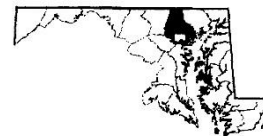


The Baltimore County Genealogical Society



THE NOTEBOOK



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P.O. Box 10085 – Towson, MD 21285-0085

March 1, 2025

Research Tips of the Quarter

Tricks for Reading Difficult Handwriting

by Ken Zimmerman

When one finds it difficult to read the handwriting of a person's name on a death certificate:

- Try finding the person's first or last name in the newspaper using an internet program like Newspapers.com or Genealogybank.com. Search the names in the newspaper for about 5 days from date of death.
- Search the death index which is arranged by first letter last name and then sometimes the next vowel of person last name and date of death. Search for the death certificate number. The Last Name and First Name are normally legible.
- If the handwriting is hard to decipher from the style of the letters. You may need to look at other certificates to get a better understanding of the letters' format.
- Findagrave.com is a good resource to search on the first name and date of death if you know the cemetery. There may be tombstone.
- Use the cemetery publications to look for the name.
- Enlarge the view of the certificate from 100% to 200%.

The above techniques have been used to read death certificates for the BCGS Indexing Project.

NOTE: You can search the BCGS death index on our website. Partial names and a range of years can be used.

Military Database: Beneficiary Identification Records Locator Subsystem (BIRLS) Death File

Courtesy of Barbara Jones

BIG NEWS! The Group **Reclaim the Records** filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) suit for the BIRLS database against the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in September 2018. As a result of the lawsuit in mid-2020, the records were finally handed over in mid-2022. The records are now online and searchable at BIRLS.org, a new website that even includes a free FOIA-filing system built in, to make it easier to request the underlying records from the VA, right from your web browser.

LINKS:

Reclaim the Records: [Reclaimtherecords.org](https://reclaimtherecords.org)

Read Announcement: [Reclaimtherecords.org/records-request/20](https://reclaimtherecords.org/records-request/20)

New BIRLS Website: [Birls.org](https://birls.org)

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Voter Registration Records Online

by Sara Allen

Voter registration records can provide valuable information about current and historical family members. These records can place a specific named person at a particular place and particular date in time, thus verifying residence and even acting as a census substitute in years for which census records are not available. Sometimes voter registration records may provide birth dates or birth years for individuals, which can be helpful when this information is unknown. When tracing modern-day persons of interest, voter registration records can help you locate a current address for a birth parent, former classmate, or long-lost friend that you are trying to reconnect with. Finally, locating voter registration records for our ancestors provides insights into the importance of voting rights to our ancestors and illuminates valuable social context about our family and their every-day lives. Many historical and modern voting registration records are being added to online genealogical databases and to state and local government websites.

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Ancestry.com (Home and Library editions) and FamilySearch.org (free) have recently added United States voter registration information to their online databases. Various states are available for various years, and more are being added all the time, so keep checking back. For example, in the Ancestry collection, "Ohio, U.S., Voter Registration Records, 1900-2023," I was able to access the recent voting registration records of a friend, her ex-husband, and her twenty-something aged children rather easily. I found their complete names (first, middle, last), birth dates, addresses at the time of the voter registration, and years of voter registration. At FamilySearch, the records appear to be more historical in nature. In Georgia for example, I find in the collection, "Georgia, County Voter Registrations, 1856-1941," a voter registration for the year 1900 in Hancock County, which gives the voter's name, age, district, race, and occupation.

I did not find any voter registration records for Indiana online at the genealogy websites. I did find that you can search the current voting registration records at the State website here: <https://indianavoters.in.gov/>. You must know the name, date of birth, and county of registration for the person you seek. If the person's registration is found, you can see their address, their poll location, which elections they voted in, and the election districts that they live in.

Voter registration information for some foreign countries is also available online on genealogical databases. United Kingdom voter registration information has been online for some time at Ancestry.com and FindMyPast. On Ancestry, there are several collections for the UK with the words "Electoral Registers" in the title of the collection. You can search the Ancestry Card Catalog by title under the Search tab at Ancestry. The earlier lists include name and address only, while some of the more recent lists will also include an age range for the person, which can help narrow down possibilities. New Zealand and Australia voting registrations are also online at Ancestry and FindMyPast. Those rolls will often give the occupation of the voter on the document, and can be found using the title "Electoral Rolls." Finally, Canadian voter registration records can be found by searching the title "Voters Lists" at Ancestry.

Voting registration records can be a boon to filling in interesting details about the lives of our ancestors and finding the current location of modern-day persons. Happy hunting!

Source: *Genealogy Gems: News from the Allen County Public Library at Fort Wayne*

No. 249, November 30, 2024 www.GenealogyCenter.org.

Using AI for Genealogy Research

By David Powell

This is the first in a series of articles about the use of Artificial Intelligence in your genealogical research. Each article will address one web site or one aspect of using AI. In this first article we'll spotlight the use of AI at Familysearch.org in their experimental labs area.

FamilySearch.org has been pioneering AI's handwriting capabilities to search through their extensive collection of records. In recent weeks they have added a huge number of new collections that can be searched. They now have over 3,400 hand written collections searchable from all over the world as of this date. For Maryland there are 15 collections ranging from Maryland, Births 1799 to 1830, to Maryland Religious from 1790 to 1822. By far the largest collections in the Maryland series are the legal records. They have used AI to "read" all the Maryland Wills and Deeds from the 1700s to 2017 (over 4m records) and Maryland Deaths 1878 to 1984 (over 500 thousand records, not death certificates but other death records such as obituaries, church records, burials, etc.). Besides the Maryland Wills and Deeds they also have the Maryland Legal records for some unspecified period (over 7m records).

To access this search capability you should visit FamilySearch.org/labs. If you haven't logged into FamilySearch.org it will ask you to do so, and then you will be presented with a number of experimental sites they are working on. Choose the one labeled "Expand Your Search With Full Text" and click on "Go To Experiment".

On the next screen you can find a specific collection to search by using the section on the lower left or use the name and keyword search on the upper right. From here you would continue to search as you would normally do. Keep an eye on this space in FamilySearch.org as they are adding collections on a more regular basis. Happy researching!

A Brief History of Towson

Published 1954 Source from Family search.org--Contributed by Liz McNeil, 1 May 2022.

Towson grew from a mere village to one of Maryland's most important communities since the courthouse was removed from Baltimore City. Towson got its name from an English family that came to Baltimore County some 60 years before the American Revolution. The first recorded mention of the name Towson in Baltimore County was in 1720 when the rent roll of the county read as follows:

"Vulcania surveyed for Thomas Towson, February 22, 1720 on ye south side of ye great Falls of ye Gunpowder beginning at the two red oaks on ye south ridge of ye north side of the run called Middle run, said trees bring ye boundary trees of ye land of Charles Merryman, Jr. called Brotherly Fellowship. In 1771, it is recorded that a Samuel Worthington, one of the justices of the Levy Court, paid Thomas Towson levy of 113 squirrel skins, Thomas was a blacksmith by trade."

The next Towson mentioned in Baltimore County was William. He was assessed 400 acres of land in three tracts, including all of the land north of Baltimore for 10 miles and including the present Towson. It was William Towson who build the first house on the ridge and it was for him that Towson was named. William Towson married Ruth Gott and their first son was Ezekiel. Towson court records of Baltimore Town show that Ezekiel Towson in 1768 was granted a license to run a tavern at a cost of "40 pounds, no shillings, no pence."

One old landmark which stood until 1929 was the Towson Tavern, a stone structure with walls 18 inches thick and build over a foundation of logs. The Tavern operated a large stable and wagoner's yard. Some historians believe that George Washington slept at the tavern. Ezekiel Towson married Ruth Cromwell and they had twelve children, the most famous of whom was Nathan who distinguished himself in the War of 1812. Nathan was born in Towson and was living in Louisiana when it was purchased from grants. He was appointed Paymaster General of the United States Army in 1819.

The Towson Family of Baltimore County

Excerpted from Maryland Families by Robert W. Barnes

1. [-?-] Towson is said to have had three sons (Winifred Levering Holmand Dodge, "The Towson Family," Maryland): **2. Charles**, b. c1680; **3. William**, b. c1685; and **4. Thomas**, b. c1688.

2. Charles Towson, son of [-?-] (1) Towson, was born c1680, giving his age as 39 in 1718 (MCHR PL#3:582).

3. William Towson, son of [-?-] (1) Towson, was born c1685 and died after 1715. He married Catherine Allen, and had at least two children (Dodge): **5. Darius**, b. c1710; and **6. Dorcas**, b. c1715, m. Henry Sater (N.B. Dodge gives no documentation for this marriage). Dorcas Towson Sater married 2nd, John Howard by August 1759 (BALR B#G:530).

4. Thomas Towson, son of [-?-] (1) Towson, was born c1688 and died by 11 November 1728. He married c1710 Sarah [-?-], who married as her second husband Duncan Coleman. Thomas Towson patented 200 a. *Vulcania* on 13 July 1724 (MPL PL#6:47, IL#A:195).

Sarah Towson, administratrix, posted an administration bond on 27 July 1728 (BAAB 4:215). Towson's estate was inventoried on 11 November 1728 by Luke Stansbury and Thomas Matthews and values at £184.9.2. Thomas and Mary Tipton signed as kin. It included a quire of paper and one pencil at £0.1.3, and a parcel of old books at ten shillings. John Tipton and Mary Tipton signed as kin. Sarah Towson, administratrix, filed the inventory on 11 November 1728 (BINV 4:79). Duncan and Sarah Coleman filed an account of Towson's estate on 16 April 1731 (BAAD 3: 85).

Duncan and Sarah Coleman filed an account of Towson's estate on 16 April 1731 (BAAD 3: 85). In March 1733/4 Coleman posted a bond that he would pay the orphans of Thomas Towson their share of their father's estate; later Coleman posted a notice that he would not be responsible for the debts of his wife Sarah.

Thomas and Sarah were the parents of (order of birth uncertain): **7. Abraham**; **8. William**, b. c1712; **9. Thomas**, b. c1728; **10. Joseph**; and possibly **11. Richard**, who married Sarah Rutledge on 26 December 1758.

5. Darius Towson, son of William (3), was born c1710 (Dodge), and died in 1736. He married [-?-] Tolley.

No probate records for Darius Towson were filed in the Prerogative Court.

He was the father of (Reamy and Reamy, *St Paul's Parish Register*: 1:11) **12. William Tolley**, b. 23 January 1735.

7. Abraham Towson, son of Thomas (4) and Sarah, died by 9 June 1752 when an administration bond was posted by James Carey, with Thomas Norris as surety (BAAB 4:276). He married Elizabeth Mahone on 2 January 1745 (Reamy and Reamy, *St Paul's Parish Register*, 1:34).

William Rogers and John Moore appraised Towson's personal estate at £72.15.9. William Towson signed as next of kin, and James Carey filed the inventory on 18 September 1754 (MINV 57:363). His estate was administered by James Carey on 18 September 1754 and again on 9 November 1754. The first account contained an entry for burying the wife of the deceased (BAAD 4:224, 240).

Abraham and Elizabeth had two children, who chose their uncle William as their guardian: **13. Mary**; and **14. Dorcas**.

8. William Towson, son of Thomas (4) and Sarah, was born c1712 and died in Baltimore County in 1772. He married 1st, on 24 February 1735 Ruth Gott. On 24 March 1742 Ruth was named as a daughter of Richard Gott (MWB 28:106 abst. by Gibb). William married 2nd, c1740 Dinah Wilmot (MWB 25:531 abst. by Gibb; MDAD 28:1, 33:153). She was a sister of Rachel Therap [Thorpe?] (BAWB 2:348, 3:532). On 27 October 1771 Ruth was named as an heir of Rachel Wilmot (BAAD 7:114). Rachel Thorpe, administratrix, had posted a bond to administer the estate of Edward Thorp (BAAB 4:247).



The Towson Family of Baltimore County

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In November 1730, as an orphan of Thomas Towson, he chose Walter James as his guardian. He was charged with bastardy, confessed, and was fined 30 shillings at the March 1743/4 Court Baltimore County Court Proceedings 1743-1745:172-173)

In 1750 he was listed in the Baltimore County Debt Book as owning 200 a. *Vulcania*. On 24 April 1752 Samuel Gott, with the consent of his wife Rachel, conveyed to William Towson, blacksmith, 73 a. part *Gunner's Range* (BALR TR#D: 348). On 3 June 1761 Towson, with the consent of wife Dinah, conveyed 38 a. *Towson's Chance* to Isaac Risteau (BALR B#: 132).

About May 1760 Towson was one of the contributors for sufferers from the Boston Fire; he was in the Congregation of Rev. John Davis (CMSP State Papers, Black Books: 117 Port.).

On 3 June 1761 William Towson, with consent of wife Dinah, conveyed 38 a. of *Towson's Chance* to Isaac Risteau (BALR B#: 132).

William Towson died leaving a will dated 8 April 1772 and proved 1 August 1772. Son **Ezekiel** was to have the part of *Gunner's Range* he was living on; Ezekiel's daughter **Anne** was to have personalty when she came of age. His daughter **Rachel Bailey** was to have personalty [*movable assets, as distinguished from real estate; things, including animals which are not real property or investments*], Son **Abraham**, by his second wife, Dinah, was left £100. Son **John** was to have *Adam's Garden*, bought from Thomas Herly who bought it from Adam Shipley; son **Thomas** was to have one shilling; son **Charles** was to have 150 a. *Vulcania* and personalty including smith's tools, and was to be under the care of Thomas Bailey to age 21. His wife Dinah was to have personalty as part of her thirds. His lot in *Jones Addition to Baltimore Town*, his blacksmith's shop, and *Little Valley* bought from John Avery was to be sold and the proceeds to be divided among all his children except Ruth and Thomas. Isaac Towson Avery, son of Catherine Avery, was to have 46 a, and 4 a., both parts of *Vulcania*. William Towson Allen, son of Catherine Avery was to have personalty. Daughter **Catherine Avery** was to have benefit of the above as long as she should remain "sole" and not found to be pregnant by any man; she was to live with her husband John Avery but not to support him with any part of his [Towson's] estate and if she should [die] Thomas Bailey was to take her estates from her and see to the education of her children. Son-in-law Thomas Bailey was named executor. James Yoe, Wm. Bosley of William, James Sudden, Wm. Harrod, and Robert Saunders witnessed the will (BAWB, 3:222).

Thomas Bailey, executor, with John Buck and Benj, Meades as sureties, on 1 August 1772 posted a bond worth £1000 (BAAB 4:251). Bailey filed an account of Towson's estate on 28 August 1773, and cited two inventories, of £66.10.1 and £56.9.8. Dinah Towson was the only legatee named (MDAD 68:92; BAAD 6:314). Another account was filed on 27 March 1773, listing assets of ?526.6.2 and payments of £434.14.10. Legatees were Ruth Green wife of George Green and Towson's son John (MDAD 69:187).

Bailey filed an account on 11 February 1792, paying legacies to William Towson Allan, Rachel Bailey, Ann Towson, and Charles Towson. Abraham Towson had never returned home 10 years after William's decease so his legacy was paid to Ezekiel, Charles, and John Towson. Legacies were paid to the accountant's wife, to Isaac Towson, and money was paid for the support of Catherine Avery's children (BAAD 10:527).

Dinah Towson died leaving a will dated 27 July 1772 and proved 24 September 1783. She left her entire estate real and personal, to her daughter Ruth Green and her husband George Green who were named executors. Sarah Franklin, Thomas Franklin, and Thomas Franklin. Jr., witnessed the will. In a codicil dated 27 May 1782 she left the (?) 50 left her by her sister, Rachel Therep, to George Green. William Cromwell and Eliz. Cromwell witnessed the will (BAWB 3:532).

William and Ruth were the parents of: **15. Ezekiel**, b. 28 December 1736 (Reamy and Reamy, *St Paul's Parish Register*: 1:11); and **16. Rachel**, m. Thomas Bailey on 26 December 1758 (SJSJG: 21)..

The Towson Family of Baltimore County

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William and Dinah were the parents of: **17. Catherine**, b. 1740, m. 1st, [-?-] Allen, and 2nd, John Avery; **18. Abraham**, b. c1742; **19. William, Jr.**, b. c1743; **20. John**, b. c1747; **21. Ruth**, b. c1749, m. John Green; and **22. Charles**, m. Betsy [-?-] Trapnell.

- 9. Thomas Towson**, son of Thomas (4) and Sarah, was born c1725 and was living as late as 1783. He married Elizabeth [-?-] (possibly Baker, daughter of Charles and Margaret [-?-]) (Baker, "A Baker's Dozen," *MGSB* 27 (2) (Spring 1986) 179).

He patented three tracts of land; 50 a. *Towson's Inheritance* on 4 May 1750 (MPL BY#1:527, BY#3:8); 50 a. *Buck Range* on 13 September 1762 (MPL BC#18:2455, BC#212:27); and 35 a. *James Lot* on 20 September 1762 (MPL BC#21:345, BC#22:198).

In October 1783 Thomas Towson stated he would not pay the debts of his wife Elizabeth (*MJBA* 16 October 1783). Elizabeth Towson stated she has not left her husband, but he refused to support her and her two children. She denied the scandalous accusation made by him concerning her and Dr. John Cradock's Negro, and the following persons who knew her attested to her good character. /s/ Dr. John Cradock, George Hammond, Ann Cromwell, Jeremiah Johnson, *et al* (*MJBA* 7 October 1783).

In 1783 Thomas Towson was listed as a pauper in Middle River Upper and Back River Upper Hundred (Barnes and Carothers, *1783 Tax List*: 62).

Thomas and Elizabeth were the parents of (Reamy and Reamy, *St Thomas' Parish Register*: 17): **23. Thomas**, b. 25 April 1752; **24. Sarah**, b. 18 January 1754; **25. Joshua**, b. 18 January 1756; **26. Hannah**, b. 23 October 1758; **27. James**, b. 21 September 1760; and **27. Shadrach**, b. 3 September 1762.

- 12. William Tolley Towson**, son of Darius (6), was born 23 January 1735 in St. Paul's Parish, and died 1767 in Baltimore Co. He married Hannah Wilson, who married 2nd, by 24 July 1770 Abraham Brittain.

On 3 April 1769 Hannah Towson, administratrix, with Ezekiel Towson and Henry Sater as sureties, posted a bond worth £500 (BAAB 4:296). On 3 October 1769 John Pindell and William Randall appraised his personal estate at £332.15.0. Henry Sater and William Towson signed as next of kin, and Hannah, now the wife of Abraham Brittain, filed the inventory on 24 July 1770 (MINV 104:358). Hannah Brittain filed an account of his estate on 24 July 1770. She cited an inventory of £332.15.0, and listed payments of £93.10.11 (MDAD 63:188; BAAD 6:274).

William Tolley Towson died by 15 January 1787, leaving Abraham Britton, executor, and a minor child **Jacob T. Towson**, Joseph Sater, guardian of the child, filed an account (BAGA 1:13). On 27 January 1787, Jacob T. Towson [?], guardian of another son, William Towson, filed an account (BAGA 1:15).

William Tolley and Hannah were the parents of: **28. Susannah**, b. 1760; **29. Jacob Tolley**, b. 1763; and **30. William**, b. 1765, d. 1835.

- 15. Ezekiel Towson**, son of William (8), blacksmith, was born 28 December 1736. Aged c31, he deposed on 28 December 1767 (BALR B#Q:696, 699). He died Saturday, 9th inst., in his 70th year, at his residence on the York Turnpike. He bore an active part in the Revolutionary War (*BT* 13 November 1805). He married by 14 September 1768 Ruth, daughter of Joseph and Comfort Cromwell, widow of Baltimore Co. (BAWB 3:101, 4:241; MWB 37:427, abst. in *Maryland. Cal. of Wills* 14:102). Mrs. Ruth Towson, widow of Ezekiel Towson, died 1 December in her 69th year. The funeral was from Mrs. Rebecca Towson's, near Towson's Tavern (*BFG* 3 December 1808).

Towson served on the Baltimore Co. Committee of Observation, having been elected on 23 September 1775. He was a 1st Lieutenant in the Baltimore Co. Militia Company No. 5, on 19 December 1775. and became a Captain on 20 December 1776. He took the Oath of Allegiance in 1778 (*BARP*: 274).

In 1783 Ezekiel Towson was listed in Middlesex Hundred as owning 135 a. *Deer Park*. His household consisted of eight white inhabitants. He was surety for William Towson, a single man. He also owned 75 a. *Gunner's Range*

The Towson Family of Baltimore County

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in Middle River Upper and Back River Upper Hundred (Robert W. Barnes and Bettie Stirling Carothers, *1783 Tax List of Baltimore County*, Carothers: Lutherville, 1978:47, 48), Towson warned the public not to take any assignment for a bond from Philip Crawford Pearce (*MJBA* 24 June 1785).

On 3 October 1806 it was ordered that Philimon and Nathan Towson, administrators of Ezekiel Towson, deceased, sell at public sale the personal estate of the deceased, except the old Negro man Nick and wearing apparel, and return an account of the sales thereof to this court (BAOC 6:136)

A court case, found in Maryland Chancery Paper #2382, states that Ezekiel Towson was the father of: **31. Philimon**; **32. William**; **33. Elizabeth**, wife of Lewis Heck; **34. Ruth**, who married William Daugherty and was living in Western Virginia; **35. Nathan**; **36. Ann**, b. by 8 April 1772; and **37. [-?]**, died by 1809.

18. Abraham Towson, son of William (8) and Dinah, was born c1742. He May be the Abraham Towson who married Jane Gates on 12 February 1794 (Reamy and Reamy, *St Paul's Parish Register*: 1:76).

19. William Towson, son of William (8) and Dinah Wilmot, was born c1743 and died in 1767. He married Frances [-?] (*BCF*: 648). Frances married 2nd, James Perigoe.

William Towson died leaving a will dated 3 December 1767 and proved 8 February 1768. His wife Frances was left his entire estate, real and personal. She and friend William Govane were named executors. James Leakin and Henry Stevenson of Edward witnessed the will (BAWB 3:96).

On 14 April 1768, William Govane and Frances Towson, administrators [*sic*], with A. C. Stenhouse as sureties, posted a bond worth £500 (BAAB 4:256). On 24 September 1770 James Perigoe, his administrator de bonis non, with John Spicer and Job Garrison as sureties, posted a bond worth £500 (Eliz. Towson and Wm. Govane had been the original administrators) (BAAB 5:252).

James Peregoy (Perrigoe), administrator, with Andrew Hooke and Thomas Constable as sureties, on 7 December 1770, posted a bond worth £100 to administer the estate of Frances Towson (*alias* Perrigoe) (BAAB 2:526).

20. John Towson, son of William (8) and Dinah, was born c1747 and died 17 September 1832. He married 'Prunelfry' Buck on 28 December 1771 (*SJSG*: 140). Penelope Buck was born 1753 and died 28 July 1794. They are buried at Mt. Paran Presbyterian Church on Liberty Road in Baltimore Co.

John Towson took the Oath of Allegiance before the honorable Edward Cockey in 1778 and May have been a Captain (*BARP*: 274).

John Towson was the father of: **Thomas**; on 14 March 1795 was bound out, with the consent of his father John, to Robert Stewart to learn the trade of stone cutter for 5 years and 11 months (BIND WB#A:67-68); and **William**; on 7 March 1795, with the consent of his father John, was bound out to Alexander Perry for 4 years (BIND EWB#A:65-66).

22. Charles Towson, son of William (8), married Betsy [-?] Trapnell. In March 1775 he chose Thomas Bailey as his guardian (BAMI 1772, 1775-1781: 119).

Towson was a Non-Juror to the Oath of Allegiance in 1778 (*BARP*: 274). In 1783 he was listed in Middle River Upper and Back River Upper Hundred as owning 150 a. *Vulcania*. There were four white inhabitants in his household (Barnes and Carothers, *1783 Tax List*: 60).

25. Joshua Towson of North and Reamy, *St Paul's Parish Register*: 1:132): **Rachel**, b. 25 November 1798, buried, 19 September 1799.

29. Jacob Tolley Towson, son of William Tolley (12) and Hannah, was born 1763 and died 1841. He married Jane [-?].

The Towson Family of Baltimore County

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Jane Towson, wife of Jacob T. Towson, merchant of Williamsport, died 24 August, leaving a husband and two daughters (EWS 27 August 1794). In 1783 Jacob Tolley Towson was listed in Middle River Upper and Back River Upper Hundred as owning 89 a. of *Merryman's Adventure* (Barnes and Carothers, 1783 Tax List: 60).

30. William Towson, son of William Tolley (12) and Hannah, was born 1765 and died 1835.

An orphan, aged 19 on 12 January 1784, on 9 April 1783 he was bound out to Joseph Sater to learn the trade of a hatter; on 10 August 1785 at age 20, he chose Jacob T. Towson to be his guardian (BAOC 1:47, 218).

31. Philemon Towson, son of Ezekiel (15), and Mrs. Catherine Cushman, both of Baltimore, were married 18 April by Rev. Shimer (BA 20 October 1811). She died 24 January 1832, aged 60 years (BA 28 January 1832).

UNPLACED

Towson, [-?]-, m. by 23 September 1779 Susannah, widow of Alexander Frazier, brother of John Frazier, late of the Island of New Providence, merchant (BAWB 3: 552). Frazer, Alexander, brother of John Frazer, d. by 23 September 1779 leaving a widow Susannah who was described in John Frazer's will as having m. 2nd, [-?]- Towson (BAWB 3:552). Eleanor Fraser, late of the Island of New Providence in the Bahamas, in her will made 23 May 1795 named her natural son Alexander McKenzie, by John McKenzie of New Providence, the child she is now 'aciene' [*enciente*] with, and her three half-sisters, Patty, Mary, and Catherine Towson, daughters. of Susanna Towson now living in Baltimore (BAWB 5:353). Susanna Towson died Sat., 13 April 1811 in her 62nd year (*Baltimore American* 19 April 1811). She left a will dated 22 March 1811 and proved 17 April 1811. She named her daughter Maria Catherine Towson. William McMechen was executor, and saac McKim, John Purviance, and Barbara Spear witnessed the will (BAWB 9: 116, abst, by Burns).

Towson, [-?]-, m. by 30 March 1787, Elizabeth, daughter of Charles Baker (BAWB 4:394).

Towson, [-?]-, married by 5 February 1808 Ann, daughter of John Cockey, Sr. (BAWB 8:298, abst. by Burns).

Towson, [-?]-, died by 15 October 1801 when James, Charlotte and Henry Howard Towson came into court and the court appointed Francis [*sic*] Towson as their guardian, who accepted and offers James Rice and Simon Perine as her securities. (Baltimore County Orphan Court Proceeding 4:198). In 1798 Francis Towson wuit in Middle River Upper Hundred as owning 181? *Gay's Inspection, Small Valley, and Talbot's Slavery* (George J. Horvath, Jr., *Particular Assessment Lists for Baltimore and Carroll Counties, 1798*, Westminster: Family Line Publications, 1986: 31).

Abednigo Towson married Mary [-?]-. They were the parents of (Reamy and Reamy, *St. James, Baltimore Co., Parish Register*, 37):

Joshua, b. 18 April 1785; and **Elisabeth**, b.22 April 1800).

Mrs. Eliza Towson [*sic*] and John Newton, all of Baltimore, were married last Thursday by Rev. Ryland (BPAT17 November 1813).

Henry H. Towson and Priscilla Crane, both of Baltimore, were married on 7 December by Rev., Styre (BA 14 December 1815).

Jacob Towson and Jane Boyd were married last Saturday evening (*Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser* 2 April 1788). They were the parents of (Peden, *Presbyterian Records of Baltimore City*: 64): **Lydia**, b. 25 February 1789, bapt. 26 April 1789.

James Towson was a Private in Capt. J. Cockey's Baltimore Co. Dragoons at Yorktown in 1781 (BARP: 274).

James, Charlotte and Henry Howard Towson came into court on 15 October 1801 and the court appointed Francis [*sic*] Towson as their guardian, who accepted and offered James Rice and Simon Perine as her securities. (BAOC 4:198)

The Towson Family of Baltimore County

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Mr. James Towson was married last Thursday evening by Rev. Mr. Glendy to Miss Sarah Root, all of Baltimore (BPAT 1 November 1817; BFG 1 November 1817).

Joseph Towson, of Baltimore Co., died leaving a will dated 17 January and proved 5 March 1745. To wife and executrix, Elizabeth Towson, her thirds, and if anything is left over, to the child in her womb, to be called Joseph if male, Elizabeth if female. William Towson, John Bond, and Thomas Towson witnessed the will (MWB 24:321).

Joseph Towson, of Baltimore, and Sarah Yundt, daughter of Leonard Yundt, were married in Baltimore Co. on 24 April (BA 2 May 1814).

Martha Towson died 11 November 1808 in her 24th year (BFG 16 November 1808).

Lieut.-Col. Nathan Towson of the U. S. Light Artillery, and Sophia Bingham, daughter of Caleb Bingham, were married in Boston (BA 16 April 1816).

Obadiah Towson married Frances [-?-]. They were the parents of: (Reamy and Reamy, St., James Parish Register: 11, 16): **James**, b. 17 January 1788; **Charlotte**, b. 21 July 1790.

Obadiah Towson and Miss Catherine O. Irvine, both of Baltimore, were married on Thursday by Rev. Moranviolle (Baltimore Sun 4 August 1812).

Parthanessa Towson died Friday, 11 November, in her 24th year (Baltimore Evening Post 17 November 1808).

Richard Towson and Tabitha Rutledge were married on 26 December 1758 (SJSJG: 103).

Ruth Towson and Joshua Anderson, all of Baltimore Co., were married Thursday by Rev. Shinn (BFG 2 June 1810).

Sarah Towson and James Amos, both of Baltimore, were married last Thursday. (Baltimore Patriot and Mercantile Advertiser. 25 May 1818).

Mrs. Susannah Towson was the widow of Alexander Fraser, brother of John, in the latter's will (BAWB 3:552). She was named as the mother of Eleanor Fraser of the Island of New Providence in the Bahamas in the latter's will, made 23 February 1795 and proved 24 November 1795; Eleanor also named three half-sisters, daughters of her Susannah Towson: Patty, Mary, and Catherine, all living in Baltimore (BAWB 4:353). Susannah Towson died Saturday, 13 April, in her 62nd year (Baltimore American 19 April 1811). She died leaving a will dated 22 March 1811 and proved 17 April 1811. She left her estate to her daughter Maria Catherine Towson. William McMechen was named executor. Isaac McKim, John Purviance, and Barbar Spear witnessed the will (BAWB 9:1165).

Mr. Thomas Towson was married last evening [Thurs.] by the Rev. Mr. Kurtz, to Miss Henrietta Grubb, all of Baltimore (BPAT 17 October 1817; FGBA 17 October 1817).

William Towson married Rebecca [-?-]. They were the parents of (Reamy and Reamy, St Paul's Parish Register: 1:59, 75): (all baptized on 20 September 1791): **Eleanor**, b. 17 September 1785, **Ann Tully**, b. 18 April 1787; **Elizabeth**, b. 4 January 1789; and **Ruth**, b. 18 December 1790; **William**, b. 15 October 1794.

William Towson died 18th inst. At his house on the York Road, in Baltimore Co., in his 40th year. His funeral sermon will be preached at the burying ground near his late residence by Rev. Richards (BFG 23 September 1805).

William Towson died by 7 October 1840 when his brother John Towson renounced the right to administer and recommended that letters be granted to Rachel Katting. Edward Latham witnessed. (Baltimore County Register of Wills: Renunciations).



Col. Nathan Towson 1813

The Towson Family of Baltimore County

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ADDENDUM To the Towson Family Tree

by Dan Phelan

Based on the family tree on Familysearch.org, **Ezekiel Towson** was born on 28 December, 1736, and died on 10 November 1805. He first married Sarah Cromwell in 1757 in Towson. She was born in 1738, and gave birth to Elizabeth Ensor (1751-1820). No death date has been reported for Sarah.

Ezekial then married Ruth Cromwell (1738-1808) in 1763 at St. Paul's Church, Baltimore. They had the following children:

Elizabeth Ensor (1751-1820)

Sarah (1760-1807)

John Tolly (1760-1835)

William (1763-1805)

Philamon (1765-?)

Joseph (1767-?)

Ezekiel (1768-?)

Ruth (1769-1870)

John Philip (1769-?)

James (1771-?)

Elizabeth (1772-?)

Ann (1774-?)

Merrican (1780-?)

Wallace [*daughter*] (1783 ?)

General Nathaniel Towson (1784-1854)—*see photo on previous page and article below.*

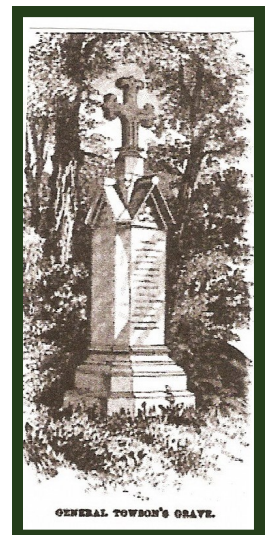
Sarah (1788-?)

Partial Biography for Nathaniel (Nathan) Towson

Excerpts From Wikipedia

With American and British tensions escalating in 1812, Towson was appointed Captain in the United States Army artillery on March 15, 1812. His service during the War of 1812 began with a notable success. His first engagement involved his commanding a small group to capture a British brig, HMS *Caledonia*. The successful capture propelled Towson's reputation. He quickly rose through the ranks, both through his own acts of individual bravery and his effective artillery command. While commanding relatively few artillery pieces, his batteries' discharges were so numerous that his position during the Siege of Fort Erie and became known as "Towson's Lighthouse". During the War of 1812, he commanded artillery during many confrontations, including the Battle of Fort George, the Battle of Stoney Creek, the Battle of Queenston Heights, the Battle of Chippawa, the Battle of Lundy's Lane, and the Siege of Fort Erie.

General Nathan Towson died in Washington D.C. in 1854, and is buried at Oak Hill Cemetery, Washington, D.C. His Findagrave.com memorial page number is 28037049.



Baltimore County Genealogical Society

PO Box 10085

Towson, MD 21285-0085

Baltimore County Genealogy Society

Located in the Parkville Senior Center

8601 Harford Rd, Parkville MD 21234

3rd Floor, Room 308 (Elevator Available)

Monthly Meetings:

4th Sunday of the month

- Eastern European Group—11:45 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- General Meeting—2 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- Speaker—3 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- Library open 12 noon to 2 p.m. for research before meeting

Our Research Days are:

2nd Thursday of the Month—10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

2nd Saturday of the Month—10 a.m. 2 p.m.

4th Thursday of the Month 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.