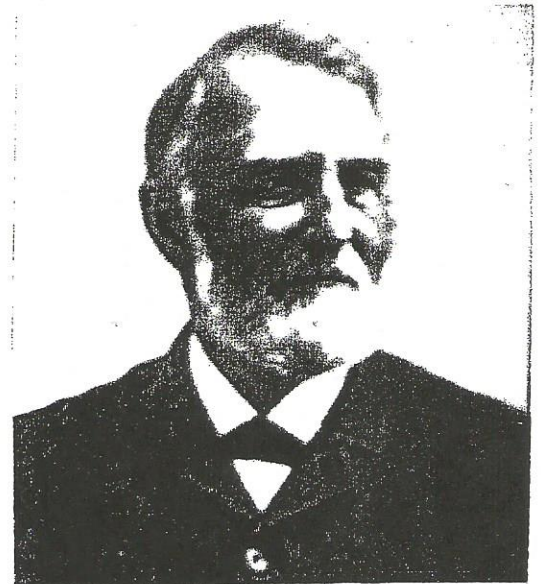


AN UNASSUMING GENTLEMAN

Albert Edward Tower Sr. was one of the best known iron men in the United States. He was born in the small town of Paris in Oneida County, New York on November 8, 1817. He became a successful iron company executive and amassed a fortune in Ohio before moving to Poughkeepsie where he became the superintendent and part-owner of the Poughkeepsie Iron Works originally organized by Joseph Tuckerman and the Falkill Iron Works both owned at that time by Edvard Beck. When Mr. Beck died Albert succeeded him as president and reorganized the two plants into the Poughkeepsie Iron Company.



He was an astute businessman and contemporary of many well known Poughkeepsie business leaders. Albert also served as vice-president of the board of Merchants Bank.

Albert and his first wife Mary Ann Bidwell who died in 1848 had no children. He married his second wife Anna Underhill daughter of Josiah Underhill the Treasurer of Poughkeepsie Savings Bank in 1860. They had two children Albert Edward Tower Jr. and Joseph Tuckerman Tower.

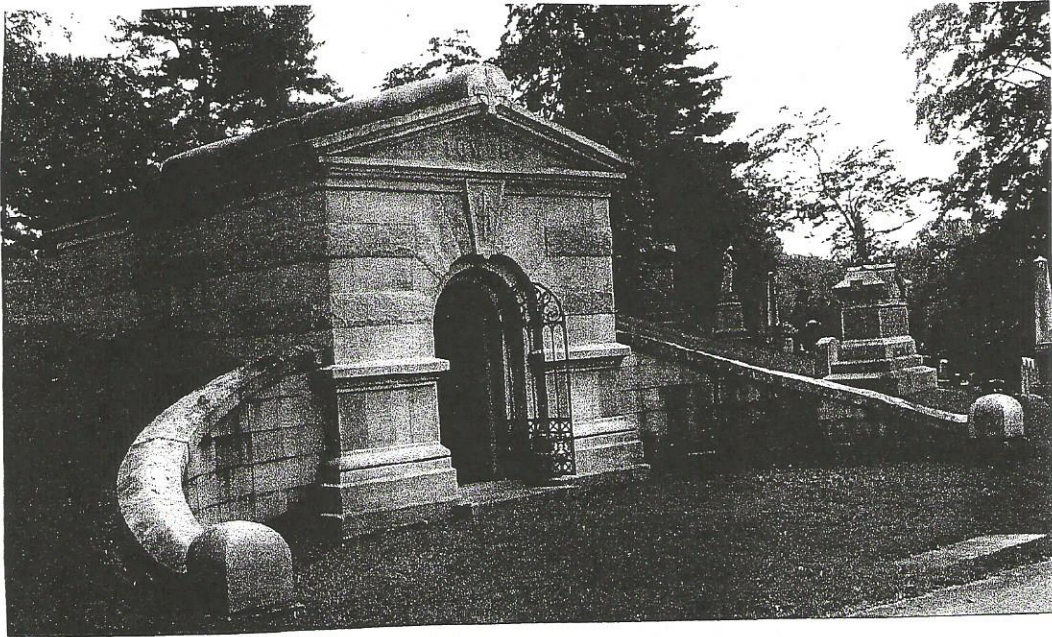
Several years prior to his death on December 24, 1891 He had largely given up the management of the company to his two sons.

Albert was an unassuming but thoroughly upright Christian gentleman. He was a member of the vestry of Christ Church in Poughkeepsie and donated large sums of money toward the updating of the church and for the construction of the manse and the rectory. One of the impressive Tiffany stained glass windows at the church is dedicated to the memory of Albert E. and Anna Tower.

Albert's grandson, Joseph Tuckerman Tower Jr., gave generously to Vassar

Hospital. With the expansion of the now Vassar Brothers Medical Center the buildings named in honor of Joseph Tower and his sister Mary Thorn Tower have been demolished to make way for a new patient care facility.

The Tower Mausoleum is one of the largest and most impressive at the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery. It was designed by Poughkeepsie architect Arnout Cannon Jr. and is the final resting place of many Tower family members including Albert Edward Tower Sr. There is no record of which Tower family member commissioned the structure or when it was completed. We assume that the first entombment was in 1891 and later records show the last entombment in 1984.



Unlike some other mausoleums the inside is austere and somber. The symbol over the door of the mausoleum that resembles a dollar sign is actually a once widely accepted symbol of the Episcopal faith.