

# The Tower Talk Newsletter

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



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*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.*

## President's Message

### Where Do We Go From Here

Preserving Your Family History in the Digital Age is the title of the Summer 2019 American Ancestors issue from the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS). It is a thought-provoking and insightful issue regarding how we preserve our family history legacies for future generations. This ties in nicely with our Tower Genealogical Society (TGS) dilemma as we determine where and how we are going to proceed from today.

Two NEHGS initiatives, AnceSTREES and DNA Studies, in particular have caught my attention. AnceSTREES is NEHGS's new FREE family tree online offering that provides a central place for people to store, control who maintains, views, etc. the family histories. Such a website would go a long way in preserving and advancing our Tower history. Likewise, DNA studies is one of the ways we can enhance our connectedness and add to our family tree. Think about the possibilities of just these two initiatives of where we go from here.

Where are we...Presently, TGS maintains a Facebook forum, the [towergenealogy.com](http://towergenealogy.com) website, is restarting this Tower Talk newsletter and researches Tower family-related inquiries. These four initiatives are due primarily to the dedication of two TGS members, Janine Battistone (Facebook, Website and Newsletter) and David Tower (research, see his Genealogical Ramblings).

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Financially, TGS is very healthy and our membership retention is very good, because...of the members loyalty and the consistent administration of our Treasurer, Carol Marchegiani. As you will read in her Treasurer Update, Carol has had to step back from her active role because of "a significant health situation." Fortunately, TGS member (and Carol's daughter), Kathryn Cote, agreed to serve as a TGS Assistant Treasurer and take on her mother's TGS role.

How do we move on from here...depends on all of US! There are numerous opportunities for us to advance our Tower genealogy efforts...we just need more people involved in these efforts. As Janine has included (on our website) under the heading, General News, we need a Massachusetts resident volunteer to be listed on TGS' MA Corporation non-profit registration (no work involved), volunteers for the TGS board, newsletter, website, research and any new initiatives. Please contact any of the TGS officers or board members to explore the volunteer possibilities. I think I have given us all enough to think about and will not ramble on just fill newsletter space. Please contact one of us.

John W. Tower, Sr.

TGS President & Executive Secretary

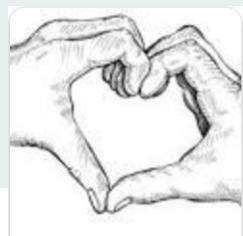
### *Treasurers Message*

I have had the honor of being the Treasurer for the Tower Genealogical Society, Inc. for many years. It has been my pleasure to help this group out. I have had to curtail my activity with TGS due to a significant health situation. I am still doing a little bit to help out our new Assistant Treasurer, Kathryn Cote, "Kate" get used to the job. As most of you know the Treasurer processes all the renewal and new memberships, as well as keeping track of the financial issues of TGS.

Kate is learning the ropes nicely. Please note that due to her full-time employment status, Kate may not be responding to renewal notices as quickly as I was able to. Please note that you will receive 3 renewal notices over a few months. At the end of that time, your membership will be considered expired.

I thank you for your support over the years and do hope you continue to support Kate in her endeavors. The email will continue to be the same and membership forms at this time will continue to be mailed to Carol's address. Thank you all for understanding. We hope to see you continue your membership in TGS, and we encourage more family members to join.

Sincerely,  
Carol Marchegiani, Treasurer  
Kathryn Cote, Assistant Treasurer



## Genealogical Ramblings

Submitted by Dave Tower

### What's in a name?

Have you ever gone to a website seeking information about a person, typed in his or her name and had the result that there was nothing there? Did you believe there was nothing there? A name is not always a name, sometimes it is many names.

Sarah Ann Tower (8), Loyal (7), Eliphilet (6), Enoch (5), Gideon (4), Benjamin (3), John (2), John (1)

Sarah Ann Tower was born 16 May 1843 the second daughter of Loyal Tower and Debra Ann Valentine. She was the third of eleven children born in Saline, Michigan.

Sarah married Ornon Stimpson on 29 December 1868 in Saline, and for a genealogist the fun began.

Ornon is not a common name and to this day I'm not sure that was his name. Stimpson is also a name that when written by someone other than the owner can easily become Simpson, Simson or Stimson.

Finding the history of this family on the internet became a trial and error exercise.

Documents, that we rely on, are often misleading for many reasons including spelling, errors in interpretation, and lack of accuracy at the source of the information. A good example of this can be found in early census records where many women would appear to become younger in each subsequent year.

Perhaps they forgot when they were born, or they just did not want to grow old. It was often common in earlier years for there to be a significant age difference between a husband and wife and one or the other would fudge on their age when talking to a census taker or filing a marriage certificate.

The list below is a result of my tracing the Stimpson family and the variations I found in Ornon's name. Where it says 'listed as' that is the way you have to look it up only to find that wasn't the way it was written.

- Written as Orran Stimson in the 1850 census
- Written as Ornon Stimpson in the 1860 census
- Written as Orson Stimpson in his marriage record (1868)
- Written as Orman Stimpson in the 1870 census
- Written as Oren Stimpson in the 1880 census
- Written as Orrin Stimpson in his son Elmer's marriage registration (1896)
- Written as Orison Stimpson in the 1900 census listed as Amon Stimpson
- Written as Orin Stimpson in the 1910 census
- Written as Orson Stimpson in his death record (1911) listed as Orsan
- Written as Ornon Stimpson in his death certificate (1911) listed as Ornan
- and finally...
- Written as Ornon Stimpson on his tombstone.
- Now maybe it's a little easier to understand why your search may not have been successful.

*Happy name hunting!*

# My Family is God's Gift

Inspired by Madison Taylor

Families can contain a fascinating grouping of personalities. Despite the potential for so many to have similar traits, there are many different ways to express them.



As people marry into families and have children, even more personalities enter the picture.

There may be some people that we would not choose to be related to, but that's what friends are for.

If we trust in a God that has a higher purpose for everything, then we must believe that family members are in our lives for a good reason.

These reasons may be easy to see and appreciate with some, but others may offer us a challenge. With those whom we struggle to discern the reasons, we can look more closely for something we can learn (or gain) from them or perhaps teach (or give) them.

In the modern world where everyone seeks to be individuals, many move far away from their families in an attempt to escape them. When we've successfully built a world around us that requires no one's help, our families are the people who are still attached to us. We can still choose whether or not to honor the family ties, and how to treat each other.

The fact remains that we are energetically tied to our families.

Our families help us to see where we have come from so that we may more clearly decide where we'd like to go.

If we can learn to accept our families for who they are, then we go out into the world armed with the ability to deal with anyone.

Some families are better than others at preparing us for the world. What we learn from our families, even if they are simply blank spots on our family trees, becomes the basis of our identities as individuals.

Rather than denying our connections, we can choose to accept their presence in our lives. Acceptance does not mean we have to like them; we simply acknowledge that we are connected to them and honor that connection.

Like it or not, there is a reason for you. When we can embrace all that they bring into our experience, we may be grateful for all we have learned from them and have to learn, while we fully experience everything that comes with family.



Article taken from TGS 1932 handout

THE TOWER FAMILY is a fairly large one. The descendants of John Tower's sons and daughters are scattered throughout the states of the Union and in some of these, particularly in Massachusetts, they are numerous. As in the case of many other American families that have held residence in America since the early days, they have taken honorable, if not prominent parts in the nation's arts, industries, and professions, in all the wars of the Colonies and in those which succeeded the birth of the nation. Some who bear the name have come from England or other British Isles (where the name is frequently spelled Towers or Towar) in the centuries that have intervened since the coming of John Tower, but the number of these, as above stated, is believed to be small.

THE "TOWER GENEALOGY," which brings the record of family names and relationships almost to the last decade of the nineteenth century, was written by Mr. Quincy Bicknell, a Massachusetts lawyer, for and under the directions of Hon. Charlemagne Tower of Philadelphia, and printed at Cambridge, Mass., in 1891. In the Index to this volume of 689 pages may be found some 8,000 names, more than 2,300 being Tower and the remainder the names of members of related families.

The result of Mr. Bicknell's labor of research and compilation, which occupied him many years, was an excellent book of its type, but unavoidably there were many gaps in the records. Even under favoring conditions work of this kind is difficult, but fifty and sixty years ago official vital statistics were lacking in many states, and the

records of Tower families which have since been traced by the present Secretary of the Society, were not available. In 1884, when work on this first volume ended, "the records of the seventh generation" (to quote from a report of the Secretary) "were nearly complete; those of the eighth were probably 80% complete; those of the ninth possibly 35% complete, and those of the tenth less than 10% complete."

Even in this incomplete state the statistics of the seventh, eighth, and ninth, generations occupy 68% of the "Tower Genealogy." When to the still unpublished data are added the records of two more generations, born since 1884, it is evident that a volume nearly equal in size to the first is now needed, in order that the benefits accruing from the first may not be lost to the family through inability to maintain a consecutive history of the later generations.

Included within the second volume will be the records of the Towers in the Civil War, which have been compiled by the Secretary, as far as possible at Washington, and the service records of Tower descendants in the Great War, obituary records of prominent members of the family, and other features that will enhance the practical value of the second volume as a family reference work. For example, by use of the cross reference index the names of those residing in any town or locality may quickly be found.

In the years that have elapsed since the organization of the Society many "lost tribes" have been discovered and traced, and a very large amount of material relating to the Tower family has been collected by the Secretary. It is expected that the members of the family will see to it that the compilation of the data shall be begun in the near future so that the much needed SECOND VOLUME OF THE "TOWER" GENEALOGY" may soon be available for use.



## Editors Message

It never fails to amaze me at the plethora of information that is available to us this day and age through the world wide web. I cannot fathom what the future will hold, as it relates to genealogy research, but this I can say is that DNA analysis certainly provides added gusto to the findings.

TGS is fortunate to have 3 volumes of archived genealogical data.. Yet there is so much more material to be compiled and archived, as it the information presents itself through research online and such. It is an genuine honor to actively participate in such an honorable undertaking of locating & preserving the Tower Family Genealogical history for future generations to come.

Please consider volunteering to your abilities with TGS, to be a pivotal part of preserving a living legacy to future generations.

**Members are encouraged and welcome to send us contributions for the TGS newsletter or website. Stories, articles, pictures, reunion, birth or marriage notices and even death information, is welcomed.**

**For any questions regarding volunteer/ board member positions or submission to the newsletter please contact any of the listed TGS Officers or board members**

**TGS President, Executive Secretary: John W. Tower - Rutland, Vermont**

**TGS Treasurer: Carol A. Marchegiani - Readsboro, Vermont**

**Kathryn Cote, Assistant Treasurer**

**TGS Resident Genealogist: David C. Tower - Crossville, Tennessee**

**TGS Membership Director and Board Member: Jo Miller - Ortonville, Michigan**

**TGS Director: Gloria Cooper, - Colorado**

**TGS Webmaster, Facebook Moderator, Newsletter Editor: Janine C. Battistone - Whitmore Lake, Michigan**

