TOWSEY TALES

NAME: John Towsey
BIRTH DETAILS: circa 1607, East Challow, Berks.
DEATH DETAILS: before 6 December 1680
CHART REF: Towsey Chart F1
MARRIAGE DETAILS: circa 1632
SPOUSE: Dorothie, of Letcombe Regis

We have no proof of who John Towsey's ancestors might have been, although there are records of Towseys in the Wantage area, dating back to a half century before his birth. There was in particular, a Dorothy Towsy, daughter of Alexander Towsy, christened in Wantage in 1606. So it is quite possible that John Towsey was Alexander's son, or maybe nephew. The parish records from that period were patchy at the time and many have disappeared over the intervening four centuries.

John Towsey was a slater, meaning that he either cut or traded in roofing materials. He must have been successful in his business as he was able to leave twelve pounds (a considerable sum in those days), to each of his three children: Elizabeth, Katherine and William. The unspecified balance of his estate went to his wife Dorothy. He signed his will with an “X”.

1640s. Poor but respectable peasants at home

We know of at least one other child of John and Dorothy: their first daughter, Dorothy, christened in May 1634, who probably died young.

John and Dorothy's daughter, Elizabeth, born about 1634, married William Jacob in Wantage, in 1657 and they had two daughters of whom we have a record, who survived into adulthood.

John and Dorothy's other daughter, Katherine, born about 1638, married Mark James of Ashbury, Berkshire, (about 10 miles west of Wantage), in about 1660.

Both Elizabeth and Katherine lived to at least 1691.

William Towsey, John and Dorothy's son, born circa 1642, has his own Towsey Tale.

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