

The Talcott Family Connection

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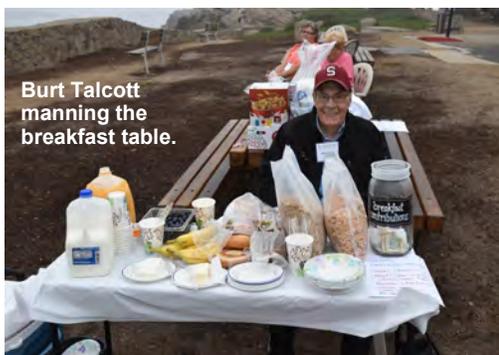
2015 Talcott Reunion in Pacific Grove, CA

New Family, New Friends, New Memories

I didn't know what to expect when the Talcott Association President, Gahrad Harvey, asked me to help plan the 2015 Reunion. He wanted to have a "local" contact, and since I lived in Northern California, I fulfilled that requirement. I had not attended any previous Talcott Family gathering nor had I previously met any of the family members face-to-face. I did have plenty of experience planning events and am always volunteering for something, so I said, "Yes!" The good news is that I am happy that I accepted the invitation and grateful for the opportunity to work closely with members of the Talcott clan.

My first contact outside of Gahrad was with Jan Snyder from Louisville, CO, whom from our first e-mail, was a skilled and supportive reunion committee member. We both had existing responsibilities (who doesn't) dealing with uncertainties associated with caring for an aging parent. All the same, we put the reunion planning into gear. We connected with Ron and Gigi Talcott from Tacoma, WA who literally put their boots on the ground and secured reunion lodging and the Friday and Saturday night meeting venues. Ron and Gigi grew up in Pacific Grove, CA and originally proposed holding a Talcott Reunion in Pacific Grove at the 2011 Talcott Reunion in Hartford, CT.

Together we created a list of activities, which included outdoor breakfasts at Lover's Point, a visit to the Monterey Bay Aquarium, the 17-mile drive, watching whales from the Borg hotel and individual sight seeing. We planned a Genealogy Night at the



Burt Talcott manning the breakfast table.

Margaret Todd Senior Center and a Family Banquet at the Monterey Elks Club, which offered an unforgettable view of Monterey Bay and Monterey at night, a



Tail of a humpback whale in Monterey Bay on July 31.

silent auction and a Talcott Family Association Business Meeting.

Looking back: Jan Snyder and Dexter Talcott graciously handled event registration, Darrel Talcott generously shared his genealogy expertise, Gigi and Ron ran all over town tending to our needs, Burt Talcott was a tireless diplomatic historian, Tom and Linda Talcott supplied beautiful tote bags with the Talcott family crest and took terrific photographs.

Well, the rest is history... but just so you know: a total of 69 people (44 were descendants of John Talcott) from 15 states participated in at least one reunion activity.

About 25 Talcott descendants and their families drove north from Pacific Grove to Napa, to take a "post-reunion" tour of the Talcott Olive Oil Ranch owned and operated by Jim and Patricia Talcott. The night before the tour, my husband, Gary Jones, and I enjoyed hosting about 24 Talcott descendants to a farm-style dinner at our home in Novato.



The reunion raised a total of \$ 1,665.69 to support future Talcott gatherings. Many reunion attendees completed a survey and provided valuable suggestions to make family reunions even better in the future. (Gosh, how the Board loves your input!)

So from Jan, Ron, Gahrad, Tom, Dexter, and me (and of course our spouses: Steve, Gigi, Mary Lou, Linda, Michelle, Gary), and from all members of The Talcott Family Association, we thank you for joining us in California. We can't wait to see you and many new Talcott faces at the —

2017 Talcott Family Reunion in Chicago.

Stay tuned for details.

Submitted by Gael Perrin

In Memory

The following has passed on
since the last newsletter:

Clarissa Elizabeth (Long) Hyser – Niagara Falls, NY

A WWII Veteran gets his wings—

On Burt Talcott's Boeing jacket that he wore at the reunion were wings he earned from his service during WWII. On Sunday morning, August 2, he was relating to family members surrounding him the meaning of the emblems. But before we begin, let's go back to 1941.

Burt was a young man at Stanford University taking a pilot training course because he was interested in flying. On December 7, 1941, he and his friends heard about the bombing of Pearl Harbor. On December 8, they all enlisted.



At a Memorial Day Service in Seeley Lake, MT in 2015, a stranger thanked him for his service; whereupon, Burt replied, "You don't need to thank me, I was only doing my duty." On one of the bombing missions over German held territory, the aircraft was hit and was on fire. Duty included bailing out of a burning aircraft.

Burt related at that service, "I think I'm the only one who ever survived bailing out of the top hatch of a B-24 because that's not the ordinary escape route. Our plane was on fire and our bomb bay doors were closed, and the only place left was the top hatch. It's a very dangerous place to leave from. When you look out, you see propellers, turrets and ailerons. You wouldn't think it's possible to get out alive, but I did."

Surviving bailing out of the aircraft, Burt was captured and taken to Stalag Luft III located near Sagan, Germany on the German Poland border, a POW camp for captured air force personnel. He was a POW for 13 months. During his captivity, he was not tortured, which he attributed to the prisoners not having any useful information the Germans needed. The primary hardship was an inadequate diet; he lost 50 pounds. He said, "The Germans did the best they could do, but they were suffering too because the Allied Forces were cutting off all their supplies."

The main focus of the Germans was on preventing escapes. "They didn't want us to come back and bomb them again. We were probably guarded more carefully than a lot of other army camps for that reason," he said. About two weeks before his arrival at the camp, a major escape had occurred. All of the men were recaptured and 50 were executed.

Toward the end of the war we were evacuated and marched across Germany to Moosburg (near Munich) until liberated by Patton's army, approximately 170,000 Allied prisoners. We were taken to northern France for shipment.

Now, "for the rest of the story!" When you look at the wings on Burt's jacket, you will notice the wing on the left is "clipped." That means he was in an aircraft that was shot down. From the right wing, a chain extends with a ball

attached at the end. That means he was a POW.

Underneath the wings is a worm, a silkworm. The parachutes used during WWII were made of silk. The company that manufactured the parachutes gave each flyer that bailed out of an airplane and survived a silkworm pin.

What you cannot see in the photograph are the eyes of the silkworm. On Burt's pin, they are red. The red eyes mean that the aircraft was on fire when the flyer bailed out.

Burt was sent to Boston and then home to his wife and 11-month old son, Ron. Today, he lives in Tacoma, WA with Ron and Gigi Talcott. Ron is a graduate of the Air Force Academy and served two tours as a pilot in Vietnam.

Information for this article were from Burt relating his story at the reunion, emails to the editor and excerpts from a copy of a story, "World War II Vet Remembers" by Betty Vanderwielen for the Pathfinder (a Seeley Lake, MT weekly), www.seeleyswanpathfinder.com, received by the editor from Burt L. Talcott on June 6, 2015.

Reunion Business Meeting information

A business meeting of The Talcott Family Association, Inc. was held following the banquet at the Monterey Elks Lodge on August 1. Following is a recap of the meeting:

- Adopted the By-laws as presented by the initial Board of Directors: Gahrad Harvey, Thomas Talcott, Anne Talcott Fornari, Dexter Talcott as appointed by the Incorporator, Darrel Talcott.
- The Board of Directors was granted permission to pursue setting up a website to provide the Talcott Family a way to share their family's genealogy and connect it to the family tree begun by S.V. Talcott in 1876.
- Approved a reunion pre-registration fee of \$20 to help cover the cost of future reunions. A late fee of \$5 for late registration.
- Approved the recommendation of the Board of Directors to keep the Board members at (4) four.
- Approved staggering the terms of office for the Board of Directors as follows: President (Gahrad Harvey) and Secretary (Anne Talcott Fornari) will serve until 2017 and Vice-President (Thomas Talcott) and Treasurer (Dexter Talcott) will serve until 2019, which will bring consistency to the By-Laws providing (4) four-year terms for the future officers.
- The following were recognized:
 - Oldest member present: Burt Talcott
 - Youngest member present: Michael Talcott
 - Longest married present: Darrel and Dixie Talcott
 - Member who came the farthest: John Slater, NYC
- The winner of a lifetime membership drawing was Keith Rohde.

The Fourth National Talcott Family Reunion will be held in Chicago, IL in 2017. The date and exact location remain to be determined. David A. Talcott is the reunion host chairman.

The Talcott Family Connection is published quarterly by The Talcott Family Association, Inc. and edited by Gahrad L. Harvey – 34 Harvey RD – Shickshinny, PA 18655-3714 — talcott@epix.net. Family stories, historical or articles of interest to the Talcott Family may be submitted to the above. Inclusion in future issues subject to available space.

Longevity research—

Longevity appears to be a Talcott trait which we discover as we study Talcott genealogy. You may recall, this past June we did a birthday card shower for Zelda Fischer when she was celebrating her 105th birthday. Perhaps, Zelda is the longest-living Talcott to date?

Zelda Almira Long was born on July 5, 1910 in Hunlock Creek, PA (near Wilkes Barre in Northeast PA) to Lennie Winifred Talcott (b. 8/13/1888 - d. 11/11/1973) and James Blaine Long (b. 1/25/1887- d. 7/5/1963).



Her siblings included: Henry Wilbur Long (b. 2/27/1912- d. 12/1/1978); Clarissa Elizabeth (Long) Hyser [*see In Memory on page 1*] (b. 10/2/1914 - d. 8/28/2015), age 100; Clifton Beach Long (b. 12/12/1916 - d. 6/8/1998); Rea Esther (Long) Vivian (b. 3/16/1919 - d. 8/1/1996).

Her grandparents were: Samuel David Talcott (b. 3/27/1830 - d. 12/27/1904) and Clarissa Wisteria Harrison (b. 2/17/1853 - d. 11/30/1928).

Her great grandparents were: Horatio Goodrich Talcott (b. 1/10/1794 - d. 7/26/1882) and Sally Ann LeValley (b. 3/18/1798 - d. 7/29/1875). You will find Horatio listed as #1693 in S.V. Talcott's *Talcott Pedigree in England and America from 1558 to 1876*.

This past summer, the Boston Medical Center, a teaching affiliate of Boston University School of Medicine, contacted Zelda and her daughter, Lorna, about doing a study in "Genetics of Longevity Research, and would they be willing to participate. This research is a rare and very important opportunity to discover critical information about devastating age-related diseases; such as cancers, Alzheimer's, and heart diseases.

The components of the study involved data about Zelda's health and medical history, a memory test, family history, blood test, and a copy of her birth certificate. The researchers requested information on her siblings and first cousins. That request included their gender, birth and death dates, and cause of death.

Zelda grew up in the country about three miles from the Susquehanna River. She attended a one-room school heated by a potbelly stove strategically placed in the center of the room for maximum warmth in winter. Thirty students attended the school taught by one teacher and all drank water from a bucket with a long-handled dipper. She graduated from the school at the conclusion of her eighth grade; whereupon, she passed the county eight grade exam to enter high school.

For the next three years she lived in Kingston, PA (across the Susquehanna River west of Wilkes Barre) with her aunt and uncle while attending the Kingston High School. Her home township was required to pay her high school tuition until she graduated in 1928 because the township did not have a high school.

Zelda entered the Nanticoke State General Hospital Nursing Program, with obstetrical training at the Elizabeth Steel-Magee Hospital in Pittsburgh. She passed the PA State Boards in September 1931 and began working as a registered nurse (RN). A year later, she began post-graduate studies in surgical and operating room nursing at Bellevue Hospital in New York City. In March 1933, she returned to Nanticoke State Hospital to the Nurse Supervisor position that was held for her while pursuing her graduate degree.

In August 14, 1933, she married Wilbur G. Fischer, an English and Social Studies teacher at Pulaski Junior High School in Glen Lyon, PA. On August 14, 1934, they welcomed a daughter into the world, Lorna Mae.

Zelda and Wilbur were very active in their community and the United Methodist Church throughout their lives. They both taught Sunday School and studied the Bible. A trip to Israel, Jordan and Egypt gave her tremendous insight into the Bible. Zelda said, "It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Where else could I ride a camel?"

Wilbur passed on January 1, 1982. Today, Zelda resides at Pitman Manor in Pitman, NJ.

Submitted by Lorna Mae Fischer-Manahan Palma

Lennie Talcott's siblings and their children:

Harland Anson Talcott, b. 8/6/1882 - d. 10/10/1976 (age 94)
Enid Stevens Talcott, b. 5/4/1909 - d. 3/26/2014 (104)
Iloe Elsie Talcott, b. 11/9/1910 - d. 2/16/1993 (82)
Alma Lucreta Talcott, b. 12/25/1911 - d. 7/16/2005 (93)
Forrest Alvin Talcott, b. 1/21/1913 - d. 12/24/2006 (92)
Lenn Stratton Talcott, b. 9/5/1914 - d. 3/13/1921 (8)
Leta Elizabeth Talcott, b. 6/20/1917 - d. 10/11/1961 (44)
Harland Anson Talcott, Jr, b. 4/21/1919 - d. 10/12/2006 (87)
Leo Augustus Talcott, b. 9/16/1920 - d. 9/26/2003 (83)
Amy Travila Talcott, b. 3/27/1923
Mary Estella Talcott, b. 2/20/1925
Baby (son) Talcott, b. 3/5/1930 - d. 3/5/1930

Emma Almira Talcott, b. 1884 - d. Mar. 1922 (38)

Harry Bradley Talcott, Sr., b. 3/24/1891 - d. 2/2/1979 (87)
Elva Nellie Talcott, b. 10/7/1913 - d. 4/12/1957 (43)
Ida Mary Talcott, b. 4/8/1915 - d. 10/21/2003 (88)
Elizabeth Hazel Talcott, b. 10/6/1917 - d. 7/26/1988 (70)
Daniel Harrison Talcott, b. 6/14/1922 - d. 3/21/2008
John Eldon Talcott, b. 10/4/1927 - 6/25/1983 (55)
Elma Roseanna Talcott, 6/18/1929
Harry Bradley Talcott, b. 10/16/1931 - d. 1991 (60)
Edward Arden Talcott, Sr., 5/11/1933 - d. 1993 (60)
Lenna Evelyn Talcott, 5/5/1935
Charles Carlton Talcott, Sr., b. 10/24/1937 - d. 10/29/2010 (73)
Barry Adrian Talcott, b. 3/27/1939



Have you joined the **Talcott Family** group on Facebook? It is a closed group for descendants of John and Dorothy Talcott who came to America on September 16, 1632. If you are a descendant with a last name other than Talcott, please send an email to talcott@epix.net to make the Administrator of the group aware that you are a Talcott descendant wishing to join; otherwise, you may not be considered for membership. Please tell other family members.

Talcott books restored —

A celebration of the restoration of John and Benjamin Talcott's books was held at the Connecticut Historical Society in Hartford, CT on September 12, 2015. There were a total of 27 Talcott descendants and their families present to view the restored books, other Talcott artifacts, and curated tours of the CHS exhibits and storage vaults.

The oldest book restored and on display dated from 1635 attributed to John Talcott, son of John and Dorothy (Mott) Talcott. The book "is a combination of diary of entries, family history, Wadsworth vital records, and copies of legal documents including the Laws of Massachusetts Territory (1687) and several proclamations by King Charles."¹



Sam Stout inspecting the restored Talcott books

Photo courtesy of CHS

The second book was by Benjamin Talcott, grandson of John and Dorothy Talcott. Benjamin was a blacksmith and deacon in Glastonbury. His book is an account book dating from 1699 and contains records of his daily business transactions.

When the Talcott family visited the CHS during the 2011 Hartford Reunion, the only book the CHS pos-

sessed at that time was Benjamin Talcott's book. Two projects came to the attention of the Talcott family at the 2011 reunion: the restoration of the Benjamin Talcott book and the Talcott Family Crest in Governor Joseph Talcott's table-stone in Hartford's Ancient Burying Ground. The latter was the first project the family chose to undertake.

In June 2013 at the dedication of the crest in Gov. Joseph Talcott's table-stone in the Ancient Burying Ground, Elizabeth Abbe, a Talcott and staff member at the CHS, informed the Talcott family gathered for the occasion that John Talcott's book had recently been added to the CHS collection of Talcott artifacts. She mentioned that Sam Stout had begun soliciting his family for funds to restore the books; the amount needed before restoration could begin was \$13,000. After learning about the project and needed funds, John Gabriel Slater, Sr. made a matching \$-for-\$ challenge gift of \$5,000 with a deadline of Aug. 31, 2014. By mid-July 2014, the Talcott family had donated the total amount to restore and conserve the two Talcott books.

The books were very fragile from their prior use and age. They were in deplorable condition — broken bindings, torn pages, discolored, poorly repaired (one held together by copper wire), and pages broken on the outer edg-

es and coming loose from the binding. The Northeast Document Conservation Center in North Andover, MA was selected to conserve the books. The bindings were removed and replaced with soft vellum covers. The paper was treated to prevent further deterioration. While the books were disassembled, the CHS elected to have the fragile books digitized so the contents would be available online; thus, eliminating handling to view their contents.

During the conservation process of John Talcott's book, it was discovered to contain "the October 1-4, 1863 issue of *The London Gazette* and 'His Majesties Declaration' dated July 1883."² These were treated and housed separately.

"After months of preservation work and the financial and moral support of the Talcott family, two record books that belonged to early settlers in the Hartford area have been restored, digitized and returned to the CHS. . . The Talcott books are available to everyone through the Connecticut Digital Archive at ctdigitalarchive.org, enter 'Talcott' in the search window. . . The CHS is grateful to the extended Talcott family and friends for enabling us to fully conserve and better share these important historical artifacts."³

While viewing the numerous Talcott artifacts on display at the celebration, John G. Slater, Sr. discovered his grandmother in a family photograph. He was delighted to point it out to his son, John G. Slater, Jr. (see below)



Other Talcott's attending the celebration

¹ *Making History*, Fall 2015 issue., p. 8, published by the Connecticut Historical Society, One Elizabeth Street, Hartford, CT 06105

² *Ibid*