great that
is land down to almost nothing some would almost give
their land ^{away} rather than to miss going most of the people
think that the price of land will be up in a few years
and daniel ^{dont} want to sell his till he can get the ^{room}
of ^{it} the reason that daniel dont right any in this letter
is because he is a righting a letter to Samuel Lotchers
and tell John Ramsey Detsy Jones has been very sick
for the last eight or nine weeks with a pain in her hift
and thigh so that there was no hopes of her ever a getting
well but i was down to see her last fourth day and she
was considerably better so must come to a close for i now
you are tired of reading this now Father i want the
to answer this as soon as it ^{come} to hand or have it done this
from Daniell Martha Ramsey to ^{their} affectionate

Q Q Father & Mother
William & Ann Townsend Q Q