

Purpose of This Document

This document is a work in progress and represents the information that has been collected on the Tallis name by this writer. It is created solely for the enjoyment and historical information for the Tallis family and its descendants.

We are who we are because of our past, the people we meet and the books we read. This book tries to define our past as to who we are as a family and the people and events that shaped what we are all about. You will see many threads in this book, however the primary one comes from a small area in England and spans to the far reaches of the Canadian prairie.

About 20 years ago, I became interested in the family history from an address scratched on an old slip of paper my mother had left me. Alas, I was never able to contact the gentleman, as he had passed away. As a result, I thought it was important to start documenting and recording family history before we all pass on. This document represents a good amount of the data collected, research accomplished, interviews held and photographs taken over the last twenty years. But it is only a start.

I intend to take you on a journey, from the first sightings of the 'Tallis' name until our branch is settled in Canada or from twelfth century into the twenty-first. You will find the focal point of this document is a William Tallis who was the Works Foreman at Cadburys at the turn of the twentieth century. As one will see, there are many other avenues to research, stories to dis-

cover and questions left unanswered.

As you read this, please identify errors, additions or corrections. Since the purpose of this is to leave information for 'Tallis' kids, we hope this is a starting point for further research and study about this very interesting family.

The year 2004 is the one-hundredth

*We are who we are
because of our past...*



Photograph of William Tallis [1840-1903]. Original photograph is owned by Janet Page—great-granddaughter of William.

anniversary of the migration of William's offspring, some 28 of the Tallis family, to Canada. Now is a good time to document this journey into the family's past.

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Spelling of the Name

Is it.....

- Tallis*
- Talliss*
- Taylis*
- Taylies*
- Tallice*
- Talles*
- Talis*
- Tally*
- Talley*
- Tallee*
- Tailepied*
- Taillepaid*
- Taiped*
- Taimelt*
- Tolas*
- Tollas*

S

is it Tallis, Talliss, Taylis or what? We have seen the Tallis name spelt with one 's', two 'ss' and even Taylies as well as other variations. The Tallis families of Leicestershire, Birmingham, Bedworth, Coventry, and Stratford upon Avon spell the name with one 's'. The Warwick and Leamington Spa usually use two.

You will note the different spelling over the years, mainly due to spelling and the education acts not standardizing until the 1800 century. e.g. 1637 Tallice; 1646 Talles; 1656 Talis... All the three above are baptismal entries of the same family. Part of the confusion was due to the fancy script that caused a name to be interpreted differently.

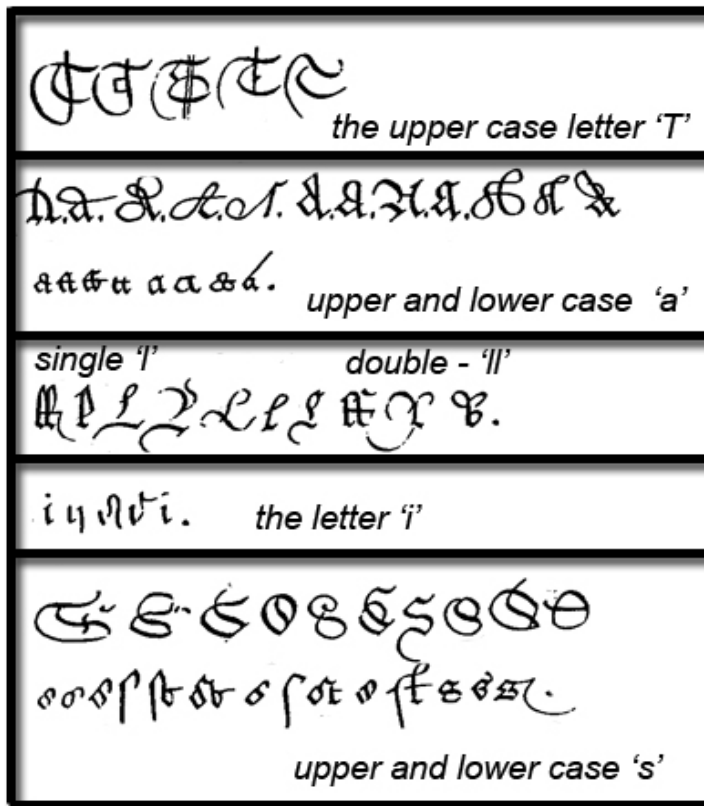
If you believe some of the genealogy sites on the Internet, derivations of the name include Tally, Talley, Tallie and Tallee from the Fermanagh area of Ireland. In Normandy we see variations of Tailepied, Taillepaid, Taiped, and Taimelt. And

we wonder if Talisker is also a derivation? Whether these were true or not is yet to be determined.

What is in the spelling of the name? It seems that until the Education Acts in the latter part of the 19th century in England, that names were spelled in many different ways. It wasn't until all Tallis' could read or write, where they could correct the Vicar's spelling of their surname. Even as late as the turn of the century, we have seen the William Tallis [Cadburys] name spelled both with one and two 's.'

As the diagram below shows, some 'translation' is required to decipher the handwriting from the 16th and 17th century. The diagram is a portion of information available on handwriting. The letter 's' (especially the first in "ss") was often written like 'f'. The will of Richard Tallis later in this document provides a good example of the handwriting of this era.

Many of the records recorded in parish books have been transcribed by legions of individuals many working for the Church of Latter Day Saints. Human error invariably creeps in. And this does not consider the fallibility of this writer as well!



Letters of the alphabet—handwriting styles of the 16th and 17th centuries. Adapted from chart in *Ancestral Trails* by Mark D. Herber. page 30

Tallis Crest of Arms



From the General Armory of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales; comprising a registry of armorial bearings from the earliest to the present time; by Sir Bernard Berk C.B., LL.D., Ulster King of Arms. Harrison, 59, Pall Mall Bookseller to the Queen and HRH the Prince of Wales 1884.

"...just because we have the same name ... we don't automatically gain the right to bear his Arms"

People who know of the family or have done any family research, will find a family crest, or Coat of Arms for the Tallis family. Even if this had not been the case, somewhere in the mail you probably have received an advertisement for 'your own Coat of Arms.' Yes, a Coat of Arms was granted by Roberts, Ulster 1644 to Thomas Tallis, Muster-Master-General of Ireland. Three falcons are on the chevron (or shield) with a dove holding in the beak an olive branch on the crest. The shield is the 'coat of arms'. Everything in the picture to the right including the shield and all its accessories (crest, helmet, and supporters) is named an achievement.

In the UK, the right to bear Arms is given by the Crown acting through the Earl Marshal (the Duke of Norfolk) and his Officers of Arms. Since this Coat of Arms was granted to Thomas Tallis, the rest of us can not reasonably be "associated" with it since it is not a general "Tallis" Coat of Arms as some dealers of crests (armsmongers) would like us to believe. Just because we have the same name as Thomas Tallis we don't automatically gain the right to bear his Arms. However, this does not prevent displaying of the Coats of Arms in our homes or providing reference to them as long as we attribute their ownership, as in this case to Thomas Tallis.

By the way, we have not found any proof of where Thomas Tallis comes into the Tallis line. He is not to be confused with Thomas Tallis, the father of English Church music whom you will read about

later.

It is interesting to note that recent research into these 'armsmonger' Internet sites, that two other Coat of Arms are being peddled for the Tallis name. One from Ireland having a crest of a green background with three seashells on a silver chevron. And one from France having a red crest background with three gold crescents on a gold chief with three stars. Since I have not succumbed to the advertisements for these proffered relics, I have no idea what they look like or how the relationship with Tallis is identified.

Since none are ours, suffice it to say, we acknowledge the granting of these Coats of Arms and are interested to the extent of the stories behind them.



Another version from the House of Arms (The origin in this case is Irish.) From the photo in the advertisement, it is not clear as to whether this is a legitimate Coat of Arms.

This will not just be a story about the Tallis family, but one that provides a perspective and appreciation of the conditions in which they lived. Timelines, like the one to the right, will be used to position events in the greater scheme of things. Also the use of maps will be employed to create a sense of place.

If we use phone books and internet data bases, we find close to 1000 Tallis'. Given the name surfaced so many years ago and the potential for exponential growth, it is interesting that there are not millions of Tallis', but given plagues, wars, pestilences and pandemics (as well as many girls), we are blessed to find those who are here.

Some conjecture in the form of questions will be used where further research may be required. When a fact is stated, it will have been backed up by research or actual proof. Given that stories, rumors and conflicting information often exist regarding historical information, more particularly, in a narrow field such as family history, I will try to be as accurate as possible and highlight areas of conflicting information.

The bibliography will provide the list of resources used in compiling this story. There are many people who have contributed to this story; my role is to convey their information as accurately as possible. You will meet many of them as you read along. Any errors or omissions are my responsibility alone.

