

# The Talcott Family Connection

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## Association membership

The Board of Directors would like to thank everyone who enrolled as a lifetime or annual member to The Talcott Family Association. To date we have received 16 lifetime and 24 annual memberships.

A 2015 membership form will be sent in Jan/Feb with the winter newsletter.

## Talcott Bros. Woolen Mill update

Those who attended the Talcott Reunion in Hartford and were present at the Wednesday evening banquet heard Laura Knott-Twine speak about plans to rehabilitate the former Talcott Brothers Woolen Mill in Talcottville, CT. John Talcott III informed those gathered at the Horatio Talcott Family Reunion in Oneonta, NY in September 2014 that the project has collapsed. A key person involved with the financial arrangements resigned his position at the bank. Unfortunately, nobody in the bank was capable of taking over at his departure.

John said after another winter he doubts there will be any hope of rehabilitating the mill. Sections of the roof have begun to collapse and other structural deterioration may render the mill a complete loss.

## Only Providence

The Horatio Talcott Family Reunion was held in Oneonta, NY on September 19 and 20, 2014. Something unusual occurred that could only have been Providence.

On Thursday evening as George Snyder, Fred M. Harvey, Jeanette Finlaw and Gahrad Harvey were chatting at a table in the hotel lobby, a couple entered the lobby from outside and stepped to the coffee/tea counter to prepared a refreshment. They couldn't help overhearing the conversation at the table. The lady came to the table and asked with an English accent, "Where are you from?" Gahrad replied, "From Pennsylvania, where are you from?" She responded, "We're from Braintree, England." Gahrad proudly replied, "Our ancestor who came to America in 1632 was from Braintree." At that, the husband excitedly asked, "Did he come over on the Lion?" The reply was, "Yes." The next three hours were spent getting acquainted with Rod and Lesley Davey. "What are the chances that descendants of John Talcott would meet a couple from Braintree, England in a hotel lobby in Oneonta, NY?" Rod stated.

Rod and Lesley had been to Niagara Falls and were on their way to tour New England to see the fall foliage. We

met for breakfast Friday morning, and before parting, we introduced them to Linda Glover, George Furwell, John and Dorothea Talcott.

Rod said that their church in Braintree had been engaged in doing research on the Puritan period of time. In an email he stated, "I did a lot of general reading to see why people went particularly to New England in the first place and it was very interesting. Was it about land, religious freedom, need for adventure or something else? Whatever, it was the English county of Essex that seemed to be leading the movement, and we provided 3 Presidents." We plan to continue the friendship and the research.



(l-r) John Talcott III, Dorothea Talcott, Jeanette Finlaw, George Snyder, Linda Glover, Rod Davey, Leslie Davey, Gahrad Harvey, Fred. M. Harvey.

## Hats Off To Christmas

Deanna Talcott and Deborah Majinska co-authored a Christmas movie for the Hallmark Channel which premiered last season. The story is about a small-town hat shop employee who resents being asked to train her boss's son for a job she wants for herself, but warms to him when he shows an interest in helping her son with a project. However, she remains doubtful whether he can be relied on, a suspicion that seems confirmed when he is tempted to leave for the bright lights of New York City. Staring Haylie Duff and Antonio Cupo.

The movie will be shown several times during the days leading up to Christmas. Check the Hallmark Channel website or your local listing for time of showing.

## 2015 Talcott Family Reunion

— **Save the date** —

The Talcott Family Reunion will be held

**July 31 – August 2, 2015**

on the Monterey Peninsula in California. Lodging will be at Borg's Motel and Lovers Point Inn in Pacific Grove, CA; however, room rates will not be available until February.

<http://borgsoceanfrontmotel.com/>

<http://www.loverspointinnpg.com/>



Lovers Point Park & Beach, Pacific Grove

A banquet, business meeting of The Talcott Family Association, and an auction will be held Saturday evening, August 1, at the Monterey Elks Lodge.

Come early or stay after to visit any of the many places listed below:

- Point Lobos, south of Carmel where John Louis Stevenson wrote *Treasure Island*.
- Cannery Row made famous by John Steinbeck. Great food.
- Old Fisherman's Wharf in Monterey where seafood is king and clam chowder is tasty.
- Big Sur down famous California "1" Highway.
- Monterey Aquarium for incredible exhibits.
- Carmel-by-the-Sea to enjoy old-world charm.
- Carmel-by-the-Sea's Scenic Road to catch a view of the Walker Residence, designed by architect Frank Lloyd Wright.
- Carmel River State Beach for a walk in the sand.
- Tour 17 Mile Drive for spectacular views.
- Santa Cruz with famous boardwalk, games and rides.
- Mission Carmel where you can go back in time when the Spanish Padres built the mission trail from Baja California to San Francisco.
- Point Pinos Lighthouse in Pacific Grove
- Hearst Castle in San Simeon at the Southern tip of the Monterey Peninsula.
- Asilomar State Beach
- Garapata State Park for hiking and sunset views.
- Tor House, a 1919 landmark built for California poet, Robinson Jeffers, reservations required.

For addition things to do while visiting the Monterey Peninsula, go to: [www.seemonterey.com](http://www.seemonterey.com)

### Correction

The Summer edition of *The Talcott Connection* reported the Second National Talcott Reunion was held in Kansas City, KS. The correct location was Kansas City, MO.

## How many ways do we spell Talcott?

The most common way for spelling our family name in America is Talcott; however, other variations are Tallcot and Tallcott.

In England, the family name may also be spelled Tylcoat or Tylecote. You are encouraged to check Dave Tylcoat's website, <http://www.tylcoat.co.uk/backg.htm>, for additional family information.

## A genealogical find

For several years I knew there were several Talcott's buried in cemeteries near Sidney, NY. I made contact with Joelene Cole at the Sidney Historical Association well in advance of the Talcott Family Reunion in Oneonta, NY to see if Sidney should be a place to visit. Joelene sent an email that there was nothing in their files on Talcott's; however, she directed me to the Sidney Memorial Public Library website digital newspaper archives. I chose to look at the Sidney Record of 1899. I believe you will enjoy the following article with the editorial writing of that time to be quite interesting and descriptive.

### DEATH BY STRANGULATION

Sudden and Shocking Death of Albert L. Talcott at the New Hotel in Edmeston.

### CHOKED BY A PIECE OF MEAT

Last Saturday about 12:30, p. m. Edmeston people were greatly shocked to learn of the tragic death of Mr. Albert L. Talcott. Although a perfect stranger, the pathetic details of his death attracted in his behalf a wide spread sympathy.

It appears that Mr. Talcott registered at the Rutherford Hotel in that village, about two weeks ago. Although a brother to Henry and Martin Talcott of this locality, and of Mrs. H. G Phelps, Albert Talcott had long resided in the state of Illinois. Some weeks ago he began to canvass New York state for a Chicago circulating library firm. He offered a few days ago to locate one of these libraries in Sidney, but his liberal offer was declined on the ground that our Sidney public library with about 6,000 vols. filled all requirements. After a visit with relatives about Sidney, Mr. Talcott went on a business trip to Edmeston.

On Friday night he was not feeling very well and before retiring he told the clerk that he would not wish any breakfast the next morning. On Saturday morning Mr. Talcott got up quite late, only a short time before dinner was ready. He went into the dining room and took a seat at the table. He was evidently not well and was apparently weak. During the course of the meal a guest seated on the opposite side the table noticed that Mr. Talcott had some trouble cutting his meat. After awhile he saw him leisurely twist a piece of meat on his fork and swallow the meat which was a large piece, nearly five inches long. He tried soon after to drink down a glass of milk but was unable to swallow. Mr. Talcott then left the table and upon reaching the hall he sank to the floor unconscious. Medical aid was promptly summoned but Mr. Talcott expired before any relief could be given.

Being a stranger in Edmeston they telephoned to Sidney and succeeded through Mr. Pierce in identifying the dead

man. Mr. L. L. Heath, Sidney's well known funeral director, was sent to Edmeston to take charge of the remains. In the afternoon a coroner's inquest and an autopsy was held and the cause of death was ascribed as above related.

Mr. Talcott was 60 years of age. He was unmarried. The funeral was held last Monday afternoon from the residence of Mr. H. G. Phelps and the interment took place in the East Guilford Cemetery.

*The following article appeared in the first column of the same edition of the paper under "A Page of Late City News"*

The present week has been one of much sadness in the home of Mr. Horace G. Phelps. On Monday Mr. Albert Talcott, Mrs. Phelps' brother, was buried and on the following day Mr. Phelps' sister, Mrs. Wakeman was also buried. Mrs. Wakeman died at her home in the town of Sidney, near Wells bridge last Sunday. She is survived by her husband and one son, Mr. Gaylord Wakeman, who has a law office in Unadilla.

<http://sidney.advantage-preservation.com/document/sidney-record-1899-02-11-page-5>

For those of you who have S.V. Talcott's book, *Talcott Pedigree in England and America from 1558 to 1876*, you will find Albert Lewis Talcott listed on page 283, #2099, born on July 28, 1839. According to the 1899 calendar and the date of the paper, Albert died on January 28, 1899.

Albert was the son of Adna and Eliza (Wright) Talcott. They had Charles H., b. Jul 1, 1828, m. Maria Morgan; Elizabeth, b. Sep 11, 1830, m. Cyrenus C. Chamberlain; Griswold H., b. Nov 1, 1833, m. Sallie Ann Palmer; Martin I., b. Jun 6, 1835, m. Delia De Forest; Isabell, b. Feb 18, 1837, m. Horace G. Phelps; and Albert L.

## Talcott Olive Oil

Due to the drought in California this year, the Talcott Olive Oil is in short supply this year. An email arrived during the writing of the newsletter with their holiday order/shipping schedule.

Guaranteed holiday orders must be placed by November 15th. Shipping will begin November 11th. Last guaranteed shipping December 8th.

They also have limited quantities of their fabulous soap. Order soap and Talcott Olive Oil at their website:

<http://talcottoliveoil.com/index.htm>

## Talcott Hot Sauce

David Talcott brought his "Hot Sauce" to the Talcott Family Reunion in Kansas City in 2013. It is so very good! I asked if he would have any to sell for Christmas?

He said he has his regular blends: Classic (medium) and Double Garlic (medium), and he has added new varieties this year: Jalapeno (medium mild), Salsa Cayenne (medium), Jalapeno Habanero (medium hot), Habanero (hot), Ghost (very hot).

If you are interested in ordering, contact David A. Talcott at [talcdave@gmail.com](mailto:talcdave@gmail.com). In the subject line write, "HOT SAUCE.." David will email you with his prices and shipping costs.

## Why did John Talcott come to America?

Before beginning the discourse on the question, I have learned over the years that most of our children and grandchildren have never been taught the same historical facts that we, the longer-living generations were taught. If you ask a young person today, "What do you know about the Massachusetts Bay Company? Have you heard of Rev. Thomas Hooker?" Their response will most likely be, "I've never heard of them." However, they have heard of the Pilgrims; but, they don't know why they came to America.

On a visit to Plymouth and Cape Cod in November 2013, we overheard a docent on the Mayflower II relating the reasons the Pilgrims came to The New World. He stated "for religious freedom;" but, he strongly emphasized they came "for financial gain." Not one person in the group queried him further. They accepted his story and moved on to tour the ship.

To answer the question, "Why come to America?," we must go back to the 15th century to begin to understand the events that led to the great exodus from England to America. Inventions in 1440 began to change the world, Johannes Gutenberg's printing press and movable type. By 1499 there were more than 2,500 cities in Europe that had printing presses. People were becoming "enlightened."

Gutenberg, a Catholic, printed the Bibles in Latin, which was the language spoken in Mass in the Catholic Church. Prior to Gutenberg printing the Bible, all copies of the Bible were copied and written by hand by monks.

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted his "95 Theses" on the door of the Wittenberg Castle church door. In the 95 Theses, Luther attacked the Catholic Church for the corrupt practice of selling "indulgences" to absolve sin. He put forth "two central beliefs – that the Bible is the central religious authority and that humans may reach salvation only by their faith and not by their deeds."<sup>1</sup> This was the beginning of the Protestant Reformation.

Luther was a revolutionary in that he "insisted that as the sole source of religious authority the Bible be translated and made available to everyone."<sup>2</sup> It took Luther ten years to translate the New Testament into German, which was printed in 1534.

In 1491, King Henry VIII became King of England. King Henry had a series of six wives during his reign. When he did not receive approval from Pope Clement VII to divorce his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, to marry Anne Boleyn, he sought the aid of the English Parliament and clergy. He created a separate church, The Church of England, which was Protestant with the King as the head of the church.

Throughout Europe, the Catholic Church and kings allowed only the clergy and Latin scholars to read Scripture. "In England it even became, by royal edict, a crime even to read the Bible in the "vulgar tongue" (the English language).<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.history.com/topics/martin-luther-and-the-95-theses>.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> The 1599 Geneva Bible • Patriots Edition, *The History and Impact of the Geneva Bible* by Dr. Marshall Foster, Tolle Lege Press, printed 2012, page xiv.

William Tyndale, an English scholar and a priest who spoke seven languages and was proficient in ancient Greek and Hebrew, in 1523 requested permission and funds from the bishop in London to translate the Bible into English. He was refused. He quickly realized his work would not be welcome in England.

Seeking a more hospitable environment, he fled to Hamburg, Wittenberg (where he met Luther), Cologne and finally Worms, Germany. In 1525 his New Testament: the first edition from Greek into the English language was printed. Six thousand copies were "quickly smuggled into England, where it received a less-than-enthusiastic response from the authorities. King Henry VIII, Cardinal Wolsey, and Sir Thomas More, among others, were furious." <sup>1</sup> The authorities bought copies of the translation which financed Tyndale's future work; however, they hatched plans to silence him.

"Meanwhile Tyndale had moved to Antwerp, a city in which he was relatively free from both English agents and those of the Holy Roman (and Catholic) Empire. For nine years he managed with the help of friends to evade authorities, revise his New Testament, and begin translating the Old Testament." <sup>2</sup>

"Tyndale was hunted, captured, and imprisoned in the Belgian town of Vilvoorde. On March 6, 1536, he was strangled and burned at the stake, his last words 'Lord, open the King of England's eyes.' His prayers were answered. . . Henry VIII became a supporter of Protestant Reformers." <sup>3</sup>

"The first English passages of Scripture were Pulpit Bibles, for use by the clergy; still the people had no Bibles they could afford . . . nor, for the most part, that they could read.

"In 1553, upon the death of Henry VIII's 16 yr. old Protestant son, Edward, Mary Tudor ascended the throne, soon married the Catholic King of Spain, and set about often with violent cruelty, to stamp out the Reformation. Determined to force the English people back to Roman Catholicism, she ordered the burning of all copies of the Bible in English, She caused more than 300 reformers, pastors and Bible translators to be burned at the stake, well earning her for all of history the sobriquet [nickname] Bloody Mary." <sup>4</sup>

Approximately 800 English Bible scholars were driven to Geneva, Switzerland by Queen Mary's vicious crusade. This exodus became known as the "Marian Exile. Under the protection of John Calvin's "little republic" were theologians led by William Whittingham (Calvin's brother-in-law), Miles Coverdale, Christopher Goodman, Anthony Gilby, John Know and Thomas Sampson. They set about to produce a new English Bible not directed by any king or prelate and not based on the less authentic Latin Vulgate promoted by Queen Mary. Painstakingly drawing upon translations from the original languages, the committee produced the Geneva Bible in 1560.

The Geneva Bible was "dedicated to Queen Elizabeth who had succeeded her half-sister Bloody Mary to the throne and, for political reasons, supported a definitive break with the Church of Rome." <sup>5</sup> It was an instant

success and captured the hearts of the people because it was affordable and in a size that was portable. In 1599 an edition was published with annotations in the margins to aid in personal study and understanding; it was the first study Bible printed.

The Geneva Bible was brought to America by the Pilgrims and Puritans. It was the Bible that John Rolfe probably used in converting Pocahontas. It was the Bible of William Shakespeare, John Milton, and John Bunyan.

With the common man becoming more literate, he began to study and understand the Scriptures. He also became aware the leadership of the church was corrupt.

Under Queen Elizabeth, the Church of England was presided over by the House of Bishops. The church hierarchy was alarmed at the growth of two 'fanatic' groups. "The first and much larger and claimed to be dedicated to 'purifying the Church from within,' which made them suspect from the start to the Bishops, who saw nothing which needed purifying. These 'Puritans,'\* as they were sarcastically dubbed (and which epithet they eventually took for their own) did, however, at least continue to acknowledge canonical authority. Thus they could be easily kept from position of responsibility, and otherwise ignored.

"there was another element, however, which the bishops considered more dangerous. These were radicals who held that the Church of England was already corrupted beyond any possibility of purification. Moreover, they believed that the Church could only be under the leadership of Jesus Christ, and hence no person, not even the Queen, could take the title 'Head of the Church.' They chose to separate themselves from the Church and conduct their own worship." <sup>6</sup>

This group became known as "Separatists," and later became known as "The Pilgrims." They numbered about one thousand. Their worship services consisted of primitive preaching, teaching, singing and free praying. They did away with 16 centuries of established liturgical tradition. One could say they were religious revolutionaries.

Queen Elizabeth had not allowed the Bishops to suppress the movement; but, a few executions for heresy was sufficient to keep them in check. But, when the vain, petty and manipulative King James I came to the throne, the Bishops were given free reign. The Separatists were hounded, bullied, thrown into prison on trumped-up charges, forced to pay assessments to the Church of England, and driven underground to worship in homes.

\* Note: John Talcott was a Puritan. *To be continued*—

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ch/131christians/scholarsandscholars/tyndale.html>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> The 1599 Geneva Bible • Patriots Edition, *The History and Impact of the Geneva Bible* by Dr. Marshall Foster, Tolle Lege Press, printed 2012, page xiv.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, page xv.

<sup>6</sup> *The Light and the Glory*, by Peter Marshall and David Manuel, Fleming H. Revell, copyright 1977, page 108