

TALBIRD PEDIGREE

Switzerland, Fla., May 18, 1888

Col. N H R Dawson
Washington, D.C .

Dear Hal,

You request me to give you an outline of the history of the Talbird family. I had once a number of papers relating to this subject, but they were destroyed in the burning of the edifice of Howard College, Marion, Ala. as far back as October 1854.

It was my full intention to arrange these consecutively and write out their contents. I read them over with the above purpose fully formed, never with the attention which their importance to us as a family demanded. I am therefore dependent upon memory for the information I can give.

The progenitor of the Talbird family in South Carolina was named Henry Talbot. His history is really a romance. He was born in Ireland, the son of a Knight baronet named John Talbot. This Sir John Talbot was twice married. By his first wife, as I am informed, he had 3 children- Jane, John, and Henry. By his second marriage he had a son, named James. Possibly there may have been other children. It is my impression that Sir John became involved in debt by extravagant living. His second marriage, an expedient then quite common, was contracted to relieve his financial embarrassment. As Dublin was the place of his wife's residence, he moved to the city, and shortly was Lord Mayor of Dublin. In the meantime, his brother Henry, for whom his second son was named, had gone to London, where he entered into some mercantile pursuits in which he acquired a considerable fortune. Being childless, he requested his brother to send him his namesake, then between 3 and 4 years old, with a promise that he should be his heir. The childish recollections of the boy were that his uncle made a great pet of him, but he was afraid of his aunt. He was frequently sent out under the protection of a man-servant for exercise and amusement. Whither by design or accident, he could not say, on one of these occasions he was taken to a distant part of the city, where, becoming separated from his attendant, he was lost. Wandering about the streets and crying, he attracted the attention of an old gentleman, who spoke kindly to him and asked him what was the matter. He replied that he wanted to go home he could tell his name Henry Talbot, but was unable to tell the place of his residence and, could only say he lived with his aunt and uncle. So night was near, the gentleman had no alternative but to abandon the lost child or take him to his own home. He resided at Plymouth, whither he was going by water and thither he carried the little Henry, who thus became our inmate of the family of Mr. ~~Clayton~~ⁿ.

This gentleman was the captain and owner of a merchant ship trading between Charleston, S.C., and Plymouth, England. He was on the eve of his voyage and sailed a few days after finding the child. Before his departure he cautioned his wife to look for any advertisement in the London papers, and to inform the boy's friends where he could be found.

After an absence of several months, he was pained to find on his return that his wife had failed to follow his suggestion. The couple had passed the middle age of life and were childless. They therefore persuaded themselves that a kind Providence had sent them this bright and promising boy to fill the vacant place in their affections. They preferred to treat him as a grandchild, and allowed him to retain his name H. Talbot. A few years after, they determined to remove to America, and selected South Carolina as their future home. The old couple continued to follow a seafaring life, and when the little grandson had attained sufficient age and strength, he carried him on several voyages. The young man thus became a good sailor and acquired considerable knowledge of navigation, but he was not particularly attracted to it. When, therefore, the old man became too old and infirm to encounter the hardships and perils of the sea, he sold his ships and with his adopted child entered into some mercantile pursuits. The old gentleman survived his change of life only a year or two, and at his death bequeathed his property to his wife and reputed grandson, who continued the business. While thus employed, he received a shipment of goods from England. In visiting the ship he had presented to him several papers, which he knew would be quite a prize to his grandmother. At night they were seated in the family room, reading the papers, when he heard a suppressed sob. Looking up, he saw the old lady bitterly weeping. He tenderly inquired, "Mother what is the matter?" She replied, "My dear boy, I am weeping at the thought of the wrong I have done you." She could say no more, but pointing to a column of the paper, she retired to her chamber. On looking at the paper, he perceived that it contained an obituary of Sir John Talbot. It was stated that his older brother had died before his father, that his Uncle Henry had died, leaving quite a fortune for the times, to Sir John, and a handsome legacy to his niece, Jane Talbot, who was still living in Dublin. The paper went on to state that the second son Henry had been lost in London when quite a child: that if he was still living and could establish his identity, he would be a Knight-baronet and the inheritor of a large fortune. The paper went on to say that the title and estate would be inherited by a younger son, the son of a second marriage. After careful consideration with the old lady, and receiving of her a number of the facts related in this paper, he took a ship for England and went to Dublin, where he found his sister Jane, still a single woman.

At their first meeting and interview he observed that she carefully scanned his features. On being told that he was her lost brother Henry, she replied, that it was a matter in which she could not be deceived. She went on to say, "You bear decided resemblance to my brother John, and look still more like my father. Of this you can satisfy yourself by looking at the portraits on the wall. But this is not enough. I am about 12 years older than my brother Henry, and was almost his nurse. He had certain birthmarks on his person, which cannot be mistaken". She insisted on his exhibiting them, and he did so. Thus she became fully convinced and embraced him as her long lost brother. The younger brother was, at this time traveling on the continent, but his guardians were in Dublin, and the result of his conversation with his sister was a consultation with the Duke of Ormand, who was at that time the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and to whom she was related on his mother's side. He carried a note of introduction from his sister, and detailed the facts of the case to the Duke. He also recognized the family likeness, but after careful consideration frankly told him there was no chance of his recovering the title and estates of his father, said he "there is all the evidence necessary for moral conviction, but there is no legal

proof of your identity". He advised him to see the guardians of his half-brother and gave him notes of introduction to them. Without looking at the facts, they charged him with being an impostor, and he thought it prudent to leave Dublin. He had spent much of his time with his sister and had won her warm affections. During their first interview the Duke of Ormand was pleased with the young American and requested him to visit him again before his return to Charleston. At this period the Duke was spending a short time at one of his estates in Ireland. Lord Lieutenant he had several young Englishmen with him. Both he and they ~~convinced~~ a partiality for Henry Talbot, which was of service to him in future years. Including his double passage across the Atlantic, he was more than a year from home. During this time occurred the decease of the aged woman who had tenderly watched over his childhood, but whose misplaced affection had robbed him of his title and inheritance.

While absent, his business had fallen into confusion and he sold out. With one or two thousand pounds sterling in money he left Charleston and went to Port Royal where he engaged in business and once more prospered. He there married a Mrs. Doherty. Her father was from Switzerland, with an unpronounceable Swiss name, which I cannot recall. Henry Talbot had 4 sons and 2 daughters by his marriage with Mrs. Doherty. Before telling you this, it is necessary to mention some further incidents in the history of the father. Henry Talbot lived at a place called Whale Branch, via Pool Royal Island, and was a prosperous planter. He opened a brick-yard, which grew to be quite profitable, for seeing the importance of it, he had several of his men instructed in the trade of brick-laying. Meanwhile he kept up a regular correspondence with his sister, still living in Dublin. He had become the father of two or 3 children, and had their names recorded in the family register, together with his own name and his wife's. This record was in his own handwriting, written Talbot. This register fell into my hands and was destroyed by fire. About this time he received a letter from his sister, telling him that she was dying of rapid consumption. This letter also informed him that she had made him her heir, but as her property consisted of money, he would hardly derive much benefit from her will unless he could be present. She expressed an earnest desire to see him once more before her death. It happened to be both possible and convenient for him to sail for Europe a few days after receipt of this letter. Fortunately his voyage was rapid, and in a little over one month he was at the bedside of his dying sister. There, for the first time, he met his half-brother who had inherited the title and estate of his father. They had a conversation, in which he showed his brother that he had full and clear moral evidence of his identity, "but" said he "I have no legal evidence, and I shall never disturb you by any claim to our father's title and estates". He did not, however, form a favorable opinion of his brother. In spite of the earnest protestation of his sister, this brother had him arrested and imprisoned as an impostor. He was able to pay for it, and obtained the best legal advice in the city. Happily for him, the court before which the preliminary trial must be had, was in session, and the judge, after hearing the case, dismissed it. The cruel conduct of this brother hastened the death of the sister, but before her decease she used the precaution of withdrawing the money from the bank and had it placed to the credit of her brother Henry. By this expedient the efforts of the younger brother to seize it were frustrated. After paying the funeral expenses, house rent and other debts of his sister, he found himself possessed of something over 3,000 pounds sterling. He had kept up an irregular correspondence with the Duke of Ormand, and he wished to see him before his return to America. The British Parliament was in session, and he found that the

Duke had incurred the displeasure of the King of England, and was then a refugee to the Continent, but he easily renewed his acquaintance with the gentleman with whom he had years before become acquainted in Ireland. They treated him with kind consideration, and assisted him in some matters of business. One of them said to him "Mr. Talbot, from what you have told me, it seems that you have a respectable knowledge of navigation and surveying, you have in actual operation a brickyard, and have contrived to make several of your negroes brick-layers. The home government, in connection with the Governors of South Carolina and Georgia, have determined to erect lighthouses on the coast. Would it not be a good thing for you to take the contract for their construction?" He admitted that it would, and confessed that one object of his coming to London was to secure it if possible. Through the influence of these friends the contract was obtained. He returned to South Carolina and entered upon it with energy, for which he was distinguished, and made it profitable. In my boyhood one of these lighthouses was standing on Tybee Island, on the Georgia side of the sound by the same name, called Talbot's Light. In part payment of his contract he received grants of land. One or more of these were located on Hilton Head Island. One of these he gave to my grandfather, and there both my father and myself were born.

By some clerical error in the certificate of these grants sent from England, the name was written "Henry Talbird" instead of Henry Talbot. In the punctiliousness of the times the papers would have to be sent back to England before the corrections could be made. He supposed that he was the last of the name except the half brother in Ireland, and he was so completely disgusted with him as to induce the willingness to adopt the name thus accidentally given. Thus you have the history of the progenitor of the Talbird family and the origin of the name. This old gentleman was a Whig in our Revolution, but his age and inactive to be a soldier. He lived several years after the war, and at his death was buried at "Whale Branch" on Port Royal Island. He was not far from 90 years of age. As already stated, he had 2 daughters and 4 sons. The sons names were Thomas, William, John and Richard. The last was killed in a skirmish between the Whigs and Tories, between Beaufort and Port Royal Ferry, South Carolina. William was a cripple and could take no part in the war. Thomas and John were good soldiers during the entire conflict. Thomas Talbird was Captain of a company on John's Island, near Charleston, South Carolina and was left on the field for dead. He recovered, but was lamed for life by one of his wounds. He was afterward known as Col. Talbird. He built a family vault in the Episcopal church yard in Beaufort, and there he and several of his family are deposited. The male members of his family died without issue. The descendants of his daughters still live in Beaufort.

John Talbird, my grandfather and your great grandfather, was a ~~captain~~ in his brother's company. His life was saved by an English Captain who had married my grandmother's sister. He received several slight wounds and was taken prisoner. He was retained in captivity until the English army was driven from Charleston, South Carolina. About that time he effected his escape, and returned home, to find that every house on his plantation had been burned and a number of Negroes carried off and shipped to the West Indies, where they were sold by the English.

My grandmother's name was Ladson, her father was an Englishman, the only one of his family in America. I have retained distinct recollections of my grandfather. When he became infirm from an injury, he made my father's house

his home. I was the first-born of my father's children, and the pet of my grandfather. Much of what is here stated has grown out of the recollection of what he told me. He died in his 66th year and was buried at Whale Branch, South Carolina. (He was my great-grandfather C T Sams. My great, great grandfather Mr. .)

He left four children—John, Thomas, Henry and Ann. He was a man of wealth for the times. He divided his property among his children some years before he died, giving to each the handsome part of a fortune.

My aunt Ann married a Dr. Tyler from one of the New England states. He left a widow and only son in Beaufort, South Carolina. My Uncles John and Thomas Talbird lived in Beaufort, and I think died there, both of them became wealthy, but my Uncle John lost his property by security debts. My Uncle Thomas left a considerable estate to his children. He was in many respects one of the most perfect characters in the relations of this life I have ever known, and a pious member of the Episcopal church. He was universally popular, and commanded the respect and esteem of the entire community. Both of my uncles died during the period of my residence in New York, and I am not informed of the place of their burial. My uncles both left children, and I have reason to believe that some of their descendants are still living in Beaufort.

My father was born and lived his life on Hilton Head Island. He possessed one of the most original minds I ever encountered. He was not in any way eccentric, but loved his books and chemical laboratory. He was universally respected and regarded as a man of great breadth of view and extensive knowledge. He died in his 66th year and was buried at Whale Branch.

My mother's maiden name was Blackwood. Her father was of Scottish descent, she also died in her 66th year, and was interred beside my father. My parents had five children, Henry, Eleanor, Mary Ann, Richard and John. Two of these died when young. My sister Eleanor, married into the Screven family of Georgia. She had 4 children, one son and 3 daughters. The son is a practicing physician in Texas. One daughter is the wife of Judge R of Georgia and the other two also married. My brother John, the youngest of my father's children is also a physician of considerable ability, living in Florida. My great grandfather never spoke of his Irish relatives that his children should remain in ignorance of them and of his early life as connected with them. It was only to his sons, John and Thomas, that he ever spoke freely on the distasteful subject, and they were enjoined not to mention these things to the other children, and it was not until years after, the old gentleman being dead, my grandfather related these to me. Should you find points upon which you desire information, let me hear from you. With sincere esteem

Your Kinsman
Signed Henry Talbird

Copied by C.G. Sams, great, great, great grand daughter of Sir John Talbot (Knight baronet) and Lord Mayor of Dublin Ireland.

Our grandfather Thomas Talbird was twice married, (to sisters Ann and Christiana Talbird).

With the first wife there were 7 children, no children with the second wife.

Thomas, physician died unmarried

Franklin married-- 3 children

Mary married Jos Cole--3 children

Ann married John .^F Tyler--5 children

Margaret B. died single

John Edward died single

*Claudia Christiana married Dr. John A. Johnson
12 children as follows

Christiana Talbird married Jas V. Sams--no children

*Elizabeth Whaley married Jno L. Hawkins--- 9 children
(My mother Oma Smith)

Thomas Talbird died in youth

Annie Margaret married B.B. Sams--1 child died
Being widowed afterwards married F. F. Tyler, no child

Mary Julia married Samuel C. Cunningham--6 children

Sarah Claudia married Chas E. Boineau--1 child died

William died in childhood

John Edward died in infancy

Joseph John married Agnes Lake--2 children

Claudia Christina married Archibald McClelland--2 children

Benjamin Jenkins died in childhood

The son of "Aunt Talbird" referred to is John Samuel Tyler--married Ann Talbird--5 children as follows: ~~REXX~~

The son of "Aunt Talbird" referred to is John John Samuel Tyler--married Ann Talbird--5 children as follows

Rosa Ann married George Woodford--Two children
Katherine Lynahs and Franklin Tyler. John S., Jr. died in childhood

Franklin Frederick married Eliza A. --1 daughter Mabel
married Ira Elbert Bennett, 1 child Amy

He afterwards married Annie M. Sams (widow) daughter of Claudia C. Talbird,
no children

Margaret Talbird married Charles G. Miller--no children.

Mary Ellen married Valentine Bausurwein--3 Children.

John S. Tyler married the second time Miss Elizabeth Holmes--2 children,
John S., who died without children and Ida

Taken from the parish register of St. Helena Parish, now in Charleston, South Carolina:

Mary Talbot, daughter of Henry and Mary	1750
William, son of Henry and Mary	1753
Thomas, son of Henry and Mary	1755
Ann Talbird, daughter of Henry and Mary	1758

Thomas and Christiana

Catherine	1785
Jas Doharty	1781
Beniamine	1782
Henry and David	1783
Ann	1787

Eliza, Mary Thomas Jay, Christiana Claudia

Obituary

Talbird, D.D., a distinguished Baptist, died at his home in Switzerland, Fla., 1890, in the 80th year of his age.

The above was the writer of the foregoing letter.



E.I.N. 58-2332014

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Carol Crouch
390 CR 777
Devine, Texas 78016-4525

February 19, 2016

Re: Talbird/Talbot /Tailbird genealogy

Dear Ms. Crouch,

I want to thank you so much for sharing your fascinating family genealogy with us. I read it with much interest. You are lucky to have such a document available.

I am sorry to have taken so long to get back to you. Unfortunately, I had a prolonged illness which kept me from tending to business as I would have liked.

When checking into the Talbirds a bit, I asked our head librarian if we had a Talbird genealogy on file. And, guess what? In a file marked "Talbird genealogy" is a copy of the material you sent us! So, the material is already available to anyone who comes in this library looking for Talbirds.

Thanks so much for thinking of us,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beth Egan O'Keefe".

Beth Egan O'Keefe, Volunteer