

Timeline of Norton Townshend's Life

- 1815 Norton Strange Townshend, son of Joel and Rebecca Townshend, is born on Christmas day in Clay Coon, Northamptonshire, England.
- 1820 Begins study at Biteswell Academy in Leicestershire.
- 1830 Immigrates with family to Avon, Ohio and settles on a farm.
- 1836 Joel Townshend helps to found the First Congregational Church of Avon, which Norton joins.
- Norton is employed to teach at the district school. The family gains United States citizenship.
- 1837 Townshend begins the study of medicine with Dr. Richard Howard of Elyria and continues his studies at the Cincinnati Medical College in the fall and winter.
- In Cincinnati, Townshend meets and befriends Salmon P. Chase and serves as a "Conductor" on the Underground Railroad.
- 1839 Enrolls in the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City.
- 1840 Graduates and travels to Northamptonshire, England to visit family, then to London and Paris to observe surgeries.
- In June, attends the World Anti-Slavery Convention in London.
- 1841 Studies medicine in Edinburgh, visits Dublin, and sails back to the U.S. from London in April.
- Begins practice of medicine in Avon by July.
- 1843 Organizes Oberlin Peace Society.
- Marries Harriet Newell Wood on December 27.
- 1844 Moves with Harriet to Elyria to take over Dr. Howard's practice, but keeps farm at Avon.
- First child, Arthur Smith Townshend, is born November 11.
- 1845 Appointed trustee of Oberlin College.
- 1846 Presents resolution to establish an agricultural college as part of Oberlin at Board of Trustees meeting, which does not pass.
- Second child, James Houghton Townshend, is born September 28.
- 1848 Elected as Free Soil candidate to Ohio General Assembly.
- 1849 Successfully negotiates for repeal of Ohio Black Laws in exchange for Free Soil coalition with Democrats.
- Son, Arthur, dies of illness.
- Daughter, Mary Rebecca Townshend, is born December 21.
- 1850 Elected to the 32nd Congress, as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.
- 1851 Serves as delegate to the Ohio Constitutional Convention, during which he argues for woman and African American suffrage.
- 1853 Loses congressional seat, but is elected to Ohio State Senate.
- 1854 Harriet dies of tuberculosis January 24.
- Townshend co-founds the Ohio Agricultural College and teaches classes on animal anatomy, veterinary medicine, and feeding and breeding of livestock.
- Marries Margaret Bailey, a mathematics teacher October 17.
- 1855 Arthur Bailey Townshend born July 20.
- 1857 Terminates service on the Oberlin College Board of Trustees in May.
- Daughter, Harriet Norton Townshend, is born September 12.
- Townshend appointed trustee of the Ohio State Asylum for Idiots and Imbecile Youth, where he serves until 1863.
- Advocates state-support of agricultural institutions.
- 1860 Daughter, Alice Margaret Townshend, is born 1860.
- 1862 Appointed by Chase to the U.S. Assay Commission, to analyze the purity of coinage.
- 1863 Appointed Medical Inspector for the Union Army.
- 1865 Returns home from military duties in October.
- 1869 Accepts temporary position as first Professor of Agriculture at Iowa State Agricultural College in Ames, leaving his family behind to look after the farm.
- 1870 Appointed to the Board of Trustees of the newly-created Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College by Ohio Governor Rutherford B. Hayes.
- Aids in selecting the location and defining the curriculum of the new institution.
- 1873 Accepts Chair of Agriculture Department at Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College, which becomes Ohio State University in 1877.
- Named Superintendent of the experimental farm at OA&MC.
- Moves with family (Margaret and all children except James, who is in Stillwater, Minnesota) to Columbus, Ohio.
- Enrolls Harriet, Arthur, and Alice as three of the College's first students.
- 1876 Assists in preparing an exhibit on Ohio's archaeology and gives a speech on agriculture at the U.S. Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia.
- 1877 Townshend replaced by Charles Thorne as Superintendent of Ohio State University farm.
- 1879 Townshend petitions for the establishment of an Ohio Agriculture Experiment Station, affiliated with Ohio State University.
- 1882 Bill providing for Experiment Station passes, and Townshend is put in charge of farm experiments.
- Townshend's brother-in-law, daguerreotypist Thomas Eastery, dies in St. Louis.
- 1886 Becomes Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Ohio State University.
- 1887 Awarded degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine by Ohio State University.
- 1888 Son James dies of tuberculosis on June 26.
- 1889 Margaret's sister, Miriam Easterly, who is living with the Townshends, dies April 18.
- 1891 Townshend named Ohio State University's first Professor Emeritus.
- 1895 Dies July 13 at age 79.
- 1898 Townshend Hall dedicated in Townshend's honor at the University.

