



Tower

Inside this issue:

Biography And Genealogy Of	2
TGS Book III Information	2
TGS Online address	2
Charles H. Tower	3
Publications Announcements	3
A Summer Memory Gladys Todd	4
Featured Photo	5
Congratulations	5
New Members	5
Contacts & Extras	6

News From President Dave:

I've recently returned from a nice European vacation. Taking full advantage of a 5 country Eurail Pass a friend (Bruce) and I managed to travel extensively in Germany with side trips to the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria and the Czech Republic. Most of our time was spent in the area of the Bavarian Alps enjoying the scenery and overindulging in the local food.

We spent some time on genealogical research, walking through German graveyards in the rain. With neither of us speaking the language it was difficult finding the older cemeteries much less being able to find any written documentation for Bruce's ancestors. Luckily, all my ancestors (that I've found so far) spoke English. Outside of hiring an interpreter by the day I haven't figured out how to beneficially do a lot of research in a country where you do not have a good grasp of the language. It's hard enough understanding some of the English prior to the 18th century.

Bernie has been doing a super job getting the reunion organized and it is shaping up to be a great opportunity to hob knob with the cousins that you haven't seen in a while, and to meet a lot of new members of the family. I hope to meet all of you in Peoria. For those of you who would like to do a little more than just "smooze" there will be ample opportunity to help with the daily activities. Carol could use some relief on the registration desk, John would accept help with the banquet arrangements and there are always those little items that crop up where a friendly face can solve the immediate problem, **ANY VOLUNTEERS OUT THERE?** If so you can get in touch with Bernie or just jump in as the occasion arises in Peoria.

Prior to the reunion I'm planning on doing some Tower research in the Mendota, IL area. Chris and I will pass through there on our way to Peoria and I always like to browse around those parts of the country where there has been a significant Tower presence in the past. If any of you are related to Justus David Tower (#1331 in the first book) and would like me to look for specific data please let me know.

Till I see you in Peoria. Stay well, stay happy and enjoy the Tower life. Dave Tower



Dave Tower

Reunion Announcement:

The 2004 Tower Family Reunion will be held: Friday September 3 thru Sunday September 5th at The Holiday Inn, in Peoria, IL.. Special reunion brochures have been mailed to each member of TGS. Please mark you calendar and make the necessary plans to attend. This is a wonderful opportunity to be acquainted with relatives, and to learn more about the colorful Tower Family History. Rooms are available at the Holiday Inn, 4400 N. Brandywine Dr., Peoria, Il. Phone: (309) 686-8000, or 1-800-Holiday. Identify yourself as part of the "Tower Reunion" Group for the special group rate of \$69.00. If you have any additional questions regarding the reunion than please contact TGS Director **Bernie Tower** at: (850) 928-5554. E-mail him at: coltower@verizon.net or write him at:

Bernard Tower
1304 Via Hielo
Santa Maria, CA 93454

Special request: The Publications committee needs one copy of volume 1 to submit into the TGS archives. Please contact Janine Battistone or Jo Miller for further information, contact information as listed on page 6.

Biography and Genealogy of Western Massachusetts 1639-1925 Charles Henry Tower

Famous in the annals of American history is the long-established family of **Charles Henry Tower**, for its representatives helped establish and build up the New England colonies, were always ready to fight for freedom and justice, and participated in the early French, the Revolutionary, and the Civil Wars. Moreover, these men of fine old stock, sturdy and hardworking, were in the habit of using their hands in some trade or occupation of immediate benefit to the community. These traits came down from his forebears to Charles Henry Tower, who in his eighty-nine years and until retirement, was in some way connected with the tinning and plumbing trade. The Tower family in America was established by John Tower, born in Hingham, England, in 1609, who came to this country in 1637, and settled in Hingham, Massachusetts, where he died February 13, 1701-02, at the age of ninety-two years and nine months. He married Margaret Ibrook, February 13, 1638-39, in Charlestown, Massachusetts. The great-grandfather of Charles Henry Tower, Cornelius Tower, was born February 5, 1701-02. He served in the old French war in the regiment of Colonel Thomas Clapp, and in Captain Josiah Thatcher's company.

In 1759 he was in Halifax. Cornelius Tower married Hannah Higgins, publishing his intentions April 1, 1732.

Their son, Isaac Tower, grandfather of the subject of this record, was born in Cohasset, Massachusetts, May 20, 1744, and died in Chesterfield, Massachusetts, March 7, 1826. He served in the American Revolution as sergeant in Captain Obadiah Beal's Company, at Dorchester, on March 4, 1776, and previously served in the company of Captain Job Cushing, in Colonel Greaton's regiment. In times of peace he was a substantial farmer. Isaac Tower married, January 9, 1770, Mary Sprague, who was born in Hingham, June 14, 1752, and died in Chesterfield, April 27, 1826. To them were born sixteen children, among them was Elijah Tower, whose birth occurred in Chesterfield, May 22, 1787. He was a

farmer and was also trained to the trade of masonry, which he followed in combination with farming. He married, Febru-

ary 14, 1827, in Chesterfield, Elvira Russell, born November 30, 1792, daughter of Solomon and Sarah (Brown) Russell. Children: Lucy Sprague, born November 8, 1827; Charles Henry, born August 23, 1829; Harvey Russell, born October 1g, 1831; and Lucy Elvira, born December 21, 1833. Charles Henry Tower, son of Elijah and Elvira (Russell) Tower, was born in Chesterfield, Massachusetts, August 23, 1829, as above noted. He was educated in the district schools of Chesterfield and learned the trade of tinsmith and copper worker in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, when he was some twenty years of age, being thus occupied from 1848 to 1851. The next two years found him working at his trade in Richmond, Virginia, to which he returned, after a four year interval. in 1856, to continue until 1861.

Meantime he had joined the Richmond Light Infantry Blues in August, 1859. When the Civil War began, he enlisted in Company A, 46th Virginia Infantry, Confederate Army, and fought throughout the war. Wounded in the head at Hatcher's Run, March 29, 1865, he was in a Richmond hospital until he obtained his parole, May 10, 1865. These varied experiences might be said to have brought Mr. Tower to the actual beginning of his business career. He entered the plumbing and tinning business in Holyoke in 1865 as head of the firm of Tower Brothers, operating thus until 1876, and alone from 1876 to 1880. For the next twelve years he was associated with the firm of Phelps and Tower, and from 1892 to 1900 again ran his business alone. From 1900 until his retirement in May, 1909, Mr. Tower was associated with C. F. Sullivan and Company. Although greatly interested in politics, Mr. Tower was a staunch Democrat and held no public offices.

Tower Genealogical Society Online

address is:

<http://www.towergenealogy.com>

Continued On Page 3

The Book: Tower Volume III are now available:

Volume Three is 570 pages in length and it contains information on generations 9-14. It's base price is: \$55.00 per book, but you must add an additional \$5.00 to that base price if it has to be shipped to you. Valorie will be at the reunion and have copies of it to sell. **Please make your checks out to Tower Genealogical Society, Inc. but mail them to:**



Mrs. Valorie Jalsovsky
1010 Marion Dr.
Holly, Michigan 48442
(248)634-7606

He was very popular, however, as evidenced by his long Masonic association. He joined the Mystic Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, in 1854. In Holyoke he was a life member of the Mt. Tom Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons; the Mt. Holyoke Chapter, Royal Arch Masons; Holyoke Council, Royal and Select Masters; Connecticut Valley Lodge, No. 28, Knights of Pythias; and Massasoit Commandery, No. 273, Knights of Malta. Remaining loyal to his interest in the Southern cause, Mr. Tower was a member of the R. E. Lee Camp, No. 1, Confederate Veterans, Richmond, Virginia. His club was the Bay State of Holyoke. He attended the Congregational Church. Mr. Tower died in Holyoke, November 18, 1918, and was interred in Forestdale Cemetery.

Charles Henry Tower married, in Holyoke, December 29, 1868, Sarah Young, born May 11, 1844, in Huntington, Massachusetts, daughter of James and Agnes (Allen) Young. Her father studied for the ministry in Scotland, but abandoned that pursuit and migrated to America about 1836, and was here employed in railroad work. Mrs. Tower survives her husband and is still active and alert at the age of eighty-two. To

Mr. and Mrs. Tower was born a son, James Wallace Tower, October 4, 1871, in Holyoke, Massachusetts. He was educated in the public schools and adopted the profession of a civil engineer.

Mr. Tower practices his profession in New York City, and is also president of the Tower Genealogical Society. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and the Boston Society of Civil Engineers. He has never married.

Charles Henry Tower was a virile type of man, independent, vigorous in thought and action, and in the habit of making his own decisions. With a genial and kindly nature, he made hosts of friends, and his home life was happy and hospitable.

The following story is submitted by TGS member:

Elizabeth Fisk

Elizabeth says that she is not sure who the "cousins in Cochituate" were but they must be on her father's side as my grandmother was an only child. Grandparents were both Towers. Although my grandmother was born in Boston, her father was born in Canada. She has the pedigrees on both. She also has pictures of the 1914 car with some people I have not been able to identify. Enjoy! Betsy

Publications Announcements:

Letters of thanks have been received from the following libraries as they were donated copies of Tower Genealogical Society Volume to add to their collection on Tower Family history: **The Hingham Massachusetts Public Library, The Detroit Michigan Public Library, and the Daughters of the American Revolution.**

There are only three copies of Volume Two left for sale at this time. Georgena will bring them with her to the reunion to sell. She will also bring the TGS cookbooks to sell.

A Summer Memory: Ships Ahoy By: Gladys Todd (September 1973)

"Hello, Mother and Dad, a perfect view of the harbor from here," I called from the top of the rigging of a two-masted schooner berthed at T Wharf, Boston, as my parents approached the vessel about 7:00 p.m., on a July night, 1914.

I was to have started a voyage early that day but the necessary sailing papers had not been delivered. We were therefore laid over until the morrow.

It wasn't that Mother wasn't used to my climbing. Practice on ladders, ropes, trees, and third-story haylofts had been going on for years. However, she blanched, and demanded my immediate descent. I was informed that the trip for me would be canceled on the spot unless she had my solemn promise not to repeat the episode.

Little could she appreciate my sense of adventure and accomplishment at reaching the top, some thirty feet above the deck.

The next day, the tug piloted the wooden vessel expertly out of the harbor and we were on our way to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. After passing Cape Ann, we were out of sight of land and I was reminded that one has to adapt to motion of pitching fore and aft or rolling from side to side. When the latter was in process, the main mast would make an elongated squeak, - an eerie sound in the middle of the night.

The Tower Genealogical Society lists serve on Yahoo: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TowerGenealogicalSociety/>

The schooner, first designed by sailing vessel Captain Andrew Robinson in Gloucester, Mass. In 1713, is a fore and aft rigged ship having two masts with a smaller sail on the foremast and with the main mast stepped nearly amidships. Two rope ladders, known as rigging, went from the deck to the top of the masts.

There was no engine, and radar was non-existent. Sails and the very necessary adjunct, wind, were the only means of propulsion. The map, compass, sextant and stars completed the navigational assists. And, oh, the foghorn! Several nights and days it functioned continuously with such timing as to make it almost musical. The pungent odor of caulking combined with the salt air constantly permeated the nostrils.

The cabin, aft, accommodated the Captain's quarters which had four narrow bunks, desk, wardrobe and wash-room facilities. At night, the narrow bunk seemed to enfold me with its protective sides.

The cabin also included the galley with an iron wood-burning stove, kerosene lamps and a table and chair, all bolted down. A four-inch rim around the top of the stove and the table were hinged to facilitate adjustment in rough and calm weather. Dishes and pans were in racks that prevented unsolicited movement.

The fragrance of fresh baked bread, baked beans, brown bread, pies, stews and chowders whetted our already ravenous appetites. The galley was filled with laughter at mealtimes and more jollity during games in the evening.

The crew consisted of Lester Ward, Captain, cousin of my father, his wife Maria, Cook, and Lester's two younger brothers, Jim and Ben. Stephen, age two years, son of Lester and Maria, and I were passengers.

Jim and Ben, age 18 and 20, good seamen and up-standing young men, were housed in the forecabin. The Captain had full confidence in their quick response to his request and their dependability at the wheel, when their watch was signaled by the big brass bell.

It was my assignment to keep Stephen occupied, especially while on deck.

As in any transportation business, it is advantageous for the Captain, if possible, to have his ship loaded both to and from his home port, which in this case was St. John. Our vessel was loaded with 8X8 inch beams for delivery to Windsor, Nova Scotia.

As days passed, I had an opportunity to appreciate, as Golding phrases it, "The glittering seas rise up move apart in planes of blatant impossibility. Sometimes land moved where there was no land and flecked out like a bubble. At midday the illusions merged into the sky and there the sun

gazed down like an angry eye. On another day, at the end of the afternoon, the mirage subsided and the horizon became level and blue and chipped as the sun declined."

I grew accustomed to this mystery but never to the wonder of the throbbing stars that seemed so near and were so essential to navigation.

Some days were so calm we had to tack all day. Other days quick rain squalls would send us scurrying for our Souwesters. Only once was I alarmed in a violent thunderstorm. Chain lightning, such as I had never before experienced, appeared about to split the jib boom. However, nothing could persuade me to go below deck. There was always excitement whenever a school of porpoise followed alongside for several hours or whales spouted nearby.

Windsor, Nova Scotia, was a typical church-centered village with white clapboard houses and a small country store. Upon our arrival, a tall handsome white-haired gentleman, attired in a brown suit and owner of a lumber company, greeted the Captain. After finishing their business, the man was surprised to see a very tanned, dark-haired, dark eyed eleven-year old girl aboard ship. He appeared at the wharf bearing a large old-fashioned bouquet. The following day, he appeared again and asked for me. He said there was a church fair and he thought I might enjoy something from the food table. It was a beautiful white cake with the frosting marked off in squares, a walnut half in the exact center of each square. And the day of departure I received a bon voyage gift of delicious navel oranges, a real treat when little or no fresh fruit was aboard.

Ben and Jim, big brother style, had teased me all of the way, and when this delightful gentleman appeared each day with a gift, the teasing intensified.

Now we were at sea again headed for Peck's Cove in Cumberland Basin, New Brunswick.

My grandparents' land touched the Cove. As soon as we were beached I abandoned the ship as planned and spent a happy week with them at the farm. The vessel was re-caulked where needed and the hull scraped and painted.

During this week, on August 4, 1914, Great Britain declared war on Germany. The crews were Canadians and their ship flew the Canadian flag. They were doubtless very concerned with the news. I'm afraid the full impact did not then penetrate my thinking too seriously. However, the teasing never ceased on the 12-day return trip. Whenever anything was sighted, Ben and Jim assured me that it was a German submarine probably seeking us out for sinking.

After four weeks aboard ship and one week on land, we sailed into snug, historic Salem harbor. Mixed emotions were mine. Happy to be reunited with my family but loathe to leave my hosts, my narrow bunk, Souwester and the open sea.

Featured Photo:

This photo submitted by TGS Treasurer Carol Angelo is of her grandmother's family taken about 1935 or 1940.

In the front row are her great grandfather Schuyler Roger Tower and his wife Almyra Louise (Phelps) Tower and his children: Adelaide Lillian (Tower) Oakes "Gram", Gladys Marion (Tower) Berad.

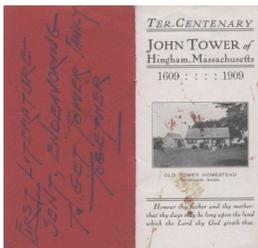
2nd row: Bessie May (Tower) Bowen, Harold Schuyler Tower, Rachel Dora (Tower) Davis.

3rd row: Lewis Henry Tower, Sidney Roger Tower, George Forest Tower, Clifton Ray Tower. They had a 10th child Louise Almyra Tower who died at the age of 2



TGS would like to extend a warm welcome to its newest members~

- **Theodore (Ted) L. Tower**(11): Russell L.(10), Thurman(9), Nathaniel Stillman(8), William(7), Nathaniel(6), Joseph(5), Joseph(4), Benjamin(3), John(2) & John(1)
- **Marion Adelaide Snow**(10): Lillian Adelaide Tower(9), Schuyler Roger(8), Alvin(7), Martin(6), Thomas Gross(5), Shadrach(4), Thomas(3), Benjamin(2) & John(1)
- **Priscilla I. Thayer**(10): Lewis H. Tower(9), Schuyler Roger(8), Alvin(7), Martin(6), Thomas Gross(5), Shadrach(4), Thomas(3), Benjamin(2) & John(1)
- **Thomas Rosebury**(12): Helen A. Tower(11), Lloyd E.(10), Frank Erwin(9), Solomon S.(8), Samuel S.(7), Joseph(6), Isaac(5), Cornelius(4), John(3), Ibrook(2) & John(1)
- **Duncan Tanner**(11): Mary Carrol Nelson(10), Henry L. Nelson (9), Sarah A. Tower(8), Dennis(7), William(6), Thomas Gross(5), Shadrach(4), Thomas(3), Benjamin(2) & John(1)
- **Kaitlin Tower**(14), Stephen(13), David(12), Arunah(11), David(10), Arunah(9), Horace(8), David(7), Thomas(6), Nathaniel(5), Joseph(4), Benjamin(3), John (2), John(1)
- **Deborah Nichols-Lederman**: Her ancestry is as follows: John (1), John (2), Benjamin (3), Joseph (4), Nathaniel (5), Otis (6), Loami (7), Nathaniel (8), Alice Jerusha (9), Thomas Neil (Neil is last name) (10), Merle Neil (11) and Deborah Nichols-Lederman (12).
- **Christine Petri**: Her ancestry is as follows beginning with her father: Clifton R. (9); Schuyler R. (8); Alvin (7); Martin (6); Thomas Gross (5); Shadrach (4); Thomas (3); Benjamin (2); and John (1).



This is a copy of the First reported literature sent endeavoring the get Tower Family together 1909.

The remaining pages of this brochure can be viewed online at:
<http://www.towergenealogy.com/pictures4.htm>

Congratulations:



TGS member **Charlotte Barnard** would like to announce the birth of her new great granddaughter:

Emma Lynn April Schleede (14), June 25, 2004, to Brian and Juliet Gideon Schleede(13). Maternal Grandparents are Robert and Judy Barnard Bowser(12). Paternal Grandparents are Lynn and Marilyn Schleede. Emma Lynn is the Great Granddaughter of Charlotte Demmer Barnard (11).



David Tower: TGS President / Chairperson of the membership committee. He handles TGS genealogical concerns. His address is : 231 Johnson St., Rhinelander, WI 5450. His e-mail is: wicat@newnorth.net

Carol Angelo: TGS Treasurer / Chairperson of the Financial Committee. She handles all TGS membership dues and renewals. Her address is: 147 Main Rd., North Adams, MA 01247. Her e-mail is: canangel5@hotmail.net

Peter Tower: Vice President / TGS Communications Committee Chairperson. He also maintains the TGS Web Site. His address is: 48 Central Ave., Berwyn, PA 19312. His e-mail is: peter.tower@verizon.net

John W. Tower Sr.: TGS Executive Secretary / Chairperson TGS Historical Committee and his address is: 6 Powder Horn Lane, New Milford, CT 06776. His e-mail is: jtower@towergroupinc.com

Barbara Jackson: Recording Secretary / member of TGS

Historical Committee. Her address is: 92387 Garden Lane, Coos Bay, OR 97420. Her e-mail is: Chasntale2@aol.com

Bernie Tower: TGS Director and Reunion Chairperson. His address is: 1304 Via Hielo, Santa Maria, CA 93454. His e-mail is:

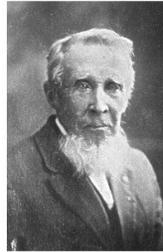
coltower@verizon.net

Phillip Tower: TGS Director and By Laws Committee Chairperson. His address is: 3203 E. McKinley Rd., Midland, MI 48640. His e-mail is: Philtower@dow.com

Georgena Miller and Janine Battistone: TGS Publications Co-Chairpersons. Georgena's address is: 977 Glass Rd., Ortonville, MI 48462. Her e-mail is: jo55dan@netzero.com

Janine is also TGS newsletter editor, and manages and monitors the TGS Yahoo list serve online Janine's address is: 5831 N. Marsh Bank Lane, Apt. 102, Clarkston, MI 48346. Her e-mail is: janinebattistone@earthlink.net

This photo is of William Ray Tower and Orville Underwood on the R.T.Tower Farm. If you are a relative, or if you know how to contact his living relatives then please contact Janine Battistone, your TGS newsletter editor (contact information on back page.) Janine has located several articles written by William Ray Tower and additional photos of him..



Abraham Bates Tower Civil War Vet Union Army

Abraham Bates Tower and Nancy Angeline Long with



A Guide to the Resources in the Bentley Historical Library

BENTLEY HISTORICAL LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Michigan Historical Collections

Tower family.

The Tower family were residents of Ionia, Mich. The collection includes 16 letters (Oct. 18, 1862-June 5, 1864) of Angelo Emery Tower. Tower was captain of Company E, 6th Michigan Cavalry, and resigned for disability Aug. 15, 1864. The collection also contains letters from other soldiers:

James H. Kidd, also from Ionia, Mich., major and later colonel in the 6th Michigan Cavalry. One letter (May 31, 1863) to Osmond Tower. Also one letter (June 11, 1864) from Osmond Selwyn Tower to Kidd regarding Angelo Tower's health.



Angelo E. Tower, from J.H. Kidd, *Personal Recollections of a Cavalryman*. Ionia, Mich., 1908

<http://www.umich.edu/~bhl/bhl/mhchome/cw/cwcoll-t.htm>
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