

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!

This Issue contains a delightful bit of Tower history about a Tower toy store in Hingham from our resident historian, Dave Tower. We are also treated to a wonderful account from Michael Tower concerning his father, Don Tower's USAF heroic actions in the WWII's attack on Pearl Harbor and a rather lengthy account of the history of Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada and the struggle between the warring countries, Britain and France to control this rich area. It is the history of the Canadian Tower line. I hope you enjoy it.

Gloria Holmes Cooper

TGS Newsletter Editor



*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 New England Migration

The Colony of Nova Scotia stood on New England's frontier during the tumultuous time of the Seven Years' War (1756-1763) between England and France over their North American Empires. Although England had begun the process of deporting the French Catholic Acadians who inhabited Nova Scotia in 1755, it was felt that until a significant Protestant (and preferably English) community had been established, the colony would not be secure. Thus Governor Charles Lawrence issued Proclamations in October of 1758 and again in January of 1759 inviting loyal subjects from New England to locate in Nova Scotia. Between 1760 and 1774, approximately 8000 Planters from the colonies of Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire came to Nova Scotia, bringing with them their own culture, a mixture of Old World traditions and New World adjustments.

Read more of this fascinating history beginning on page 4.

“Talk About Poor Timing”

This story was written by Don's son, Michael M. Tower, PhD. Much of the information contained herein was obtained from stories told by his father, family album newspaper articles, Don's military records, and the daily log of the AAF88th Recon Squadron from November 1941 to November 1942.

John/Jeremiah/Jeremiah/Peter/Peter/
Asa/Asa/Almond/Nathan/Howard/
Donald/Michael



**Colonel Donald O. Tower 1962
Wing Commander,
McConnell AFB**

This is the story of an American war hero, Donald Oren Tower. For him World War II began after an uneventful, all night flight from San Francisco to Hickam Field near Pearl Harbor the morning of December 7, 1941. Under strict radio silence, the crew had no indication that anything out of the ordinary was occurring upon approaching the Hawaiian Islands. Don Tower was later quoted as saying,

“Talk about poor timing!”

Don Tower was born in Boulder, Colorado on December 15, 1916 to Howard and Elizabeth Tower and was raised in Portland, Oregon. When Don was nine, this father died of a ruptured appendix. Penniless, his mother remarried a year later. When the depression hit the country, the family moved to a farm near Tigard, Oregon to eke out a subsistence living. In high school, he developed a love for flying while working at the airport as a grease monkey and washing airplanes. He enrolled at the University of Oregon in 1936. At 6'1" and a good athlete, he had

a basketball and track scholarship to help with tuition. He also enrolled in Army ROTC which provided a small stipend. After four years, he finished his Bachelor of Science degree in science and coaching. Upon graduation he had to choose between careers as a science teacher or an officer in the US Army. The Army paid \$30 a month more than a teacher's salary, so he went on active duty in the summer of 1940.

His Primary Flight School, flying a Stearman bi-plane, was completed in six weeks at Moffett Field near San Francisco. He was then assigned to Advanced Training at Stockton Field, California, where he flew AT-6 Texans. From there he was transferred to Fort Douglas near Salt Lake City for B-17 training. It was there that his operational reconnaissance squadron was being formed.

In October 1941, the squadron received notification under the secret orders “Plum,” that they were to be permanently reassigned to the Philippine Islands. The 88th Recon Squadron was ordered to pick up seven late model B-17 E's at the factory in Seattle, ferry them to Salt Lake and then to San Francisco for debarkation. The orders received on December 3rd stated that 2nd Lt. Donald O. Tower was assigned as co-pilot on Combat Crew No. 1 flying under command of Major Richard H. Carmichael, Commanding Officer of the 88th Reconnaissance Squadron.

About 8:00 pm on December 6th Maj. Carmichael was called into Maj. Gen. Hap Arnold's office at Hamilton Field near San Francisco for a briefing. The General concluded the meeting with the final remark, “Good luck and good shooting, it looks as if you might get to do some of that.” The General came closer to the truth than either he or the squadron commander realized. Had Maj. Carmichael known what was about to occur, the crews would have seen to it that they carried a full load of ammunition. As it was though, they carried none. They were about to become helpless targets.

Around 9:00 pm Lt. Tower walked around his ship and performed a pre-flight check. It is interesting to note that the radio operator on the crew was S/ Sgt. Sam Tower. (Don and Sam did not

know to what extent they were related) At 10:10 pm they were the first of nine aircraft to lift off. Departing the coastline at 10,000 ft, the weather was clear and there were tail winds most of the way.

Flying from the California mainland to Hawaii in a B-17 was risky business since it was 2,400 miles from San Francisco to Hickam Field. The range of a B-17 with a 6,000 lb bomb load was only 2,000 miles, thus they off loaded all ammunition and replaced the bomb load with internal fuel tanks. A thirteen hour trip is a long one, particularly over water. They seldom saw the surface of the ocean, for they flew between 8 and 10 thousand feet, above the broken overcast. The navigator shot the stars, kept track of position, and estimated the time of arrival.

At approximately 8:30 am, Honolulu time, the apprehension of the last hour disappeared as the peaks of the Koolua Mountain Range first and then the shoreline of Oahu became visible. What they didn't know was that the Japanese had bombed their landing field at 7:55 am. What they also didn't know was that the second wave of Japanese fighters and bombers were about to arrive at the same destination, simultaneously.

At a quarter to 9 on the morning of December 7th, Major Carmichael and Lt. Tower began their approach pattern to Hickam Field beginning at Makapuu Point, on the eastern shoreline of Oahu. As they rounded Diamond Head at 1,000 ft on their approach to the field and still under radio silence, they noticed black smoke rolling up from nearby Pearl Harbor. Upon closer observation they saw black clouds from anti-aircraft guns fired from destroyers in the harbor. In addition, they saw three to five ships in the harbor on fire as well as a hangar at the west end of Hickam Field in flames. Toward the north there was a large amount of smoke coming from Wheeler Field, their alternate landing site. Lt. Tower noticed several airborne aircraft, which he did not realize initially were Japanese. As they made their final turn for the field, they saw several bombs burst in the channel and harbor and finally concluded that a real war was in progress.

"Talk About Bad Timing"
Continued from page 2

Then as they began final approach, lowering their flaps and landing gear, an excited voice broke radio silence, "Pull up, pull up, we are under Japanese attack!" They raised the landing gear and began to climb as a Japanese fighter aligned himself on their tail. Fortunately, there was a low cumulus cloud layer over the field and Major Carmichael pull the B-17 up into the cloud layer and lost the fighter. He then broke out of the clouds heading north toward Hale'iwa on the north shore where he knew there was a short fighter auxiliary strip.

After landing, they ran for the palm trees as a lone Japanese fighter made a half-hearted effort to strafe the field. After the strafing was over, Major Carmichael went over to base operations and checked in with the Hawaiian AAC Department by telephone. He was ordered to takeoff and return to Hickam Field. They took off and successfully set down at Hickam Field after a ten minute flight. That evening, the crew members secured blankets and headed for a

wooded area on the east end of Hickam Field. There they spent a sleepless night listening to the hum of mosquitos and the irregular thud of anti-aircraft fire, as well as enduring sporadic rain showers. What they did not know until morning was they had chosen the least safe place in the area to bivouac, for in the morning they awoke to find out that the wooded area they had chosen to sleep was actually an ammo dump. If the Japanese had returned, one stray bomb into the wooded area would have turned the ammo dump into an inferno like that which had occurred along Battleship Row the previous morning.

For the next sixty-four days the 88th Recon Squadron stood alert or flew reconnaissance missions every other day for the protection of the Islands from invasion.

On February 9th the squadron departed for the Far East. Lt. Tower carried mail to the Christmas Islands, then on to Canton Island and finally arrived in Fiji. There they performed routine long range reconnaissance flights and

awaited orders for their ultimate destination, which was not the originally planned Philippine Islands, but to New Guinea where the first line of defense for Australia and New Zealand was to occur. Lt. Tower spent the next nine months performing bombing raids on Japanese held islands, attacking Japanese ship convoys and flying reconnaissance missions. One unusual mission was flying to Manila and picking up General McArthur's family and then flying them to safety in Australia. He flew missions in the Battles of the Coral Sea and Guadalcanal. His bomber was attacked and hit by Japanese fighters on numerous occasions during his 66 missions. For his expert flying skills and heroics, he was awarded five Air Medals, three Distinguished Flying Crosses, and the Bronze and Silver Star for Valor.



Passengers on the *Mary Anne of Yarmouth*

William Goose was master of the "**Mary Anne**" of Yarmouth, one of three ships in the Great Yarmouth fleet which sailed for New England in the spring of 1637. By 1635 William Goose and his wife had settled in Salem from where he combined carrying passengers across the Atlantic with trading voyages to the Caribbean islands. There are reports that this ship was still delivering immigrants as late as 1657. On this voyage, the "Mary Anne" sailed from Ipswich, England in May and arrived at Boston, Massachusetts on June 20, 1637. (Keep in mind that 76 men, women and children and their provisions and livestock, spent more than 5 weeks crammed into a space that was twice as long as a bus, twice as wide, but half the height)

Thomas Paine 50, a weaver of Wrentham, Suffolk and going to Salem, MA. Mrs. Elizabeth Paine 53
Thomas Paine, Jr., John Paine ,Mary Paine ,Elizabeth Paine, Dorothy Paine, Sarah Paine

Margaret Neave 58 widow of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk
Rachel Dixon

Benjamin Cooper 50 husbandman of Brampton, Suffolk. Going to Salem, MA.
Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper 48
Lawrence Cooper, Mary Cooper
Rebecca Cooper, Benjamin Cooper, Jr. ,Francis Fillingham 32 (his son-in-law) Esther Cooper (Benjamin's sister)

John Killin

Philemon Dickerson, servant going to Salem, MA.
Listed in Banks as being from the Parish of Dewsbury.

Abraham Toppan 31

a cooper of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, England. Going to Newbury
Mrs. Suzanna Toppan 30
Peter Toppan, Elizabeth Toppan
Anne Goodin 18, servant

William Thomas 26 of Great Comberton, Worchester, England.

Mrs. Margaret Thurston 32
Thomas Thurston, John Thurston

Lucy Poyett 23 spinster

John Burrowe 48
Cooper of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, England. Going to Salem, MA.
Mrs. Anne Burrowe 40

William Gault 29
Cordwainer of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, England. Going to Salem
John Darrell

Mrs. Joan Ames 50 widow of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, England. Going to Salem.
Ruth Ames 18

William Ames ,John Ames
John Gedney of Norwich, Norfolk, England. Going to Salem.
Mrs. Sarah Gedney 25
Lydia Gedney, Hannah Gedney
John Gedney, William Walker
servant Burgess 26 servant

Samuel Greenfield 27 weaver of Norwich, Norfolk, England. Going to Salem, MA.
Mrs. Barbara Greenfield 25
Mary Greenfield, Barbara Greenfield
John Teed 19 servant

Thomas Jones 25 butcher of Elzing, Norfolk, England. Going to Charlestown.

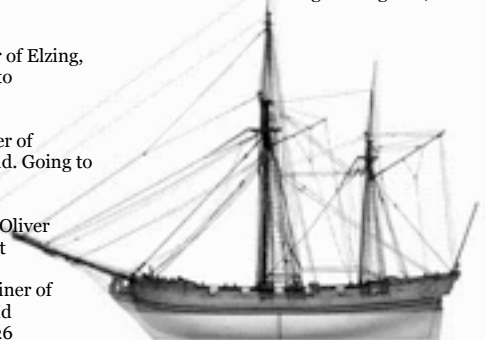
Thomas Oliver 36 calender of Norwich, Norfolk, England. Going to Salem, MA.
Mrs. Mary Oliver 34
Thomas Oliver, Jr., John Oliver
Thomas Doged 30 servant
Mary Sape 12 servant
William Cockram 28 mariner of Southold, Suffolk, England
Mrs. Christian Cockram 26

John Cutler Going to Hingham
Mrs. Mary Cutler
7 children are listed with only the last name given, and one servant.

Henry Tuthill of Saxlingham, Norfolk, England. Going to Hingham.
Mrs.Tuthuill

Isaac Wright

John Tower Going to Hingham, MA.



HISTORY OF SACKVILLE, NEW BRUNSWICK

By DR. WILLIAM COCHRAN MILNER Historian, and Former Dominion Archivist (1846-1939)

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FRENCH OCCUPATION

The first European settlers at Sackville were French. The date of settlement here is uncertain, but it was some years after Bourgeois, a surgeon, (brought to Port Royal by D'Aulnay) settled at Beaubassin, Fort Lawrence, with Thomas Cormier, Jacques Belon, Peter Sire, and Germain Girouard. This settlement had been made in 1671, so it was after this date that clearings were made near the four Corners, (Tantramar), along the ridge from the Town Hall to the farm of the late Philip Palmer's place called in the old maps Pre des Bourg and at Westcock (Veska).

These localities were connected by a trail through the woods and Westcock is described as a "Port de mer," seaport, from which intimate connection was made with Port Royal. Tantramar was also connected by a trail across the marshes with the settlements at La Coupe, La Lac, Beausejour, and Beaubassin, which latter place was described as one of the five principal settlements of the French in Acadia, the others being Port Royal, Les Mines, Pisequit and Cobequit. Tantramar like four of the other settlements was an off-shoot of the parent settlement at Port Royal. It grew by degrees to be a populous settlement and in time became the station of a missionary. A chapel was built on the site of Beulah, a Baptist Church at the Four Corners long abandoned. The records of the missionaries here have not come to light and are probably destroyed and with them all trace is lost of the family and local history of the former dwellers in this parish. For a period of eighty years or more they lived here in tranquility protected by their seclusion and remoteness from the theatre of conflict and conquest, and during that time they became a prosperous and populous community. But so completely has the fortune of war blotted out the memorials of them, that even the graveyard, where generations of them were buried has become a matter of tradition. A feature of an English churchyard:--**"Their name, their years, spelt by the unlettered muse, The place of fame and elegy supply And many a holy text around she strews, To teach the rustic moralist to die.**--is here wanting; a field that has been ploughed and tilled for a hundred years is said to be the last resting place of generations of these people who knew no other country as their land and their home.

The French having ceded (1713) their ancient Colony of Acadia to the English, the boundaries of which were not defined, it was the policy of the English on the one side to insist the boundary line was as far north and west towards Quebec as possible and of the French on the other to contend that the boundary was at the Missiquash river, now the boundary between the two provinces.

In 1750, the Government at Quebec sent a small detachment under an officer named La Corne to establish a post of observation on the promontory at Beausejour, then dotted with farm buildings.

In pursuance of the above policy, the French under La Loutre had by threats and persuasions induced the French population living in the villages that remained under British rule to abandon their homes and settle on the French side of the Missiquash, in order to deprive the English of an industrious class of people, as to form a bulwark against British aggression. In 1750, when Lawrence appeared at the French village at Beaubassin -- now Fort Lawrence -- the French people hastily burned their dwellings and left.

Gen. Joshua Winslow*, then a young Commissariat officer attached to the command writes in his journal on 8th Sept. 1750: "The Indians set fire to the village Hebert and another village opposite us and burnt a great many houses."

**Joshua Winslow was the father of Anna Green Winslow, a young lady sent from Fort Cumberland in 1770--to go to school at Boston. She kept a diary which has been edited by a successful American authoress, Alice Morse Earle.*

General Winslow seems to have left Fort Cumberland before 1783. He was paymaster of the troops in Quebec in 1791 and died there 10 years later. When at Fort Cumberland he was engaged in the commissary business with Capt. Huston, who had on one of his trips to Boston picked up a waif, in the person of the afterwards celebrated Brook Watson, and brought him to Nova Scotia. Brook Watson owed much of his knowledge of business and his commercial success in after life to the training he received at the hands of General Winslow who is described as a "most complete accountant". He was Lieutenant under Capt. Light in Col. Moore's regiment at the taking of Louisburg in 1754. He was afterwards Commissary General of the English troops in Nova Scotia, and siding with England in the revolutionary struggle was excited and continued in the royal service till his death.

It must have been with sore hearts that these Acadian farmers turned away from the homesteads made fruitful by the sweat and toil of themselves and forefathers, and that they set out to make new dwelling places, trusting themselves, their wives, and their children to unknown hazards in the game of war between France and England. They poured into the villages west of Missiquash--Beaubassin, Memramcook, Shediac and Petitcodiac. They were supported by rations issued at Beausejour -- 2 lbs. of bread and 1/2 lb. of beef per day, per man. In 1751, La Loutre made a statement of 1111 men, women and children then quartered west of the Missiquish receiving rations. The peace and security the people enjoyed came to an end finally in 1755, when the French military post on the Isthmus was deemed a menace to English dominancy in Acadia.

The Isthmus was made the base of attack by Indians and Gens du Bois, led by Bois Hebert, on the English posts; the newly formed settlement at Halifax, as well as the fort at Port Royal were kept in more or less constant alarm, by hostiles who ranged the woods and deterred any attempt at settlement. The English thereupon determined to drive the French flag from the Isthmus and the attempt was made in 1775. Early in the spring, the Acadian farmers witnessed an English fleet of war vessels and transports laden with troops and munitions of war, sail up the Bay and anchor in the Basin below Beausejour. At the season the Acadians of Tantramar were usually occupied in getting in their crops, they were summoned to defend Beausejour against the attack of Lawrence. Their wives and children from their house stoops at Tantramar watched with the keenest interest and anxiety the course of the artillery duel between the English batteries and Beausejour, which ended on 16th June, by the appearance of a white flag at the fort and later by the lowering of the ensign of France. With grief they beheld the garrison march forth and take the road to Baie Verte thence to be shipped to Louisburg. The next act in the drama followed closely enough.

On 31st July, Lt. Governor Lawrence forwarded instructions by a military party under Capt. Croxton, to Col. Monckton at Beausejour stating the determination of the government to remove the neutral French from Nova Scotia,

commencing with those at the Isthmus, who "were found in arms" at the capture of Beausejour and "entitled to no favor from the government." Transports and instructions were to be sent to him later and he was to use stratagem to arrest all the men. Their cattle and corn were forfeited and must be applied towards the expense of removal. They were to be allowed to carry away only their ready money and household furniture. By a second letter dispatched by Capt. Goreham, he ordered the destruction of the French villages at Shediac and Ramsec (Pugwash). A third letter written on 8th of August, Lawrence orders the destruction of the villages north and north west of Beausejour and to try and save the cattle and crops.

On 20th of August a man of war under command of Capt. Proby and eight transports arrived from Halifax and cast anchor at Five Fathom Hole, and four days later two more vessels sailed in. On 26th August Lawrence writes another letter to Monckton, giving further instructions and informing him as to the movements of Winslow at Minas &c. He is to lay hold of the priest Miniac, and send him with the rest. All the cattle that can be brought in from Petitcodiac, Memramcook and Chipoudy are to be distributed amongst the people at Chignecto as they think they can support during the winter and the rest to be used as rations for the troops.

The efforts of Monckton to gather the Acadians at Fort Cumberland were only partially successful. Out of over 4,000 of a population in the neighborhood, he secured less than 1200, although he sent Capt. Brook Watson with a detachment to scour the country about Baie Verte. The scenes at embarkation were very painful. Even at this lapse of time one cannot but regard with sorrow mingled with a feeling of horror the tortures of a defenceless people and the cruelties perpetrated on innocent women and children. Abbee La Guerne says that many of the married women, deaf to all entreaties and representations, refused to be separated from their husbands and precipitated themselves in the vessels, where their husbands had been forced.

During the last days of August a strong force was despatched from Beausejour on board two vessels to capture the French at Chipoudy and along the Petitcodiac River. At Chipoudy they found the men had fled leaving 25 women and children who were taken prisoners. They burned 181 houses and barns. On 3rd Sept. they sailed up the Petitcodiac and finding the villages deserted set fire to the buildings for a distance of 15 miles on the north side of the river and 6 miles on the south. In attempting to set fire to the Mass house (presumably at Fox Creek) Boishebert appeared with a large force and two officers Dr. Marsh and Lieut. Billing and six privates were killed and ten were wounded. The whole force narrowly escaping being exterminated, as the armed vessels had drifted down the river in the strong tide and it was not till flood tide, they could get into position to afford the detachment any protection. At high water the men were embarked. They destroyed 253 houses and barns besides the chapel.

When in 1755, General Monckton was engaged in the "Grand Derangement" at Chignecto, he sent a corps of New Englanders to destroy the Acadian dwellings at Tantramar. They did that thoroughly, burning 97 buildings. Those Acadians who escaped the expulsion saw from their shelter of the woods the torch applied to their homes. This was a melancholy fate. The innocent suffered with the guilty. The conflagration of the homes of the unhappy Acadians extended to Westcock and Wood Point, so that when the work of destruction was done, only heaps of ashes remained of the Acadian homes.

At the close of the year 1755, we find the populous French villages on the Isthmus as well as at Chipoudy, along the Petitcodiac, at Shediac and from thence to Pugwash destroyed, their ancient owners scattered from Quebec to Georgia or else, hiding in the forests, with their Indian allies and their farms

acres of desolation. Those who escaped into the forests struggled forward to Miramichi and a few found homes at the head waters of the Saint John. From both of these places numbers were able to seek permanent homes in Quebec. At this period, Miramichi had a French population of 3,500 people.



ENGLISH SETTLEMENT

The second part of the design of Lawrence and his Council at Halifax was now in order, namely to replace the French by English immigrants to strengthen English rule and power in Acadia. There were English garrisons at Beausejour, Fort Lawrence and Fort Monckton and the only English settlers were disbanded soldiers and tradesmen who had commenced to locate themselves around these posts and within the range of their protection. The French inhabitants had been so completely driven off that nine years later (1764) they only numbered 388 men, women and children in this portion of Acadia, when instructions came from the English government to allow them to become settlers on taking the oath of allegiance. Special inducements were held out to the irregulars of New England to become settlers, if they would remain on duty six months longer. To a Colonel was offered 2000 acres of choice land; Major 750 acres; Captain 500; Ensign 450; private soldier 200. The Acadians had not cleared a wide stretch of upland, nor did they build aboideaux across the creeks. Their dikes skirted the rivers and creeks. The houses were of course, logs with roofs of bark and chimneys built up of wood and clay. Sawmills in those days were scarce. After the disappearance of the Acadians, Governor Lawrence issued his Proclamation, offering free grants to actual settlers.

Immigration from the New England States at once set in; vessel after vessel came with people from Connecticut, Rhode Island, and other New England colonies. The lands were surveyed; allotments made to the settlers, but they were obviously disappointed, because when Mr. Charles Dixon arrived from Yorkshire, in 1772, all but three New England families had disappeared. Two years after, the first settler from New England, Israel Purdy, arrived with a contingent of settlers from Newberry Port, and settled at Maugeville. At this time, 1772, the Peabody, Symonds, White and Hazen immigration were building up their trading post at the mouth of the Saint John River. Four years after the settlement at Sackville, the German settlement at Hopewell from Pennsylvania was made and also the Commins settlement at Hillsboro. At the same time, William Davidson arrived at Miramichi and established a trading post at Beaubear's Island in fish, furs and masts.

When the Yorkshire people came to Sackville, there were only two New England settlers there--Mr. Hawkins, who lived near the land on what was known afterwards as the Oliver Boultenhouse place, which was the site of a former French resident--and Amasa Kellam who lived on the site of the Male Academy. This was exclusive of Moses Delesdernier who lived on the place occupied in recent years by the late Thompson Trueman. Hawkins sold two thousand acres of land to Charles Dixon, all Dixon's Island, and the Island next to it, also the Salem district, including the Christopher Humphrey farm. The Dixons, Humphreys and Parkers came over from England in the same vessel. Mr. Humphrey settled in Falmouth, where he died, leaving a widow with a family. Mr. Parker settled at Windsor, and was the ancestor of the Hon. A. McNeill Parker, later Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia. After Dixon settled at Sackville, he sent for Mrs. Humphrey. She settled on the place, known as the Christopher Humphrey farm, where she kept tavern.

Mr. Dixon was the most important man in the community. He was a J. P. and held Court in a room in her tavern. Mr. Black, the father of Bishop Black, who afterwards

settled in Amherst, also came over in the same vessel, the ship, "Duke of York". He did not bring his family; he wanted to examine the country first. Mr. Mason from Swansea, who was elected a representative in the Halifax Assembly, lived in the lower part of the parish.

The French settlements at Sackville skirted the marshes. The principal one was at Tantramar, where a Chapel had been built. At the time of the expulsion, (1775) the bell and perhaps the Communion vessels were saved and many years after, when there was peace, some Acadians appeared, obtained them and took them away. The Chapel was burned with the houses. In consequence of the Proclamation of Governor Lawrence, dated 12th of October, 1758, offering free grants of lands and right of worship, in 1761 twenty-five families from Rhode Island arrived in a vessel and settled on the vacated French farms. Each family of six with seven head of cattle were to receive a grant of seven hundred and fifty acres; years later a return shows the township had a population of three hundred and forty-nine people, all but six from New England. In 1772, a township elected for the first time a representative to the Assembly at Halifax in the person of a schoolmaster named Foster. A return in the Archives at Halifax shows that in 1763 Sackville's inhabitants consisted of 20 families only and that only 200 acres of upland had been cleared up. They had 12,000 acres of marsh land. At the same time Cumberland, (now the parish of Westmorland) possessed 35 families who owned 600 acres of cleared land and 18,800 acres of marsh land.

The N.S. Legislature was constituted at Halifax in 1757 with 22 members, it being arranged that a settlement with 25 qualified electors should send one representative. This place was not accorded a representative. It was not until 1767 that Sackville secured the right to a member, a petition having been sent to the government in 1765 representing that there were then 80 families in this place. Mr. A. Foster was the first member. His name occurs for the first time in 1774, in the proceedings of the House. In 1775, Samuel Rogers succeeded Mr. Foster, Messrs. Gay and Scurr at the same time representing the county (Cumberland).

In 1758, on 12th October, a proclamation was adopted in Council in Halifax offering the vacant lands to settlers, which "consist of one hundred thousand acres of intervale plough lands, cultivated for more than 100 years past and never fail of crops nor need manuring; also a hundred thousand acres cleared and stocked with English grass, planted with orchards, vineyards, etc. All these are situated about the Bay of Fundy upon rivers navigable for ships of burden." Applications were to be made to Thomas Hancock, Boston, Province agent at Boston, who being applied to by persons desiring to know the kind of government in Nova Scotia and whether toleration to religion was allowed, a second proclamation was issued on 11th January, guaranteeing representative institutions and full liberty of conscience, except to papists.

In 1759, on 19th July, Messrs. Liss Willoughby, Benjamin Kimball, Edward Mott and Samuel Starr, Jr., a committee of agents from Connecticut appeared at Halifax proposing to make a settlement at Chignecto and they were given a vessel to visit the locality. In September they returned and proposed some alterations in the grants, which were agreed upon. While there were three garrisons on the Isthmus, settlement was very much hindered by the absence of any security to life or property. The Indians and French scoured the woods, ready to pick off any stragglers. They would even show themselves ostentatiously before the walls of the fort; any settlement out of the reach of guns was not only hazardous but impracticable. The French and Indians exhibited in their raids a skill, and a bravado amounting to recklessness.

In April of this year, (1759), two vessels were at anchor at Grindstone Island, one the armed schooner "Moncton"

belonging to the Province, the other a transport loaded with beef, pork, flour, bread, rice, peas, rum, wine, sugar, lemons, beer, shoes, shirts, stockings and other goods laden at Halifax for the shop-keepers at the Fort. During the night of 4th., the transport was captured by canoes manned by Acadians and French from the shore, and in the morning, they made a most determined effort to capture the "Moncton" chasing her down the Bay for five hours. The schooner had a boy killed and two men wounded in the fight. The schooner was afterwards ransomed for \$1500, the French taking the cargo.

A more tragic affair occurred in the year when a sergeant and three men of the Provincial Rangers and seven soldiers of the 46th Regiment then at the Fort went out to cut wood. They were ambuscaded at a place called Bloody Bridge, and five of them were scalped and stripped. It was two years before this (20th July, 1757) that Lieut. Dickson when following Bois Hebert with a small troop, was ambushed where the La Coup stream enters the Aulac and was taken prisoner and conveyed to Quebec. His command was shot and scalped.

The capture of Quebec ended the hopes of the Acadians of repossessing their lands and the guerilla warfare in this vicinity ceased leading to a greater sense of security. In 1759, a grant of 50,000 acres at Chignecto made in 1736, was rescinded, none of the conditions having been performed and the land remaining unoccupied.

In 1760, the New England soldiers at the Forts nearly all left, their term of enlistment having probably expired, but they could not be induced to remain longer in the country. The first actual settlement in this parish after the deportation of the French may be placed at 1761 -- six years after their deportation and two years after the fall of Quebec. The invitations extended in the above proclamations met with a ready response and a movement took place in Rhode Island to send a contingent here. Some twenty-five families settled here that summer and others came to seek locations and erect habitations to bring their families the next summer. No record is known to have been preserved stating their names, but in the Archives at Halifax there is a "list of subscribers for the township lying on the Tantramar river, represented by Benjamin Thurber, Cyprian Sterry and Edward Jincks from Providence in Rhode Island." It is not dated but it probably belongs to the year 1760 or 1761. Some of these names, as Tower, Young, Estabrooks, Jincks, Foster, Curry, Bateman, Cahoun, Brown, Smith, Cole, King, Finney, Carpenter, Briggs, Sprague, Robinson, Seaman, Power, Tucker, Parker, Emerson, Davis, etc., represent well known families in our community. Many of the others probably never came to the country at all and others coming here were not satisfied with the prospect and returned again to the other colonies.

The first town meeting--or meeting of the committee for Sackville township took place on 20th July, 1762. It was held at the house of Mrs. Charity Bishop, who kept an inn at Fort Cumberland. There were present Capt. John Huston, Doctor John Jencks, Joshua Sprague, Valentine Estabrooks, William Maxwell and Joshua Winslow. Capt. Huston was made chairman and Ichabod Comstock, clerk. The conditions and locations of the proposed new grant of Sackville were of the first interest to the newly arrived settlers and the proceedings were largely taken up with settling such matters. It was resolved that a family of six, and seven head of cattle should have one and a half shares of 750 acres. At the next meeting held on 31st August, Mr. Elijah Ayer's name appears as a committeeman. At a town meeting held on 18th April, 1770, Robert Scott was appointed moderator and Robert Foster clerk. They with John Thomas were appointed a committee to settle with the old committee for the survey of the lands. There is a record of the settlement the next year; they had 200 acres of land cleared and 12,000 acres

of marsh -- the former had probably been cleared by the French, who had reclaimed the marsh. It had 20 families settled.

The next immigration appears to have been in 1763, when a Baptist church at Swansea, Mass., left in a body with the pastor and settled here. It was a small body consisting of 13 members only. Their names were, Nathan Mason and wife, Thomas Lewis and wife, Oliver Mason and wife, Experience Baker, Benjamin Mason and wife, Charles Seamans and wife and Gilbert Seamans and wife. Nathan Mason was their pastor. The names Nathan Mason, Thomas Lewis, Gilbert Seaman, Benjamin Mason occur in a document in the Archives at Halifax seven years later (1770) reciting the names of the residents here. The others are said to have returned to Massachusetts in 1771.

The first actual grant of Sackville appears to have been made on 12th October, 1765. Previous to that date, settlers had no title to lands they occupied beyond orders-in-council, issued at Halifax and which the grant confirmed. This grant was for 35,250 acres. The consideration was a quit rent of one shilling sterling for ten years for every fifty acres. If no rent be paid for three years and no distress be found, or if the granters sell the same within ten years the grant is void.

The township was to consist of 100,000 acres. It was divided into three sections, known as letters A B and C. Letter B division embraced the district between Foundry St., and Morice's mill pond. "A" district was south of Foundry St.; "C" north of Morice's mill pond. There were home lots for actual settlers, who had wood lots and marsh lots bearing corresponding numbers. This grant contained sixty-nine names, in addition to those before mentioned the following were added: Isaac Cole; Amasa Killam, Nath. Lewis; Thomas Lewis; James Estabrooks; Joseph Tingley; Isaac Horton; Gideon Smith; Gideon Smith, Jr.; Jonathan Ward; Asel Carpenter; John Wood; Alex Huston.

The grant was divided into 200 shares of 500 acres each. The intention was to give a man of family one share; a single man half a share. Some, however, received a grant of 1 1/2 shares. Each right of share was numbered and specifically granted by three or four different patents to each grantee by number and quantity of acres.

There was a good deal of unprofitable land which was not located nor divided. The Committee of the Town of Sackville claimed the right to allot these vacant lands, which was disputed. In 1786 there were 60 families in the township.

William Tower's Toy Bazaar

By Dave Tower



The Tower family played a significant role in the toy industry in America, particularly in the development of wooden toys and doll house furniture. The products from the Tower Toy guild and Tower Toy Company are prized antiques in today's world. The small coastal town of Hingham, Massachusetts was home to the first professional toymakers in America. These skilled craftsmen gained local, national, and international acclaim for their finely made miniature woodenware (buckets, washtubs, pantry boxes, churns, and piggins) and miniature toy furniture. It wasn't until the 1850's that sand toys began to gain popularity in the United States. It was at that time that The Tower Guild of South Hingham, which was a toy company located in the United States, created both tinplate and wooden toys that were able to move through the use of paddle wheels and chutes.

Sand toys are not only quite interesting to look at, but they are also very ingeniously created. Many were made with materials such as wood and lithographed paper to create an aesthetically appealing toy. To make it even more fun, shifting sand, as well as the use of gravity, was used to make the toy move as if powered by a battery or electricity. The sand is often used to move a wheel that in turn brings a figure or scene to life.

William Sewell Tower 1826-1898 William (7), Reuben (6), Isaiah (5), Isaiah (4), Peter (3), Benjamin (2), John (1) was born and died in Hingham. He married Mary Ann Wilder 24 November 1850 in Hingham. His father, Reuben, was a clock maker and lived on Main Street near High Street.

I am currently researching this cottage industry and documenting all surviving examples from its illustrious past. If you know the whereabouts of miniature firkins, miniature buckets, account books, diaries, toy furniture, photographs, or other material related to these men, please contact me at derin@derinbray.com. Of special interest is the work of Samuel Hersey, Cotton Hersey, William S. Tower, The William S. Tower Toy Company, Loring H. Cushing, George W. Fearing, William B. Luce, Edmund Hersey, Reuben Hersey, Ezra Wilder, Bela F. Hersey, Blossom Sprague, Pyam C. Burr, E. L. Corthell, Caleb S. Hersey, Bela Sprague, Edward Hersey, Joseph Hersey, Augustus L. Hudson, Daniel Litchfield, E. F. Bates, Thomas King, The Pilgrim Toy Shop, Frank W. Burrell, Franklin Hersey, Marita Otis Lincoln, Robert M. Casey, and Litchfield & Holbrook. Derin Bray is an Art & Antiques consultant and dealer based in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, fifty miles north of Boston. He works closely with private collectors and museums to locate, acquire, and research items, specializing in fine American furniture, folk art, and decorative arts.

Derin has been involved in the art and antiques field for nearly a decade. He previously served as the chief specialist of American furniture and folk art at a major New England auction house and has worked as an author and research consultant for several museums, including the Winterthur Museum in Delaware and the Litchfield Historical Society in Connecticut.

Birth Announcements

Jason Elliot Hedley and Andrea Nicole Tower Hedley of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada are pleased to announce the birth of their son,
Levi Bonnevier Hedley,
 born March 9, 2011,
 brother to Jak and Elliot. Equally proud grandparents are: William K. and Margaret-Anne Tower - TGS members and Patricia Parkins of Victoria, British Columbia. Great grandparents are the late Roy Adolphus, and Christina Jones Tower of Princeton, BC, Canada. The late William and Alberta Macklin, and Anthony Hedley of Surrey, BC. Late great, great grandparents: Arthur Wellington, and Ella Tower.

Daniel and Debra Brown
 proud parents of
Hunter Dean Brown
 born May 10, 2011, Grover Beach, CA
 Grandson of TGS president
 Patricia Brown



Jared Johnson and Elaine Brown
 Johnson proud parents of
Skyler Marie Johnson
 born March 29, 2011,
 Grover Beach, CA
 Granddaughter of TGS president
 Patricia Brown

Jose Manuel Arguello and Amy Mary Tower Arguello Proud parents of
Diane Allena Arguello
 born May 4, 2011 in Charlotte, NC.
 Sister to Wyatt Magnum Arguello
 Grandparents are:
 Stephen and Lynn Tower
 of Indian Trail, NC
 Arelio Arguello and Maria Elana Garcia
 of Vera Cruz, Mexico
 Great grandparents:
 Henry Tower of N. Adams, MA
 Bernice Arbour of N. Adams, MA

Wedding Announcement



Wade Ryan and Amanda Barnes
 of Guilford, VT were married June 11,
 2011 at the Readsboro Lions Park, in
 Readsboro, VT
 Wade is the grandson of Leona Tower
 Betit Jones and the late Charles Betit of
 Greenfield, MA.

New connections to the Tower Family



June 26, 2011
 Hello Gloria,

I called my grandmother Gram also. She was born in Boston, Mass, she was born a Chadwick, married Thomas Lee. It was when my Dad was an adult that my grandparents bought property in B.C. and then, like pioneers, moved there and built a log cabin and more. I spent part of every summer with them.

I came upon the Tower Genealogical Society by chance as I was looking up Tower names. Reading some info there was a great help. There were so many clues to follow up on and then to make the final connections was elation! I went back to the T.G.S. and printed out the application to join. Gram was Eveyln/Evaline Gertrude Chadwick of Ida May Wry & George R. Chadwick ; Ida May Wry of Mary Jane Tower & Henry W. Wry (I have their marriage certificate of N.B.)

Mary Jane Tower (& brother Jasper) of Cyrus, Nathaniel, George, Benjamin, Joseph, Benjamin, John, John.

Shirley Brown

Dear Cousin Gloria !

I am so excited !!! The timing of my search and you now you sending copies of the newsletters that have my own family connections and the connections for Leonard Tower with pictures of my family in it!! I was crying with emotion looking at Mary Jane Tower, my gg grandmother and also my ggg grandmother Mary Black Tower! It was just overwhelming. I can't thank you enough for replying to me and then sharing the newsletters. My kids and my brother and sister will be excited too. Thank you again!

Shirley Brown
 McMinnville, OR

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