



Michigan Tower Family Reunion

The Michigan Tower Family Reunion was held Sunday, August 15, 2004, at Clintonwood Park in Clarkston, Michigan. Twenty-three people gathered for food, fun and fellowship.

Next years event is scheduled for Sunday August the 14, 2005. The location for next years event will be announced at a latter time. All Tower relatives that live in Michigan are encouraged to send us their contact information so we can send them notice of this annual event.

Please send your contact information to TGS newsletter editor: Janine Battistone (contact information on page #2).

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If you have stories, or photos of Tower celebrations or other news of the Towers please send it to me for publication in the Tower Talk newsletter to share with everyone. I am more than willing to assist you in announcing your Tower events in the newsletter. Janine B.

- Above is a group photo taken at the reunion., minus a few camera shy individuals.
- Below is a photo of folks watching the white elephant auction sale.
- Photo to the right is of two members auctioning off the items.



Prayers



TGS sends its prayers to all our members/relatives living in Florida hoping that they are safe, and that their losses were minimal from hurricane Charley.



TOWER

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE

Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for this great traditional gathering of the Tower Family

Tower Family Reunion 2004

Hosted by:
The Tower Genealogical Society, Inc
September 3-5, 2004

At the Holiday Inn
4400 N. Brandywine Drive
Peoria, IL 61614
Phone (309)-686-8000

Rooms are available at the Holiday Inn in Peoria

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



This is a wonderful opportunity to meet and greet all the relatives, the Officers of your Society, learn more about our colorful history, and check up on those who mean so much to us, and whom we see so seldom.

Bring your photos, memorabilia, and Most importantly, bring the whole family!

If you have any additional questions regarding the reunion than please contact TGS Director Bernie Tower at:
(805) 928-5554. E-mail him at: coltower@verizon.net or write him

Bernard Tower
1304 Via Hielo
Santa Maria, CA 93454

TGS Officers and Board Members

David Tower: TGS President / Chairperson of the membership committee. He handles TGS genealogical concerns. His address is : 231 Johnson St., Rhineland, 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

Philip 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

LOVE

By:

Gladys Tower Todd 1974

A family of two became a family of three
On February twenty-four in nineteen o'three.

At home the wee babe was born
Weighing in on food scales at only three pounds,
At least three months premature by data compound,

A perfect miniature except nails not yet
formed on fingers and toes,
So small, cradled in father's big hand could repose.

Serious doubt voiced by doctor that she would live
Determined father every resource that was his to give.
Dispatched to the store for hot water bottles four
And a medicine dropper, no less and no more.
To keep temperature steady, the bottles placed at
head, feet and side
In bassinet fashioned earlier by parents with pride.

Two days and two nights, boiled sugar and water
At fifteen minute intervals, one drop, administered
by father.

To the doctor's amazement, she did live
With wise, competent nursing Mother did give.

Who were these who cared so much? Harley Earl Tower, age 32, the youngest of ten children in his family, born of Scotch and English ancestry, who came to Hingham in 1640 and migrated to Canada at the time of the Revolution. Ida May Tower, age 20, only child of Pennsylvania Dutch mother and English father, whose surname was also Tower. They both loved children and were devoted and dedicated parents.

A sister, Dorothy, enlarged the clan in 1904 and Edith in 1908. From the time I can remember, Dot and I were dressed alike except in color. She was blond and I brunette. Many thought we were twins, since we started school together and continued through graduation from high school.

At age two, the neighbors nicknamed me Houdini. I just would not be confined to a yard; even when tied I wiggled out. At four, five and six, a petite bundle of energy that climbed everything in sight.

A beloved neighbor, playmate, and school chum, Dorothy Frye, an only child, was an important part of our preschool and first three years in the Newton schools and the friendship still continues. In those years, when we were asked, "What do you want to be when you grow up?", my answer was, "My father's secretary". Dot's, "I'll be a teacher" and Dot Sander-son's "I'll be a nurse".

An original fable, "How the Rose Got Its Thorn", was one

of my first compositions in the third grade. I had to copy it absolutely perfectly to be sent to the head of the English Department in the Newton schools, which were recognized even then for their high standards.

My father's business moved to Everett the summer preceding fourth grade and we found just as dedicated teachers there, with structured classes and no frills.

When we were in the fifth grade, Dad had one of the early steamer automobiles. One of our favorite trips was to Cochituate to visit relatives on a farm. All of the towns between Everett and our destination had a watering trough for horses and we would stop at each to fill up so there would be steam enough to proceed. There was no steering wheel, only a handle on the end of a rod coming up from the floor.

Mother was a rapid reader and would, in those years, read one or two chapters of a classic each night after supper, before leaving the table. On a rainy Sunday afternoon, she would read a whole novel to us.

As a family, through those years, our favorite all-day trips were by boat to Nantasket or Provincetown, or to historic points of interest around greater Boston. We watched the Wright brothers make their first flight from Neponset to Boston Light and back.

Mother had been a member of the Baptist Church. However in Newton we lived next door to the Congregational Church and were enrolled in the church school. In Everett, we were a block from the Congregational Church and, besides church school, were enrolled in Junior C. E. For the dedication of the sweet lady in charge each week, I shall always be grateful.

Girl Scouts, piano lessons and violin lessons kept us busy right through the ninth grade, after which we moved to Melrose to enter Melrose High School as sophomores.

Again, we lived diagonally across the street from the Highlands Congregational Church and became involved in the Youth group and all of its activities. Mother, a good sport, was then only in her thirties and hiked with us, picked blueberries with us, shopped with us, made all our clothes, always welcomed the boy friends; but strict was her discipline. They all had to leave at 10:00 p.m.

When our family had guests for Sunday dinner, which was often, the entertainment following was home talent. Edith, very adept at play-reading, would start with her latest act, then Dot and I would do violin and piano duets. Oh, that recordings were possible in that long ago.

High School graduation over, Dot worked in the Savings Bank for two years to earn tuition for Bridgewater Normal School. Her dream of becoming a teacher did materialize and, in this profession, she excelled. Our playmate became a proficient nurse.

I went immediately to be Secretary for the City Treasurer, Mr. Lavendar, who was a dedicated public servant. Part of my task entailed making up the payroll each week, all in cash, for the city employees. Since many in the Public Works Department worked by the hour, and sometimes overtime, the

(Continued from page 3)

amounts would vary to the penny. However, after two years, there was an opening for the Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools, and after taking a Civil Service exam, I was hired/ Again, I worked for a very fine person, Mr. Stuart. I loved this work because one needed to be a super psychologist to handle salesmen, principals, teachers and maintenance employees. Every day was different and very pleasant. After graduating from high school, I continued education at Boston University evenings, audited courses, besides continuing piano lessons, china painting classes and choir practice.

July 4, 1924 dawned a gorgeous summer day and plans were carried out for an all-day trip to Provincetown via boat from Rowe's Wharf. I packed a picnic lunch and we had a relaxing, happy day. Little did I expect, on the trip back, to have Howard Todd ask me to marry him, or did I? (I had E.S.P. even then). Can you imagine a less romantic spot? Every seat on that boat was taken, but I'm sure we were completely oblivious of all.

Ecstatic days! Horseback riding or ball games in season, theater, concerts, china painting, planning and building a little house on Taylor Street and furnishing it made the next twenty-three months a happy dream culminating in our wedding on June 26, 1926.

We packed camping equipment, and after the first night at a hotel in Boston, started off in our 1924 T model Ford for Niagara Falls, camping the first night at Jacob's Ladder in the Berkshires. My loving sisters had filled stockings, etc. with confetti, so every time I removed something from my bag con-

fetti would strew the campsite, leaving little doubt as to our status. Those camping areas were a far cry from the luxurious ones they have today.

That was the beginning of more than 45 years of a life of rich fulfillment. Depressions of the 30's and World War II, with its limitations, were weathered in stride. Robert, Winifred and David enlarged our family circle every two years, beginning in 1927.

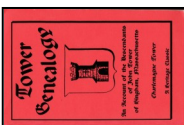
April 1932 sent us in search of a country spot in which the children could run free and swim. We found a very dilapidated farmhouse in Alton, N.H. and straightway purchased it. Hard work alternated with many happy family picnic; big vegetable gardens, canning and jamming during the war years, hooking rugs, adding flower gardens, remodeling the shed, driving new wells and repairing the barn kept us out of mischief for over forty years. Mother and Father loved this spot as much as we did. Father succumbed to cancer of the lung on January 8, 1948. Mother died on Easter Sunday, April 11, 1971, following a shock ten weeks earlier.

Nine years after we purchased our farm, my sister Dot and her husband and family found a place only five minutes away from us, which meant much too both families. In 1951 Dot lost her husband and we were even more closely knit. After a lovely summer in Alton, Dot succumbed to asthma in 1962. It was a sad year, since Edith had lost her husband in June and our childhood playmate's husband had died in August. Howard loved life, every minute of it, working and playing. To those of us left, January 19, 1972 seemed too abrupt a conclusion of our rich years together.

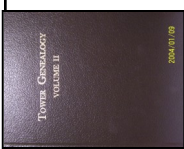
Tower Genealogical Society Online address is: <http://www.towergenealogy.com>

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

Dear Members: Please let us know of any changes to your address. Send all changes to TGS Treasurer Carol Angelo.



Tower Genealogy (TGS VOL. 1) can be purchased thru: [Heritage Books, Inc. www.heritagebooks.com](http://www.heritagebooks.com)
1540 E. Pointer Ridge Place, Bowie, Maryland 20716. Phone: 1-800-398-7709. ISBN-0-7884-1337-6
It is 689 pages in length and it covers generations 1-10.



TGS Volume Two: There are a very few copies Of Volume Two left for sale. Price is: \$45.00 per book, but add an additional \$3.14 for shipping. Contact: Mrs. Georgena Miller ([her contact information is listed on page 2](#)). Issue check to TOWER GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, Inc., but send them to Georgena for this publication. Volume Two is 200 pages in length, and it contains additional information to generation 1-10 that isn't already covered in Tower Genealogy Volume One.



Volume Three of TGS is selling for \$55.00 per book, but add an additional \$5.00 for shipping. Makes checks out to Tower Genealogical Society, but mail them to: Mrs. Valorie Jalsovsky, 1010 Marion Dr., Holly, Michigan 48442. Phone: (248) 634-7606