

TAWNEY of Oxford



and their Relatives

by
Martin K Thompson

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PREFACE

Mary Tawney, born about 1704, was my five times great grandmother. As soon as I started researching her family, I discovered that there were some interesting stories to be found.

This volume attempts to bring together much of the information that is available in manuscripts, in print and online. The notes may enable the reader to build up a picture of the Tawney family and their widespread connections and interests.

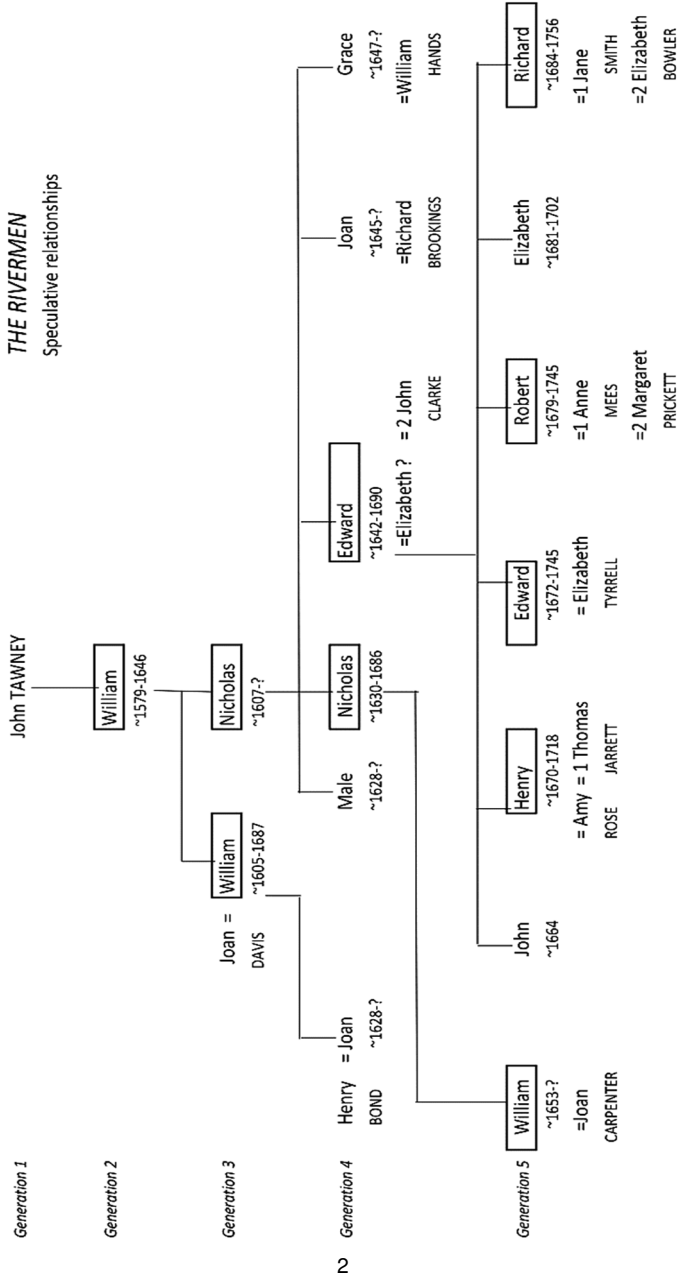
Many interlinking trees are included, and every effort has been made in the text to clarify how each individual fits into the family. The trees, along with the notes, are intended to provide a useful reference regarding individuals and their relationships.

Special thanks are due to Stephanie Jenkins, who supplied a lot of the material through her invaluable websites
www.headington.org.uk
www.oxfordhistory.org.uk

Readers are invited to send contributions of additional information and corrections to the author, to be considered for inclusion in future editions.

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The Rivermen



The Rivermen

THE RIVERMEN

All the known early Tawney's of Oxford worked on the River Thames. The paucity of records for this period means that the ancestry of those born before 1670 can only be speculative. The tree presented here is partly based on *Fisher Row Fishermen, Bargemen, and Canal Boatmen in Oxford, 1500-1900* by Mary Prior (Oxford Clarendon Press 1982.)

Generation 2 William Tawney (~1579-1646)

William was the son of John (a currier of Oxford), and he was apprenticed to Thomas Angell of Oxford in 1594, when he was about 15 years old. Thomas was well established as a weelmaker, fisherman and boatman and he taught young William how to make weels. These are a type of fish trap favoured on the River Thames and had been used since Saxon times.

Although no marriage has been identified, William is thought to have had 2 sons, William (~1605-1687) and Nicholas (born ~1607.) He was buried at St Mary Magdalen on the 17th of May 1646.

Generation 3 William Tawney (~1605-1687)

William was admitted as a freeman of the City of Oxford in 1626, when he was living in a tenement on the east side of the Castle Mill Stream, roughly opposite the lock.

Oxford freemen were known as Hanasters and only these could enter into business as a master or journeyman within the boundaries of the City (unless he was a privileged tradesman matriculated by the University). Only freemen had the vote in council elections. Most were admitted by being the son of a freeman or by serving a seven-year apprenticeship to a freeman.

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William was probably the first of the family, perhaps with brother Nicholas, to work as a Boatmaster. They transported freight on the river Thames. On the 22nd of October 1626 William married Joan Davis at St Mary Magdalen. They had a daughter Joan who married Henry Bond at St Mary Magdalen on the 25th of April 1649. After William's death in 1687 an inventory of his property showed goods valued over £32. These included his 'great boat', with mast, sails, oars, numerous associated items, and household furniture, kitchen utensils, bedding etc. and a Bible and Testament. He was buried at St Thomas on the 9th of February 1687.

*A True & perfect Inventory of all singular
the goods Chattells household stuff & myniture of
households that were belonging unto William Tawney
Boatman deceased taken & appraised by vs John
Lunt & Wm Gardner this 2th day of the January 1687*

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| <i>Item for his wareing apparell & mentyces</i> | <i>5-8</i> |
| <i>Item one great Boate</i> | <i>10-00-00</i> |
| <i>Item the Mast & Saile</i> | <i>02-00-00</i> |
| <i>Item one great Lynd Ear Hoath & Towing Lynd</i> | <i>01-01-00</i> |
| <i>Item Bedd</i> | <i>00-03-06</i> |
| <i>Item one Brass Kettle</i> | <i>00-02-06</i> |
| <i>Item one Saw and two Stalletts</i> | <i>00-02-06</i> |
| <i>Item one Bread End</i> | <i>00-01-06</i> |
| <i>Item one Cape & one Iron Cark</i> | <i>00-01-06</i> |
| <i>Item one Spade sheath Hammer and Jim Bolt</i> | <i>00-01-06</i> |
| <i>Item the fire Hoath</i> | <i>00-00-06</i> |
| <i>Item one pumpe</i> | <i>00-03-00</i> |
| <i>Item Eleven great Holes & Hand Holes</i> | <i>01-03-00</i> |
| <i>Item the Kitchner & one yerd</i> | <i>00-01-06</i> |
| <i>Item two Cases</i> | <i>00-06-00</i> |
| <i>Item one Sittin Patt & Saddle</i> | <i>00-02-00</i> |
| <i>Item one Towing Lynd</i> | <i>00-10-00</i> |
| <i>Item six Boards</i> | <i>00-03-00</i> |
| <i>Item one Caskell</i> | <i>00-01-06</i> |
| <i>Item Broken Holes & a Rod</i> | <i>00-01-06</i> |

Extract from William Tawney's Inventory

The Rivermen

Generation 3 Nicholas Tawney (born ~1607.)

Little is known of William's brother, except that he too was a Boatman. It is possible that he was the father of 3 sons and 2 daughters, including Nicholas, Edward, Joan and Grace. Joan married Richard Brookings, who had been apprenticed to Richard Shoterill (a boatman) and whose family became established at Northmoor as ale-house keepers, fishermen and bargemasters. Grace married William Hands, who worked as a millwright.

Generation 4 Nicholas Tawney (~1630-1686)

Nicholas was admitted as a freeman in 1654. The enrolments show him as the second son of Nicholas, a Boatman (b.~1607.) In 1663 he is recorded as a Waterman. Tenement leases in 1667 show that he lived at Upper Fisher Row, (next to Richard Shoterill, probably on part of Tenement 3). He was later recorded as a boatman, and subsequently as a boatmaster.

Some of the material used to rebuild St Paul's Cathedral during the period 1675-1710 was Taynton stone from quarries around Burford. This was transported down the Thames to London, probably having been loaded at Lechlade, some 8 miles south of Burford. The stone has since decayed and replaced with Portland stone. It is quite possible that Nicholas and other members of the family were involved in this trade.

Nicholas was buried on the 19th of October 1686 at St Thomas.

Generation 4 Edward Tawney (~1642-1690)

Edward was apprenticed to Nicholas Tawney, a waterman who was probably his older brother. He was admitted as a freeman on the 27th of December 1663 and later became a bargemaster. This meant that he was responsible for the transport of freight on one or more barges and may have owned his own barge.

During this time, he took on two apprentices from Lechlade and it has been suggested that Edward may have been born there. Lechlade, in Gloucestershire, is at the highest navigable point of the Thames.

Edward married Elizabeth and it is thought that their first child was John, who was baptized at Lechlade on the 6th of February 1664.

The Rivermen

They went on to have 4 more sons, Henry, Edward, Robert, Richard and a daughter Elizabeth, most of whom were baptized in the parish of St Thomas, Oxford.

The year after Edward died his widow married bargemaster John Clarke, himself a widower. John's family were heavily involved with London trade.



St Lawrence, Lechlade

Photo: www.telegraph.co.uk

Generation 5 William Tawney (born ~1653)

William was admitted as a freeman on the 3rd of February 1678 as the eldest son of Nicholas Tawney, boatman (~1630-1686). On the 19th of November 1676 William married Joan Carpenter, of St Mary Magdalen, at his home parish of St Thomas. They had daughters Alice (baptized on the 10th of February 1679 at St Thomas) and Elizabeth (baptized on the 4th of January 1683 at St Thomas.)

Working as a boatmaster in 1682 William took an apprentice from Clanfield, near Radcot, close to the upper Thames in Oxfordshire.

The Rivermen

The next generation eventually took up different occupations, so there were no more bargemasters in the family after that.

Generation 5 Henry Tawney (~1670-1718)

Henry was the eldest surviving son of Edward (~1642-1690) and Elizabeth and was probably a first cousin of William (born ~1653.) He was admitted as a freeman on the 19th of January 1691 and served an apprenticeship under John Bossom (baptized on the 24th of February 1685, son of John and Mary.)

In 1702 Henry was master of the vessel *Sovereign* and, along with brother Robert, was one of the Oxfordshire bargemasters who petitioned the Privy Council for protection from the impress for the crews of their boats. *Sovereign* was probably flat-bottomed for maximum carrying capacity in shallow water, and 'swim-ended', with both bow and stern shaped like a clumsy horizontal wedge.

A boat from Oxford to Wallingford took about a day and from Wallingford to London four days. Returning against the stream the journey took longer so that London to Oxford would have taken about six or seven days.

In 1707 Henry married Amy Rose, the widow of Thomas Jarrett. They had 3 children but Elizabeth and Henry, the youngest two, died in infancy. Sarah, the eldest, inherited £100 from Henry and probably also inherited all his lands when her mother died. She married Nicholas Spencer at Magdalen College on the 16th of January 1728 when she was living at Cowley. (See p 153 et seq.)

By 1715 the river was beginning to decline, but scope for men to change their trade was limited to activities such as brewing or dealing in wood or corn. So it was that Henry left the river and become a maltster. (See p 15.)

Generation 5 Edward Tawney (~1672-1745)

Edward was a son of Edward and Elizabeth and was baptized at St Thomas on the 21st of January 1672. He was admitted as a freeman on the 23rd of September 1695 and lived in the parish of St Thomas. It seems likely that he then worked as a river boatman.

The Rivermen

On the 18th of May 1701 Edward married Elizabeth Tyrrell at Lincoln College Chapel. Elizabeth was the second child of William and Elizabeth Tyrrell. Edward and Elizabeth had 5 children, 2 of whom died in infancy. Daughters Elizabeth, Mary and Martha went on to marry and have children of their own.



St Thomas



Lincoln College Chapel

Photos: author

The Rivermen

Following the death of his mother in 1715, Edward received an inheritance of £5 under the terms of the will of his stepfather, bargemaster John Clarke.

In 1720 Edward attempted to establish himself as a dealer of small wares, for which he was prosecuted by the City at its Quarter Sessions under the Statute of Artificers. He was eventually acquitted in 1723, presumably because he had withdrawn from the trade.

At the end of 1723 Edward was working as a boatman when he took the Oath of Loyalty to King George the First.

Generation 5 Robert Tawney (~1679-1745)

Robert was the son of Edward and Elizabeth and was baptized at St Thomas on the 24th of March 1679. He was admitted as a freeman on the 24th of May 1703. About this time, he was master of the vessel *King's Arms* and, along with brother Henry, was one of the Oxfordshire bargemasters who petitioned the Privy Council for protection from the impress for the crews of their boats.

On the 6th of July 1702 Robert married Anne Mees in St George's Chapel, Windsor. Anne lived at Shepperton, Middlesex and her father Thomas was a labourer. Presumably he worked on the royal estate at Windsor since that would have provided the entitlement to use of the royal chapel. Robert and Ann had 4 children, but Ann died in 1710.



St George's Chapel, Windsor in 1660

Image: Liszt Collection

The Rivermen

Robert needed a mother for his young family, so he married Margaret Prickett at Binsey on the 15th of November 1710. They had another 6 children together.

In 1710 he worked as a boatman and occupied a messuage (a house and outbuildings) in Fisher Row that apparently belonged to his stepfather John Clarke. (See p 205.) Five years later his mother died, and he inherited the sum of £5 under the terms of John Clarke's will.

At the end of 1723 Robert was working as a boatman when he took the Oath of Loyalty to King George the First.

Like his brother Henry, Robert found that the river was in decline and trade decreasing so, by 1733, he worked first as a fisherman and then as a publican. He ran *The Perch* (aka *The Fish*) alehouse in the village of Binsey, on the Thames just upstream of Oxford. He apparently did some farming also, since he is described as a yeoman in an indenture of 1740, along with his brother-in-law Thomas Prickett.

By 1745 Robert held a house, gardens and related property in St Thomas Oxford on lease from the Dean & Chapter of Christ Church College. When he died in 1745, he bequeathed this to his wife and then his son. [Christ Church had become the main landowner in St Thomas and Binsey after the Reformation.]

Robert was buried on the 13th of March 1745 at St Thomas. His widow Margaret took over as licensee of the pub at Binsey and this subsequently passed to their son Thomas when she died in 1761.

The Rivermen



The Perch at Binsey

Photo: author

Generation 5 Richard Tawney (~1684-1756)

Richard was s son of Edward and Elizabeth and was baptized at St Thomas on the 24th of January 1684. He was admitted as a freeman on the 10th of September 1705. Although he was his mother's youngest son, he was named as the residual legatee and executor of his bargemaster stepfather's estate. That is how it came about that he inherited all John Clarkes' boats and tackle, as well as the sum of £10 so that he could renew the leases of his tenements as they became due about every 14 years.

Richard married Jane Smith in 1711 and they had 4 children. Only one of these survived to adulthood. Jane, the daughter of Simon Smith and Jeane Wildgoose, died giving birth to Edward on the 5th of July 1717 and the child died a few days later. Both were buried at Binsey. Richard had been a widower for almost 2 years when he married Elizabeth Bowler at Merton College Chapel on the 20th of May 1719.

The Rivermen

Richard and Elizabeth had 10 children, though at least 7 of these did not survive to adulthood.



Merton College Chapel

Photo: author

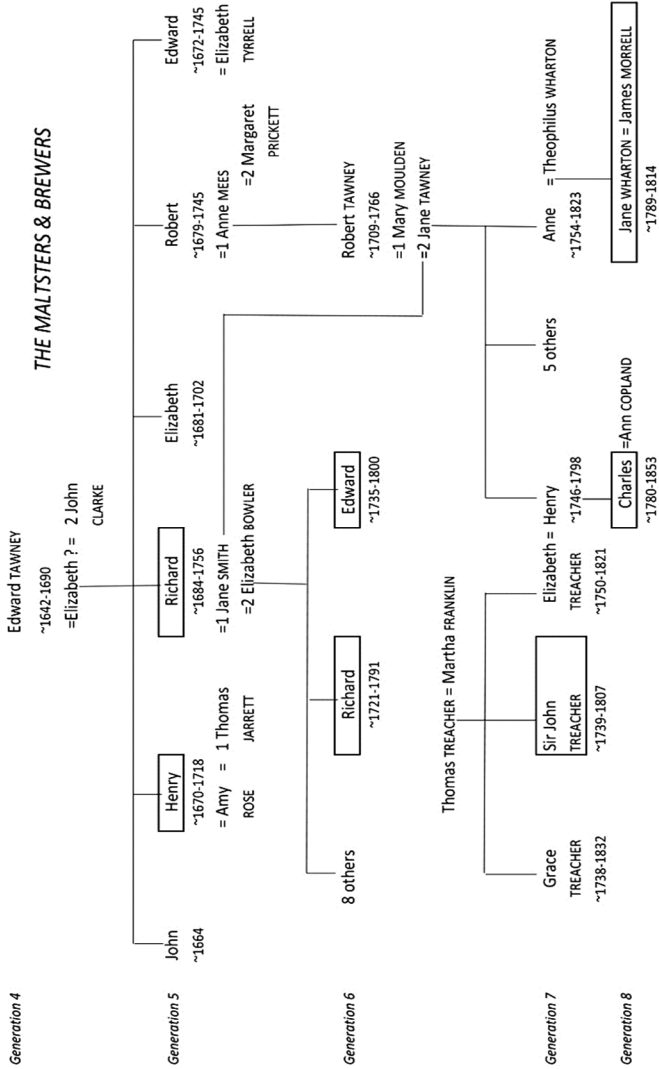
By 1714 Richard was living in the northern section of the tenement at the corner of Fisher Row with St Thomas' High Street, whilst his mother lived in the southern section close to the Quaking Bridge. (See p 205-206.) After his mother's death he let out the tenement and moved to Binsey. He was continuing business as a boatman when he took the Oath of Loyalty to King George the First at the end of 1723, and at lease renewal in 1728.

In 1737 Richard became the first in the family to become involved in politics when he came on to the Common Council, i.e., Oxford City Council. (See p 48-50.)

It was only a few years later, in 1743, that he took up brewing, continuing until he died in 1756. (See p 15-16.)

The Maltsters & Brewers

The Maltsters & Brewers



THE MALTSERS & BREWERS

The Tawney's and their extended family controlled two of Oxford's principal breweries for many years. Well into the twentieth century beer from the Lion Brewery was well known as Morrell's, and that from the Swan brewery as Hall's.

Generation 5 Henry Tawney (~1670-1718)

Henry worked as a bargemaster for a number of years (see p 7), but by 1715 he had become a maltster and yeoman. His new career did not last for very long, however, as he died at Iffley in 1718 and was buried at St Thomas on the 17th of November 1718. His wife Amy inherited all his freehold, copyhold, and leasehold estate, but it would seem that the business was not continued.

LION BREWERY

Generation 5 Richard Tawney (~1684-1756)

Richard worked as a boatman for many years (see p 11-12), then in 1743 he took up the tenancy of a brewery in St Thomas Street, founding what later became Morrell's Lion Brewery. This business already had a long history. In 1563 Robert Luike, who was a professional chorister at the Cathedral, took a lease on the nucleus of the St Thomas Street site and built a large Elizabethan brewhouse which he sublet. Thomas Kenton took the lease in 1718 and it was his widow who sold her interest to Richard Tawney.

Richard evidently supplied beer to the council, as the franchises of 1747 show a payment of £4. 14s. 0d. for beer paid to Messrs Treacher and Tawney. In April 1752 Richard paid two shillings and sixpence to lease a vault that was being built under the north end of the Town Hall. This was probably used for storing barrels of beer. After his death in

The Maltsters & Brewers

1756 the very extensive business passed to his eldest surviving son Richard (later Sir Richard).

In 1737 Richard became the first of the Tawneys to become involved in local politics when he came on to the Common Council (i.e., Oxford City Council,) marking the start of a long and distinguished career of service. (See p 48-50.)

Richard died in 1756 and on the 4th of May 1762 his widow Elizabeth leased a property in Castle Street. On the 3rd of May 1765 she leased no. 4 Frederick Place, Castle Street.

Generation 6 Sir Richard Tawney (~1721-1791)

Richard was the son of Richard (~1684-1756) and his second wife Elizabeth Bowler. They had him baptized at Binsey on the 14th of April 1721 and he was admitted as a freeman on the 17th of May 1742 as the eldest surviving son.



St Margaret of Antioch, Binsey in 1775

Image: Yale Centre for British Art

The Maltsters & Brewers

On the 12th of August 1748 he leased 2 cottages in Frederick Place, Castle Street at a rent of five shillings and 2 capons. In 1753 he leased two tenements in the parish of St Peter le Bailey at a cost of five shillings and was still leasing these in 1771. Also, in 1753 he leased a tenement in the parish of St Mary Magdalen for sixpence.

In 1756 he succeeded his father in the St Thomas Street business as a common brewer. This meant that he sold his beer wholesale and did not own any public houses. However, this changed just 3 years later when he bought *The King & Queen* at High Street, Wheatley, some 4-5 miles east of Oxford. This pub still formed part of the Lion Brewery estate into modern times, after it had passed to the Morrell family.



The King & Queen at High Street, Wheatley

Photo: author

Richard later acquired more pubs, such as *The Anchor* in St Peter le Bailey, *The Jolly Post Boy* in St Martin and *The Turk's Head* in St Thomas Street. At least some of Richard's requirement for malt was met by his brother Edward, who had established himself as a maltster

The Maltsters & Brewers

in 1760. On the 4th of May 1763 Richard leased 11 Castle Street, though not occupying it himself, and renewed the lease on the 2nd of May 1791. On the 15th of January 1764 Richard took on apprentice brewer Francis Latham. This was probably the son of Richard's cousin Elizabeth Tawney and her husband Thomas Latham (see p 92.) In 1771 Richard took leases on two more tenements in the parish of St Peter le Bailey, one for five shillings and the other for two shillings and sixpence, along with another (fee sold) in the parish of St Mary Magdalen for sixpence. By 1778 Richard also occupied a malthouse in the parish of St Mary Magdalen. In 1781 he leased a tenement in the parish of St Michael for thirteen shillings and fourpence and leased a vault under the Town Hall. He also continued to lease tenements in the parish of St Peter le Bailey. In 1787 some land in Sewy's Lane (between New Inn Hall Street and Cornmarket) was reserved to Richard. Since he had no heirs Richard's extensive business passed to his brother Edward, though he bequeathed *The Turk's Head* to Elizabeth, the widow of Francis Latham.

Richard followed his father into local politics. As a result of being appointed Mayor's Child he took up his place as chamberlain in 1758. (See p 50-52.)

Generation 6 Edward Tawney (~1735-1800)

Edward, the youngest son of Richard (~1684-1756) and his second wife Elizabeth Bowler, was baptized at Binsey on the 7th of December 1735 and admitted as a freeman on the 6th of May 1758.

In 1760 Edward took on the lease of a malthouse and brewhouse in Tidmarsh Lane. The brewhouse was built by the monks of Osney Abbey in 1452 and was the first brewery in the locality. It would seem that this site was no longer used as a brewery as it was known simply as *Fox's Malthouse*. Edward established himself there as a maltster to supply malt to his brother Richard. His businesses proved profitable enough to enable him to purchase the freehold in 1773. The 1772 Survey of Oxford shows that his malt house and garden on the west side of Tidmarsh Lane had a frontage of 88 yards, while his adjoining house had a frontage of 21 yards 1 ft 0 in.

In 1763 Edward paid £300 for a 40-year lease of the City-owned Castle Mill (a flour mill in use by the 11th century, demolished in 1929) when the policy of granting long leases for entry fines was resumed. The rent was twenty shillings and ten couple of capons (or a further twenty

The Maltsters & Brewers

shillings.) He thus became the Castle Mill's first independent tenant. He renewed the lease in 1777 and 1791. The mill had been very profitable as all bakers who sold bread in the market, all burgesses and all tenants of City property were obliged to have their corn ground at that mill. In 1771 the rent cost him one pound ten shillings. The mill enabled him to enter the business of mealman (dealer in flour.) During the following years Edward acquired additional malthouses and mills. On the 22nd of May 1776 he leased 2 cottages in Castle Street and renewed this on the 1st of May 1790. He renewed the lease on Castle Mill in 1781 for one pound and also leased two tenements in the parish of St Peter le Bailey for five shillings. In 1799 he leased a tenement in Ship Lane for one shilling, a house in George Lane (later called George Street) for thirteen shillings and fourpence and the Three Goats' Heads Inn, Cornmarket (on the corner with George Street), all in the parish of St Michael. He also leased a vault, probably under the Town Hall. In the parish of St Peter le Bailey he leased several tenements and in the parish of St Thomas he leased the Inner Wharf for five shillings and a tenement for one shilling. He also leased a tenement in the parish of St Mary Magdalen. By that time the lease on Castle Mill was held by a Mr Burrows.

In 1791 Edward inherited the Lion Brewery when his brother Richard died. At the age of 62 Edward entered into an agreement with brothers Mark and James Morrell, nephews of Oxford's most promising solicitor James Morrell, to take them into partnership. They then began to buy out his interest in the brewery using sizeable loans which they received from their uncle James Morrell. The final payments were made to Edward's executors after his death.

In 1769, following the death of his mother, Edward inherited the tenancy of the sixth tenement in Lower Fisher Row, located at the corner with St Thomas' High Street. In 1796 he purchased the fee simple (ie: freehold) of his tenement and had a fine house built, fronting onto Fisher Row, with the side running down St Thomas' High Street. The house (now No. 1 Fisher Row) was advertised for sale by auction after Edward's death but became part of the brewery estate. Next to this, in Fisher Row he had a pair of almshouses built for four poor men and four poor women. These are now Nos. 2 and 3 and were built with three floors in a variegated brick with stone dressings; a stone, now lacking its inscription, in the gable shared by the two houses records their origin as the *Tawney Almshouses*. The almshouses were sold by Oxford Corporation in 1968 and are now residences. The houses originally had overburnt headers in the Flemish Bond