

## FLAGG and TOWNE FAMILIES

### Towne Family

The Descendents of William Towne 1630-1910 and The History of Kennebec County. These were furnished to me by my father-in-law, Dr. Charles Edwin Towne, of 5 Highland Avenue in Waterville, Maine. My wife is Mary Elizabeth Towne. Her brother is Dr. John William Towne of Cushman Road, Winslow, Maine... who also lives on Muscongus Bay in Bremen, Maine

William Towne, born around 1600 in Braceby, England, came to America in 1630. He and his wife Johanna Blessing had eight children: I Rebecca (1621-1692), II John (1624), III Susannah (1625), IV Edmund (1628-1678), V Jacob (1632-1704), VI Mary (1634-1692), VII Sarah (-) and VIII Joseph (1639-1713). The underlined years are the year baptized in Yarmouth England, which may be the birth year. Rebecca and Mary were both executed in Salem in 1692 as witches. Sarah narrowly escaped a similar death but records do not state how.

This article shows the relationship between my wife Mary Towne and my brother-law John Towne and the Flagg Family and two Flaggs: (1) Sarah Pond Flagg, who married Ephraim Towne and (2) Doctor Theophilus Flagg, the first doctor in Hubbardton, Vermont.

Don Sondergeld 6.10.2014

### Flagg Family

[http://archive.org/stream/familyrecordsofd00flag/familyrecordsofd00flag\\_djvu.txt](http://archive.org/stream/familyrecordsofd00flag/familyrecordsofd00flag_djvu.txt) and many items from Ancestry.com are my sources. Here are some excerpts.

#### THE DE FLEGGs IN ENGLAND 1160-1426.

The family of DE FLEGG was seated in the latter part of the twelfth century in the county of Norfolk, on the east coast of England, and bears the name of the Hundreds of East and West Flegg in that county, where they held grants of land in the reign of Henry II.

In the south-eastern corner of Norfolk there is a dense Danish settlement occupying the Hundreds of East and West Flegg [from the Norse word "flegg" or Danish "vlak," meaning flat], a space some eight miles by seven, well protected on every side by the sea and the estuaries of the Bure and the Yare. — [From "Words and Places," by Isaac Taylor, 1885].

In the reign of Henry II there were living in the county of Norfolk, two brothers, Alger de Flegg and Henry de Flegg. Henry was Prior of Norwich in 1168.

THOMAS FLEGG, baptized at Whinbergh, 1615, sailed for America in 1637, when twenty-one years of age, and settled in New England, at Watertown, in the Province of Massachusetts Bay. He was the father of the American branch of the Flagg family,

THE FLAGG LINEAGE FROM THOMAS FLEGG' OF WATERTOWN, MA: GERSHOM FLAGG' (BORN 1730) OF LANCASTER, MASS. 1637-1758

The Genealogical Dictionary of New England Settlers states that "Thomas Flegg of Watertown, MA came as servant of Richard Carver from Scratby in the hundred of East Flegg, Co. Norfolk, a few miles north of Yarmouth, where they emigrated 1637."

So his descendants must not claim that their ancestor came over in the Mayflower, neither will they claim that he was driven from England by the religious persecutions of the times. For, if the family tradition is correct, a love affair brought Thomas Flegg to New England. In the words of our kinsman Charles A. Flagg, of the Library of Congress, Washington, "The tradition of Thomas is that he loved a girl in station below his own; their union was opposed by his family, so they decided to emigrate, and did so, coming in two vessels which sailed in company, and marrying soon after arrival. We do not know the maiden name of the wife Mary, nor date of marriage."

"The record in Hotten gives Thomas Flegg as servant of Richard Carver. That he was not a servant in the usual meaning of the word is sufficiently attested by his appearing in Watertown very soon after as a landowner, and later serving as Selectman. This was a post of real honor in the early days, and the social distinctions were carefully observed. A more careful investigation than I have ever found time to make would probably show that Flegg's relation to Carver was for the voyage only, and was necessitated by some English law requiring that unmarried men below a certain age could not leave the country unless in the train of some man of family."

We find further in Dr. Bond's History of Watertown, Mass., p. 219, that "Thomas Flegg settled in Watertown as early as 1641, and was probably the ancestor of all families bearing that name in this country. He was Selectman 1671, '74, '75, '76, '78, '81, '85, and '87. He lost his left eye by a gunshot accident, previous to 1659."

Thomas Flegg was a son of Bartholomew Flegg was baptised in 1615. Leaving Scratby, England in 1637, he sailed in either the "ROSE" or the "JOHN and DOROTHY"— the two ships sailing in company.

A GERSHOM FLAGG, third child and second son of Eleazer and Mary (Buck) Flagg, was born 10 June, 1730, presumably in Boston, for his parents lived in that city many years prior and subsequent to that date. He was a housewright and a slater by trade, and moved to Lancaster, Mass., before attaining his majority. Why Gershom Flagg left Boston to make his home in Lancaster, we can only surmise, but at least two reasons seem evident. First, his father Eleazer Flagg had, in 1740, purchased the "Slate-Rocks" situated four miles from Lancaster Center: and a second and more sentimental reason is suggested by the follow- ing record, copied from the Lancaster Register of births, deaths and marriages:

"Gershom Flagg entered his intentions of marriage with Mary Willard, Nov 14, 1750." [Lancaster Register.] They were married "Dec 6, 1750, by Jos. Wilder, Junn." Mary Willard was the daughter of Aaron and Mary Willard, of Lancaster, and was born 21 Jan., 1729. In a letter dated Lee, N. H., 13 Feb., 1853, after a visit to Lancaster, Willard Flagg Bliss wrote as follows concerning the old homestead of his greatgrandfather Gershom Flagg: "I was shown where the barn stood, where the tree stood which bore such great plums and the apple trees still bearing from which our ancestors ate. Our greatgrandfather is described as 'a spare light-complected man straight as a candle and a great hand for business.' I drank from the old well which is said to be sunk several feet into the solid rock; it is said in summer to be the best water in Massachusetts. I have a piece of the slate which came from the roof of the old house and which our great- grandfather probably made with his own hands."

“While slating the house of Dr. Gardner, of Boston — according to the family tradition this house was situated between Boston and Lancaster — Gershom Flagg fell and was killed. He is said to have worn a cape-coat, while on the roof on a windy day, and was blown off, striking upon his feet, but lived only long enough for his wife to reach him. He died 28 Dec, 1758, aged twentyeight years.”

Let us now look at the Flagg and Towne Family Relationships.

Thomas Flagg (1616 – 1692) was the first Flagg in America. He had 12 children.

Mary and John Towne are descended from one of the sons of Thomas, a Lieutenant Gershaom Flagg (1641 – 1690) great great great granddaughter, Sally Pond Flagg (1812 – 1888) married Ephraim Towne (1804 – 1864). Another son of Thomas was Ebenezer Flagg (1653 - ? ).

Mary and John Towne are therefore related to the many Gershom Flaggs, especially the Gershom Flag (1705 – 1771) who was buried in the Old Granary Burying Ground in Boston. That Gershom Flagg (1705 – 1771), is a great grandson of Thomas (1616 – 1692).

Mary and John Towne are also related to Dr. Theophilus Flagg (1763? – 1807), who is buried in the cemetery in East Hubbardton, VT. Theophilus Flagg (1763? – 1807) is the great grandson of Ebenzer Flagg ( 1653 - ?). Theophilus was the first doctor in Hubbardton, VT,

### FLAGG Family in Hubbardton, Vermont

Code	Name	DOB - DOD	Information
1.	Allen Flegg	1578 – April 1632	Born in England. Married Elizabeth Deveroys(1580 – 1632)
1.6	Thomas Flagg	1616- 1692(or 2/6/1697)	Born in East Flegg, Norfolk, England. Died in Watertown, MA. Married Mary Underwood (1621 – 1802 ???) 12 children
1.6.7	Eleazer	5/14/1653 – 5/21/1722	Lived in Watertown, MA Married Mary Erle 6 children
1.6.7.3	Eleaser	1675 – 3/28/1745	Born in Concord, MA Married Deborah Thomkins (1689 – 1732) 7 Children
1.6.7.3.8	James	5/3/1723 - 1807	Moved from Concord to Upton, MA. Then settled in Wilmington, VT. Married Anna Morse 8 children
1.6.7.3.8.5	Dr Theophilus	1763? - 9/5/1807	Moved to Hubbardton VT in 1791. Married Sara (1760 - 1822) 1 son
1.6.7.3.8.5.1	James	1788 or 1789 – 1/1/1873	Married Sophia Brayton ( 1788 – 11/23/1867) 10 children

Above data from Ancestry.com, probably has errors, and [http://www.archive.org/stream/familyrecordsofd00flag/familyrecordsofd00flag\\_djvu.txt](http://www.archive.org/stream/familyrecordsofd00flag/familyrecordsofd00flag_djvu.txt)

In Abby Hemenway's History of Hubbardton in Rutland County Vermont we see:

**“Dr. Theophilus FLAGG, the first physician in town, moved to Hubbardton in 1791. He served for a number of years deacon in the church and an elected state representative of the town. He lived on the western loop of Frog Hollow Road east of St Johns Road. He died in 1807. His mare, which he commonly rode on visits to the sick, became so attached to him, would not leave even when turned loose. After his death the mare was sold and taken to another town. She was uneasy, came back, and was found in the cemetery near the doctor's grave. His wife, Sara, died on April 25, 1822.”**  
**(They are both buried in the East Hubbardton Cemetery, which is about one half mile from their home on frog hollow Road.)**

**“James FLAGG, the only son of Dr. Theophilus Flagg, born in 1789, died January 1, 1873; married Sophia Brayton (1867 79 EH). They had eight sons and two daughters. He was an influential citizen, firm in his religious convictions, twice a member of the Legislature, and for many years a deacon of the church. He moved to Castleton about 1853, but returned to Hubbardton a year or two before his death. He left his widow by a second marriage in receipt of a pension, having been one of the Plattsburgh volunteers. His first wife, Sophia, died November 23, 1867.”** (He is also buried in the East Hubbardton cemetery.)

### **FLAGG and TOWNE Family Relationships**

My Code	Name	DOB - DOD	Information
<b>1.</b>	<b>Allen Flegg</b>	<b>1578 – April 1632</b>	<b>Born in England. Married Elizabeth Deveroys(1580 – 1632)</b>
1.6	Thomas Flagg	1616- 1692	Born in East Flegg, Norfolk, England. Died in Watertown, MA. Married Mary Underwood (1621 – 1802) 12 children
1.6.1	Lieutenant Gershom Flagg	1641 - 1690	Born in either England or MA. Killed by Indians in Lamprey River, MA Married Hannah Leffingwell (1643 – 1724) 9 children
1.6.1.3	John Flagg	5/?/1673 – 5/25/1732	Born in Woburn, MA. Died in Boston. Married Abiah Komic (1675 – 1815) 7 children
1.6.1.3.7	<b>Gershom Flagg</b>	1705 - 1771	Born and Died in Boston. Buried in Old Granary Ground Cemetery Married Hannah Pitson (1716 – 1784) 7 children
1.6.1.3.7.4	Gershom Flagg	9/1/1743 (or 1755?) – 5/6/1802	Born in Lancaster, MA and died in Maine First wife: Sarah Pond (10/29/1752 – 4/27/1778) 2 children Second wife: Abigail Bigelow (1773 – 1810) 6 more children
1.6.1.3.7.4.1	Gershom Flagg	12/13/1773 – 12/17/1862	Born in Clinton, ME. First wife: Silence Cushing (11/30/1771 – 5/28/1816). 8 children. Second wife: Betsy Tarbell (??? – 1869). 5 more children

My Code	Name	DOB - DOD	Information
1.6.1.3.7.4.1.8.6	Edwin Towne	2/28/1844 – 10/27/1925	Born in Winslow, ME Married Lydia Ann Gerald (3/23/1844 – 8/27/1922) 5 children
1.6.1.3.7.4.1.8.6.4	Alvah Towne	6/8/1880 – 8/5/1946	Born in Waterville, ME Married Jennie Walker (1/7/1884 – 4.27/1914) 2 children
1.6.1.3.7.4.1.8.6.4.2	<b>Charles Towne</b>	6/29/1906 – 2/22/1988	Married Loretta Dillon (1/8/1908 – 9/3/1973) 2 children

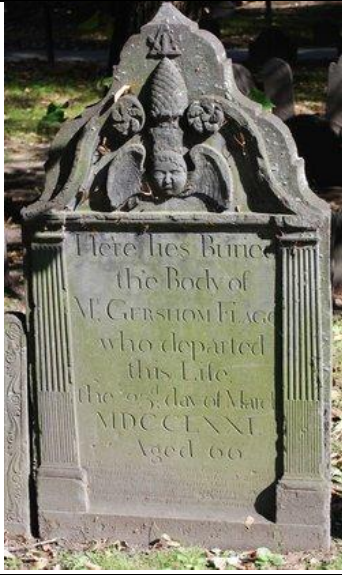
**Appendix (Sources from Ancestry.com)**

My Code #	Name	DOB - DOD	Ancestry.com (after =) ##
1.	Allen Flegg	1578 – April 1632	1154496
1.6	Thomas Flagg	1616- 1692	439783
1.6.1	Gershom Flagg	1641 - 1690	23779037
1.6.7	Eleazer Flagg	5/14/1653 – 5/21/1722	3449403
1.6.1.3	John Flagg	5/?/1673 – 5/25/1732	23783547
1.6.7.3	Eleazer Flagg	1687 – 3/28/1745	23779891
1.6.1.3.4	<b>Gershom Flagg</b>	1705 - 1771	23779038
1.6.7.3.5	James Flagg	5/3/1723 - 1807	23783092
1.6.1.3.4.4	Gershom Flagg	9/1/1743 (or 1755?) – 5/6/1802	23779036
1.6.7.3.5.4	Dr Theophilus Flagg	1763? - 9/5/1807	92296806
1.6.1.3.4.4.1	Gershom Flagg	12/13/1773 – 12/17/1862	23779040
1.6.7.3.5.4.1	James Flagg	1788 or 1789 – 1/1/1873	75490765
1.6.1.3.4.4.1.8	Sally Pond Flagg	3/23/1812 - 1880	18317583

# My Code 1.6.2.4 means John Flagg was the 4<sup>th</sup> child of the 2<sup>nd</sup> child of the 6<sup>th</sup> child of Allen Flegg

## [http://records.ancestry.com/allen\\_flegg\\_records.ashx?pid=1154496](http://records.ancestry.com/allen_flegg_records.ashx?pid=1154496)

**Old Granary Burying Ground in Boston, MA**



**Gershom Flagg (1705 - 1771)  
Old Granary Burying Ground**



**Gershom Flagg (1705 – 1771)**

**Karen Whitney  
Hugging an old relative in Boston**



**Hannah Pitson Flagg (1716 – 1784) #**

**East Hubbardton Cemetery in East Hubbardton, VT**



**Theophilus Flagg**



**Theophilus Flagg**



**Dr. Flagg's house on Frog Hollow  
Road in East Hubbardton, VT ##**



**Dr. Flagg's son James & Grandson,  
Charles Flagg are in this cemetery**

# Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford ,CT and portraits of two of Gershom's children. Painter was Robert Feke (1707 – 1752). Felke also painted Gershom's brother Ebenezer and his wife. Their portraits are in the Redwood Library and Atheneum in Newport, RI.

## Dr Theophilus Flagg's home is about two thirds of a mile from the East Hubbardton Cemetery, a short ride on a mare.