

## GEORGE ALFRED TOWNSEND

George Alfred Townsend (January 3, 1841-April 15, 1914) was born in Georgetown, Delaware, the son of Stephen and Mary (Milbourne) Townsend. The father was an itinerant Methodist preacher and carpenter, who, relatively late in life, studied and practiced medicine. Both parents were descended from families long settled on the Delmarva peninsula.

The future journalist's childhood, until the age of fourteen, was spent in a rapid succession of small towns in Delaware, Maryland and Pennsylvania, but Delaware provided his nearest approach to a permanent home. Nearly all his vacations were passed on farms in the State, and his parents' two longest periods of residence were here, at Delaware City from 1842 to 1845 and at Newark from 1851 to 1853. Between the ages of ten and thirteen he was enrolled in the academic department of Delaware College.

Early in 1854 the family settled permanently in Philadelphia. George Alfred Townsend completed his education there and in 1860 joined the staff of the Philadelphia Inquirer.

As a correspondent for the New York Herald and later the World through the Civil War years, he established himself as a distinguished reporter and columnist. His later years were spent principally in Washington, D.C.; Gapland, Maryland; and New York. He died at New York.

Townsend's writing ranged from reporting and political comment on national themes, through short stories, verse and novels. His