

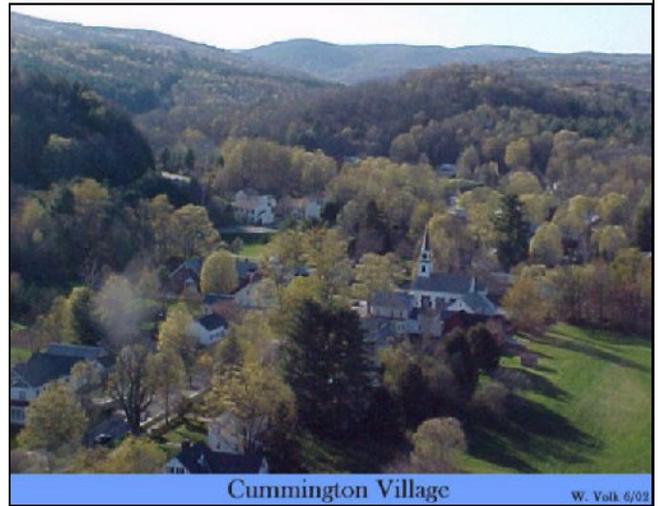
Tower

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.

TOWER TALK NEWSLETTER APRIL 2010 ISSUE

By the
Tower Genealogical Society
Chartered in 1909



Cummington Village

W. Volk 6/02

Picture Above - The Village of Cummington, MA

George Warren Tower

By Patricia Brown, TGS President

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

OF THE

TOWER GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Held at

Wilder Memorial Hall,
South Hingham, Mass.,
Saturday, July 30, 1921

A meeting of the Executive Board of the Tower Genealogical Society was held pursuant to notice, accompanying that for the Annual Meeting, and appearing in the program for the Eighth Tower Reunion now in progress.

Attest,

Recording Secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 4:45 p. m. by the President, James Wallace Tower.

These members were present:—James Wallace Tower, John Henry Tower, Walter Lamont Tower, Mrs. Eketta Gregory Tower, Gilbert Judson Tower, Frank Warren Tower, Sarah Heald Tower, and Martin Eugene Smith, being a quorum.

This member was absent:—Florence Estelle Tower.

Minutes of the last Executive Board Meeting held at Springfield, Mass., January 31, 1920, were read by the Secretary.

Moved: By Eketta Gregory Tower and seconded by Gilbert Judson Tower, that these minutes be accepted and placed on file. So voted unanimously.

After a short informal discussion of the proposed tablet to be placed on the John Tower Monument to commemorate the birth and death of George Warren Tower whose body now lies in the John Tower lot in High Street Cemetery, South Hingham, Mass., John Brook Tower and Alice Catherine Tower, children of the late George Warren Tower, gave the Board a brief sketch of their idea and invited the Board to visit the lot and discuss the idea with Mr. Craig, the designer of the Monument. This invitation was accepted.

Moved: By Frank Warren Tower and seconded by Martin Eugene Smith that the Executive Board approve of placing a marker upon the John Tower Monument and that the President be empowered to consult with the members of the family of George Warren Tower and with Mr. Craig and agree upon a suitable tablet and order the same placed upon the Monument. So voted unanimously.

Votes of thanks were unanimously passed to Wilder Memorial Association through Mr. John Stodder for the use of Hall.

To John Henry Tower and Orchestra for the excellent music rendered.

To 1921 Reunion Committee for their generous efforts in promoting this reunion.

In the absence of further business the President declared the meeting adjourned *sine die* at 5 o'clock p. m.

Attest,

Recording Secretary.

Approved.

History gives us little information about George Warren Tower. It must be gleaned from our genealogical records. George Warren was born October 22, 1846, in Belmont, ME, and died October 29, 1920, in South Hingham, MA. He is a ninth generation descendant from John Tower (1609-1701). George Warren married Abigail Adams (a direct descendant of John Adams) on March 12, 1870. Abigail was born January 10, 1848. He later married Sarah Heald, November 4, 1893. Sarah (Heald) Tower died in New Rochelle, NY. Sarah Heald was a member of the Executive Board of the TGS.

George had three children with his first wife, Abigail. They were George Warren Tower, Jr., born October 27, 1871; Elbridge A. Tower, born December 5, 1873 (died February 5, 1875); and Adelbert A. Tower, born June 10, 1878. George and Abigail divorced but the exact date is unknown. His second wife, Sarah, had two children with George. They were John Brook, born February 20, 1898, and Alice Tower, born about 1900. Those of you who attended the reunion last year and toured the homestead saw, hanging on the wall, pictures of John Brook and Alice as young children. George Warren, Jr. was a Harvard graduate and became a mining engineer.

Excerpt from the Annual Reports of the Tower Genealogical Society meeting at Wilder Memorial Hall, South Hingham, MA on July 30, 1921 (above)

BE SURE TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE AT www.TOWERGENEALOGY.com

*Message from Patrica A. Brown
President, Tower Genealogical Society*

(Continued from Page 1 - George Warren Tower)

If you search for his name on the Internet, you will find information about his career in mining.

In the Tower Genealogy, Volume II, Lee Tower writes as follows:

George Warren Tower was the primary founder of the original Tower Genealogical Society, Inc. He sponsored the first reunion call May 29, 30, 31, 1909 on the Ter-Centenary of the birth of our ancestor, John, Tower. It was held at the "Old Homestead," in Hingham, MA.

With the major financial assistance of Charlemagne Tower (8th gen.) of Philadelphia, a monument was erected and dedicated in the cemetery at South Hingham, on High St. July 3, 1914. The principal dedicatory address was given by President George Warren Tower.

The monument is some 17ft. 10in. in height and in the fore front of the High St. Cemetery, its striking granite spire facing the street. In the base of this monument is a cache, with unknown contents, today. The land that comprises the greater part of this cemetery was originally donated by John¹ Tower. The land adjoins what was an ancient Indian burying ground, but was sold to John¹ because the native Indians felt that "Old John Tower" was a friend.

George Warren⁹ was President of the Tower Genealogical Society from 1909 through 1914. George died on October 29, 1920. His remains were cremated and were placed inside the monument at High Street Cemetery. A plaque was placed on the monument in his honor.



George Warren Tower

Cummington, MA

A stopping place for Towers from Hingham, MA

The town of Cummington, MA, is of great importance to the history of the Tower family, as it was the first stop for many as they migrated west from Hingham, MA. The following information (slightly edited) was taken from the book, "The Vital Records of Cummington, Massachusetts, 1762–1900." Fortunately, the records of this town were carefully kept and copied when the original books became worn.

Cummington is a small rural town at the Western end of Hampshire County in the foothills of the Berkshires. Purchased in 1762 as Township Number Five by proprietor Col. John Cumings of Concord, it was settled in the spring of that year by surveyor Samuel Brewer. In the beginning, the affairs of both the church and town were handled together at town meetings. On June 23, 1779, Township Number Five was officially incorporated as the Town of Cummington. The official organization of the Church also took place at that time, and the minister was ordained. It took about 10 years of adjustments between the church and the town for the Town Meeting form of government that we know today to be established.

During the 1800s, the town was marked by thriving industrial growth, due to the rivers and the streams that furnished water power. There were sawmills, grist mills, tanneries, woolen and cotton mills, tin shops, a cutlery shop, a wood mill, a blacksmith shop, a shoemaker, and a brick maker. There were many churches: three Congregational, a Mormon, a Baptist, a Methodist, a Universalist, and a Unitarian. In 1830, the population rose to 1,200 people. By 1900, the population was again where it was in the 1790 census.

The Hillside Agricultural Society, a group of farmers from all the surrounding towns, held its first Cattle Show on Main Street in 1869, hoping that this would encourage young men to stay in farming. In the late 1800s, there were 180 farms in Cummington. Today there are five. However, the Cummington Fair is as active today as ever. The Cummington Grange was organized May 25, 1874. It was reorganized November 2, 1900, and is still active today. Originally the town had ten district schools and the teachers were paid from the taxes. Men were hired for the winter when the older boys, who worked on the farms, were in attendance, while less expensive female teachers taught in the summer.

In 1890, this description appeared in the *Nason and Varney's Massachusetts Gazetteer*:

Cummington is a farming and grazing town lying among the Green Mountains, in the northwestern part of Hampshire County, about 110 miles west of Boston. At these and other points are small mills. There are in the town, paper, wood-turning, grain and other mills, a tannery, and the usual mechanical shops of a rural community. The largest products at present are paper, and penholders and other articles turned from wood... The population at the last census was 805, of whom 244 were voters. The dwellings in 1870 were reported as 223, with 180 farms; in 1885 the returns give but 107 farms and 186 dwelling-houses. The young people abandon the hill farms, and the passing away of the aged owners leaves them to become a part of the wilderness again.

Today Cummington is a town rich in cultural diversity. The town has a number of small businesses including small retail stores, restaurants, contracting, farming, computers, and crafts, while many people travel to other places of work, there is a group of people who have chosen to retire or raise their families here. There is also an established group of Native Americans.

For many Towers, Cummington was only a brief stop before they moved on to, literally, greener pastures in the Midwest. Although the Massachusetts land was plentiful, compared to the coastal areas, it was also rocky and hilly, making farming difficult. The soil, which was rich from having been reclaimed from forests, began to wear out, and it could not support the increasing number of farmers.

The abolition of slavery was a huge issue during the mid-1800s, and several of the Cummington families moved away to areas where their anti-slavery views were more prevalent, although the town gradually came around, and many of its young men fought for the Union in the Civil War. In general, however, the migration away from Cummington was due to the need for more and better land. The above-mentioned book of Vital Records quotes letters from several families that have been preserved for generations, and these describe the advantages and disadvantages of their moves further west, primarily to Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, New York, and Wisconsin. Cummington was also the connecting point between Hingham and the counties in southern Indiana where the Matthew (Matthew, Matthew, Samuel, Samuel, John) branch of the Towers settled.

The Towers arrived early and many remained for several generations. The two early Tower families were Peter and his third cousin, Nathaniel, both from Hingham. Peter had a son and grandson named Stephen, and a son named Asa. The sons of Nathaniel were Alden, Ambrose, and Warren, whose sons were Warren E. and Lorenzo H. Over 100 Towers were born in Cummington before 1900, but strangely, none of the children of Mathew Tower and Nabby Bates (also a Tower descendant) are listed in the birth records in this book, despite the fact that the Tower

(continued on page 5)



GENEALOGY CORNER

INDIANA, PART III

This is the conclusion of the story that Anna Lee Leech supplied, giving credit to "The Towers of Gospel Ridge," by Alphonse W. Tower. It is the story of the Towers who came from Cummington, MA, through New York and Kentucky, to settle in southern Indiana. The first and second parts of the article appeared in the October and November/December issues of the Tower Talk Newsletter.

At this late time we cannot find a record of Rachel's life or death or burial, and none still alive to verify David's history. (Rachel was Mommie's mother, who, it was said, was of Native American parentage.) Mommie is so loved and respected by all of us that we find her life spoke so eloquently that whatever her heritage, it is a part of what made her the Blessing she has been to us all. For 61 years of marriage, Mommie and Poppie were a light unto the paths of all whose lives they touched. And so it is—Alzenia Roberts Tower, our own beloved Mommie Tower, is a bit of a mystery to us and seemingly will remain so. She is an awesome woman—such an outstanding wife, mother, homemaker, and servant of all who needed her. How could she accomplish so much? It was her compassion, kindness, love, faith, keen mind, and willing hands and heart that made her excel in everything. Is she not our Tower Family Saint? "In this life we have three great lasting qualities—faith, hope and love. But the greatest of them is love."

Thinking through the remainder of the Tower generations, Wendell Dygert is a good nominee for the tenth generation outstanding spouse. From his first trip "Down Home," he fit right in; a farm boy himself, he was alert to needed jobs and immediately tackled them. He values friendships and is passionate about the giving of his help. The important change he brought into the life of Mommie and Poppie came in the late 1930s when, seeing there was an electric line running in front of their home, he wondered why not? He and Evelyn drove out to the Public Service office to enquire about getting electricity for them. They were told that just the two old people could not use enough electricity to make it profitable, but if Evelyn and Wendell would agree to pay a minimum of \$4.50 each month for five years, they would provide it. This was a substantial undertaking for two young people just getting started in life, but they signed the contract and immediately started thinking about getting the house wired. Wendell called Russell Wells, who agreed to help him, and with one little misstep that they soon corrected, the house had lights and was ready for refrigeration, an electric stove, a washing machine, and other labor saving devices. What a triumph! Wendell also is a great photographer, and his art is much appreciated by everyone with whom he so generously shares it. Evelyn became sought after for the programs she built around his wonderful nature slides, recording all the seasons. Wendell certainly has brought this family untold comfort and joy. On July 22 of this summer, Evelyn and Wendell celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary, thanks to their caretakers—Mary and Steve.

In our eleventh generation, Nita Ree and Maurice Roush brought us the first Tower Family Reunion in 1984. It was a great success and soon took on a life of its own. It took the leadership and able management of the twelfth generation, Betty and Don Cook, for it to become a stable yearly event. When Jan and Tom Tower's health problems precluded their leadership in "Down Home" Reunions, the thirteenth generation, Beth and Craig Lahue, stepped in to give it a home on an every-other-year basis. All we need to do is to start looking closely at our family connections, and we will soon find so many for whom we feel real appreciation and gratitude. The Claude Tower's family's production of "Folklife Cookery" extends well beyond just its family value. There are so many remarkable services and labors of love being done by so many in a quiet way. As our Poppie Tower loved to say, "I have every confidence in you!" And so you do go about your acts of love and kindness, not letting your left hand know what your right hand doeth. How great to be a part of this family! May God bless us everyone!

(Continued from Page 3)

Genealogy, Volume I, gives Cummington as the birthplace of 7 of the 10. The records do show they were married in Cummington in 1791, but do not show that Mathew's father, Matthew, died in Cummington in 1782, as the Tower Genealogy reports. Mathew and Nabby moved with most of their children, first to New York, where Jonathan and Nehemiah were born, and then to Kentucky, where Harriet was born, before finally residing in southern Indiana. (See the Genealogy Corner article in this and previous Newsletters.)

The 1790 census shows only 4 Towers: Asa, Nathaniel, Peter, and Stephen. The 1800 census shows the same 4, plus Matthew, so presumably, Matthew arrived in 1791, perhaps to marry Nabby Bates. (By the way, there were two Nabby Bates in Cummington—the second one married Noah Whitmarsh, a year after the first married Matthew Tower.) By the 1810 census, Matthew had moved on to New York, but 10 other Towers were still in Cummington: Ambrose, Asa, John, Malachi, Nathaniel, 3 Peters, and 2 Stephens. In 1820, 9 Towers appeared in the census: 2 Asas, David, John, Nathaniel, Obadiah, 2 Stephens, and Warren. In 1830, Luther was added, but 3 others (Nathaniel, Obadiah, and 1 Stephen) had moved on. In 1840, the Asas, David, and Stephen were still there, and Abner and Alden had arrived. By 1880, the last census covered in this book of records, 8 Tower families remained: Ambrose, George, Lorenzo, Luther, Mary, Nathaniel, Warren, and William.

Most of the Towers were buried in the Bryant cemetery, with a few in the Dawes and Cummington cemeteries.

WEDDING BELLS

Kristiaan Angelo, son of Carol and Carl Marchegiani and the late Michael Angelo, and Lisa Jamieson, daughter of Kevin & Kim Jamieson of Kingston, ON, were married in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, on Friday, March 12, 2011. The wedding was on the beautiful beach of the Majestic Resort. Lisa was escorted to the altar by her father, Kevin. Kristiaan was escorted to the altar by his twin sister, Morgan Angelo. The bride's attendants were her cousin, Angela, and friends, Lindsay and Tasha. Kris was attended by his brother-in-law, Brock, and the bride's cousins, Adam and Zeya. The reception was held at the Majestic Resort.



ENGAGEMENT

Ms. Patricia Brown wishes to announce the engagement of her son, Daniel L. Brown, (Atascadero, CA) to Debra Morris (Atascadero, CA). The bride and groom will be married in an evening ceremony at Eagle Castle Winery in Paso Robles, CA, on May 1, 2010.

Kristiaan has 3 lines of Tower descendency: #1. John Tower (1), Benjamin (2), Thomas (3), Shadrach (4), Thomas Groce (5), Martin (6), Alvin (7), Schuyler (8), Adelaide (9), Marion Oaks (10), Carol Snow (11) and Kristiaan Angelo (12). #2. John (1), Benjamin (2), Thomas (3), Nathaniel (4), Nathaniel (5), Sally (6), Sally Goodell Miner (7), Sarah Hubbard (8), Elmer Snow (9), Ellsworth Snow (10), Carol Snow (11), Kristiaan Angelo (12). #3. John (1), Jeremiah (2), Jeremiah (3), Peter (4), Peter (5), Leah (6) [married Nathaniel (5)], Sally (7), Sally Goodell Miner (8), Sarah Hubbard (9), Elmer Snow (10), Ellsworth Snow (11), Carol Snow (12), and Kristiaan Angelo (13).

The TGS Family is still growing!

NEW MEMBERS

Virginia Anne (Morgan) Walton, Frostburg, MD. Her lineage : Virginia Morgan (10), Ralph Morgan (9), Edward Morgan (8), Martha L. Tower (7), Gad Hitchcock Tower (6), Lynde (5), James (4), Benjamin (3), Benjamin (2) and John (1).

Leslie Allen Tower, Summerland, BC, Canada. His lineage : Leslie Allen Tower (12), Leslie Andrew (11), Roy Adolphus (10), Arthur Wellington (9), Charles Gunn (8), David (7), David (6), Ichabod (5), Gideon (4), Benjamin (3), John (2) and John (1).

David Eugene Crowder, San Jose, CA. His lineage: David Crowder (11), Sherman Crowder (10), Mollie E. Tower (9), Ira North Tower (8), Alfred M. (7), Jonathan (6), Gideon (5), John (4), Benjamin (3), John (2) and John (1).

Ms. Terrill "Terri" Kay Tower, Corvallis, OR. Her lineage: Terri (11), Wallace R. (10), Gordon E. (9), Benjamin F. (8), Joseph (7), Joseph (6), Isaac (5), Cornelius (4), John (3), Ibrook (2) and John (1).

CORRECTION:

Correction to November/December Birth Announcements:

Jacob Meyers Filkins to parents Daniel and Mearlene Filkins, born October 14, 2009. Grandparents are Norman and Sandra Goodermote and Douglas and Julie Filkins.

WEST COAST TOWER REUNION

The West Coast Reunion will be held on July 17, 2010. Our hosts will be Nicholas and Donna Pierce. The location will be San Luis Obispo, CA. Nick needs a head count so we can block hotel rooms immediately.

Anyone interested in attending this reunion, please direct questions to Pat Brown, by either email or phone. Pat Brown's contact information is: tgsprez@live.com or 805-878-2663. Remember, we need a head count. So please call me now!

Patricia A. Brown
President
Tower Genealogical Society

WANT TO BE A BOARD MEMBER ?

TGS is looking for a new Board member to replace Georgena Miller. Would volunteers please contact TGS President Patricia Brown.

Thank you!

TOWER TALK NEWSLETTER

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