

Tower Talk

Newsletter

Picture of the 'Mary Ann' that sailed from Ipswich, England in May 1637 and arrived in Boston, Massachusetts June 20, 1637 bringing John Tower to America

By
The Tower Genealogical Society
Chartered in 1909



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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From the Editor's Desk...

Dear Cousins,

I pray that you and your loved ones are sustaining and striving to thrive in these difficult times.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

I am so pleased that I am finally adding the finishing touches to this issue of the newsletter. I assume responsibility for its unnecessary delays, and send my deepest apologies.

Janine Battistone / Newsletter Editor



Cousins

By Dave Tower, TGS president Emeritus and Genealogist

We all trace our ancestors and find that we have many cousins who do not have Tower as a surname. Some cousins are closely related but most of them are distant cousins.

There are currently over 101,000 people in or TGS data base, all related in some way to our original immigrant ancestor John Tower. 53,000 people are direct descendants the others are non-Tower ancestors. Of the 53,000 direct descendants only 9,511 are Towers

From the numbers above it should be evident that the majority of our cousins are not Towers. If you have ever traveled extensively in the United States and randomly checked the telephone book for "Tower" you soon realize that they're aren't too many of us.

Cousins By Dave Tower - cont'd from page one

So which families are we most closely associated with? Who would you expect to find as a cousin? In our data base there are only two family names, other than Tower, that appear over 1% of the time. Smith appears 1015 times, with 544 being direct descendants of John. Bates appears 1316 times with 1042 being direct descendants.

Our cousins the Bates were, for the most part descendants of Clement Bates who arrived in Hingham about two years before John Tower.

In our records we have 9 generations of Bates descended from Joshua Bates (the grandson of Clement) and Rachel Tower the daughter of Ibrook Tower the son of John.

in our data base there are 23 other Tower/Bates marriages, which will be listed in the next newsletter.

There is a very active Bates Genealogical Society. If anyone is interested in their Bates cousins please contact me and I will be glad to share the information we have.

THE TOWER FAMILY & SECRETARIAT

1973 TRIPLE CROWN WINNER

2020 VIRTUAL KENTUCKY DERBY WINNER

By Carol Marchegiani

Over the past few months, I have been reading frequently, one book being Secretariat, by William Nack. This book relives the events in this thoroughbred's life from his birth at Christopher Chenery's Meadow Stable in Virginia, through his racing years, the syndication, the years at stud and his death at age 19 due to laminitis.

The book discusses Christopher Chenery's family including his wife, Helen Clementina Bates, who graduated from Smith College and had family lineage in Massachusetts. His daughter, Helen Bates "Penny" Chenery, also a Smith College graduate, took over running her father's racing stable as his health declined. She ran the stable with minimal knowledge of the horse racing world. After college, Penny worked on the war effort and volunteered for the Red Cross. After her marriage to John Tweedy, she dedicated herself to being a housewife and mother for 20 years.

As I was reading that Penny's mother was a member of the Bates family, I thought, could there be a connection to our Tower family as the Tower's and Bates' have been intertwined for generations; so began my search.

The following are my findings that are verified by Dave:

Helen Bates "Penny" Chenery (10) was born on 27 January 1922 in New Rochelle, NY. She died on 16 September 2017 in Boulder, CO. She married John Tweedy and had 3 children.

Helen Clementina Bates (9) was born on 3 December 1887 in Portland, OR and died on 20 November 1967 in Pelham, NY. She married Christopher Tompkins Chenery.

Henry Liberty Bates (8) was born on 7 January 1853 in Akron, OH and died on 23 October 1949 in Forest Grove, OR. He married Cora Nichols.

Henry Bates (7) was born on 27 December 111814 and died on 8 September 1889 in Crete, NE. He was married to Keziah Chapman.

Liberty Bates (6) was born on 16 July 1775 in Bellingham, MA and passed on 25 January 1853 in Ellisburgh, NY. He was married to Mary Russell.

Laban Bates, Esq. (5) was born on 30 October 1749 in Hingham, MA and died on 7 April 1832 in Bellingham, MA. He was married to Olive Wheelock.

Isaac Bates (4) was born on 3 March 1708 in Hingham, MA and died on 21 August 1787 in Bellingham, MA. He married Martha Clark.

Rachel Tower (3) was born on 16 March 1674 in Hingham, MA and died in 1756 in Cohasset, MA. She married Joshua Bates.

Ibrook Tower (2) was baptized on 7 February 1644 in Hingham, MA and died on 22 November 1732 in Cohasset, MA. He was married to Margaret Hardin.

John (1) was baptized on 17 May 1609 in Hingham, England and died on 13 February 1701 in Hingham, MA. He was married to Margaret Ibrook.

During his career, Secretariat was trained by Lucien Laurin and ridden by jockey, Ron Turcotte. His groom was Edward Sweat who called him, "Big Red". He ran in 21 races during his lifetime, winning 16 and "being in the money" in all but one. He set records in the Kentucky Derby with a time of 1:59 2/5 minutes, the Preakness with a time of 1:53 minutes and in the Belmont with a time of 2:24 minutes. He often came out of the gate last and would trail the field for part of the race and then begin his move. At the Belmont, he broke a very unusual first from the gate and cruised to a 31 length lead at the wire.

He was named to the National Museum and Racing Hall of Fame and to ESPN's 50 greatest athletes of the 20th century, the only non-human on the list. Due to financial issues, Penny Chenery chose to syndicate Secretariat and not race him after being a 3 year old. She sold 32 individual shares and retained 2 shares for herself; the total shares sold for \$6.08 million dollars in 1974. After retiring from racing, he was sent to Claiborne Farm in Kentucky where he sired 582 offspring.

Secretariat died in 1989 in Paris, Kentucky.

Secretariat was not the only horse that Penny Chenery owned who raced for the Triple Crown. In 1972, Riva Ridge won the Kentucky Derby and the Belmont but lost the Preakness, where he finished fourth. He was also named to the racing hall of fame.



Secretariat



Secretariat with Ron Turcotte Aboard



Secretariat with owner Penny Chenery

In Remembrance

Donald Ray Wood

May 31, 1929 ~ May 4, 2020 (age 90)



Donald Ray Wood passed away at home Monday May 4 2020 in Sun City West, AZ at the age of 90. He was born on May 31, 1929 in North Adams, MA. He was the son of the late Ray Wood and Laura (Gauthier) Wood of Clarksburg, MA. He

remained a resident of Clarksburg for 68 years, serving in US Marines for 4 years. He was employed by General Electric Co. of Pittsfield for 42 years. Active in the Northern Berkshires Men' Association, he continued to enjoy his retirement years in Arizona while spending his summers in Maine. He enjoyed

golf, lawn bowling, church suppers, seafood dinners and striking up a conversation with anyone he met

Married on October 23, 1954 to Alta Lavanway, they recently celebrated their 65th anniversary. He is survived by his wife, two sons, Dennis of Sun City West, AZ, Gary and partner Vicki Richardello of Adams, MA and daughter Beverly Chipman of Poland, ME. Two granddaughters, Amy Finley and husband David of Binghamton, NY and Heidi Chipman of Albany, NY. Two great grandchildren, twins Evan and Catherine Finley. Five nieces and nephews plus many grand and great grand ones.

He was predeceased by his sister Virginia in 2013, his brother Warren in November 2019 and his sister Claire in March 2020.

Harold Lewis Tower

December 30, 1927 ~ January 8, 2020 (age 92)

Harold Lewis Tower, of Adams, MA died Wednesday January 8, 2020 at North Adams Commons.

He was born in Dixon, IL on December 30, 1927 son of Lewis and Ellen (Schmall) Tower. He attended schools in Monroe Bridge and graduated from Drury High School with the class of 1943.

Harold was a veteran of the Korean War and served in the US Army. He attended the Coyne Electrical School in Chicago and was a self-employed television repairman for many years until his retirement in 1993.

Harold was a member of the First Baptist Church of North Adams and was a member of the South Readsboro Community Club. His wife was Nancy Jean (Beer) Tower who died November 19, 2017. They were married on April 3, 1954. Survivors include two sisters- Priscilla Thayer of Readsboro, VT and Bethel Alex of Greenfield, MA and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grand-nephews. He was predeceased by three sisters and two brothers- Kenneth Tower and Henry Tower; Helen Tower, Shirley Tower Bennett and Leona Jones who died on the same day as Harold.

New Members

Gordon Tower His lineage is: John Wilmot & Gordon Wilmot (10), Marion (father) Wilmot (9), Sarah Tower (8), Frances M. Tower (7), Reuben (6), Jeduthan (5), Joseph (4), Ambrose (3), Benjamin (2) and John (1).

Katherine McCobb Moran Her Lineage is: Katherine Moran (13), Philip York (12), Grace M. Elwell (11), Mary E. Tower (10), Franklin M. Tower (9), Martin Windsor Tower (8), Peter (7), Malachi (6), Malachi (5), Peter (4), Jeremiah (3), Jeremiah (2) and John (1).

Mitchell Tower Cochran & Cindy (Munhall) Cochran His lineage: Mitchell Cochran (11), Nancy Anderson (10), Bertha Tower (9), Alexander (8), Benjamin H. (7), Nehemiah (6), Isaac (5), Cornelius (4), John (3), Ibrook (2) and John (1).

Ellen Prentiss Davidson (Tully 1st married name) **Woodsum**. Her lineage: Ellen Davidson (12), Ellen Prentiss Tower (11), Harold Earl Tower (10) William Albert (9), Mahue Natha (8), George Bedford (7), George (6) – married Sarah Mills: Benjamin (5), Joseph (4), Benjamin (3), John (2) and John (1).

Francis Gilbert Tower, Capt. USAF, Ret. His lineage: Francis Gilbert Tower (10), Frank Goodnow Tower, Jr. (9), Frank Goodnow Tower (born 1885) (8), Frank Goodnow Tower (born 1853) (7), Horation Nelson Tower (born 1806) (6), Jonas (5), Joseph (4), Ambrose (3), Benjamin (2) and John (1).

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.

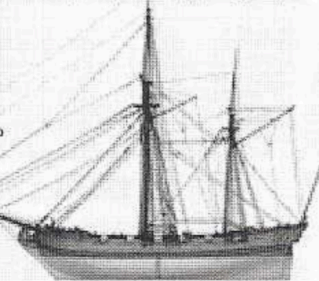
Thomas Oliver 36 calender of Norwich, Norfolk, England. Going to Salem, MA.
Mrs. Mary Oliver 34
Thomas Oliver, Jr., John Oliver
Thomas Doged 30 servant
Mary Sape 12 servant
William Cockram 28 mariner of Southold, Suffolk, England
Mrs. Christian Cockram 26

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

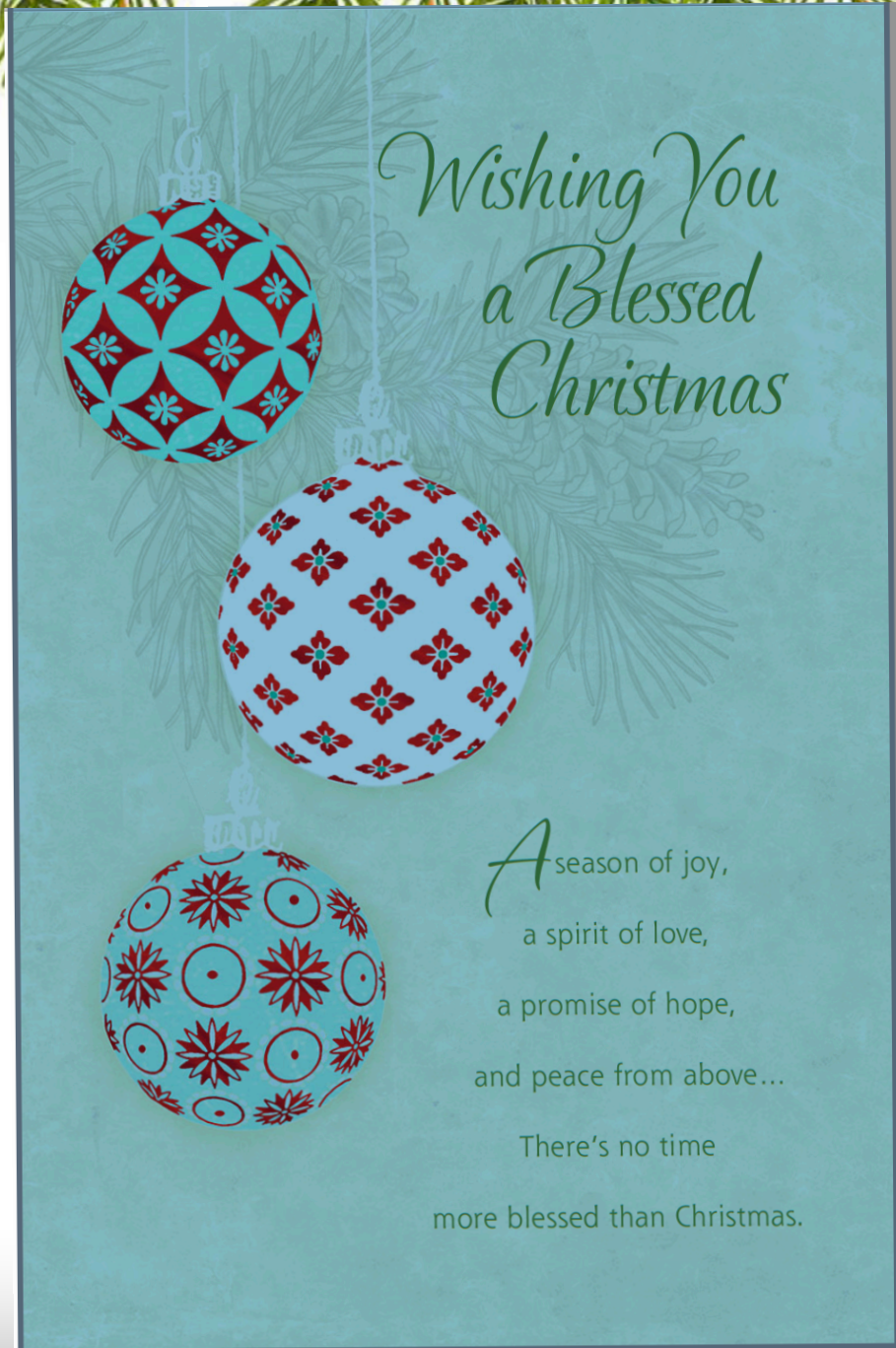
Henry Tuthill of Saxingham, Norfolk, England. Going to Hingham.
Mrs.Tuthuill

Isaac Wright

John Tower Going to Hingham, MA.



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Wishing you all God's blessings this Christmas and throughout the new year.