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by SIR ANTHONY WAGNER

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THE ORIGIN OF THE FAMILY OF TALIAFERRO

by SIR ANTHONY WAGNER AND F. S. ANDRUS*

SPECULATION on the origin of Robert Talafero or Tolliver who settled in Virginia by 1647 has ranged from Scotland where the forms Taillefer, Talfer, Telfer, and others are found from the thirteenth century onwards, through England where the forms include Tolver and Tulliver, through France to Italy where Taliaferro and Taliaferro are not uncommon. This meant that the surname in itself, being so widespread was of little use as a clue, and it was, therefore, with relief and gratitude for our good fortune that we found in the London area, the likeliest immediate place of origin for an early Virginia settler, references to members of a family of the name which appeared to fit the Virginia data perfectly.

From these, as will be seen, the conclusion has now been reached that Robert the settler was the grandson of Bartholomew Taliaferro, a subject of the Duke of Venice, who settled in London and was made denizen in March 1562.

Important points in favour of the identification were that this particular family of Taliaferro was the only one found mentioned in the probate records of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury and of London, and that after 1647 the name entirely disappeared from these probate records. Furthermore, letters of administration of the estate of Francis Talafero were granted on the 20th of August 1647 to his daughter Anne, not to his son Robert, as we might have expected had he been in England at the time. Robert was then aged twenty years and nine months.

Finally, the emigrant called one of his sons Francis.

It now remains to see if light can be thrown on the Italian origin and ancestry of Bartholomew and to this end further research is now proceeding.

1. BARTHOLOMEW TALLAFER, TALIAFERRO, TALIAFERRO, etc. a subject of the Duke of Venice, paid 20 shillings for Letters of Denization in England March 4, 1562. Lived in various parishes in London until his death. Buried September 22, 1601, at St. Olave's Hart Street, London. Will dated September 18, 1601, proved May 3, 1602 P.C.C. (29 Montague). Married Joane Lane January 1, 1583/4, at St. Michael's, Cornhill, London. She subsequently married Thomas Graye of Whitechapel County Middlesex, widower, May 15, 1602, at St. Olave's, Hart Street. He was buried June 12, 1617, at Whitechapel, and his will was dated May 12 and proved July 17, 1617, P.C.C. (67 Weldon).

* Sir Anthony, K. C. V. O., is Garter King of Arms and Mr. Andrus, one of his assistants.

Children:

- i. Katherine, baptized November 29, 1584, at St. Olave's, buried there January 12, 1584/5.
- ii. Horatio, baptized January 16, 1585/6 at St. Olave's; buried there July 21, 1593.
- iii. Siprion or Ciprion (Scipio), of London, merchant. Baptized February 25, 1587/8 at St. Olave's. Mentioned in his father's will. Buried September 7, 1609, at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, London. Will dated September 6, proved October 27, 1609 (Commissary Court of London).
2. iv. Francis, of Bethnal Green in Stepney County Middlesex, baptized January 25, 1589/90, at St. Olave's.
 - v. Isack (twin) baptized March 18, 1592/3, at St. Olave's, mentioned in the wills of his father and brother Ciprion. Buried August 2, 1610, at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate.
 - vi. Jacob (twin), baptized March 18, 1592/3, at St. Olave's. Buried there August 2, 1593.
 - vii. Elyzabeth, baptized January 26, 1594/5, at St. Olave's. Married February 27, 1611/12, at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, by license of the Bishop of London, her stepbrother William Graye, who was mentioned as deceased in his father's will 1617. Mentioned in the wills of her father, brother Ciprion, and father-in-law (who was also her stepfather) Thomas Graye.
 - viii. Bartholomew, baptized December 9, buried December 10, 1596, at St. Olave's.
 - ix. Jeromme, mentioned in the will of his father and (as Jeremy) in that of his brother Ciprion. Buried September 7, 1609, at St. Botolph's Bishopsgate, aged 11.
2. FRANCIS² TALAFERO or TALAFERO (Bartholomew¹) of Bethnal Green in Stepney, County Middlesex, yeoman. Baptized January 25, 1589/90, at St. Olave's. Mentioned in the wills of his father, stepfather, and brother Ciprion. Buried August 19, 1647, at Stepney. Administration following day (Commissary Court of London). Married (1) Bennett Haie, by license February 3, 1613/14, at St. Saviour's, Southwark, County Surrey. She was living November 1626. Married (2) Mariam, who was buried August 16, 1647, at Stepney from Bethnal Green.

Children (by 1st wife):

 - i. Anne, administratrix of her father's estate 1647
 - ii. Robert³, baptized November 19, 1626, at Stepney aged 8 days.
3. ROBERT³ TALAFERO, TOLLIVER, etc. (Francis², Bartholomew¹), baptized November 19, 1626, at Stepney, aged 8 days. Witnessed the will of Robert Meeke of York County, Virginia November 1, 1647. Was granted 800 acres (with Samuel Salate or Sallis) February 12, 1651, in Gloucester County and 6300 acres (with Lawrence Smith) March 26, 1666, in Rappahannock (later Caroline and Spotsylvania) County, Virginia. Married.

Children (among others)

 - i. Francis, of Gloucester County Virginia, Gentleman. Made grants to his brothers September 28, 1682, from the lands granted to their father jointly with Lawrence Smith.

- ii. John. Land granted to him by his brother Francis September 28, 1682, being then about to marry Sarah daughter of Lawrence Smith.
- iii. } Richard and Charles. Land granted to them jointly by their brother Francis
- iv. } September 28, 1682, being then minors.

ABSTRACT OF THE WILL OF BARTHOLOMEW TALIAFERRO.

To my four sons Scipio Fraunces Isack and Jeromme Two hundred pounds sterling when they shall be of the age of Twenty one years.

To Elizabeth my daughter to be given at her marriage one hundred pounds sterling, meaning that she shall not marry until she be of the age of sixteen years or according to the will of her mother.

To Jone my wife one hundred pounds sterling, if she marries again. If she does not, she is to have the profits of all my estate, and then one hundred pounds when my sons are of the age of twenty one years.

I ordain my overseers of the things contained in this my Testament and Last will John Francisco Soprani Fraunces Rizzo and Phillippe Bernardi.

I do give five pounds sterling to our parish of St. Ollaves on condition that they shall discharge my family of the taxation of the poor of the said parish so long as my wife, sons and daughter shall jointly dwell in the same. And not discharging them of the said taxation they shall pay them nothing.

Unto Margery my servant five shillings sterling.

I declare that I have two obligations of Cornelius De Neme, one of one hundred pounds which is paid, but the other of one hundred and twenty five pounds is in force and is due to me.

Made in the City of London the eighteenth day of September 1601 Subscribed in the presence of Jeromme Lopez Pompilio Gactani Henry Valesi William Parkyns. May 3, 1602. Letters of Administration granted to Joan Taliaferro the relict of the said deceased.

Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 29 Montague.

ABSTRACT OF THE WILL OF CIPRION TALIAFERO
OF LONDON, MERCHANT.

To my mother Joane Gray £10

To my brothers and sister Isack, Elizabeth & Jeremy Taliafero £40 each.

To Arthure Manbey 20/-

Executor and residuary legatee my brother Francis Taliafero

September 6, 1609.

Witnesses: Salo: Waller Scr., Edw. Bibsworth.

Proved October 27, 1609, by executor named.

Commissary Court of London, Book 21, folio 184.

