

## The Talbot Folklore of Ballinlonty, Co. Tipperary in Ireland

Compiled by Michael E. Byczek, Esq. - Chicago, IL  
3x-great-grandson of Thomas Talbot from Ballinlonty who settled in Chicago

Michael E. Byczek is the 3x-great-grandson of Thomas Talbot who was born in Ballinlonty, Co. Tipperary (Ireland) in 1823 and settled in Chicago, IL in 1861. Thomas Talbot arrived in the United States in 1848 during the Irish Famine. He married Hannah McDonald/McDonnell in Taunton, MA in 1852.

The Talbot lineage in Co. Tipperary, while not verified, is the subject of folklore. There is a possibility that Thomas Talbot, and therefore his 3x-great-grandson Michael E. Byczek, are the direct blood descendants of international royal and noble bloodlines. This could include crowned Kings and Queens of England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, France, and Spain along with Holy Roman and Byzantium Emperors in addition to other high ranking titles of nobility throughout Europe. One claim is that a son of Queen Victoria of England had personal knowledge of the family connection to the Talbot lineage in Ballinlonty.

Michael E. Byczek, as an attorney, advocates the highest standards of ethical historical research and moral-based genealogy. Whether or not Thomas Talbot is a descendant of the greatest houses of nobility has not been verified. Michael E. Byczek cannot, and will not, make a definitive conclusion at this time. He affectionately refers to this research project as the “Talbot Folklore”.

The 157-page John Talbot and Mary Bourke Documentary has detailed analysis for the Talbot lineage of Ballinlonty in County Tipperary. On balance of probabilities, it is highly plausible and more likely than not to be true, that:

1. Thomas Talbot was the son of John Talbot and Mary Bourke from Ballinlonty.
2. John Talbot was the son of James Talbot and Catherine Howard, who lived in Ballinlonty.
3. Catherine (Howard) Talbot was the daughter of Pierce Howard
4. John Talbot had two sisters Mary (Talbot) Ryan and Hannah (Talbot) Chadwick

The “Talbot Folklore” suggests that James Talbot (Michael E. Byczek’s presumptive 5x-great-grandfather) was the direct blood descendant of John Talbot, the first Earl of Shrewsbury who was immortalized by William Shakespeare. Furthermore, that Catherine (Howard) Talbot (Michael E. Byczek’s presumptive 5x-great-grandmother) was “kin” to the Duke of Norfolk.

An important clue is the alleged connection to the 11th Duke of Norfolk. It has been mentioned that the 11th Duke was interested in genealogy and the history of the Howard family. This could be the reason why the Talbot family in Ballinlonty took pride in their relationship to that particular Duke.

A very similar folklore originates from nearby Templemore in Co. Tipperary where Talbot and Howard families intermarried with an alleged connection to Irish and English nobility, including Malahide Castle in Dublin.

Michael E. Byczek took a DNA test in the autumn of 2024 not for genealogy, but to intervene as an attorney to stop the spread of false claims across his entire family tree. DNA results showed a genetic relationship to a prominent Talbot family in Co. Tipperary and numerous cross-references to both Talbot and Howard nobility in England. There was a noticeable pattern of possible connections to Talbot and Howard families in Colonial America. However, the results were inconclusive as to the exact degree of kinship, if any, between users or any precise common nobility ancestry.

As an attorney, Michael E. Byczek fully understands the caution that is necessary to make absolute conclusions about genealogy. He does not claim to be a blood descendant of any royal or noble bloodline. Nor does he claim that the “Talbot Folklore” itself is true. Furthermore, he does not claim with absolute certainty, only balance of probabilities, that he is the 5x-great-grandson of James Talbot and Catherine Howard who may or may not have been members of the English nobility.

It is Michael E. Byczek’s intention, that if the “Talbot Folklore” is proven true, to fully restore his 3x-great-grandfather Thomas Talbot to each verified royal and nobility bloodline pedigree throughout the world of which he is a direct blood descendant.

A comprehensive documentary detailing the current state of research into the “Talbot Folklore” is under development.

## **Additional Information**

Thomas Talbot and Hannah McDonald/McDonnell are Michael E. Byczek's 3x-great-grandparents. Their eldest child, a son, Edward H. Talbot (2x-great-grandfather) married Kittie A. Rooney in 1880 at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago, IL. Their only daughter Marie T. Talbot (great-grandmother) married Martin J. Flanagan in 1922, also at Holy Name Cathedral. Their eldest child, a daughter, Marie C. Flanagan (grandmother) married Michael S. Byczek at St. Bridget's in the Bridgeport neighborhood in 1950. Their eldest child, a son, Michael M. Byczek (father) married Betty A. Bykowski in 1974 at St. Helen's on Augusta and Oakley in Chicago. They have two children, son Michael E. Byczek (the eldest) and daughter Katherine S. Byczek, both born in the Bridgeport neighborhood.

Michael E. Byczek has been compiling actual records for the Talbot family for over 30 years. He has gathered an extensive collection of documents. This compiled documentary is an accurate source of genealogy for the Talbot lineage in Ballinlonty.

Feel free to send a message for more information or genealogy collaboration.

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1/7/2026

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