

# Tower Talk

## Newsletter

Picture of the 'Mary Ann' that sailed from Ipswich, England arriving in Boston, Massachusetts June 20, 1637 bringing John Tower to the United States



By  
The Tower Genealogical Society  
Chartered in 1909

### From the Editor's Desk...

Hello Cousins,  
Many of you know that I recently moved from Colorado to Ohio to be closer to two of my children and two of my grandchildren. We rented a lovely duplex with our son Jimzy, our youngest, and his 15 year old daughter, Tera. Our oldest daughter Dee lives just a couple of miles down the street and granddaughter Jamie lives just a stone's throw away. I still have daughter Tabby and her family still in Colorado and I really miss them.

This is a part of the country that we haven't spent much time in during our years of traveling. However, my circle of exploration is ever widening and I'm getting to know more about the Cincinnati, "Tri-State area" as it is known. With Ohio bordering Kentucky and Indiana within just a few miles, and W. Virginia and Tennessee nearby, I look forward to some great adventures exploring the area!

This month we are treated to an account of the westward migration of his branch of the Tower family by Michael M Tower, PhD. and then Michael responds to a comment about his July article "Talk About Poor Timing" and adds some interesting log information from that event.

Dave Tower gave us a very touching story about Omer Halcy Karnes as told in his obituary in the Coeur d'Alene Idaho Spokesman-Review.

We also have many announcements that I have been holding on to for the 'next publishing', which regrettably is later than I expected it to be...Sorry! But thanks for your forbearance!  
I hope you will enjoy this latest edition.

**Have a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas everyone!**

*Gloria Holmes Cooper*  
TGS Newsletter Editor



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*The Tower Family Crest  
The Coat of Arms is a shield  
with three castle towers, a  
chevron with three roses, a  
knight's helmet above the shield  
and a Mason's square and  
compass above the helmet. These  
represent the Masonic Order of  
the Roses, a Scottish order.*

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# The Tower Westward Migration

*Tower Genealogical Society members are well aware of John Tower's arrival and settling in Hingham, Massachusetts. Do you know the migration and settlement of America made by your branch of the family? My Tower branch is descriptive, as well as typical, of how America was settled from coast to coast.*

By Michael M. Tower, PhD. (12)

**1637 Hingham, MA** - John (1), Jeremiah, Sr. (2), Jeremiah, Jr. (3), and Peter, Sr. (4) all lived and died in Hingham from 1637 to 1768.

**1783 Cummington, MA** - Peter, Jr. (5) (b. 1728 in Hingham) and family moved from Hingham to Cummington near the end of the Revolutionary War (1783). The Revolutionary War may have been the reason for Peter, Jr. (5) to move his family westward, even though he had served in the Massachusetts Militia from 1776 to 1778. Another more compelling reason may have been his religious beliefs.

In the 1700's there was a schism in the Puritan faith between those that believed in the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Ghost) and those that did not. The Old Ship Church, which John Tower (1) helped build, began following the Unitarian teachings. Today, the Old Ship Church is a Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Peter, Jr. (5) believing in the Trinity may have decided to join like-minded believers under the strong preaching of Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) in western Massachusetts in the town of Northampton. He moved his family to Cummington, just 18 miles northwest of Northampton. Western Massachusetts was the frontier in the late-1700's. Peter, Jr. (5), Asa, Sr. (6) and Asa, Jr. (7) lived and died in Cummington from 1783 to 1865.

**1850 Joliet, IL** - Almond (8) (b. 1828 in Cummington), seeking his fortune, moved to Joliet, now a suburb of Chicago as a single man around 1850. There he met Mary born in Orland, also a suburb of Chicago, and married her in 1852. At this time Chicago, incorporated in 1837, was the fastest growing city in America because of the railroad connecting the Great Lakes with the



Mississippi River which had been completed two years earlier. Almond (8) went from farm life to the bustling city life. Almond died at the age of 41 leaving a wife to raise seven children under the age of 15.

**1890 Jamestown, CO** - Almond's son, Nathan Eugene (9) (b. 1858 in Joliet) moved from Joliet to Jamestown in 1890 after gold, silver, tellurium and copper were discovered in the mountainous canyon in the 1880's. He moved with his wife Lizzie, five boys and his widowed mother, Mary U. Tower. He became a part-time miner and full time teamster hauling ore down to Boulder. Life in Jamestown, whose population never exceeded 400, was far different than life in Chicago. They were snowed-in during the winter and life was tough.



*Nathan Eugene Tower (9), Lizzie, and children: Elvis, Morris, Merton, Allan, and Howard (10) (circa 1889)*

Continued from page 2

**1922 Portland, OR** – Nathan's son, Howard (10) (b. 1889 in Joliet and raised in Jamestown) moved from Jamestown to Portland in 1922 after his son, Donald (11) was diagnosed with a heart murmur. The doctor recommended that Donald (11), my father, be moved to a lower elevation than the 7,000 feet of Jamestown. He chose Portland because his wife had relatives there. He sold his ranch and bought a brand new Ford Model-T for \$290, the equivalent of \$3,000 today. Along the way they camped out and did day work for gas money and food. He was a laborer, truck driver and with gold fever still in his blood, went to Alaska in search of gold before his death from appendicitis in 1926. Beginning on the Atlantic coast in 1637 and arriving on the Pacific coast 285 years later, the Tower family migrated west with the growth of our nation chasing the dream of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.



**Howard Oren Tower (10), Betty, and children: Donald Oren (11), and Lyle Imel (circa 1922)**




## Welcome New Members!

### Wallace Tower

Cadillac, MI

His lineage: Wallace (9), Douglas E. (8), Charles S. (7), William A. (6), Lucy (5), Laban (4), Peter (3), Benjamin (2) and John (1).

### Helen Reed (Tower) Wilson,

Silver City, NM

Her lineage: Helen Tower (11), Lawrence Phelps Tower II (10), Adelina Dubois Tower (9), Lawrence P. (8), Fayette B. (7)

### Carol Ann (Reed) Kerrigan

San Jose, CA

Her lineage: Carol Reed (11), Halbert Reed (10), Edith Ross (9), Emma Tower (8), Alvin (7), Martin (6), Thomas Groce (5), Shadrach (4), Thomas (3), Benjamin (2) and John (1).

### Benjamin Daniel Tower

Walterboro, SC

His lineage: Benjamin Daniel (12), John D. (11), Carl H. (10), Daniel E. (9), Daniel Edson (8), Hull (7), Matthew (6), Matthew (5), Matthew (4), Samuel (3), Samuel (2), and John (1).

His 2nd line is: the same down to Hull (7), Nabby Bates (6), Sarah Tower (5), Peter (4), Jeremiah (3), Jeremiah (2), and John (1).

## Marriage

### Michael & Morgan (Angelo) Langlois



### Phil Sausville, Pam Farr, Michael & Morgan (Angelo) Langlois, Carol & Carl Marchegiani

On Saturday, September 24, 2011, Morgan Heather Angelo became the bride of Michael Langlois at the First Baptist Church in Bennington, VT. The bride, the daughter of TGS treasurer, Carol Marchegiani and the late Michael Angelo, was escorted to the altar by her step-father, Carl Marchegiani. Her attendants included her sister, Kathryn (Angelo) Cote and her cousin, Nicole Snow (both TGS members). The groom is the son of Pam Farr & Phil Sausville, and Michael Langlois, all of Bennington. The groomsmen included Mr. Langlois' brother-in-law, Leonard Cote. The bride's mother was escorted into the church by her son, Kristiaan Angelo, who is also the bride's twin brother. The couple honeymooned in Maine.

**Re: "Talk about Poor Timing" -July TGS newsletter by Michael M. Tower**

Jon,  
Thank you for your interest in the article about my dad in the Tower Talk Newsletter. I never paid much attention to the details until I read your comments about how MacArthur actually made the trip from Corregidor to Australia. I have the 88th Recon Squadron daily log and some stories written by the members. I have attached the daily log excerpts from the week when the mission was flown and one of the stories about the MacArthur flight.

From what dad had told me, I thought the MacArthur and President Quezon flights were on the same day. Dad had said he was the co-pilot on the plane with President Quezon, which after reading the daily log and story by Carruthers, I see the flight was actually on the next day. So my news article was not exactly correct. He was part of the MacArthur mission but not on one of the two planes that made the trip the first day.

Probably, if the other two planes had not had engine trouble, four planes would have made the trip the same day and my article would have been correct.

Apparently, dad departed Townsville with Carmichael for Bachelor and waited for MacArthur to arrive. Carmichael flew MacArthur further inland and dad was a co-pilot on the plane the next day that went to Mindanao with Lt. Faulkner. Dad did not upgrade to pilot until June 1942.

By the way I have written longer articles on the flight into Pearl Harbor and on the nine months dad was in the South Pacific war taken from the Squadron daily log if you are interested. It is a little long for an email, but I could send it by US mail if you are interested.

Thank you for your interest.

Best wishes,

**Mike Tower**

*The following excerpts are taken from the 88th Recon Squadron daily log. Comments in parenthesis were added by Michael Tower.*

**March 14 Saturday (Townsville, Australia)**

The visit of rank, which included Brig. Gen Royce, brought on a secret mission. Stewart, Johnson and Major Twaddall almost unassisted prepared four ships (B-17's) for take-off at 3 am. Fourteen extra parachutes, 14 extra oxygen masks, and fourteen extra life vests had to be located for each ship. Nearly all the other (ships) were striped. Heavy flying equipment was assembled and placed in plane no. 34, 08, 29, and 47. Major Carmichael (Lt. Tower co-pilot), Lt Chaffin, Capt. Lewis and Lt. Bostrom and picked crews were to man the ships?? (Second) Co-pilots for the four planes were officers previously in the Philippines---Mission Secret.

**March 15 Sunday**

There was a stiff breeze blowing from the south and the run way lit up by the flare pots was nearly perpendicular to the breeze. Take-off was delayed over an hour while the Australian crew changed the lights. Bostrom took off first. The mission to the Philippines was on its way. (Carmichael and Tower's plane did not take off due to mechanical problems until later in the day and flew to Bachelor Field).

**March 17 Tuesday**

Capt. Lewis lands at 8 pm from the Philippines. He reports that he and Bostrom had completed the trip. Bostrom is at Bachelor (Field near Darwin). Bostrom was the one who brought Gen MacArthur down. MacArthur's general staff, wife and little boy were the other passengers. Chaffin who had had trouble with his plane went a day late for the General's baggage. Carmichael, unable to repair his ship in time flew the General from Bachelor

(Field), inland from Darwin, to a point further inland where he took the train. Lewis who had flown for 32 hours without rest brought letters and packages from men in the Islands. He reported that one could hardly tell that there was a war going on down there. Ask them where the Japs are and they say, "Oh, over here and over there are some." They are a long way from giving up.

**March 29 Sunday**

We expect the PI ships back since we had heard on the radio that the President of the Philippines Commonwealth was in Australia. That was our mission too. Faulkner had come in during the afternoon. He reported that the situation in Bataan is difficult, men eating but one meal each day, but with plenty of ammunition. Our planes don't go to Bataan for that I too far, but just to Mendano, half of which is also still American. There is no way of getting food further North. The flight is from Bachelor in Australia, non-stop, and very tiring as well as dangerous.

**THE MACARTHUR AND QUEZON EVACUATION**

By Bob Roy Carruthers  
1st Lt. Air Corps  
General MacArthur and President Quezon could well have left the Philippines on the same evening so closely paralleled were the events and facts surrounding each of their flights to Australia. The fact that the first evaluation went off successfully no doubt contributed to the second one coming off in a like plan.  
Major General (then Brigadier General) Ralph Royce, General Brett's Chief of Staff at the time, flew up to our base one Sunday morning with the exciting news that our squadron was to select three crews for an out of the ordinary flight to the Philippines. The reason was given at the time, but the utmost secrecy was

kept by all who were to make the flight. Only the officers were told of the details and it was left to the navigators to map out a route that would not proximate any of the many Japanese bases on the way to the destination. The interest shown by the men participating was keen and all looked forward to the prospect of getting a view of just what was going on up in the Philippines. So a couple of days later four crews left our base to fly to a spot in North Central Australia which would serve as the hopping off place. The flight was practically all over water with frequent glimpses of islands on the way. The areas over which we flew were beset with severe tropical storms and on the second flight (Quezon's) we were forced to alter our course a bit to avoid them. Due to the fact that the Japanese occupied most of the island of which we had the rendezvous, it was thought best to come in after dark. Naturally the place where the supposed secret field lay in the blackout; the enemy was aware of the field and had any planes been seen there in the daytime they would have bombed, and even at night no sightings chances could be taken. This made it a bit more difficult for the navigators and coupled with the fact that it was quite a long flight, there was not too much time available for cruising around and hunting for the place. But the flight went off well and the only disappointing feature was that two of the four planes did not get up the first night due to engine trouble. One of them flew up the next evening. Upon arriving the crew was fed and spent a couple of uncomfortable hours in talking with the many men around the field. All of the men wanted to know as to their chances of leaving on that night. They also asked if a second plane was coming, but they gritted their teeth and hoped for more planes to come.

**Re: "Talk About Poor Timing" Continued from page 4**

Many letters were flown out on that night and many people were glad a few weeks later when they received them. We had delivered a lot of medical supplies and other comforting things which were sorely needed. It was about two and a half hours after we'd landed that we took off again and stated the long flight back.

Weather was excellent and it is doubtful if General MacArthur ever had as smooth a flight as he had that night. We were thankful for that. Mrs. MacArthur and the General's son both stood up well under the long flight and the General himself was in high spirits as we neared the Australian coast. After landing, the party was flown inland and thence took a train to Melbourne. We had delivered our precious cargo safe and sound and we all felt pretty swell about it. The General thanked us and this was a big moment for everyone, the crew as well as the pilots.

It was but a few days later when we were notified that the squadron was again to send some planes up to the same place.

The crews were changed with the exception of the navigators who were chosen a second time for it was figured that they would have less trouble finding the place, having once been there.

This time three planes were scheduled, and three made the hop. The features were similar, except as noted, the weather was considerably worse. The first time it was perfect but this time it was about as bad as it could have been. We were glad to get down on the ground when we did, even though we knew we'd have to fly back through it in a few hours.

The next morning when we arrived again in Australia, he had a lot of kind words for the crew and probably was convinced that airplanes are pretty handy things.

The crews would have jumped at the chance to fly back there again. There was something about these flights that made them quite different from the routine bombing missions that we were engaged in at our base.



...*From the desk of*

## Dave Tower

*Some years ago there was a Tower family reunion held in Labette Kansas. One of Nathaniel Dexter's descendants had died a few years before. This is his obituary.*

### **Fairchild Rampage survivor dies at 73. Omar Karns served his country as a volunteer.**

Newspaper Obituary and Death Notice-Idaho Spokesman-Review (Coeur d'Alene, ID) - May 5, 1998

## Omer Halcy Karns

*Omer Halcy Karns (11), Omer Halsey (10), James Henry Karns and Ruth Ellen Tower (9), Nathaniel Dexter (8), Loami (7), Otis (6), Nathaniel (5), Joseph (4), Benjamin (3), John (2), John (1)*

Omer Karns never got a Purple Heart. But friends insist the Rathdrum man - whose deafness kept him from enlisting in the military - served his country with love and honor as a volunteer. Karns, 73, died Friday of bone cancer. Hauling disabled veterans to doctor appointments for local Disabled American Veterans chapters was Karns' love. "The patients loved him," said Ester Westlake, a DAV hospital coordinator. "The staff at the hospital loved him." The daily van runs turned deadly nearly four years ago. While dropping off a DAV member at the Fairchild Air Force Base hospital in June 1994, a bullet tore through Karns' colon. He and 21 others survived a shooting spree by gunman Dean Mellberg. Four people were killed. "They should have given him a Purple Heart," said Art Stone, who led Sea Scouts with Karns. Karns didn't qualify for the award because he wasn't a military veteran or dependent. He joked about being a disabled American volunteer instead of a veteran. But Westlake made sure Karns was honored. Besides ensuring that the Air Force covered his medical expenses, she stitched Karns a purple heart from plastic canvas. Karns proudly displayed the gift, decorated

with his volunteer medals, in his van. Westlake laughs as she tells about Karns trying to enlist after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He passed all the tests but was booted out when someone came up behind him and started a conversation. Only then did they discover his deafness. "He was an excellent lip reader," Westlake said. Stone said Karns conquered every challenge. "So I'm deaf, so what," Stone said imitating Karns' attitude. "If there was a challenge he went ahead and did it. Besides taking children on Sea Scout camping trips with Stone, Karns learned to play the banjo." He took his shoes off to feel the beat," Stone said. Whether behind the wheel or strumming a banjo, Karns was a friend. "He's one of a kind," Westlake said. Karns' wife, Opal, died in 1991. His son, Paul, died of cancer one year after the Fairchild shootings. Karns is survived by two sons, Kenric and Omer Karns III, both of Rathdrum; two daughters, Jayne Carnegie of Alaska, and Celeste Hill of Nevada; his mother, Winnie Runyon of California; and seven grandchildren.

## Alta M. Berry

ATHOL — Alta M. (Sherman)(Baker) Berry, 100, formerly of 146 Fredette St., died early Sunday morning, Aug. 28, 2011, at Poet's Seat Health Care Center in Greenfield, following an illness. Born in Orange on Oct. 4, 1910, she was a daughter of D. Olin and Mabel (Chamberlin) Sherman and grew up in Orange, graduating from Orange High School in 1929. She later graduated from the Fitchburg Normal School in 1931.

Alta's first husband was Clevis Baker, who died in 1955. She later was married to Henry C. Berry, who predeceased her in 1981. A substitute teacher in Orange several years, she later worked in the assessor's office for the Town of Orange and the Leavitt Machine Co.

In 1954, Alta moved to Connecticut, where she lived until returning to the area in 2000 to live in Athol. While in Connecticut, she worked as a pharmacy clerk and secretary for the Windham Community Memorial Hospital in Windham, Conn. Following retirement, she would volunteer at the hospital. Alta was a former member of Obwebetuck Grange in Windham, as well as Franklin Grange in Franklin, Conn., after the two granges merged. She was a member of Pomona and National granges, the South Windham Volunteer Fire Dept. Auxiliary, Lebanon Senior Citizens, past president of Guilford Smith Memorial Library in South Windham, the Willard Family Association Inc. and the Genealogical Tree Blazers of Orange (Mass.).

Alta enjoyed knitting, crocheting, cooking and traveling. Survivors include nieces, Louise Sherman of Orange and Margaret Sherman of Hudson; grandnephews, David Sherman of Maynard, Mark Sherman of Athol, Glenn Sherman and John Sherman, both of Hudson; grandnieces, Diane Costello of Shrewsbury, Kimberly Giddins of Inver Grove Heights, Minn., Donna Durling of Anthon, Iowa, and Karen Sherman of Port Richie, Fla.; two great-grandnephews; two great-grandnieces and many step-grandchildren and step-great and great-great-grandchildren.

### Announcement

**Flo Christofolini** wanted to announce to the family that she has two wonderful grandchildren attending college.

Both she and her daughter, **Lisa Filler** and **TGS** want to wish them the very best!

**Ryan Filler** is at Mississippi State U. studying Graphic Design  
**Eric Filler** is at Florida State U. with a double major in teaching and biology



### Born to

**Nathaniel and Stephanie Tower**  
of Saint Louis, Missouri, a girl,  
**Elena Marie**,  
on March 30, 2011.

The grandparents are  
**Brian and Becky Tower**  
of Saint Louis, and  
**Bill and Norene Felz**  
of Coal Valley, Illinois.

## We had a wedding!

Hi Gloria,  
Grandson **Nathan Edward Pichette** married on 7/24/11 to **Julie Navom**, at Berkshire Hills Country Club in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

Line: John, Jeremiah, Jeremiah, Peter, Peter, Stephen, John, Dexter, Clinton, Harry, Austin (my husband), Margaret (our daughter) and Brian Pichette. Parents are our son **Karl Francis and his wife Vickie**:

Our granddaughter, **Sydney Elizabeth Tower** received an appointment to the Air Force Academy, and is now a first year cadet. She reported in on June 23, and loves the whole thing, (even though it's not very easy). She wants to fly just like her father, who was an Air Force and Air Reserve pilot for 15 years and now flies for American Airlines.

Our son, **Lt. Colonel Joel Bernard Tower** retired from the Air Force on 12/31, but is still working at the Pentagon. He gave our country 21 years. (Austin is a retired Master Sergeant, who served in the Air National Guard for 42 years, 30 of them full-time. Our son Wayne is a Senior Master Sergeant, Air National Guard Regular, still serving his country full time after 31 years, including 4 years in the Navy.)

Keep up the great work!

### Dody Tower

P.S. Want a laugh? I'm terrified of snakes, but during many years of cemetery research, I had never encountered one in a cemetery. A few weeks ago, Austin took me to Worthington, looking for some Warners, whom I did not find. I did find a few more Towers, though. I also encountered my first cemetery snake. Austin sat in the car laughing as I ran to the car, and the poor snake headed the other way in a big hurry! Needless to say, that cemetery will not be visited again!

### Born to

**Andrew and Susan Justice**  
of Irmo, South Carolina, a boy

**Delton Jude Justice**  
born 7/8/11, brother of

**Katlyn and Aeden**  
Grandparents:

**Patricia Tower Scharn** (10th generation)  
and **Eric Scharn**, Clearwater, FL  
Great grandparents:

**Wallace Tower**, Cadillac, MI  
and **Anna Howe** of Whitman, MA

### Twin boys

born to

**Brian & Juliet Gideon Schleede** of Conesus, NY  
**Eric Daniel** weighing 4 lbs. 7 oz.

and

**Everett Octavius**, weighing 6 lbs., 2 oz.  
at Strong Memorial Hospital, Rochester, NY,  
on July 30, 2011,  
Grandparents are

**Bob & Judy Barnard Bowser** of FL  
**Marilyn and the late Lynn Frederick Schleede**,  
Brockport, NY and  
**Charlotte Demmer Barnard**  
and the late **John "Jack" Barnard**, of Perry, NY.