

# TALBOTANIA

The Bulletin

of the

Talbot Research Organisation.

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## INTRODUCTION

As an experiment this year, we decided to send out this newsletter as an alternative to the personal letters we usually write at Christmas time. There are two reasons for this; Firstly, our second child is due at the beginning of December, and so we won't have much time for letter writing. Secondly, we thought we would like to start a Talbot One Name Society, and we are keen to sound out opinion with this newsletter. The proposed Talbot Research Organisation will try to seek out records, documents, and other material of interest to family historians, such as photographs, to arrange for their preservation and to prepare an index and record of their whereabouts and contents. Such a newsletter is a good medium for putting in touch people with mutual interests.

## MY OWN FAMILY - THE TALBOTS OF HAMPSHIRE

My great-great grandfather was one John Talbot, born in Ashmansworth, in the year 1820, although his baptism has never been found. He was the eldest son of Thomas & Lydia Talbot. There were three other children of this marriage, another son William and two daughters Eliza Ann and Maria. North West Hampshire where Ashmansworth is situated was an agricultural area; and so the Talbots like many other families, were dependant on the land for their living, Thomas being employed as an agricultural labourer. In 1850 a Hampshire agricultural labourer would have earned 9/6d. (47½p) a week, - today this would just about buy two loaves of bread! The comparatively small size of the Talbot family probably meant that they led a reasonably comfortable life compared with many of their neighbours, but in the cold weather of late 1854, Thomas at the age of 62, was forced to give up work through ill-health, and to take parish relief. His younger son William was at this time in Liverpool with his wife Charlotte and their two sons Orson and Mark, waiting to sail for America, having been converted to Mormonism. Copies of letters which were written to William by his parents, and brother and sister-in-law, and which have kindly been sent back to us from America by Grant Talbot of Bountiful, describe Thomas's death in November 1855. He took to his bed for five weeks before he died, and he suffered a great deal, but according to his wife and his daughter-in-law Harriet, (wife of John) who sat with him the night he died, his end was peaceful. This letter also mentions the death of William & Charlotte's younger son Mark in St Louis.

John married Harriet Hinton and is described in one of the letters from America as a Fogger (headman) for Mr Robenson. They had 5 sons, George, Thomas, William, Jessie and Henry, and 2 daughters Eliza and Mary. In the letters from America, George was mentioned as drawing a picture to send to his cousin Robert, who had joined William in America in about 1862. "Tell him (cousin Robert) we have got his dog still and George has sent a drawing of the dog for Cousin Robert to look at. George drewed it himself, he is very fond of drawing, he has drawn several pictures besides the dog. Mr. Haggs says he is very clever at it." I am the proud owner of an oil painting by this same George, a

man with a great talent for drawing and painting, a talent which is shared by several members of the family.

All of John & Harriet's children married and had families. Thomas was my great-grandfather, William went to Buffalo in 1884, and Henry's family went to South Africa, Jessie was a favourite with the Talbot children, and my father often mentions going to visit Great Uncle Jessie as a child, and being given great wedges of bread well greased with dripping.

However, perhaps the most intriguing story is that of Mary. She was sent to Brussels to finish her education, reputedly at a Ladies Finishing School, which seems rather incredible. She returned to her home in Ashmansworth, and became the village school mistress. There she met and married a handsome young policeman named Tom Pomeroy, and in due course he was transferred to Gosport, which is the reason for the Talbot family being in the town today. He and Polly (as Mary was known) set up home in Alver Road, a road of terraced houses which leads to Alver Creek and Gosport's Workhouse. Here other members of the family visited them including John, John died in the Gosport Workhouse in 1909, and I always asked myself the question "Why would Mary allow this?" I have since learnt from his grandson, Thomas Pomeroy, that John was involved in an accident with a cart. He was nursed for a long time by his daughter, but apparently he never recovered, and eventually he was so ill and delirious that no-one could hold him, as he was a very strong man. As I mentioned before, the workhouse, which was in part an infirmary, was in close proximity to the house in Alver Road, and so he was taken there, and within a few days he died at the age of 89.

#### SOME OLD RECIPES.

As my family are from Hampshire, I thought it would be interesting to print the two following recipes from 'Cooking in Hampshire, Past and Present', by Kate Easlea, Head of Rural Home Economics, Hampshire College of Agriculture, Sparsholt, Winchester.

#### FRUMERTY.

(This is a very old Hampshire recipe somewhat similar to the modern 'museli'. In the old days wheat grains were easily gleaned in the corn-fields at harvest time.

Wheat grains,  
milk, sultanas or chopped fresh fruit,  
brown sugar to taste,  
cream.

#### Method.

Soak wheat grains in milk until soft. Boil until milk is taken up. Add sultanas during cooking and fresh fruit at end. If using apples, pears or bananas, dip cut fruit in lemon juice to prevent browning. Add sugar to taste. Grapes, oranges and chopped nuts can also be added.

#### A DISH FOR FIVE STOUT MEN - Published 1772 Exclusive.

To nine pints of water one pound of lean beef cut into very thin pieces, 1 pint of split pease, 12 ounces of mealy potatoes, 3 ounces of ground rice after it has boiled two hours - 3 large leeks & 2 heads of celery, - twill cost a shilling exclusive of firing.

INFORMATION WANTED

KENNETH LARSON, 168 L Street, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84110, U. S. A. Requires the baptism of JOHN STUART TALBOT, b. London about 1773, alleged relative of the EARL of SHREWSBURY. Also the marriage of JOHN STUART TALBOT to PRISCILLA PURCELL? about 1804. The children of this marriage were baptised at St Margaret's, Westminster, between 1807 & 1814. The youngest child was baptised at St George's, Hanover Square in 1817.

MRS ANN TALBOT, Surrey Hill Road, Oakura, R. D. 4., New Plymouth, New Zealand, requires any information on the 100 club in Ireland. The marriage of JOHN & ELIZA TALBOT of Ballyculla, Ireland about 1840, also any information on the TALBOTS of Ireland.

MRS GAEL A. THOMPSON, 42 Roseberry Avenue, Birkenhead. Auckland 10, New Zealand, requires the marriage of CHARLES & ANNA TALBOT at Balarat or Melbourne, Australia about 1853. Also any information on a CHARLES TALBOT emigrating to Australia from England about 1850.

MIKE TALBOT, 142 Albemarle Avenue, Elson, Gosport, Hants. PO12 4HY, requires any information on the baptism of JOHN TALBOT possibly in the New Forest area, in 1760 - 1762. He was married at Hurstbourne Priors, Hants. Also any information on the alleged natural children of WILLIAM, EARL TALBOT.

PIECES FROM THE PAST - NUMBER 1

It is over 10 years now since I became interested in Talbot genealogy, - not just my own immediate ancestors, but the Talbot family as a whole, and during the course of my research, I have found many interesting characters and many fascinating stories, some exciting, some sad. The story of the plague at Eyam, in Derbyshire, is one of the sad ones.

About the beginning of September 1665, the tailor in Eyam received a box of textiles from London. Upon examination, he found the material to be damp and dried them before the fire. Within a week he was taken ill, and died, after being affected by symptoms which, although unrecognised at the time, proved beyond doubt to be the plague.

About  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile outside Eyam, at a place called Riley, on the Manchester to Sheffield Road, stood a house occupied by a family called Hancock, and adjoining this house was a smithy where the Talbot family pursued their occupation of blacksmiths. Being a little way out of Eyam, and in a high and airy situation, one would have thought that the plague might pass these families by, as they were not compelled to have any communication with the inhabitants of Eyam. How or by what means the infection found its way to these two families is not known, but it is probable that one of the Talbots brought it from Eyam, as they all died before any one of the Hancocks.

The following is quoted verbatim from William Woods "History & Antiquities of Eyam, including the Great Plague which desolated the village".

On the fifth of July 1666, died Brigit and Mary, daughters of Richard and Catherine Talbot. They were young and beautiful; they had sported with innocence and mirth on the flowery heath only a few days before death came and laid his cold and chilly hand on their lovely bosoms. Often had they roved on neighbouring moors, with hearts swelling with joy and pure as the snow of their mountains. Ah! they had spent full

many a sunny day in chasing the many-hued butterfly amidst the busy hum of the wild and toilsome bees; and then, like two sweet roses just bursting into bloom, they were suddenly plucked from their lonely, parent bed. Thus these two lovely girls fell victims to the horrid pest; thus they reluctantly stooped beneath death's fearful arch in one sad direful day. Their weeping and terrified father immediately committed them to the earth beside his mournful home. On the seventh of the same month, he performed the same awful task on Ann, another of his hapless daughters; and on the eighteenth, on his wife Catherine. Robert his son, died, and was buried on the twenty-fourth and on the ensuing day, the father himself died and was buried, leaving one son, who on the thirtieth died also, and was buried probably by the Hancocks on the same day. Thus, from the fifth to the thirtieth of July, perished the whole of the household of the fated Talbots. They were interned nearly together close by their habitation; and in the orchard of the present Riley house, a délapidated tabular monument with the following very nearly erased inscription, records their memories - "Richard Talbot, Catherine his wife, 2 sons and 3 daughters buried July 1666".

The following are the names of the Talbots that died of the plague in Eyam and Riley 1665 - 1666.

John Talbot		March	1666
Brigit Talbot	(Riley)	July 5th	1666
Mary Talbot	(Riley)	July 5th	1666
Ann Talbot	(Riley)	July 7th	1666
Jane Talbot	(Riley)	July 17th	1666
Catherine Talbot	(Riley)	July 18th	1666
Robert Talbot	(Riley)	July 24th	1666
Richard Talbot	(Riley)	July 25th	1666
Joan Talbot		July 26th	1666
Ruth Talbot		July 26th	1666
Jonathon Talbot		July 30th	1666
Briget Talbot		Aug. 15th	1666
Catherine Talbot		Aug. 30th	1666

N. B. The Earls of Shrewsbury held the manor of Eyam, and it is believed though not yet proved, that the Talbots of Eyam were descendants of the Earls of Shrewsbury through the Reverend Robert Talbot who died in 1630.

#### SILVER ARROW

The Silver Arrow of Harrow was given by SIR GILBERT TALBOT in 1684, and shot for until 1772, when the headmaster suppressed it, and instituted speech day instead.

#### VARIATIONS ON THE SPELLING OF TALBOT.

Variations occurred because of the many different accents to be found in the British Isles, and also because many people were illiterate.

TCLBET/TOLBET	-----	Old names.
TABOTT/TABUTT	-----	Nursling, Co. Southampton.
TALBEET/TALBETT/TALBATT	-----	St Mary Bourne, Co. Southampton
TALLBETT	-----	Portsea, Co. Southampton.
TALBORT		
TALBIT		
TALBUT (T)		
TALBURT		

TAULBOT Fareham, Co. Southampton & Whalley, Co Lancs.  
 TALBOTIS  
 TAWLBET  
 TALBOTE Richard, found at Crofton Co. Southampton, c 1650  
 TALEBOT Hugh, Nobleman living c 1060  
 TOBOT  
 WARBOT Sparsholt, Co Berkshire, 1559  
 TALBERT London  
 TALEBERT A knight of Rhodes  
 HALBOT Shropshire  
 HALLBERT Purley

N. B. It is very difficult to know where to draw the line between variations of spelling and pronunciation of a name, and an entirely different name, but no reference should be discarded entirely, simply because the spelling is different from that in common usage.

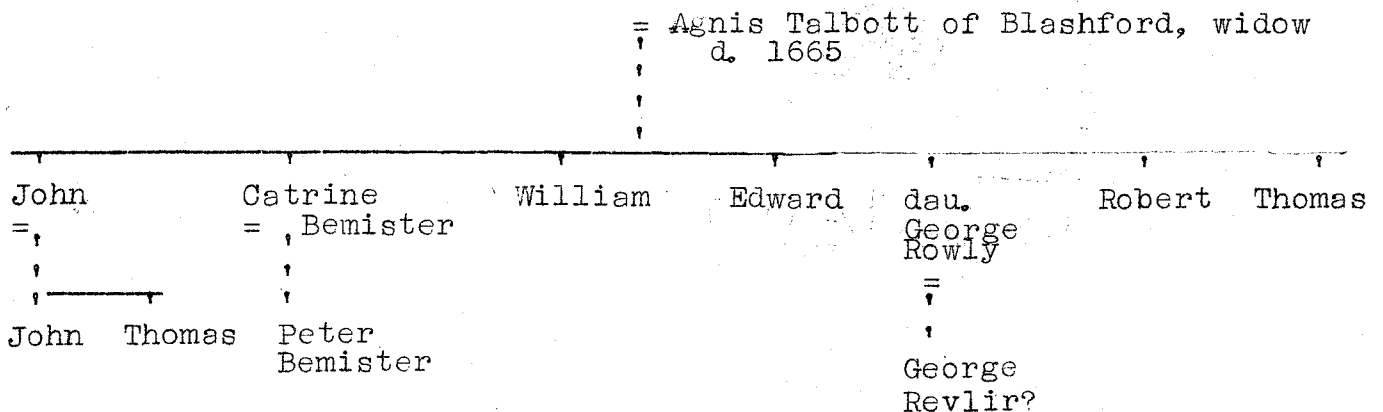
### PEDIGREES FROM WILLS

Wills exist in some places from as early as the 13th century. Not everyone left wills, but where they do exist, they are invaluable for the biographical information they contain, and for the relationships mentioned. It is often possible to prove by means of wills, family connections which previously were only surmise. As a general rule, the wills of widows are more interesting to genealogists than those of married men. This is because the man would leave his assets to his wife as a rule, whereas a widow would leave hers to her children and possibly to her grandchildren.

The will of AGNIS TALBOT<sup>T</sup> widow, of Blashford in the parish of Ellingham, dated October 29th, 1664, is a good example. She mentions her will the following members of her family:

JOHN TALBOT	Son
CATRINE BEMISTER	Daughter
WILLIAM TALBOTT	Son
EDWARD TALBOT	Son
GEORGE ROWLY	Son-in-Law
GEORGE BEVLIR?	Son of George Rowly
JOHN TALBOTT	Grandson, son of John Talbott
THOMAS TALBOTT	Grandson, son of John Talbott
ROBERT TALBOTT	Son
THOMAS TALBOTT	Son
PETER BEMISTER	Grandson.

Thus from this will, we can construct the following tree;



THE RUNNING HOUND

Several years ago, archaeologists found a stone statue of a Talbot hound in the grounds of Penyard Castle, Herefordshire. This castle was acquired by the family of Talbot in the thirteenth century, or earlier. There is a record of a grant being made by Henry II in 1156 to one Richard Talbot, of the Manor of Eccleswall. Eccleswall was held by the service of one knight's fee, and Penyard by the service of a  $\frac{1}{4}$  part of a knight's fee. (1).

The Talbot hound originated from the kennels of Penyard Castle. It had a broad mouth, very deep chops, very long and large ears, and its coat was fine and usually white. Its ancestors were the sleuth hound, Afghan, Saluki, Egyptian greyhound, Canis Familiaris, and Tomarctus. Its descendants are the foxhound and the bloodhound. Although now extinct, it has been immortalised on signs of countless inns and hotels called the 'Talbot', throughout this country. The Talbot hound is also used as a badge for the Talbot family.

(1) Book of Fees, 1920.

CONCLUSION.

Well we hope you have enjoyed reading this first edition of Talbotania. It has been very much of an experiment, deciding what to include and what to exclude. Mike has a great deal of information about Talbots, he says to keep a bulletin going for years! However, to be successful, it must be a bulletin for everyone and by everyone. We would like to hear your views on this one, and whether you would be prepared to subscribe to future editions. Subscription rates have not yet been finalised, as they depend on the cost of paper, duplicating, postage etc., but we will try to keep all of these to the very minimum. Also, although we have plenty of material, the bulletin must be kept going by you too. We would like to hear stories from your own sources, such as childhood memories, stories of your particular branch of the Talbots, letters, information wanted, etc. Initially it is proposed to issue it twice a year, but if enough material is forthcoming, we may consider a quarterly publication. In the meantime, please do write and give us your views and ideas.

Finally, can we take this opportunity to wish you a very happy Christmas, and a peaceful and prosperous 1978.

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ERRATUM

On Page 1 the weekly wage of an agricultural labourer in Hampshire should read 9/- (45p) and not 9/6d. Although 6d (2½p) is nothing to us today, it was a great deal of money in those days.

M. J. T.