

## Dorothy Frances Tower – A Double Tower

Richard E. Haskell and Elizabeth (Haskell) Fisk

Dorothy Frances Tower was born on 23 July 1904 in Boston, Massachusetts<sup>1</sup>. Her father was Harley Earl(8) Tower, [ Joseph(7), Joseph(6), Benjamin(5), Joseph(4), Benjamin(3), John(2), John(1)]. Her mother was also a Tower, Ida May(10) Tower [Mayhew Charles (9), Mayhew(8), George Bedford(7), George(6), Benjamin(5), Joseph(4), Benjamin(3), John(2), John(1) ]. Note that Benjamin(5) is Harley Earl's great grandfather and Ida May's great-great-grandfather. Thus, Harley Earl and Ida May are second cousins twice removed. Harley Earl and Ida May Tower are shown in Fig. 1. Harley and his daughter, Dorothy Frances Tower, are shown in Fig. 2.



Figure 1  
Harley and Ida May Tower  
abt 1920



Figure 2  
Harley and Dorothy Tower  
abt 1924

Nancy Tower(5) is the sister of Benjamin (5) and she married Gershom Maxwell. Their daughter Sarah married her first cousin Joseph(6) Tower. This provides a second Tower line for Harley Earl. But there is more. Hanna Tower(2) is the sister of John (2) and she married David Whipple. Their daughter Deborah married her first cousin Benjamin(3) Tower. This provides a second Tower line for Ida May and coupled with the previous two lines for Harley Earl, a total of four Tower lines for Harley Earl. Thus, Dorothy Frances Tower has a total of *six* separate Tower lines to John(1).

Harley Earl Tower married Ida May Tower in Boston, Massachusetts on 7 August 1902 when he was 34 and she was 19.<sup>2</sup> Although their marriage certificate notes 33 years for his age and 20 years for her age – Ah well, even then they weren't quite truthful about ages! They had three girls: Gladys Winifred, Dorothy Frances, and Edith Virginia. Thus, this Tower line ended with Harley Earl. Before getting married, Harley was a mariner, but after they were married Ida wanted him to give up the life at sea and he became a blacksmith. During World War II they lived on a farm in Alton Bay, NH where Harley tended a large garden, got milk from a cow, had a couple of pigs and a hen house full of chickens and eggs. Ida worked as a cook at Oak Birch Inn in Alton Bay. After the war they returned to Melrose, MA where Ida worked soldering radios and Harley worked in a Blacksmith shop and then cold storage until his death on 8 Jan 1948 at the age of 79.<sup>3</sup> Ida died in Melrose on 11 April 1971 at the age of 88.<sup>4</sup>

Dorothy Frances Tower married Rev. Joseph Wayne Haskell<sup>5</sup> on 6 July 1935.<sup>6</sup> They had three children: Elizabeth Anne, Richard Edmund, and Philip Tower. Joseph Wayne Haskell died on 18 Feb 1951<sup>7</sup> and Dorothy Frances died on 5 Oct 1962.<sup>8</sup> She is our mother.

<sup>1</sup> Birth Certificate: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Archives Division: Vol. 545, p. 149, No. 6671, 1904. Copy B009465.

<sup>2</sup> Marriage Certificate: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Archives Division: Vol. 527, p. 153, No. 3491, 1902. Copy M006289.

<sup>3</sup> Melrose, Massachusetts, Office of City Clerk: Vol. 9, p. 28, No. 19303.

<sup>4</sup> Melrose, Massachusetts, Office of City Clerk: Vol. 13, p. 12, No. 30806.

<sup>5</sup> See "The Royal Descents of Rev. Joseph Wayne Haskell" by Richard E. Haskell and Elizabeth (Haskell) Fisk, Haskell Journal, The Journal of the Haskell Family Association, pp. 13 - 18, Summer 2004.

<sup>6</sup> Melrose, Massachusetts, Office of City Clerk: Vol. 5, p. 374, No. 9250.

<sup>7</sup> Death Certificate: Nashua, Hillsboro Co., NH: 1951. . Lucille A. Lemay, city clerk pro-tem.

<sup>8</sup> Death Certificate: Nashua, Hillsboro Co., NH: 1962. Edward S. LeBlanc clerk, 67A.

## Dorothy Tower Haskell

Dorothy Frances Tower was a teacher extraordinaire. She graduated from the Albert N. Parlin School in Everett, Middlesex Co., MA in 1917 [Junior high]. In 1921, she graduated from Melrose, MA High School. She worked for a while in a bank and then went to Bridgewater Normal School. She taught junior high in schools for ten years before she was married in 1935—in Lynn, MA, Swampscott, MA and her nephew remembers her teaching in Melrose, MA. An entry in her “A Line A Day Diary” for 10 Sep 1929 notes “Met my children—50 strong. Darling youngsters”. [Swampscott, MA.] She was 25 years old.

We had a 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration on 23 Jul 2004 where all guests were to bring a “remembrance paragraph” of Dorothy Tower. Enjoying the celebration were her niece & husband, nephew & wife, two sons & wives, daughter & husband & sister-in law, plus two great-grandchildren who had never known her as she had died at the age of 58. Her nephew wrote “...a rainy day at the Haskell Farm...in the kitchen, and Dot was working at the sink...many children were there. It wasn’t long before she had us acting out Uncle Remus stories. My turn came and it was Brer Rabbit and the Tar Baby...the memory is still vivid—more than 70 years later—Dot’s gentle way with children, and the desire to teach some small lesson at every opportunity was clearly a winner.”

Her niece noted that “...there was always Aunty Dot. I was even named Dorothy Winifred Todd...[but] was always called Winnie...the main thing I remember about Aunty Dot was her positive reinforcement. Don’t know why but she always made me feel that I was wonderful. Can never remember a negative comment or expression. So, the saddest thing, I think, is that her wonderful grandchildren and great-grandchildren will never get to know what a special grandmother they had.”



Richard “Dick” Haskell [2yrs]  
& Elizabeth “Betsy” Haskell Fisk [4yrs]

But it was our grandmother, Ida May Tower and grandfather, Harley Earl Tower who brought up the three sisters and told us the most about the Tower family. The most fascinating stories to us children were the ones about being “psychic.” Grandma said that Grandpa Tower would hear voices & mumble and Grandma would say “who is it this time?” He would tell her and within a few days they would get word that some relative had died. But Grandma, too, seemed to have the sixth sense. She once told us that during one night she saw this woman who came to her & said “Give my son ...[& named a medicine].” My grandmother asked her what she meant & the woman repeated “Give my son ...[the medicine]. The next day she described the woman to Grandpa, and he said, “that was my mother.” Ida had never met his mother as his mother had died when Harley was thirteen years old. Ida then went to her local doctor and asked if he had heard of the medicine. He told her it was a new medicine for rheumatism & arthritis and asked her how she had heard of it. I’m not sure what she told him. Harley had had arthritis for many years, and we remember that he always walked with a limp and used one or two canes. He had been a mariner before he was married and had grown up on the Bay of Fundy. But arthritis seemed to run in the Tower family as Ida also developed it in her later years as does Dick and his son. Migraine headaches also seem to have a familial link in some members of our family, although not direct. Members of our family are not surprised by experiencing “psychic” or intuitive dreams that then seem to come true.



Figure 3  
Dorothy Frances Tower  
Haskell  
abt 1952