

The Talcott Family Connection

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Talcott Olive Oil tour

Twenty-four members of the Talcott family participated in a “post reunion” tour on August 4, 2015 at the Talcott Olive Oil Ranch in Napa, CA. Our hosts for the event were James and Patricia Talcott. Both are retired, James was an orthopedic surgeon and Patricia a nurse.



James began the business in 2005 after several years in the wine business. From a grove of three thousand Tuscan olive trees (seven varieties) with the uniqueness of Napa’s Carneros Region and hard work, the Talcott’s produce a fine olive that generates an exceptional five-time gold medal olive oil. The cool growing conditions of the region tame the harshness of the Tuscan oils and delivers the sought after peppery character.

Our tour began in the beautiful, spacious ranch-style house on a crest overlooking the olive ranch. James



gave a talk about the medicinal and nutritional values of olive oil in our daily diet. He mentioned the oil contains vitamins E and K, beneficial fatty acids, and antioxidants that prevent prostate and colon cancers, lowers incidents of heart disease, lowers blood pressure, and studies are continuing to determine if they fight Alzheimer’s disease.

James explained how the taste-buds react to olive oil when tasted and what the experts are looking for in a fine oil. We were each given a small tasting glass containing two tablespoons of Talcott Olive Oil. We swirled the glass in our hands which releases the oil aroma. Next, we smelled the oil for its fruity aroma. We sipped the oil into our mouth. With our tongue against our teeth, we breathed in

slowly as in tasting wine so our taste buds could savor the air-enriched oil. Finally, we swallowed the oil and felt the burning sensation in the back of the throat followed by a “peppery” taste.

Following the tasting, we moved to the edge of the olive grove. James explained it takes seven years before a tree becomes productive. Irrigation to each tree is required due to the lack of moisture in the region. When the olives are ready to harvest, a host of workers begin a laborious task of hand-gathering the olives into crates which are delivered to a processing mill. Timing from harvesting to processing is very important to the quality of the oil. This is complicated because each grower must schedule a milling and processing time with the mill. Once the oil has been extracted, the oil is bottled for distribution.

Most of the olive oil is sold to customers online through their Carneros Olive Oil Club which guarantees two, three or four bottles of Talcott Olive Oil delivered three times a year. Additionally, Patricia makes a soap with the olive oil. Varieties include lavender with flowers, grapefruit lemongrass with oatmeal, and orange cinnamon with olive mud available online: www.talcottoliveoil.com.

At the end of the tour, we were treated with vanilla ice cream drizzled with Talcott Olive Oil and a dash of black pepper. Yum! One important question asked, “What is the shelf life of olive oil?” The answer, “One year for peak freshness and that depends upon temperature and light.”

If you are in the San Francisco, Sacramento, or Napa area, you must arrange to visit James and Patricia Talcott and their olive grove.

In Memory

The following have passed on since the last newsletter:

Gene Edward LaPlante – Tioga Center, NY
Nov. 12, 1967 – Nov. 2, 2015

~ ~ ~
Shirley Whitney Talcott – Old Lyme, CT
Oct. 5, 1918 – Dec. 26, 2015

~ ~ ~
Todd Snyder – Reston, VA
Aug 18, 1978 – Jan 4, 2016

~ ~ ~
Janet Yvonne (Franklin) Loving – Holland, PA
Feb. 13, 1937 – Jan. 10, 2016

A discovery in the Midwest—

After visiting friends in Topeka and Kansas City on our way home from the Talcott reunion in California, Mary Lou and I drove across northern Missouri on Route 36. It is a beautiful drive on a 4-lane highway out in the country with little traffic compared to busy I-70. Route 36 joins I-72 at Hannibal, MO on the Mississippi River entering Illinois. There are two famous places to visit along Rt. 36, the boyhood homes of Gen. John Pershing in Laclede and Walt and Roy Disney in Marceline. They are “must visit” sites.

I had checked into the Comfort Inn at Jacksonville, IL for the night. As we walked down the hallway to our room, I noticed a plaque on a door, The Talcott Suite. I stopped and pointed it out to Mary Lou. Immediately after putting our bags down in our assigned room, I went back to the desk and asked, “Do you know the story about the room with the Talcott Suite plaque?” He didn’t know. I proceeded to inform him I was a Talcott and interested in knowing how the room got its name. The clerk asked, “Would you like to see the room?” My response, “Absolutely!” as he went for the key. The room had a king-size bed and a Jacuzzi. But, as I turned to leave, an 8x10” photo on the wall caught my eye.



The photo was of a house and under the frame was a small plaque, “The Talcott House.” Naturally, when I questioned the lad where the house was located, he didn’t know. My curiosity had been aroused; “I must know about the Talcott House before leaving Jacksonville in the morning.”

For dinner we went to a restaurant in town recommended by the clerk. The owner came by our table during our dinner and we asked,

“Where is the Talcott House?” A group at a table near us gave directions. On our way back to the hotel we located the house and took photos before the sun set in the west.

The following morning we went back to the Talcott House for one last view. However, on our way out of the city we stopped at the Jacksonville Area Genealogical & Historical Society where answers awaited.

“In May 1833 Joseph Duncan, soon to become Governor of IL, and his brother-in-law, Matthew St. Clair Clarke, sold five acres of land . . . to Asa Talcott for \$200.”¹ The house is located at 859 Grove Street and was probably built in three stages. “An irregular shaped brick near the kitchen door on the east side . . . bears the date 1844”² and an oak slab in the attic is painted with the same date. Another brick near the south door in the ell shaped house has 1861 scratched into it.

Asa Talcott was born 1808-1810. “A brief death

notice that appeared in *The Jacksonville Daily Journal* on October 2, 1880, notes that he was ‘formerly of Glastonbury, Connecticut.’ On December 15, 1833, he and his wife, Maria, were among the founders of the Congregational Church in Jacksonville, transferring by letter from a Congregational Church in Middletown, CT.”³

“The church was the third Congregational Church organized in the state (IL), the other two being organized the same year in Adams County, and were the only Congregational Churches within five hundred miles. These were the pioneer enterprises of the Congregationalism of the Northwest.”⁴

The Morgan County, IL 1850 Census – City of Jacksonville listed Asa Talcott being 42, a plasterer. Maria was 38 years old and both from Canada. *It wasn’t unusual for Talcott’s to move to Canada and later move back into the USA.* The Census of 1860 lists Asa as 50 years old and a Mason from CT; Maria as 45 years old and from NY; and two children, Ellen, age 20, and William, age 3, and both from IL.⁵

“According to the city directory of 1860-61, Talcott was a ‘bricklayer and plasterer.’ He may, in fact, have operated a brickyard behind his house.; those who live in the vicinity of the Talcott’s original five acers still occasionally find brickbats when they dig in their gardens.” Since Asa “was a brick mason, he may well have burned his own bricks from Jacksonville clay which he dug from the premises.”⁶



“Being a member of the Congregationalist faith, Talcott was an abolitionist and a member of the Underground Railroad movement. Although there is no record of Talcott’s actually hiding runaway slaves on his property, . . . quotations from Benjamin Henderson, a black man who lived in Jacksonville during the period: ‘I came here to live in the year 1841 and was soon at work on the underground

railroad and kept it up until 1857 or ‘58 . . . When we wanted supplies for the fugitives we always found friends in . . . Asa Talcott, and others.’ ”⁷

Sometime in 1860 Asa had moved the family to Prosser Street (now Diamond). In 1861 he had sold the house on Grove Street to William Gallaher. About 1869, they moved to Oregon. On September 13, 1880, Asa Talcott died in Sciota, OR.

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“The Talcott house is a provincial adaptation of the Eastern Colonial farmhouse embellished by architectural details drawn from a number of sources. The front section facing Grove Street”⁸ is probably the earliest part of the house. It is a tall, narrow dwelling only one room deep which was traditional to most eastern state houses in the nineteenth century. The house is built on a brick foundation and the walls laid in an American bond pattern. The exterior walls are 12 inches thick (three bricks in width). The outside walls are quite sound and preserved from deterioration because they were painted possibly from the time of construction. The exterior possibility could have been painted white at first after construction with evidence it was painted grey in 1857.

The windows on the second floor are double-sash, 6 over 6, of “Colonial tradition, which is the most basic stylistic element of the house. The French windows on the lower floor façade and above the main doorway are a manifestation of provincial independence; although, one might expect taller first story windows on a dwelling that is strongly Greek Revival in flavor. The glass imperfections in some of the lights suggest that they are original. On the east of the ell is a two-story gallery which was added. It is of French origin, reminiscent of the galleries found on seventeenth-century structures in the vicinity of Kaskaskia, IL, and provided an outdoor living space for the occupants.”⁹

Obviously, over the years with numerous occupants in the house, numerous changes have been made; however, several features remain. “The rooms are small and the mill-work plain, but the interior has a sense of provisional warmth and comfort with the numerous windows providing an abundance of natural light. Opposite the entrance to the small central hall is a reverse staircase running from south to north; the delicately carved walnut newel post, banister, and spindles are of unusually diminutive size and extremely graceful, and provide a pleasant contrast to the rather blunt steps constructed of a much lighter wood, probably pine or maple. The doorway in the east wall opens into the parlor and originally contained a pair of doors, these have been removed to provide a greater sense of openness. The room features a small, shallow fireplace typical of the period, which is surrounded by a walnut mantle of rectangular design. Opposite the parlor is the dining room with a similar fireplace, this one highlighted by a walnut mantle supported by engraved pilasters. . . Behind the dining room is a kitchen with a somewhat larger fireplace, its brick front exposed nearly to the ceiling.

On the second floor at the front are two bedrooms. The room on the west features a small fireplace which has been set off center, a characteristic of other early Jacksonville houses. The unusual doors in this part of the house have frames of light wood (pine or maple) and panels of black walnut. The contrast repeats that found on the staircase and offers a simple, but appropriate ornamental note.”¹⁰

The ell contains bedrooms on both floors; but these are definitely of a later date. Near the south end is a narrow staircase ascending to a hallway and a bedroom for a maid

next to a small room for sewing or ironing.

The Talcott house is one of the earliest houses remaining in Jacksonville. “It provides us some notion of the style and charm that characterized early Midwestern provincial homesteads.”¹¹ Today, Asa Talcott’s House is owned by Heritage Health located at 873 Grove Street, a for-profit, multi-level health care facility offering independent living in apartments and cottages to fully-licensed nursing care

- 1 *A Window on the Past, Residences of Jacksonville, IL: Their History & Design, 1833-1925*, Philip H. Decker, Published 2012 by Morgan County Historical Society, Printed by Bookrafters, Jacksonville, IL; page 15.
- 2 Ibid
- 3 Ibid
- 4 *History of Morgan Co., IL, It’s Past & Present*, Donnelley, Loyd & Co., Publishers; 1878; page 374.
- 5 Morgan County, IL 1850 Census — City of Jacksonville; page 35.& 55.
- 6 *A Window on the Past, Residences of Jacksonville, IL: Their History & Design, 1833-1925* by Philip H. Decker; pages 15 & 16.
- 7 Ibid: page 16
- 8 Ibid
- 9 Ibid
- 10 Ibid: page 16 & 17
- 11 Ibid; page 17

Submitted by: Gahrad Harvey



You are invited to join the **Talcott Family** group on Facebook which is limited to descendants of John & Dorothy Talcott who came to America in September 1632.

Finding a mate in 1895—

eHarmony.com, match.com, ourtime.com, and farmersonly.com are some of the popular online dating websites today; but, they weren’t available in 1895. What would you have done if you lived back then to find a mate?

At the Talcott book’s restoration celebration on September 12, 2015, Jane Braunig brought a collection of historical Talcott papers to donate to the Connecticut Historical Society. Jane shared a paper handwritten in beautiful cursive script by Ulman Talcott seeking a wife. Unfortunately, there were a few words that were undecipherable at a fold in the paper. Following is Ulman’s descriptive request:

*I, Ulman Talcott, am in search of a wife
 “I think some of marrying and settling in life,”
 Any young lady who has plenty of tin,
 If she is uncommonly fat, or uncommonly thin,
 I will take to my bosom, share with them my lot
 Of pine lumber, cow stables and sweet little cot;
 My ploghs and my harrows, Barouches and gigs,
 (Undecipherable) Two fine carriage horses, three
 sows and their pigs,
 A fine water privelege for building a mill.
 Is mine in prospective, if life will keep still
 Our sons shall be lawyers our daughters make
 cheese,
 Mend there brothers torn broadcloths, play the piano
 with ease.
 I kalkilate in edicatin these children of ours*

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They'll inherit my beauty and fine mental powers,
 I take this for granted what then need we fear
 Our daughter's are hens our sons froth like strong
 beer.
 The report is quite true, that I am six score and ten,
 The halest, the heartiest, the oldest of men.
 I'm of the blood of the Talcotts, whose lamps never go
 out,
 Eat my three meals a day, never trouble with gout:
 Butter on Sassafras, cream gravy on pork,
 Frinch brandy for bitters whenever I work,
 A hired girl I do'nt want, they are not to be trusted;
 But, wanted a wife who will feel interested
 In the cheese house the store room, the pantry, the
 bar
 And never sell liquor one cent below par.
 Who must in one day wash, iron, and bake,
 In haying when hurried assist us to rake,
 When travellers call take care of there teams,
 Have boiled pork, always ready, and plenty of beans.
 Mop off all the floors wash off all the tables,
 Out to the horse barn and clean out the stables.
 In short be a help meet to a timorsome man,
 That the world may exclaim, what a nice looking
 span.
I am anxious to marry, but the fact is of the matter
 My thoughts all vanish my heart set up such a clatter
 Mr. Thornton's trip hammer is naught in comparison
 To the terrible rumpuss kicked up in my bosom,
 At the sight of a petticoat, the warm glance of an eye,
 And at the touch a hand, my pulses will fly
 Like the bright blinding lightning! Cross the blue of
 the sky
 My senses all leave me I, tremble, turn pale,
 The words stick in my throat like Gregory's pill's.
 But unlike them in nausea, Oh if you could take a few
 sips
 You would find that the honey shed on Pindars red
 lips
 Was acid in comparison to the nectar that lies
 In those fond word's Oh, heaven what sighs
 Rend my bosom, I feel as I did when out on the lake
 I would throw out my line after fastning the bait
 And watch with anxiety for the fishes to nibble,
 When at the first pull my fright would be terrible,
 The perspiration run out all over my jacket,
 As for the darned fish, I could not "caught it"!
 Now ladies I'll inform you that this is my last
 application
 I am ready to marry with the priests benediction;
 The forms of religion I particularly reverence
 And I not only preach but practice benevolence.
 Why then should you hesitate in accepting my hand,
 My oxen, my sheep, my houses, and land;
 Don't be any afraid that I will leave you a widow,
 My constitution's as green as a fragrant June
 meadow:
 I am as strong and as hearty as I was at nineteen.
 And between you and I, I am fit for the queen.
 Ah ladies come forward. I begin to grow bolder!
 No longer in appearance, will I turn the cold
 shoulder,

For cupids bright arrows are in reality killing.
 I'll marry and done, with it, indeed I'm quite willing.
 I shall expect all you young ladies to come forward at
 once
 And you'll see that I'll treat you like a man of good
 sense.
 I shall be ready to see you any morning at nine
 So dress in your best be punctual, in time.
 Remember! The woman I marry how happy her lot
 To be united to your servant Ullman Talcott—

Ulman's genealogy:

1. **Ulman Talcott** born 7/27/1825 Leyden, NY and died 11/27/1907. He was married to Emma Clover born about 1830 in NY.
2. **Parsons Talcott** born 9/12/1780 and died on 1/6/1849. He was married to Lois Wetmore who died in Oneida Co, NY on 9/12/1870.
3. **Hezekiah Talcott** born 6/19/1739 in Durham, CT and died 3/16/1813 in Leyden, NY. He was married to Sarah Johnson born on 10/9/1748 in Middletown, Ct and died on 2/26/1819 in Leyden, NY.
4. **John Talcott** born 11/26/1712 in Durham, CT and died on 11/16/1765 in Durham, CT. He was married to Sarah Parsons born in 1715 in Durham, Middlesex, CT and who died in 1775.
5. **Hezekiah Talcott** born on 2/24/1685 in Hartford, CT and died on 2/13/1764 in Durham, Ct who was married to Jemima Parsons who was born in North Hampton, MA on 11/24/1691 and died on 2/2/1757 in Durham, CT.
6. **John Talcott** who was born on 12/18/1630 in Braintree, Essex, Eng. and died on 7/23/1688 in Hartford, Ct. His second wife was Mary Cook born about 1686 and died on 7/23/1688 in Hartford, CT. She was the mother of Hezekiah Talcott.
7. **John Talcott** (the Colonist) from Braintree, Essex, Eng.

The editor thanks Jane Braunig for sharing the document and Barbara Austin, Archivist at the CHS for assisting in proof-reading the editor's transcription of the document. Darrel Talcott provided Ulman's genealogy.

The restored books of
John and Benjamin Talcott
 may be viewed online through the
 Connecticut Digital Archive
 at
ctdigitalarchive.org
 enter "Talcott
 in the search window.

The Connecticut Historical Society Fall 2015 issue of *Making History* devoted an article on page eight, *The Talcott Family Account Books— A Family Helps Preserve Our History*. The article is concluded: "The CHS is grateful to the extended Talcott family and friends for enabling us to fully conserve and better share these important historical artifacts."