

**RETALLACK SURNAME** revised September 12, 2015

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## **Abstract**

**Retallack is a name endemic to Cornwall, and traceable in that southwestern English county back to 1497. The name is probably derived from Talek, recorded back to 1349, by addition of a demonstrative pronoun (those Taleks!). Talek in turn is most likely from the old Cornish talawg meaning “high forehead”. The comparable Welsh name Tallwch and Pictish Talorc can be traced back to the 6th century.**

**There are numerous other ideas concerning the origin of the Retallack surname from Cornish place names, Cornish saints, mine workings and Norse and Greek gods, and these are all reviewed here.**

**Retallacks in Cornwall were largely miners, farmers and farm laborers. Many left Cornwall for Australia and the United States during the potato blight and mining slump of the 1850's, so that there are now more Retallacks overseas than in Cornwall.**

## **Introduction**

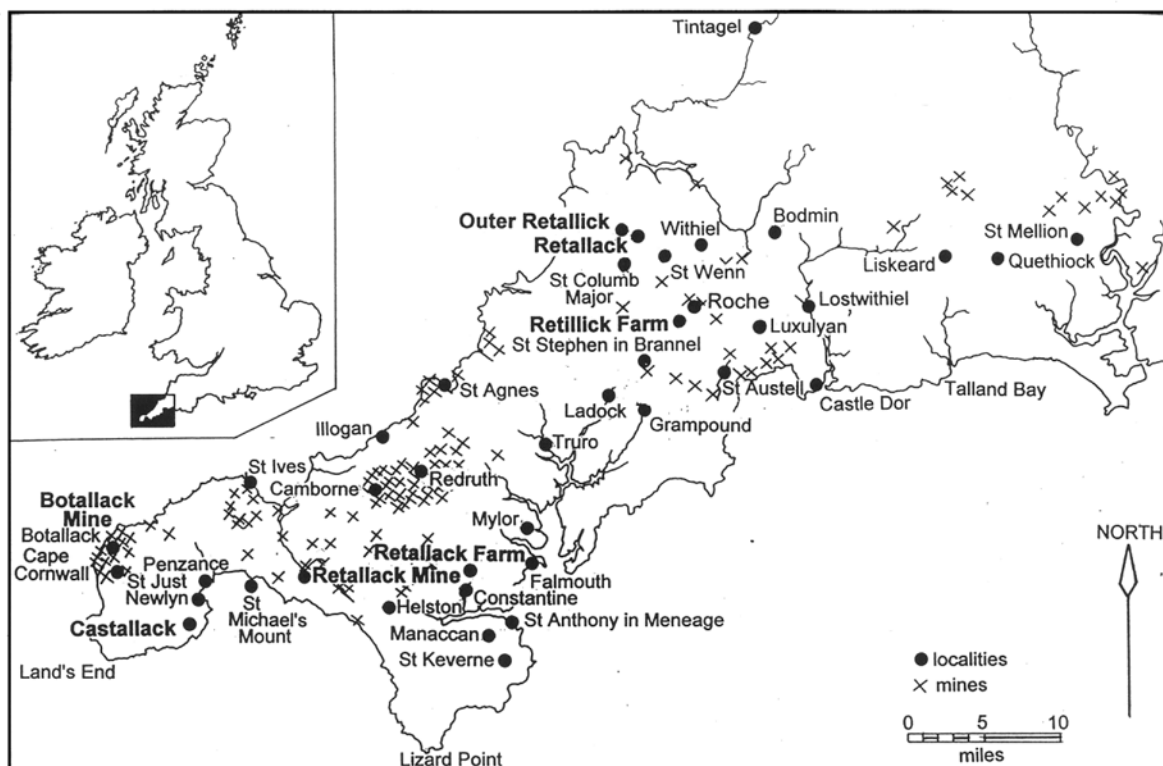
The Retallack name is unusual and often requires careful spelling out. Pronunciation is also a challenge (correct is r'-TAL-lack, rhymes with metallic). Retallack is endemic to Cornwall, England (Fig. 1), where it has been a common name back to the 15th century (Table 1). Since the 19th century there has been a global Retallack diaspora (Table 2) so that there are now more Retallacks in Australia and the U.S. than in Cornwall. A computer search<sup>1</sup> revealed 294 Retallacks in Australia, 173 in the United States, 151 in Great Britain, 48 in Canada and 2 in South Africa.

## **Meaning of the name**

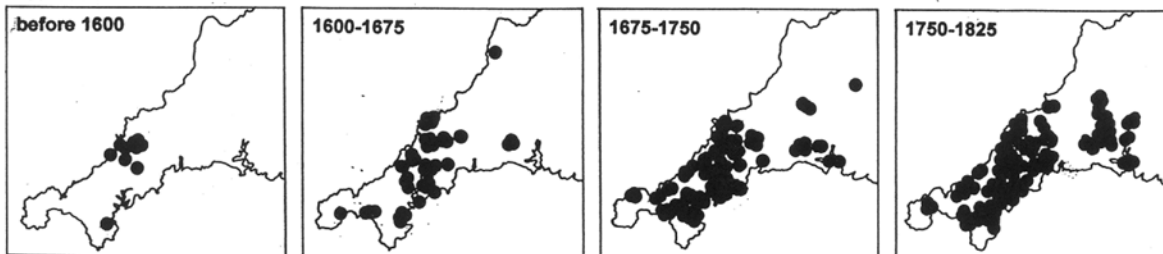
Most surnames are either physical descriptions (eg. Longfellow), occupations (eg. Smith) or localities (eg. London). For Retallack a case has been made for each from Cornish language and geography. All of these conflicting claims will be discussed here, but I will also make plain my preferences.

The search for meaning can be guided by a chronology of first appearance of variants of the name (Table 3). The extant surname Retallick<sup>2</sup> first appears as Retallicke in 1609, and was presumably derived from antecedent Retallack. The Retallack spelling is traceable back<sup>3</sup> to 1497, and is likely to have been derived from the surname Talek<sup>4</sup> recorded as far back as 1349. Early variants such as Rettelehc of ca. 1250 are also likely to have been predated by Talek, incorporated in such place names as Botalec of 1262, because of the much wider distribution of Talek than Retallack in Cornwall before 1600<sup>2</sup>. Comparable names such as Tallwch and Talorc can be traced back to ca. 550 AD<sup>5</sup>.

Thus the *re* part of the name is probably a prefix., and in my opinion is most likely a demonstrative pronoun meaning "the ones", "those" or "some". The *re* prefix is commonly used in swearing oaths such as "Re Míhal" ("By St Michael!<sup>6</sup>). This would imply some Taleks or Tallacks of greater fame or notoriety than others, such as Richard Talek on trial in 1349 for



**Distribution of Retallick and similar names**



**Distribution of Tallack and similar names**

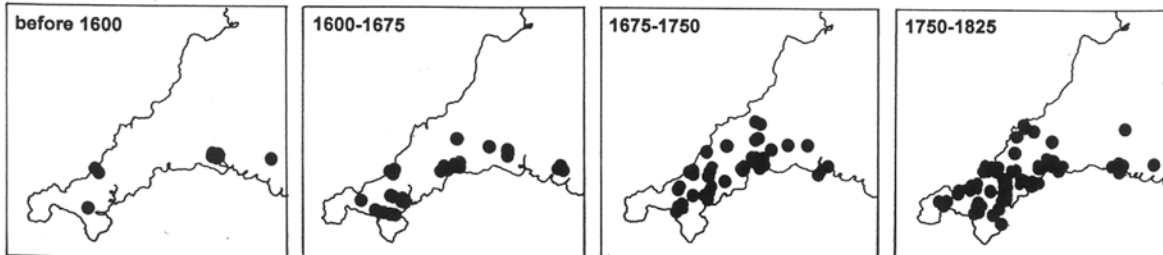


Figure 1. Retallick and similar sounding localities (boldface), and distribution of mines and Retallick and Tallack families in Cornwall<sup>2,7</sup>.

beating his mine labourers<sup>4</sup>, Ralph Retallick, a prime agitator in the tax rebellion<sup>3</sup> of 1497, 1941), or the church warden Marke Retallicke<sup>2</sup> of 1589. The prefix could also be from the Cornish *re* or *rid*, meaning free, clear<sup>14</sup>. Other ideas based largely on the idea of Retallick as a

**Table 1. Partial reconstruction of author's Retallack paternal line in Cornwall<sup>2,8-9</sup>**

Marke Retallecke (b. about 1535) at St Columb Major	Children of John Retallecke and Jane in St Columb Major	Children of John Retallack and Dorothy or Dorithie (Randall) at St Columb Major	Children of John Retallack and Mary at St Columb Major	Children of John Retallack and Katherine at St Columb Major	Children of John Retallack and Mary (Tippit) at St Wenn	Children of Richard Retallack and Grace (Brenton) at St Wenn	Children of Henry Retallack and Elizabeth (Brenton) at St Wenn	Children of Richard Retallack and Amelia (Prior) at St Austell, and Luxulyan	Children of William Retallack and Lydia (Beason) at Luxulyan
John, b. about 1560 at St Columb Major, d. about 1624 at St Columb Major	Phillep, c. 14 May 1573 St Columb Major, d. 1629 St Columb Major	Mary, born about 1606 St Columb Major, d. 29 April 1606 St Columb Major	Joane, b. 16 December 1632 St Columb Major, d. 10 May 1635, St Columb Major	John, b. about 1674 St Columb Major, m. 31 December 1700 in St Wenn to Mary Tippit, d. about 1707, St Wenn	Richard, b. about 1696 St Wenn, d. 25 November 1746 St Wenn	John, c. 1 June 1719, St Wenn, d. 13 June 1799 Roche	Richard Retallack, c. 23 November 1754 St Wenn, m. 1782 at Tywardreath to Amelia	William c.22 May 1785, St Wenn [died young?]	Jemima b. 8 March 1820, Bible Christian Church Luxulyan
	Honor, c. 11 December 1580 St Columb Major, d. 1 August 1583 St Columb Major	John, b. about 1617 St Columb Major, d. 15 March 1683 St Columb Major	John b. about 1638 St Columb Major, d. 13 March 1684 St Columb Major	Anthony, b. about 1707, d. about 1807	Thomas, c. 15 October 1726, St Wenn	Richard, c. 22 July 1723, St Wenn	Grace, c. 3 November 1759, St Wenn	William, c.18 July 1790 St Austell, d. 1843 St Ontario, Canada	John b. 28 June 1826 c. 16 July 1826 Bible Christian Church Luxulyan, d. 1890 South Terrace Adelaide, Australia
	Richard, b. about 1583 St Columb Major, d. about 1584 St Columb Major	Mary, b. about 1641	Mary, b. about 1641		Henry, c. 17 March 1728 St Wenn, m. 7 November 1753 at St Wenn to Elizabeth Brenton	Thomas, c. 27 March 1769, St Wenn	John, c. 29 December 1793 St Austell	John, c. 29 December 1793 St Austell	Lydia b. 26 January 1829, c. 15 February 1829, Bible Christian Church Luxulyan
	Thomas, b. about 1586, d. about 1635				Alvon, c. 17 March 1728, St Wenn	William, c. 8 May 1774, St Wenn	Harriet, c. 26 July 1807 Luxulyan	Francis c. 26 July 1807 Luxulyan	William Henry b. 4 June 1831 c. 28 August 1831 Bible Christian Church Luxulyan
	Richard, b. about 1589, d. about 1629				Grace, b. 4 June 1733, d. 20 June 1733	Christopher, c. 2 December 1734 St Wenn, d. 1839 Luxulyan	Jemima, c. 25 October 1813, Luxulyan	Amelia b. 16 August 1833 St Columbus, Ontario, Canada, d. 12 December 1906 Flint Michigan, USA	

place name are that the *re* prefix comes from Cornish *ryd*, *rit*, or *res* meaning ford, or *rydh* or *ruth* meaning red<sup>14-17</sup>. Each of these place names will be discussed in due course, but the earliest spellings of each are more like the surname than spellings compounded from *res*, *rid*, or *ruth* (Table 3). Neither is the *re* prefix likely to be a corruption of *bos* (Cornish for dwelling), as in the

**Table 2. Retallacks in Australia and U.S.A.**<sup>10-13</sup>

Emigration of John from Cornwall to South Australia	Children of John and Caroline in South Australia	Children of Charles and Margaret in Mitchell, Queensland	Children of Leslie John and Elsie Ruth in Queensland	Children of Kenneth John and Moira Wynn in Tasmania and N.S.W.	Children of Gregory John and Diane Alice in U.S.A.
John Retallack b.28 June 1826, c. 16 July 1826.	Seth, b.17 Jul 1854, Mitcham, S.A., farmer, d.9 Jul 1939, Korunye, S.A.	Olive Maud b.23 Jan 1897, d.25 May 1954, Toowong, Qld	Betty Sylvia b.1923 Brisbane, Qld; d.5 Oct 1923	Gregory John b. 8 Nov 1951 at Hobart, Tas., emigrated to U.S.A. 1977; m. 30 May 1981 Diane Alice Johnson in Joliet IL, U.S.A.;	Nicholas John b.13 Jun 1986
Bible Christian Church Luxulyan, Cornwall, d.8 Aug 1890	John ("Jack") b.19 Apr 1857, Angaston, S.A., farmer, d.17 Sep 1928, Adelaide, Adelaide, S.A. at age 69; m.7 Nov 1853 in Mitcham, S.A., Caroline Rashleigh who was b. 9 Feb 1832 at St Keverne, Cornwall, and emigrated to South Australia 1852 on "Caucasian" to join a sister, d.5 Aug 1896, Forster, S.A.	Ruby Caroline b.16 Sep 1898 Brisbane, Qld, d.28 Sep 1974	Kenneth John b.12 Aug 1926 at Brisbane, Qld, d.27 Jan 1969 at Sydney, N.S.W.;	Alice Johnson in b.12 Dec 1952 at La Salle, IL, U.S.A.	Jeremy Douglas b.29 Jan 1988
Thomas b.18 May 18-60, Angaston, S.A., d.15 Aug 1863, Angas Park, S.A.	Eric Thomas Charles b.25 Apr 1900, Brisbane, Qld, newspaper worker, d.1976	Leslie John b.31 Dec 1901 at "Cocaigne", Mitchell, Qld; newspaper printer; d.7 Jun 1965 at Sydney; m.Elsie Ruth Ireton b.in Brisbane Qld: after divorce remarried Neridah Blanch Fletcher with no issue	Moirra Wynn ("Wendy") Dean, b.8 Nov 1928	Michael Leslie b. 1 Jul 1954, Arncliffe, Sydney, N.S.W.;	
Thomas b.14 Jul 18-66, Steinau, S.A., builder, d.17 Feb 1934, Fremantle.	Cyril Rashleigh b.29 Dec 1903, newspaper worker, d.1977	Roy Mitchell b.11 Dec 1905, Brisbane, d.1978	Bruce Gollan, with no issue	Bridget Clare Mabbutt, b. 25 Oct 1957, one daughter, Jemina Clare, b. 29 May 1988	Christopher Charles b. 2 Sep 1956, Arncliffe, Sydney, N.S.W.:
Charles b.25 May 1868, Steinau, S.A., d. 18 Jan 1964; m.1896 in Brisbane, Qld, Margaret Jane Dobbin, b.1871 near Goulburn N.S.W.	Sylvia May b.17 Dec 1907	Ilma Jessie b.23 Jan 1910, d.1942		N.S.W.: d. 27 March 2015; m. Maria Nikitaris, b. 16 May 1966, two sons, Jack Kenneth b. 11 Oct 1985; Adam Michael b. 15 Sep 1988.	
James Williams b.13 Sep 1870, Point Gawler, S.A., d.12 Dec 1957, Karrakatta	Maurice Francis b.16 Feb 1912, Brisbane, Qld; bank inspector; d.1990				
W.F. b.20 Nov 1872, d.21 Feb 1872					
Francis Rowe b.13 Jan 1873, River Light S.A., d.15 Feb 1873					

ancient Cornish place name Botallack, nor of *castel* (Cornish for castle) as in the place name Castallack. These are more likely the "dwelling of Talek" and "little castle", respectively<sup>17</sup>. It has also been argued<sup>18</sup> that *re* is abbreviated from *tre*, Old Cornish for farmhouse, village or town<sup>17</sup>. Many Cornish names begin with Tre, Pol or Pen, which signify a town, a top, and a head: and so comes the common rhyme: "By Tre, Pol, and Pen, Ye shall know the Cornishmen"<sup>19</sup>.

Although Tretallock, Trevallacke and Tretallack are recorded back into the 16th century (Table 3), I think such names were unlikely to be corrupted to Retallack as there is no other known comparable corruption of a tre-name<sup>18</sup>. The meaning of the *tre* syllable is widely recognized in Cornish names such as Trevithick and Trelawney<sup>17</sup>. Tretallock, Trevallacke and Tretallack are more likely extinct names for places and people derived from Tallack or Tallock independently and after origin of the surname Retallack (Table 3).

The precursor surname Tallack or Talek<sup>4</sup>, is traceable back to Stannary Court records of 1349, and in the place name Botalec<sup>22</sup>, back to 1262. Talek in turn may be related to 6th century Welsh name Tallwch and Pictish name Talorc<sup>5</sup>. This would imply that the *ack* suffix is archaic and predates old Saxon *ac* meaning oak<sup>23</sup>. My favorite explanation is that Talek is from the Old Cornish *talawg*, meaning one having a large forehead<sup>14-15,17,23</sup>. This explanation is appealing because the forehead is a distinguishing feature of both myself, my father, my grandfather, and

**Table 3. Chronology of first appearance of names similar to Retallack**<sup>2-5, 20-21</sup>

Similar names in antiquity	Variants of Tallack	Variants of Retallack	Variants of Retallick	Other variants (including place names)
Tammuz ca.1800 BC	Talek 1349	Retallack 1497	Retallicke 1609	Rettelehc ca.1250
Talus ca.1450 BC	Talkard 1379	Retallacke 1567	Retallicker 1619	Botalec 1262
Telmen ca.1400 BC	Tallocke 1542	Retellacke 1575	Rhetallick 1637	Reshelec ca. 1270
Pallas ca.800 BC	Tallacke 1588	Retalake 1611	Rhitallick 1637	Retelek 1284
Atlas ca.800 BC	Tallack 1593	Rettallacke 1612	Retallick 1640	Rekadrek 1296
Tantalus ca.700 BC	Talacke 1600	Retalack 1613	Retallicke 1678	Retalec 1309
Queen Tailltiu ca.350 BC	Tallock 1628	Rhetallacke 1624	Retallick 1700	Rettelek 1311
Tallwch ca.550 AD	Talack 1636	Retallac 1624	Rettallick 1727	Restalek 1316
Taliesin ca.550 AD	Tallett 1661	Retalacke 1624	Retallick 1728	Rettalek 1318
St Dallan 598 AD	Tallak 1668	Rhetallace 1640	Retalik 1752	Rystallet 1327
Talorc 780 AD	Tallek 1674	Ratallacke 1641	Rettalick 1770	Ristaloc 1327
Thorlack ca 1000 AD	Tallecke 1674	Retallaks 1657	Rettallick 1800	Restallick 1334
St Tallan 1452 AD	Tallach 1684	Rettallack 1661	Retillick 1805	Restelek 1370
	Talluk 1690	Ritallack 1670	Retablick 1806	Reystalek 1390
	Talleuk 1692	Retallak 1674	Retellick 1827	Reystallick 1396
	Tallick 1706	Rettalack 1678	Retollick 1841	Retalek 1522
	Tellick 1714	Retallaffe 1685	Retallick 1850	Retaleke 1535
	Tallake 1728	Retallark 1701	Retattick 1857	Retallick 1543
	Talick 1787	Rettack 1705	Retullick 1860	Retallock 1565
	Tullack 1832	Rettallack 1717	Retelick 1890	Retalleck 1573
		Retallach 1718		Retallecke 1573
		Retalback 1724		Botolag 1580
		Ratalack 1726		Trevallacke 1580
		Retsallack 1750		Retellecke 1580
		Restallack 1758		Botallock 1584
		Retellack 1776		Tretallock 1584
		Ridallack 1826		Retaller 1594
		Retullack 1837		Botallack 1602
		Rotallack 1834		Retalecke 1606
		Retaback 1844		Retalock 1607
		Rettalack 1868		Rhetallecke 1635
				Tretallack 1640
				Retalleck 1641
				Retaleck 1676
				Retallyck 1710
				Retania 1711
				Retallick 1845

my great grandfather (Fig. 2). The transmission of such traits down so many generations of genetic dilution is known also from the famous Habsburg jaw of Austro-Hungarian royalty<sup>24</sup>. Retallack men have a classical Cornish physique - olive and swarthy complexion, medium height, big bones, straight noses, single eyebrow, and strong beard and body hair<sup>25</sup>. In addition, Retallacks of my paternal lineage tend to have larger than usual heads for their bodies, unusually strong jaws, and high subrectangular foreheads accentuated by receding hairlines in middle age. The similar Welsh name Tallwch and Pictish name Talorc go back well into the 6th century<sup>5</sup>, and probably also mean high forehead. In Scotland, Talorg has been translated “silver brow” or “bright brow”<sup>26</sup>. Adamnan (7<sup>th</sup> century) mentions “*Baitanus gente nepos Niath Talorc*”, or “Baitan descended of Talorc’s champion”, with Talorc possibly the name of a divinity<sup>26</sup>. Irish, Manx and Gaelic (northern or highland Scottish) are known as Goidelic Celtic languages, whereas Welsh, Breton and Cornish are Brythonic Celtic languages<sup>27</sup>. Pictish (southern or lowland Scottish) is little known, but probably allied with Welsh<sup>5</sup>. As predicted by this linguistic grouping, tal means forehead in Cornish<sup>14-17</sup>, Breton<sup>28-30</sup> and Welsh<sup>31-33</sup>, but not in Irish<sup>34-35</sup>, Gaelic<sup>36-37</sup>, or in other northwestern European languages (Table 4).

In Welsh myths of “Ystoria Trystan”<sup>38</sup> and Welsh triads<sup>39</sup>, the hero Tristan (also Trystan, Drystan, Drustan, Drustanus, Drust) is referred to as the son of Tallwch. These 6th century poems also mention King Arthur as a raider of his swine, his lord March ap Meirchiawn (later Mark), and the lady Essylt (later Issota, Isolde, and Iseult). The more familiar myth of Tristan and Isolde places the star-crossed lovers in Cornwall with King Mark at Castle Dor, near Fowey,



Figure 2. Four generations of Retallacks Kenneth John, Leslie John, Charles, and Gregory John (left to right) in Brisbane, 1963.

but these are 12th century versions of the earlier Welsh myths of Drystan and Essylt. A 6th century stone found at Castle Dor bears the inscription *Drustaus hic iacit cunomori filius* ("Drust lies here, son of Cunomorus"). Although Quonomorius or Cunomar was equated with King Mark in the Latin *Vita Sanctus Paulus Aurelianus* ("Life of St Paul Aurelianus") by the Breton monk Wronomoc in 884 AD, this Drustan is probably unrelated to the Drustan of legend who was a nephew (not son) of Mark. The Welsh myth of the 6th century is more likely a composite of stories from classical antiquity, such as those of Theseus and Hippolytus, using the name of one of the "Kings of the North" of Welsh myth. Drust son of Talorc was a Pictish king of the Strathclyde region of Scotland who died in 780 AD, too late to be a contemporary of King Arthur (ca. 550 AD), but both Drust and Talorc were common Pictish names. The names Loonois and Morrois of the classical 12th century romance of Tristan and Isolde, could thus be the Lothian and Moray regions of Scotland, respectively<sup>5</sup>.

The *tal* syllable turns up again in the famous Welsh bard Taliesin (ca. 550 AD). His name can be translated fair forehead or radiant brow<sup>40-41</sup>. Taliesin was the son of Saint Henwg of Caerlleon upon Usk, and was resident bard at the courts of King Gwyddno Garanhir of the Welsh Lowland Hundred (an archaic administrative unit of land occupied by about a hundred families), of King Uriens of Wales and of King Arthur of Caerlleon. Several long poems in the Welsh *Mabinogion* (a Celtic bardic canon) are attributed to Taliesin<sup>40</sup>. In *Vita Merlini* ("Life of Merlin") written about 1150 AD by Geoffrey of Monmouth, Telgesinus (Taliesin) is a student of

Merlin, former bard and prince of Dyfed, Wales, while Merlin is a hermit in the Celyddon Forest (Calidon or Caledonian forest around Hart Fell). Merlin (Myrddin) escaped to the forest and was driven mad by the defeat and massacre of comrades and his pagan patron, King Gwenddolau ab Ceido, by the Christian King Rhydderch Hael (Rederech, Rodericus) of Alcut (Dumbarton) at Arderydd (Arthuret Knowes) in 573 AD<sup>42</sup>. Merlin also plays a part in the birth, rise to power, and death of King Arthur in Geoffrey of Monmouth's *Historia Regium Britanniae* (History of the Kings of Britain) written in 1136 AD. Geoffrey himself dated the death of Arthur at 542 AD, and attributed supernatural longevity to Merlin for his later patronage by Gwenddolau and tutelage of Taliesin. Others maintain there were at least two distinct Merlins: Merlin Ambrosius (Myrddin Emrys) and Merlin Silvester (Myrddin Wyllt<sup>41</sup>). There were probably several men and myths conflated with Taliesin and Merlin, who represented an ancient bardic school of Celtic religion and magic. Taliesin has been mythologised as an avatar of the Celtic sun god Lug and Merlin as the stag god Cernunnos<sup>41-42</sup>. The name Taliesin was also used for the Wisconsin farm and an Arizona institute of the North American architect Frank Lloyd Wright (1869-1959)<sup>43</sup>. Robert Graves<sup>20</sup> notes the Cornish-Welsh meaning of *tal* as forehead, but also offers another meaning of "one who dares to suffer". Graves goes so far as to identify *tal* with the pre-Classical dying god, consort of an archaic Great Goddess. Similar names include the ancient Cretan hero-god Talus, Greek Tantalus, Atlas Telemon and Pallas (epithet of Athene), Syrian Telmen and Sumerian Tammuz. An widespread ritual in pre-Indoeuropean Celtic and Middle Eastern religions was sacrifice of kings and priests to the Great Goddess (Celtic Ceridwen, Roman Venus-Juno; Greek Demeter-Hera; Phrygian Cybele, Canaanite Ashtoreth, Babylonian Ishtar, Egyptian Isis, Sumerian Ninnah). Sacrifice of the priest-king was seen as a ritual essential for the continued bounty of Mother Nature<sup>44</sup>.

Other names vaguely similar to Retallack, but probably unrelated, are the church of Tallan (founded ca. 1205) and Talland Bay, both near Polperro, Cornwall. There may be a very early (1296) record<sup>45</sup> of a disgruntled Retallack at this church (Table 4). The church was at first dedicated to St Catherine, an early Christian martyr of 4th century Alexandria, but in 1452 it was dedicated to St Talland<sup>23</sup>. Catherine of Alexandria is in some ways comparable to a Great Goddess as a protectress of the dying and patroness of young girls, nurses and craftsmen<sup>46</sup>. Steadfast in her claim to be the bride of Christ and refusing marriage with Emperor Maxentius, her torture on the wheel failed as the machine collapsed, injuring bystanders. She was eventually beheaded. Her cult was widespread in the west of England, with 62 churches dedicated to her.

Considering the mythic aspects of her life and cult, there are doubts that she existed as real person<sup>47</sup>. Perhaps the similarity of her cult to worship of the pre-Christian Great Goddess led to rededication of the church to Saint Talland in 1452. Although male (Sanctus Tallandus), he is

**Table 4. Words similar to Retallack in western European languages**

Cornish	Breton	Welsh	Irish	Gaelic	Icelandic	Norse	English
tal	tal	tal, talcen	bair	bathais	enni	panne	forehead
attal	attred,mengleuz	leflydd	mianac	aite meinne	verks um merki	bergverk	mine workings
heloc, helygen	haleg	helygen	raneog	seileach	pilvidur	pil	willow
ros, tallick	lanneg	rhos	frdoc	fraoch	lynghedi	hei	heath
talhoc, talek	talareg	torgoch	talog	talag	vatnafiskur	mort	roach (fish)
sor, crothak	soroc'hal	achwyngar	talac	talach	mogli	mukking	grumbling
nedha	nedim	neddau	tal	tal	skaroxi	bile	(cooper's) adze
areth	lavar	araith	oraid	oraid	tala	tale	(public) speech
cerig	karreg	cerrig	dallan	clach	stein stolpi	steindysse	standing stone





*Figure 3. The slate spine, in my opinion most likely to be the Hore Stone ("ram stone"), along the coast trail at Hore Stone Head, from Talland Bay, looking toward St George's Island (photo courtesy of David Knockton).*

unlisted even in very comprehensive compilations of saints<sup>48-49</sup>. One unlikely possibility<sup>50</sup> is that St Talland is a corruption of St Teilo (566 AD), a Welsh saint who was an associate and fellow pilgrim to Jerusalem with St David. Most of St Teilo's ministry was in Llandeilo, Wales, but he did visit both Cornwall and Brittany in order to avoid the yellow plague<sup>51</sup>. There is a chapel and well dedicated to him at St Buryan, Cornwall, but his name there is spelled St Dillo<sup>49</sup>, which seems a more likely corruption of his name than Tallan or Talland. Another candidate is Saint Dallan Forghail (of Cluan Dallain, died 598 AD), chief poet of Ireland. His most celebrated poem concerned Colmcille's success in dissuading King Aedh Mac Ainmire from dissolving the ancient bardic order, on the grounds that they protected important ancient knowledge. St Dallan was killed by pirates who broke into the island monastery of Inniskeel, in Donegal, where he is buried<sup>52-53</sup>. A dallan also is an upright standing stone of pre-Christian Britain, like the phallic stone on Tara Hill, Ireland<sup>35,54</sup>. There is a natural rock formation of this sort near "the summit of Talland Head, or Hore Stone Head, as it is usually called, from a great vertical fang of slate that rises from the lower part of the seaward face, invisible from the summit, but a conspicuous object from the sea"<sup>55</sup>. This 2 m rock spine of Early Devonian, Meadfoot Beds<sup>56</sup> is a prominent landmark surrounded by grassy slopes (Fig. 3). The Ordnance Survey<sup>57</sup> and a guidebook<sup>58</sup> mark a different 3 m high, flat-topped, sea stack as the Hore Stone, but this is no more prominent than a dozen others like it along this shore (Fig. 4). Because of this and the dark color of the sea stack it has been suggested that the name is a corruption of "Ore Stone"<sup>58</sup>, but this is a sedimentary





Figure 4. Tallan Church and the sea stack now labelled the Hore Stone by the Ordnance Survey (sea level in distance), viewed from Polperro and Talland Bay to the west.

rock without ore<sup>56</sup>. I prefer to regard the slate spine as the Hore Stone, with its old Cornish meaning of "ram stone"<sup>55</sup>. Ancient names for Talland Bay<sup>22</sup> include Portatlant of the Domesday Book in 1026, Por Tallant 1699, and Portalla 1865. The slate spine or dallan may long have been an important landmark lending its name to this cove used by mariners. A case has also been made<sup>23</sup> that Tallan is from the Old Cornish *tal* for brow of a hill and *lan* for church or temple site, which agrees well with the location of the church protected from winds off the ocean behind Tallan Head (Fig. 4). However, invention of a saint from such a place name seems unlikely<sup>59-60</sup>. Tallan does not have the demonstrated antiquity of Talland Bay<sup>22</sup>: Tallan 1205, ca. 1250, 1264, 1284, 1291, 1296, 1302, 1342, 1347, 1533; Tallant 1440, 1699; Tallane 1440; S. Tallanus 1452; Tallande 1584. Officially St. Talland may have been thought to be St Dallan of Ireland, but similarity to the pre-existing name of Talland Bay and to pre-Christian phallic stones (dallan) may have aided local approval of the 15th century rededication and continued use of the name. Polperro and Tallan are rich in fairy mythology, including tales of "piskies" (pixies or elves), the "devil and his dandy dogs" (Bucca) and witchcraft. The Reverend Richard Dodge, vicar of Tallan (died 13 Jan 1746 at age 93) was a local authority on witchcraft and an acclaimed exorcist<sup>59-60</sup>.

**Table 4. Early record (1296) of Rekadrek (Retallack?) at Talland Church<sup>45</sup>**

Latin Original	English Translation
Et de 6s. de decena de Rekadrek' et Thoma de Wodesouese quia non venit, pro fatuo hutesio, falso clamore, quia non prosecutus, prolencia concordandi et trans. Et 6s. 8d. de Adam vicario de Tallan pro trans' contra pacem	And 6 shillings is proper from Rekadrek and Thomas of Wodesouese who did not come, for foolish shouting, false claiming, which was not cut off, for lack of agreement, and more. And 6 shillings and 8 pence from Adam the vicar of Tallan for more against the peace



Figure 5. St Michaels Mount and the causeway exposed at low tide from Marazion (hand tinted photography of 1890-1900 from Library of Congress, USA, in Wikimedia commons).

Another remote possibility is derivation of Retallack from alluvial tin mines widely called *attal*<sup>16</sup>. Retallacks or Taleks could thus be offspring (Old Cornish *ach*) of the workings. In the time of Norman rule (1066-1154), mines of Cornwall were said to be owned by Jews, who took possession of them as securities to loans by the Duke of Cornwall<sup>61</sup>. One mine was named by them *Attall Sarazin*, meaning leavings of the Saracens<sup>19,62</sup>. The name may be an allusion to Crusader's stories of fabulous booty from their Muslim (Saracen) foes. Mine names commonly embrace such flights of fancy. By Elizabethan times (1558-1603) the term was corrupted to *attal sarsen* and applied to virtually any ancient alluvial tin mines with the meaning of heathen workings<sup>63</sup>. Pre-Christian interest in Cornish tin mines was widespread throughout the Mediterranean region. They are mentioned by both the Greek Herodotus (written ca. 450 BC) and the Sicilian Diodorus Siculus (written ca. 8 BC), who referred to Cornwall as the Cassiterides, from Greek for tin isles. Diodorus refers to civilized people on a trading island of Iktis, connected to the mainland only at low tide, like the modern Cornish St Michaels Mount (Figs. 5). This may have been an outpost of Phoenician, Cretan, or Greek traders comparable to the Dutch colony of Deshima in Nagasaki Harbour, Japan (1630-1854) or the British colony of Hong Kong off mainland China (1842-1997). Perhaps such early trading contacts or Jewish bankers were the source of the often-noted swarthy and olive complexion of many Cornish, including the Retallacks, distinct from fair, florid or freckled Celtic skin<sup>25</sup>. Early Romanization of Britain (43-150 AD) did not extend west of Exeter, but there was subsequent limited

Romanization<sup>27</sup>, and also a record of trade directly with Alexandria, Egypt, in 616 AD<sup>4</sup>. After this time Mediterranean-Cornish trade was much less common than the official tin trade through Anglo-Saxon ports of Southampton and London. Cornish folklore has it that the swarthy olive complexion is from shipwrecked sailors or the sacking of Penzance by the Spanish Armada of 1588, but even in the early nineteenth century this trait was too widespread among the Cornish for that to be a convincing explanation<sup>25</sup>. Another myth has it that Jesus of Nazareth learned of Druid religion when he visited Cornwall with his tin-trading, wealthy uncle, Joseph of Arimathea<sup>64</sup>. Other myths are that the Cornish are descendents of a lost tribe of Israel, or of Noah and Japhet, or of the Trojan Brutus, grandson of Aeneas, said to have given his name to Britain. These myths are unsubstantiated by literary or archeological evidence<sup>5,27,65</sup>.

Even less similar to Retallack is the Tailltean (now Teltown) Games of Ireland, which have been thought to be named after a similarly named agricultural hero-god<sup>20</sup>, but are more likely named for Tailltiu, queen of Eochaiach Mac Erc, last king of the Firbolgs. The name Firbolgs means Men of Bag from a time of forced labor when they carried bags of soil to the uplands to make them productive. Similarly, Tailltui was said to have died of exhaustion after preparing the land for cultivation. Her festival and a games comparable to the Olympic Games were on July 31 (Lughnasad in the Celtic calendar), and were in honor of alliances of marriage and friendship. The Firbolgs were dark and small in stature, one of the legendary early indigenous peoples of Ireland, later displaced by Tuatha de Danaan (Children of Danu), who dominate Irish mythology, and then the later Celtic Milesians (Spanish people led by Milesius<sup>66</sup>). Less similar again to Retallack is the Old Norse name Thorlack or Torlacr, presumably related to the god of thunder, Thor<sup>18</sup>. In the Icelandic Saga of *Olaf Helga* ("Olaf the Holy"), Thorlack had two sons, Sigurd and Thord, and a brother Thrand. Thord was nicknamed "Thord the Low; for all that he was the highest of men"(an example of Viking humour!<sup>67</sup>). This family lived on the Faeroe Islands in the mid-Atlantic, and thwarted King Olaf by murdering Thoralf as this ally of King Olaf was returning to the king. Presumably they were trying to silence this witness to illegal trading or other activities. King Olaf (956-1030 AD) never fully avenged this murder as he was caught up in war with the Danes that eventually lead to his death in battle. For bringing Christianity to Norway as king in 1016 AD and because of miracles associated with his burial, King Olaf became Saint Olaf in 1164 AD. A.V. Retallick<sup>18</sup> makes a case that Thorlack is a predecessor to the Norwegian name Tallak. There are several place names including Tallak in Norway: Tallaksrud (Tallak's farm) in Akerhus, Tallakshavn (Tallak's harbor) in Jarlsberg and Tallaksbru (Tallak's bridge) in Telemark. I think it unlikely that such a familiar and important god as Thor or Tor could be corrupted to Tal. *Tala* in Icelandic<sup>68-70</sup> and *tale* in Norwegian<sup>71-72</sup> mean a speech, poetry reading or other public discourse (Table 4). Thus it is more likely that the Norwegian name Tallak reflects a bardic ancestry, than alliance to Thor, and is independent of Cornish Taleks or Tallacks. Norse ancestry is also unlikely because Australian Retallacks were neither tall, nor fair, nor blond.

### **Retallack and similar place names**

The surname Retallack could have been derived from Cornish place names<sup>17,73-74</sup>, but for reasons outlined below, I think it is more likely that these places were named for Retallacks, Tallocks or Taleks. There are or were a Retallack near Saint Columb Major, Constantine and St Hilary, a Retillick near Roche, a Botallack near St Just, and a Castallack near Penzance, all in Cornwall (Fig. 1). My observations on all of these localities are from a trip in April 1999.





*Figure 6. View down the broad marshy valley from the headwaters of a tiny stream above Retallack, near St Columb Major from Bryn Cottage. The valley bottom has been converted to fishing ponds, and the buildings on the distant slope to the right are Montana Pines and Retallack House.*

Retallack (N50.456421° W4.913737°; SW 934658 on Ordnance Survey<sup>75-78</sup> near Saint Columb Major is now commercialized as a 100 acre "Spirit of the West" American theme park and Retallack Coarse Waters Fishery currently run by Mr M.S. Warriner (Fig. 6). The old 17th century farmhouse<sup>19</sup> was probably on the same site as Warriner's house "Montana Pines" built in 1990. Retallack Cottage, now owned by Peter Baisley, 100 m to the northwest is an impressive stone house with a metal label on the door "J. Hicks 1812 Retallick", indicating its builder, age and an alternative spelling of the locality probably current at the time the buildings at Outer Retallick were constructed. Outer Retallick (SW927654 on Ordnance Survey 1997a) is 1 km to the northwest past the highway roundabout that used to be the village of Winnard's Perch. Retallack has been translated as ford at the base of a short steep slope from Old Cornish *rit*, *ret* or *res* (ford) and *talek* (high forehead or hill<sup>73</sup>), as ford of willows (*heloc*<sup>17</sup>) or as ford of Talek (surname<sup>74</sup>). These ford explanations are not appropriate to this locality now. It has a tiny stream only 1 m wide in an broad, open, headwater valley. The coarse fishery of introduced roach, rudd, tench, carp, bream, perch and pike is within a series of artificial lakes created by damming in the



*Figure 7. Menalhyll River and St Columb Major from the St Eval road.*

1980's. Before these modifications the small stream within extensive boggy willow carr would have been an unsuitable ford or overland route, compared with 1 km to the southwest lower in the valley or 2 km to the north along the ancient ridge-line route to Wadebridge that passes Retallack Barrow (an ancient tumulus grave) and The Nine Maidens (an ancient row of standing stones). The Nine Maidens have been interpreted as sepulchral stones and as megalithic monuments, and according to later Christian myth, were created from young women who danced on Sunday<sup>79</sup>. Drawing from these ancient monuments, one local history<sup>79</sup> offers a translation of Retallack as "too much buckler or target", implying that this was the site of an ancient battle. This flight of fancy is unsupported by either archeological or historical records. Ancient records of the name from Assize and Pipe Rolls<sup>22</sup> include Rettelehc ca. 1250, Reshelec ca. 1270, Restalek 1327, 1443, and Restallek 1334. On the map by John Norden<sup>19,80</sup>, this farmstead in the Pyder Hundred is labelled Tretallock, and the occupant "Jno Tretallock". Tretallock also is shown in ancient maps<sup>81</sup> of 1607, 1611, 1645, 1646 and 1722. In Old Cornish the prefix *tre* means village or farmstead. Curiously there is no Tretallock or Tallock in St Columb Major parish records at this time<sup>2</sup>. Presumably Norden<sup>19</sup>, who was copied by many subsequent mapmakers, misunderstood a local reference to the farm of John Retallock, who is in the St Columb Major parish records<sup>2</sup>, burying his wife Jane in 1607. The name Retallack was long





Figure 8. View west of Tregoss Moor, with ancient conical clay tailings to the left and Roche church and village to the right, from the ancient hermitage of Roche rock. Retillick Farm is on the southern (left) margin of Tregoss Moor behind the hillock and power pylons.

associated with the church at St Columb Major (Fig. 7), where it is recorded as far back<sup>2</sup> as 1546, with Retalick recorded back to 1662 and Tallack back to 1731. This locality was labelled Retallick on a 1784 map<sup>82</sup> and Retalak on a 1813 map<sup>83</sup>. The commercial map-maker John Bartholomew<sup>84-86</sup> labelled this place Retallick in 1931, 1934, and 1959, but in 1974, 1992, 1997 the Ordnance Survey<sup>75-78</sup> spell it Retallack. The most ancient spelling Rettelehc is more like the surname than a descriptive name based on willow ford (*res heloc*) or ford by the hill (*res talek*), though these puns or malapropisms are clear in some ancient spellings.

Retillick Farm is on the southeast margin of Tregoss Moor, 2 km southeast of Roche (N50.403391° W4.859542°; SW 974593 on Ordnance Survey<sup>77</sup>). An ancient farmhouse is now in ruins, but there is an old mill house and another farmhouse on the site. Improved pastures of the farm extend into Tregoss Moor, which is now a Site of Special Scientific Interest as little-disturbed moorland vegetation (Fig. 8). Retillick Cottage is a separate building on the road to St Dennis on the southern margin of a farm plan dating from early this century, in which the core farm houses are labelled "Retillick (Retallick)". Explanations offered for this name are ford with willows from the Cornish *ret* (ford) and *heloc* (willows<sup>17</sup>), or ford near a high hill (Cornish *talek*<sup>25</sup>), or ford near the heath (Cornish *tallick*<sup>15</sup>). These meanings make no more sense than for Retallack to the north near St Columb Major, where boggy willow carr would have required very similar farming techniques. The upper reaches of the River Fal here are only 1 m wide and coffee-coloured in extensive willow carr. Overland routes to Roche would have kept to the ridgeline south and westwards through Whitemoor. The largest hills here now are the huge waste piles of English China Clay Pty Ltd, of St Austell, which currently owns Retillick Farm. There is a problem with the word *tallick*, given only by an authority<sup>15</sup> considered unreliable<sup>16</sup>. *Ros* is Cornish for heath in other dictionaries<sup>14,16</sup>. Ancient records of this locality<sup>22</sup> include Retelek





Figure 9. Retallack Farm north of Constantine.

1284, 1304; Rettelek 1311; Restallek 1334 and Restelek 1370. Roche church records<sup>2</sup> indicate Retallicks in the area since 1743 and Retallacks since 1772, but this is not far from St Columb Major where Retallacks go back at least to 1546. The farm complex is labelled "Retillich" and Roche as Roach (which is more like the way it is pronounced) on maps of the first Ordnance Survey<sup>83</sup> of 1813, but in 1997 they label it Retillick<sup>77</sup>. Again, the most ancient (1284) version of the name is Retelek, like the surname with the sleek spelling of an illiterate oral informant, but spellings of the place involving puns with *res heloc* or *res talek* also are found early.

Retallack Farm, 1 km north of Constantine (Fig. 9; N50.130125° W5.172489°; SW 733304 on Ordnance Survey<sup>87-88</sup>), is just uphill from a 16th century tin stamping mill that has been studied in detail by industrial archaeologists<sup>89-91</sup>. The old farmhouse of massive granite blocks includes both rounded arches of Norman design (1066-1189) and pointed arches of early Gothic design (1189-1307). A case has been made that Retallack Farm is named "roach ford" from the Old Cornish terms for ford *res* and for the roach fish *talhoc*<sup>23</sup>, or perhaps ford near the tower, from *tallack* meaning tower or garret<sup>14,25</sup>, or a very high place with pits, from very *re* and high place *tallic* or many pits *tollic*<sup>15</sup> or ford near a high slope, from ford *res* and high slope *talek*<sup>21</sup>. The roach (*Rutilus rutilus*: Cypriniformes) can reach almost 2 kg (3-4 lbs) and is a fish of slow, muddy, fresh water, occasionally found in brackish water<sup>92</sup>, and inappropriate for the whitewater stream near Constantine. The closest ancient tower would be Pendennis Castle at Falmouth about 10 km northeast, so this derivation is also unlikely. Polwheveral Stream is crossed by the ancient trail from Merthen Hole up past Retallack Farm to Rame via the steep hill of Maen Rock<sup>21</sup>, but the stream is only 1 m wide and covered in places by blocks from the steep western hill, now largely quarried by Bosahan Quarry of Trevone Quarries Pty Ltd of Falmouth.



*Figure 10. The engine-pump-house of Retallack Mine (left foreground) and view down the River Hayle near St Hilary. Retallack Mill is in the tributary valley to the southwest (left) behind the mine.*

The stream is no wider and the slopes are less steep at the present bridge for the Tremorna-Brill-Gweek road near here. These were probably never fords in the sense of real water obstacles. The crossing of the stream near the ancient tin stamping mill includes an ancient bridge 2 m wide of enormous (1 m) and deeply weathered granite blocks. The extensive tin milling and blowing house at the site also makes it plausible that there were many pits for alluvial tin workings around here in the past. But these plausible meanings of the word Retallack are given only by and authority<sup>15</sup> who has proven an unreliable<sup>16</sup>. The following spellings of the name can be found in old documents<sup>21</sup>: Retalec (1309), Restalek (1316), Reystallek (1396) and Rettallack (1661). His parish history reveals that the farm has not owned by Retallacks or Taleks since the 16th century. In 1506 the farm's occupant was Nicholas Pentacost, a tenant of the Manor of Merthen. About 1623 it passed to Christopher Walker and to Thom's and Randall. In 1649 the estate was held by Christopher Walker (1/2), Richard Gerreys (1/4) and John Thom's (1/4). It was later purchased in entirety by the Trefusis family and added to the Manor of Treworval. By 1842 Lord Clinton was the owner. The spelling appears to have been corrected to a more standard spelling of the surname Retallack by the 17th century. The oldest records of Retallack in Constantine church<sup>2</sup> go back to 1705, Retallick to 1718 and Tallack to 1743. Once again the oldest spelling (Retalec of 1309) has a sleek phonetic spelling that may indicate oral informants, and is more like the 14th century surname Talek than variants incorporating Old Cornish *res* (Restalek, Reystallek) that appeared later in the 14th century.

Retallack Mine (N50.133384° W5.398755°; WS573314 on Ordnance Survey<sup>87-88</sup> and Retallack Mill 1 km to the south, are 2 km east of St Hilary along rough farm roads 1 km north of Trescove (Fig. 10). There is little left of the mill but for a large millstone and rock discs and pillars like those used to keep vermin out of elevated grainstores. These latter are deeply weathered, like gravestones dating back to the 17th century. Many other old stones have been incorporated into a house and outbuildings built by William Knott in 1971. The large stone

engine house and chimney to the underground mine are 1 km to the north near where the mill stream enters the River Hayle. The underground mine was worked from 1830-1858, briefly reworked in 1912, and with neighboring mines Croft and Halmanning yielded 23,429 tons of copper<sup>93</sup>. In view of the suggested etymology of the other Retallack locations outlined above, there is no heath, no high hill and only whitewater streams unsuitable for roach. Willow is present, but not so abundant as near St Columb Major and Roche. The mill stream is only 1 m wide, but the River Hayle is 3 m wide and would have been an important obstacle to north-south routes, though now obscured by dams which have created a series of coarse fishing ponds administered by Polwhellan Farm. An ancient path northward to the River Hayle at this point is shown on the 1602 map of Kirrier Hundred by Norden<sup>19</sup>, but no crossing, mill or dwelling is indicated. This likely ancient ford is 1 km north of Retallack Mill. Here an ancient "ford of Talek" is indicated by the most ancient known spelling of this locality<sup>22</sup>: Restalek 1311, Rystallet 1327, Ristaloc 1327. The name Retallick is in St Hilary church records<sup>2</sup> only as far back as 1824, Taleks however preceded them in western Cornwall by several centuries, as at Botallack (Fig. 1).

Botallack village (N50.13638° W5.136938°; SW368328 of Ordnance Survey<sup>75</sup>), Botallack Head (N59.140333° W5.692692°; SW363338) and Botallack mine (N50.140823° W690177°; SW365334) near St Just can be translated as Talek's dwelling (Old Cornish *bos Talek*<sup>17</sup>). An alternative etymology would be "dwelling near the cliffs or deep browed place" (Old Cornish *bos talek*), but most other Cornish place names prefixed with *bod* or *bos* are formed from surnames<sup>17</sup>. Parts of Botallack mine (Fig. 11), particularly the old Counthouse, are now reconstructed by the National Trust. This whole area around Botallack Head includes numerous engine houses, chimneys and arsenic labyrinths and is being considered as a World Heritage Site. A variety of independent shaft mines, beginning in 1721 were consolidated into the Botallack mine by the end of the 18th century. A combination of flooding and low copper and tin prices forced closing of the mine in 1895. It was reopened in 1907 but by 1914 had stopped production<sup>7,62,94</sup>. Botallack village is a Victorian mining settlement, but at its core is a farm with 17th century buildings<sup>95</sup>. A cluster of farmhouses are labelled at Botallack in Norden's map of 1602 for Carew<sup>19</sup>.

There is also a Castallack village, south of Penzance (N50.072740° W5.562809°; SW453253 on Ordnance Survey<sup>78</sup>). Castallack Carn is on a commanding ridgetop 1 km northeast of the village<sup>96</sup>. The Carn is a megalithic monument including a massive reclining stone 3 m thick, 5 m long and tapering from 3 to 2 m wide (Fig. 12). There are other large stones around it, formerly in circular arrangement, and from 1867 to 1907 there was also a small cave, called Vow Cave. The former "Castallack Round" is now disrupted by incorporation of stones in farm walls and the cave is now buried. Such monuments like Stonehenge are generally dated to 2000-1500 BC. A megalithic tunnel (fogou) of the type found in the Iron Age or early Roman period (600 BC to 50 AD), also was excavated from the yards of Castallack Farm 200 m to the southwest. Such tunnels have been regarded as food storages, or human refuges, but a case has also been made that they were sacred to a Great Goddess and aligned to receive the light of the midsummer sun<sup>97</sup>. The name Castallack may be compounded from Middle Cornish *castelek* for "little castle" or *castelack* for "castle place"<sup>15-17,23</sup>. Ancient spellings of this locality<sup>22</sup> include Castallak 1284, Castelak 1284, Castalack 1356, Castallaf 1460, Castellek ca. 1540, Chastalaffe 1541 and Castallaffe 1541. The earliest Penzance church records<sup>2</sup> of Retallack is in 1812, Retallick in 1812 and Tallack in 1824. It seems unlikely that Castallack has any relation to Retallack or similar surnames.





*Figure 11. Botallack Mine and Botallack Head, looking south over Cape Cornwall (photo courtesy of Derek Hawkins)*

### **Religious and political life of Cornish Retallacks**

Retallacks had little political influence. Ralph Retallack of St Columb Major was one of the leading conspirators in the Cornish rebellion of 1497 against the heavy taxation of Henry VII to finance war against the Scots pretender Perkin Warbeck. The rebels numbering about 15,000 were defeated by 25,000 royal troops at Blackheath near London, with 2,000 slain on the rebel side and 300 of the troops<sup>3,27</sup>.

Retallacks were however devout Christians. Marke Retallacke was a church warden at St Columb Major in 1589, a job also held by Nicholas Retallock in 1641. Thomas Retallock in 1727 and Robert Retallock in 1732 were Overseers of the Poor, presumably also a church office, at St Columb Major<sup>2</sup>. In 1606 the Retallack family forfeited their property at St Columb Major to King James I for illegally clinging to the Catholicism (probably primitive Celtic Catholic), following the lead of the local lord of the manor John Arundell, who also was fined heavily but not evicted<sup>3</sup>. Some Retallack's embraced the fundamentalism of the Bible Christian Church (Table 1), and thus had births listed in the Nonconformist Register<sup>9</sup>. The Bible Christian Church later evolved to become the Baptist Church, and was based on the firm belief that the King James version of the Bible is the word of God, to be taken absolutely literally in every sense<sup>98</sup>.



Figure 12. Overgrown megalith at the summit of Castallack Carn, near Castallack village.

A more liberal form of Christianity was Wesleyan Methodism, which became very popular in Cornwall after the visit of John Wesley to St Ives in 1743, because it appealed to the working class in its abhorrence of idleness and sloth, and elevation of all forms of purposeful activity, especially self improvement<sup>99</sup>. Two Camborne Methodists, George Smith (1800-1868) and Charles Thomas (1798-1868) were self-made men of letters, publishing to urge preservation of Cornish antiquities and language. Methodism became intertwined with Cornish nationalism, and also offered implicit condemnation of both the gentry and the indigent. At the same time it subdued with puritanism the wild ways of many Cornish tin miners<sup>61</sup>.

Ernest George Retallack Hooper (Fig. 13) from St Agnes was Grand Bard (Barth Mur) of the Cornish Gorsedd from 1959-1965 using the bardic name Talek. A prolific writer and journal editor, he was a leading revivalist of the ancient Cornish language and culture<sup>27</sup>. He translated two bible gospels into Cornish and taught the Cornish language at the Mount Pleasant House School. By 1820, Helston was one of the few remaining towns in Cornwall with a pre-Christian festival on May 8, which is near Beltane in the Celtic Calendar<sup>100</sup>. It is locally known as The Furry, derived from the old Cornish word *fer* (fair) and Latin *feria* (feast day). The Furry is not, as sometimes supposed, derived from the Ancient Roman goddess Flora<sup>25</sup>, but the alternative term Flora Day has nevertheless proved irresistible<sup>62</sup>. Another term for it is Faddy Day, perhaps from an ancient English dance called "The Fading"<sup>101</sup>. The fair begins early as revelers with drums and kettles try to disrupt the regular work day of the town. Young people then gather in the town squares to beg coins and tokens, before fading into the countryside. They return garlanded with flowers and oak boughs for an afternoon of celebration and dancing. At the end of the day a select group of ladies





*Figure 13. Ernest George Retallack Hooper Grand Bard (1959-1964) of the Gorseth of Cornwall in civilian (left) and official dress (right). (From Gorseth Kernow 2003 website [www.gorsethkernow.org.uk](http://www.gorsethkernow.org.uk) accessed July 11, 2013)*

and gentlemen parade through the town in floral costume for an evening bal<sup>100</sup>. In the early twentieth century The Furry attracted local carnivals with sideshows<sup>102</sup>. It still draws thousands of tourists<sup>103</sup>, but it is now a relatively sedate and genteel series of parades and dances<sup>101</sup>.

### **Occupations of Cornish Retallacks**

The oldest recorded occupations of Retallacks are as tin miners<sup>2</sup> in the Tinnerns Muster Roll of 1535, which records a Robert Retalek in St Columb Major and a Robert Retaleke in St Hilary, a Richard Retalek in St Hilary and another of the same name in Constantine. The distribution of Retallacks seldom deviates far from Cornish mines (Fig. 1), so that Retallacks are sparse near Launceston and northeastern Cornwall. The likely precursor name Tallack was already scattered throughout southern Cornwall before 1600, and also filled in the intervening mining districts by 1825 (Fig. 1).

Men with similar names are recorded as mine owners. In a Stannary Court at Truro in 1349 Peter Beavyle left employment of the Tywarnhaile tin mines of Richard Talek, because he was beaten<sup>4</sup>. The Tywarnhaile Stannary of alluvial mines covered a large triangular area outlined by St Agnes, Truro and Redruth<sup>102</sup>. Another court record of 1379 tells of a gang driving off the mine laborers of William Talkard<sup>4</sup>. In those days the mines were largely alluvial surface workings.

The Botallack Mine near St Just and Cape Cornwall (Fig. 11) is one of the deepest underground mines in Cornwall, extending out under the sea to 1200 feet below high water<sup>61,62</sup>.



It was begun as an underground tin mine in 1721, during the mining boom of the 1720's. This was stimulated largely by increased demand for copper, which remained strong until the mining recession of the 1790's due to flooding of the market with ore from Anglesey. Mining in Cornwall was rescued after 1790 by contract with the East India Company to export tin to China<sup>7</sup>. The pewter table service made from Botallack tin and used for dinner after mine meetings was so clean and burnished that it was frequently mistaken for silver<sup>60</sup>. By 1815 the Botallack mine was producing mainly copper, with less tin and iron<sup>61</sup>. The great tin boom of 1870-1872 saw expanded activity, and was stimulated by disruption of tin supplies from Malaysia beginning in 1867 because of civil war arising from competition between two Chinese secret societies (Hai San and Ghee Hin) for control of mine laborers. Botallack like most other Cornish mines then declined in production as Australian tin entered the world market in 1873, followed by Malaysian tin again available in 1883, Bolivian copper in 1896 and Nigerian copper in 1905. By 1914, Botallack mine was uneconomical, and was maintained for instructional purposes by the Penzance School of Mines<sup>7,94</sup>. Mining has always been a boom and bust industry.

By comparison, underground workings at the Retallack Mine near St Hilary (Fig. 10) were short lived<sup>93</sup>. It was active from 1830 to 1858, and briefly reopened in 1912. It was opened at a time when Britain was competing with Holland, with its East Indian holdings, for control of the global tin trade. Despite political accommodations, such as abolition of the archaic system of coinage in 1938, Retallack Mine foundered in the economic depression and famine of the late 1850's<sup>7</sup>.

Tin miners had their own subculture. Because of the high value of tin for pewter tableware and church paraphernalia and for bronze jewelry and cannons, tin miners operated independently and in a quasi-capitalist system by royal charter since King John (1201) and Edward I (1305). Tanners were thus exempt from military service and from market tolls. They also had broad rights of prospecting and the use of streams and fuel. They also had their own parliaments and courts. They were taxed a corner chiseled off each ingot, assayed and weighed by officers of the Duchy of Cornwall<sup>7</sup>. This was done in designated coinage towns (from French *coin* for corner): originally Bodmin, Lostwithiel, Liskeard, Truro and Helston, and then with loss of mining near the first two, including Penzance. There were never any tinner's organizations that restricted membership and production like other medieval guilds. Any adventurer could stake a claim and become his own master. According to Cornish proverbs "a tinner has nothing to loose" and he is "never broke till his neck's broke"<sup>63</sup>. Tin miners were notorious for smuggling and for scavenging shipwrecks for useful goods. Tanners were rowdy, individualistic and entrepreneurial. Tanners traditionally disdained the drudgery and low wages of agricultural work and all forms of authority<sup>63,105</sup>.

Some Retallacks were church wardens (1589, 1641), and Overseers to the Poor (1727, 1732) in St Columb Major, where Retallacks were land holders<sup>2,3</sup> until 1606. The Retallacks were probably never large land-holders. They are not listed in Burke's peerage<sup>106</sup> or other lists of Cornish nobles<sup>100</sup>. Tretallock near St Columb Major on the 1602 Norden map<sup>19</sup> features the prefix *tre* which is Cornish for farm and common in landholder's names such as Trevithick and Trelawney<sup>17</sup>. This is probably the farm of John Retallack listed in St Columb Major parish records of the time<sup>2</sup>. Other records of farming Retallacks include the family of my ancestor John on Black Moor tenancy near Ladock (Tables 1-2).

Some Cornish Retallacks may have been merchants, although the oldest record of a shopkeeper is Lionel Tallick at Minard Cross in 1839. St Columb Major is a market town<sup>107</sup>

which was given the privilege of a Thursday market by Edward III in 1333. Helston also was granted the privilege of a Saturday market<sup>102</sup> by Edward III (1327-1377). Retallacks diversified into a variety of trades with the declining fortunes of farming and mining in the late 19th century: mason, boiler-maker, shipwright and police constable for the men and for the women, domestic servant, cook, druggist, dressmaker, charwoman, governess, school mistress and district nurse<sup>2</sup>. Few Retallacks appear to have been in especially prestigious or prosperous occupations, and the lure of emigration must have been strong.

One exception was Richard Retallick of Liskeard, a watchmaker and ironmonger, who prospered with early 19th century canal building. He was on the original committee of management of the Liskeard-Looe Canal, subscribed and authorised by an act of Parliament in 1825 and opened in 1828. The canal had 24 locks in 6 miles, each lock rising 6 feet. The engineer was J. Green of Exeter, but the work was completed by R. Coad. Richard Retallick was Clerk of the Canal until the 1850's, administering freight charges and upkeep<sup>108</sup>. In 1829, Richard Retallick issued a prospectus for another canal from Saint Columb Bridge to Mawgan Porth, and other works to make Mawgan Porth a secure summer harbour. This project however, did not come to fruition<sup>107</sup>.

Another Richard Retallick had a distinguished career in the British navy: lieutenant in 1779, commander by 1794, and captain by 1799. He commanded the "Defiance" in the fleet of Lord Nelson at the victorious Battle of Copenhagen (1801). A Captain Class naval frigate was launched October 9 1943 as HMS Retallick in his honor<sup>2</sup>.

### **Retallacks in literature**

A more colorful portrayal of Cornish Retallacks is in Victorian romance novels, precursors of the more famous Cornish romances by Daphne DuMaurier's *Rebecca* (1938)<sup>108</sup>, which became a major motion picture winning an academy award in 1940<sup>109</sup>, and Winston Graham's *Ross Poldark* (1945) series<sup>110</sup>, adapted for television<sup>111</sup> in 1975, 1996 and 2015. An early example of the genre featuring Dinah Retallack as a Cornish witch is Elizabeth Oliphant's *The mystery of Trevarrock*<sup>112</sup>, which was not published as her other books, but appeared as a serial in Australian, British and American newspapers<sup>113</sup>, starting in 1892. Other examples are the young heroine and her brother, Julitta and John Retallack, in Eden Philpotts' *The Lord of the Manor* (1919)<sup>114</sup>, and the young heroine Grace Retallick in Joseph Hocking's *Ismael Pengelly, an outcast* (1920)<sup>115</sup>. These novels also were serialized in Australian newspapers<sup>113</sup>, where there was a large Cornish readership. The Retallacks of fiction fit the mold of vigorous, impulsive free spirits, unscrupulous when necessary, communicating with the spirit world, and both dismissive and resentful of effete landed gentry and other forms of authority.

### **Emigration to Australia and North America**

My ancestor John Retallack was an independent settler drawn to the goldfields in Bendigo, Victoria, Australia in 1851. His future wife's brothers William and Thomas Rashleigh were in Bendigo at the same time<sup>116</sup>, and perhaps they met there. He married Caroline Rashleigh in 1853 at Mitcham, South Australia. John was a carrier with his mother-in-law Phyllis Kinsman Mitcham (1856), then later at Angaston (1863) and Gawler (1869). His son Charles was a carpenter and carriage builder, and in 1894, drove his cattle and household overland to resettle in Mitchell, Queensland. A charming account of what may have been a droving route pioneered by his father was written for the newspaper by Charles at the urging of James William Retallack and Blanche Cummings (third daughter of William Retallack) ca. 1920 (Table 5), but not published.

## Table 5. Charles Retallack's account of his pioneering overland haul of 1894

To the editor

Dear sir,

I the undersigned would be pleased to hear from anyone who has had a similar experience since 1894 travelling across country with Bullock teams from Orroroo South Australia to Mitchell in Queensland loaded with farm implements about 1200 mls. Crossing S A Border at Cockburn border of N.S.W. Broken Hill, Wilcannia, Paroo, Warrogo & Cuttaburra Rivers. Crossed Barrongun border into Queensland through stations across to Fernlee, via Bolland & up the Maranoa River to Mitchell. Landed to see an eight years drought. During that time I saw the greatest cyclone ever witnessed in Mitchell wrecking the whole town. An accident worth recording on the Journey on Fernlee Station was our saddle Horses including young ones, rushed out of the dam excepting one with bell on which never came out. I rushed down to see what was wrong & all I could see was one leg above the water & then disappeared. I called the brother down but no horse appeared. We went back to the waggons and had dinner & then went back to pull him away, but he had never come to the top, so there was nothing for us to do, but to leave him where he was and go on our way. He came to the top later as a carrier was sent to pull him out in the scrub. The previous Diary of the above has been lost.

C. Retallack

Charles' son, Leslie John was a newspaper printer. Leslie John Retallack was father to my father, Kenneth John, who founded his own printing-engraving company in Sydney (Standard Engraving Pty Ltd). My brother Michael is a chemical engineer, yachtsman<sup>117</sup> and now a grazier on "Millamolong" near Mandurama, New South Wales. My brother Christopher, deceased 2015, was an artist. I am a university professor of geology<sup>118-121</sup>. My own emigration to the U.S.A. was not stimulated by wide political movements. I came after writing my PhD thesis in 1977 on a quest for postdoctoral experience and adventure, not to settle. When the time came to find a job, nothing was available in Australia and I was offered a position in Eugene, Oregon. Our small branch of the New World Retallacks has been here since 1981, and is independent of the many Cornish Retallacks that emigrated to North America in the 19th century<sup>122</sup>. Other Retallacks of the Cornish diaspora had varied experiences ranging from triumph to despair, judging from a selection of newspaper articles featuring Retallacks<sup>123-129</sup>.

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123. 1859 Bendigo Advertiser volume 6 issue 1377 p.3 Saturday 22 October DISTRICT POLICE COURT. Friday, 21st October, 1859. (Before Mr. L. M'Lachlan, P.M., and Dr. Barnett, J.P) CIVIL CASES. **Retallack** v. Bailey £20, compensation for an assault by the wife of the defendant on the wife of the plaintiff.
- This was, it appeared, a ladies' difference of considerable intricacy. Mr. O'Loughlin supported the summons, and Mr. Lysaght defended.
- The circumstances of the case were of the usual character, and may be summarised. Defendant's wife keeps a refreshment tent in Epsom and the plaintiff was in the habit of frequenting the said tent, drinking and playing cards. Mrs. Retallack went, it would seem, to "fetch him home," and an altercation ensued between the ladies which ripened into a personal engagement, and led to the somewhat rough extraction of as much hair from either party's heads as would "stuff a pillow," and a general tearing of gowns, caps, &c.
- The evidence of several other witnesses pro and con showed that the ladies tow-rowed one another with extraordinary ferocity, and used language quite unfit for publication, and generally fought like the celebrated "Kilkenny cats," and (but for their having been separated) very probably with the same result, viz., that there would have been only "a bit of fluff left of there by the morning."
- The Bench, after a careful summing up of the facts, dismissed the case, considering that each party had shown a spirit of pugnacity, and were both to blame in thus unsexing themselves, and recommended the ladies to avoid such exhibitions in future.
124. Wednesday 31 July 1861 Bendigo Advertiser volume 8 issue 1930 p.3 DISTRICT POLICE COURT. Tuesday, 30th July, 1861. (Before Mr. M'Lachlan, P.M.) VIOLENT ASSAULT.

Thomas Mitchell and **Henry Retallack** were brought up on remand, on the charge of assaulting Frederick Drickman, at Ironbark on the night of the 14th of July. The case had been remanded from the previous Thursday, in consequence of the weak condition of the prosecutor, who now appeared in Court with a plastered forehead and the remains of bruises on his face.

Mr. Brewer defended the prisoner Mitchell, and Mr. Helm appeared for Retallack.

Frederick Drickman deposed that on the afternoon of the 14th July, he went in from Huntly to Mrs. Danker's, at Ironbark, for the purpose of getting some clothes which he had left there a month previously to be washed. He had been formerly living at Ironbark, where he still had a tent with stretcher in it, but no blankets. As it was raining heavily, he asked to be allowed to sleep there, and Mrs. Danker's servant-Eliza Brown relinquished her bed in the kitchen for him. The two women slept together in another room.

After they had all retired to rest, he heard a noise outside of men demanding admittance, and calling for something to drink. He heard Mrs. Danker refuse to open the door, when they broke it in, and began assaulting Mrs. Danker, who called out to him for assistance. He got up and went towards them, when a man they called Bill, knocked him down under the table.

Mrs. Danker called out "Murder!," and Mitchell said, "If you're not quiet, I'll cut your b..y throat." Mitchell had a clasp knife in his hand, but it was not open. On rising, he was assaulted by the other. Mitchell told him to go and dress himself and if he did not go, he'd make him.

Witness went to the back room and dressed himself, and went out, leaving the two prisoners and the man Bill not present in the place. He came away without his coat, and came into Bendigo to look for the police, but did not give information. [The witness subsequently professed to be ignorant where the Police Camp was, although he had been three years in the district.]

He was more than two hours absent, and on his return, between one and two o'clock in the morning, when within twenty yards of the tent, he heard a woman screaming out "Murder!," and on approaching nearer saw Bill throwing Mrs. Danker down on a heap of firewood near the door. "Witness picked up a beef bone and flung it at Bill, but it did not hit him. The man then left Mrs. Danker and threw a stone at witness, which hit him. They had a struggle, and Bill called out to the other two men to help him. The two prisoners came, and all three assaulted him.

He was knocked down, and kicked till he was insensible. When he recovered his senses, about five minutes after, he got up; and he then saw the two prisoners and the man "Bill" fighting among themselves.

He left them and went to the tent of a Mr. Groie, which was 300 or 400 yards off, where he was let in, and a light having been procured, he washed himself. He was all over cuts and bruises, and covered with blood. He then went into Bendigo, and saw Dr. Boyd, who dressed his wounds and gave him some leeches to apply to his head.

On his return he went to Mrs. Danker's tent, that was about seven or eight a.m. The door was broken, and he only saw Mrs. Danker. He asked for his coat, but did not get it; he could not find it in the bedroom. He put the leeches on afterwards at his own tent. He did not see the prisoners again that day. On Tuesday he gave information to the police.

To Mr. Brewer's cross-examination the prosecutor said that he merely went to Mrs. Danker's for the clothes he had left to be washed four weeks previously. He had not been there in the interim. He was then living at Huntly, where he had removed from the Victoria Reef about four and a-half months since. He went into Bendigo on Saturday, and returned to Huntly. On Sunday (14th instant) he went from Huntly to Ironbark. He did not see or taste any liquor while there. Had known Mrs. Danker about a couple of years; did not know if she was married or not. He had no interest or share in her tent. Did not see Eliza Brown after his return from the doctor. Did not recollect ever seeing the prisoners before. He thought the wound on his head was caused by the boots they wore. It was not very dark. Witness was sober, and believed prisoner to be sober also.

To Mr. Helm: He came into Bendigo to buy a pair of boots. The first time he went to Mrs. Danker's for his washing he staid an hour. He was doing nothing.

Albina Danker, a German lady who spoke pretty good English, was sworn, and detailed the circumstances of the assault. She lived with Eliza Brown, who was her servant, and whom she paid 10s a week. The prosecutor was known to her, and had formerly boarded with her. She did not know where her husband was. Prosecutor came to her tent about three p.m., on Sunday, and brought his clothes to wash. It was raining heavily. She asked him to stop and take tea, which he did. They took tea about six o'clock. They had nothing afterwards but conversation.

Bench: What they call in English a yarn, I suppose; something about "Vaterland." (Merriment.)

Examination continued: She had given him no clothes. It was half-past nine o'clock when they went to bed; the prosecutor slept alone.

Bench: What was going on? Witness: Oh! nothing whatever; what should go on? (Laughter.)

To Mr. Brewer's question witness was about detailing what Eliza Brown had said.

Mr. Brewer : Oh, never mind what Eliza Brown said, we don't want to hear it.

Witness, very smartly: Oh, but you'll have to hear it. (Laughter.) The witness's fencing with the questions of counsel caused great amusement in court. She contradicted prosecutor on several points. After he had gone away on the first occasion, the prisoner and the other man, "Bill," remained in the tent pulling her and Eliza about, and at length "Bill" got hold of her on the heap of wood outside, and threatened to kill her. She told him to do so, but not to touch her. It was pitch dark, but by the light from the tent she saw Drickman coming down the hill. He was about three yards off, when he picked up a bone and flung at "Bill," who then left her and attacked prosecutor. The other two came, and all three fell on him, and got him down and kicked him. Retallack then left off and said, "Will you kill him at once. I think he has had enough, another kick, and he'll be killed." The others kept on kicking him, and Retallack said he would go home, upon which the others attacked Retallack.

She and Eliza Brown tried to get the prosecutor up, but at first without success. They went and put on some clothes and returned again, when they got him up and brought him into the tent. He looked awful; his head and face were swelled and bleeding profusely. They gave him a glass of water, and Eliza wiped his face with several towels. He then left to go to Dr. Boyd's.

In cross-examination by Mr. Brewer, the witness manifested great reluctance to answer certain questions, as to her knowledge of prosecutor's movements, saying "that's nothing to do with it." She would not swear that prosecutor had or had not slept in her tent on the Saturday night. At length, on a sharp threat from the Bench to commit her if she persisted in her refusal to answer the learned counsel, she admitted that prosecutor had slept there on the Saturday night. He left at eleven, a.m., and returned to his dinner. [Prosecutor had sworn that he slept at his own tent, Huntly, on Saturday night, and did not leave for Victoria Reef till after dinner on Sunday.]

Eliza Brown was getting ten shillings a-week wages, and had received the last week's wages on Tuesday last. She had three rooms, and Eliza slept in the one used as kitchen. She did her cooking and washing; witness was not in very good health. Besides washing and cooking, there was sewing.



Witness did not see the propriety of detailing her private affairs. Lady friends came to see her; they were all respectable people. She had lost a lot of hair from her head, which "Bill" had pulled out. She found it on the ground by the door afterwards, together with an earring dropped in her struggle.

Her income by washing varied from 30s. to 60s. a week. She washed for the Italians of Long Gully. When Drickman returned, Eliza put the leeches on his head; he remained in the tent several hours. He came back and slept there that (Monday) evening. He did not sleep there the next night; she told him it was not good for his health. (Laughter.) She did not nurse or take care of him. He slept last night at her place. [Prosecutor had denied going near "the tent after being to the doctor, or sleeping there any" night besides Sunday.]

Eliza Brown examined, said she was eighteen years old. She was a lady's servant in the employ of previous witness. Witness spoke to the identity of the prisoners, and detailed particulars of the assault so far as she saw, pretty much as already given, but differing from both previous witnesses in some material points of evidence. Prosecutor had come for his washing, and she gave it to him. Witness used to sleep with Mrs. Danker; not in the kitchen.

Before prosecutor went for the doctor, she saw him on the ground, and the prisoners and "Bill" kicking him. After they had left him he lay about five minutes on the ground, and then got up not a soul went near him. He did not come into the tent, but went away in the direction of the dam.

Examined by Mr. Brewer: She was getting 15s. a week. The last witness had not paid for three weeks. The witness was here shown the bunch of hair Mrs. Danker said had been pulled off her head by "Bill," and for some time would not look at it, turning round and crying. At length, on great persuasion, she cleared up, and said the hair had been shown her by Mrs. Danker, who pulled it off her head. She corrected herself by saying Mrs. D. had picked a little hair off the ground. On this and other discrepancies being corrected, the witness said it was impossible for her to recollect everything.

Mr. Brewer said that Dr. Boyd had been in attendance to give evidence till then, but had been called out. He thought the Bench would consider his evidence unnecessary, after what they had heard. The three witnesses examined differed from each other so greatly, that no jury would be found to convict the prisoners on such evidence, and the prosecutor had evidently perjured himself. The fact was it was a row in a brothel, and Drickman was the managing man. The young men had gone there intoxicated, and a row had been the result. Mr. Helm followed, saying that, as regarded his client, Retallick, there was nothing to show that he had struck a blow at all. The Bench concurred with counsel as to the perjury of the prosecutor, and the discrepancy in all the evidence; but his worship had seen the man the day when he laid his complaint, and it was evident a most violent assault had been committed. However, he did not think the evidence would convict either of the prisoners, and he would, therefore discharge them with a caution to keep out of such places.

The court had been crowded during the hearing of the case, and considerable feeling was manifested throughout. On the discharge of prisoners, there was a general cheering from the crowd. The prisoners were again arraigned on the charges of attempted rape and stealing prosecutor's coat, but as there was no additional evidence brought forward, the Bench dismissed both charges. [We very much regret to see that the Police Magistrate has allowed his better judgment to be set aside by the special pleading of the lawyers in this case, and thus to allow the perpetrators of a very brutal assault to escape the punishment they deserved.-ED.]

125. Tuesday 22 September 1886 The Argus Melbourne issue 12,556 p. 10 CHARGE OF THREATENING TO SHOOT A WIFE.

Mr. F. Call, P.M., and several justices of the peace presided at the City Court on Tuesday, when **Silas Retallick** was charged with having threatened to take the life of his wife. Mr. Stephen, jun., appeared for **Mrs. Retallick**.

Both parties were about 23 years of age, and were married on April 28, 1885. They had frequently quarrelled, and had separated. Mrs. Retallick stated that her husband, who would work for about three months and then remain in idleness for as long, had repeatedly threatened to take her life. On Monday he went to her at her mother's house and asked her to go out into the yard, as he wanted to speak to her. She declined, and he directed her notice to one of his pockets. She felt the pocket with her hand, and found that he had a revolver, whereupon she became alarmed, and escaped through a small window.

He showed the revolver to her sister, and said he would shoot his wife and then put a bullet in his own brains. **Mrs. Retallick** went in search of the police, and returned with Constable Peavor, who arrested her husband and took the revolver from him. The weapon was not loaded, but Retallick said, after the constable had arrested him, that he intended to shoot her, and would do so when he came out of goal.

**Mrs. Retallick**, then said her son was not the best of young men, but he had asked his wife frequently to go home, promising to treat her well, but she refused to go home, and acted towards him with the greatest contempt. The bench bound the prisoner over in the sum of £100 to be of good behaviour for one week, and then to appear at the Carlton Court. Mr. Call said that in the meantime the prisoner and his wife should endeavour to become reconciled to each other.

126. Tuesday 24 February 1891 The Argus, Melbourne volume issue 13937 p.9 THE SMYTH-RETALICK CASE. SMYTH IN THE INSOLVENT COURT.

The affair of Charles Augustus Smyth, who was sentenced to five years imprisonment for obtaining by false pretences a sum of £3,700 from **Thomas Retallick** were before his Honour Judge Worthington in the Insolvent Court yesterday. During his incarceration in gaol Smyth was on the application of **Retallick** declared insolvent, but on being brought up for examination, he declined to answer certain questions put to him. He was therefore committed to gaol for contempt of court until such time as he should purge himself from contumacy. At the close of his original sentence Smyth declared his willingness to answer any questions, and was brought up for examination. Mr Braham appeared for the official assignee, and Mr Woolf for the insolvent.

Charles Augustus Smyth, being sworn and examined by Mr Braham, stated that the document produced was his sworn schedule, lodged on December 4 of last year He had only one creditor **Thomas Retallick**, to whom he owed £3,700 This was all the money he had ever received from Retallick with the exception of £10, which he had refunded immediately after receiving it.

The sum of £3, 700 is the money I was accused of getting from Retallick by false pretences. The schedule shows no assets whatever. I carried on business as a draper at Christchurch New Zealand, in 1882 with Mr John Craig. We became insolvent. Both of us got a certificate of discharge from New Zealand. I went to Sydney in 1883, and remained there about two years being employed by Messrs Palmer and Co. I lived in Waverley Road with a lady and her family, none of whom were relatives of mine. The name of this lady was Mrs Jane Smvth, and her four children Frederick, John, Emily and Augusta Smyth.

Did this lady pass as your wife and the children as your children – I can't answer that.

His Honour – You had better answer the question.

The Insolvent – No, they are not my children.

Mr Braham – Then why not say so at once.

The insolvent continuing, said – I came to Melbourne in May or June, 1885, and lived for a time at the Victoria Coffee Palace, afterwards afterwards going to Park Street, Brunswick. I contributed, to the cost of furnishing the house. It was mainly furnished with furniture brought from Sydney. I received the first £200 from **Retallick** after he came to live at Brunswick. I cannot say whether any portion of that sum went to pay for the furniture.

What did you get this £200 from **Retallick** for? – I don't remember either. The bankbook will show what I did with it.

His Honour (to the Insolvent) – The becoming possessed of £200 was not an event likely to be forgotten. You had better give straightforward answers. If you don't I shall not hesitate a moment about committing you for contempt.

The Insolvent – I am willing to answer any question if I can. I imagine it was to meet the expense of bringing Mrs Smyth and her family to Melbourne.

His Honour – Answer the question. How much did you send to Sydney – With the cost of bringing them over, advancing money to them and paying for furniture it was about £80 or £100. I believe I sent the money to Mrs Smyth by post-office order.

Mr Brham – Did you account for this £200 in your filed statement as you are accounting for it now? – No.

The statement purports to give an explanation of how this money was spent. That account was filed by you under an order of the Court? – Yes.

In your sworn affidavit you say that it contains an account of your receipts and disbursements do you still adhere to that statement? – Yes, subject to what I've now said. I bought a fruit business in Swanston Street for £1,000, and carried it on some 12 months.

There was not a single receipt or reference to this business in the statement? – None whatever.

The sworn statement says, "to the best of my knowledge and belief." – I was in gaol when that was done, and had no figures to guide me.

You have sworn that you gave the purposes for which various disbursements were made. Is that true? – Yes.

Can you point this out in the schedule of disbursements? – No.

Yet the receipts and disbursements in your account balance. How did you manage that? – The best way I could.

You account for it in number of elastic accounts of an extraordinary nature. Were those so simply arranged so as to balance the account? – I did the best I could. I was obliged to make it balance. It would have been useless for me to file an account unless it balanced.

Did you balance it with such items as "personal expenses, £10 a week"? – I thought it was a fair estimate of my personal expenses.

It was a mere guess? – It's approximate. It's fixed on my knowledge of my own habits of life and expenditure. I had no figures.

That is positively untrue. You had all the facts and figures you asked for. How did you arrive at the item "Various disbursements £179 17s. 1d."? – That made the accounts balance.

How did you get the estimates of wages? – Approximated it the best way I could, and from my recollection of what I paid in wages.

Have you omitted any receipts from any source in this account except those of the Swanston Street business? – Knowingly I have not.

It is well you have said knowingly. It shows that the Swanston Street figure» were knowingly omitted. How do you account for this statement balancing without the receipts and disbursements of the Swanston Street business? – because I had no books, and I always considered I lost £50 by that business.

In this account you make your losses exactly correspond with the money got from **Retallick**, £3,700. – No, I have not.

What does the capital account amount to? – It shows losses and assets supposed to be in the care of **Mr. Retallick** amounting in all to £3,700.

What became of the books of the Swanston Street business? – They were left in my Brunswick office when I was arrested.

Have you made a statement to the contrary on oath? – Only in part. I said the purchaser of the business got the "takings book."

You swore that the cheque-book, which was a memorandum of receipts, was left in the hands of Salmon, who bought the business. It was with other books appertaining to the business. – I never swore that.

You did before the chief clerk, and under an order by Mr, Justice Holroyd on July 11, 1887, bid you tell Mr. Salmon that you lost £650? – No, I can't remember what I told him. I probably represented the business as being a profitable one, as everyone else does. It was a white elephant, and I sold it for £50 less than I gave for it.

How did you arrive at item, losses £1,161 17s. 4d? – I have nothing to show how that comes about. The money went. It covers all the losses.

No it does not. It does not cover the £650 you say you lost on the Swanston Street business. Does it not just complete the amount received from **Retallick**, and not otherwise accounted for? – That is the only way in which I could make up the £3,700.

You paid for furniture for Mrs. Smyth with Retallick's money. – Yes, but it was repaid to me by Mrs Smyth.

Did you repay it to **Retallick**? – No he would have been offended if I had. I paid him interest only. Mrs Smyth left the house in Park Street three or four weeks before I did. The furniture was afterwards sent to Sydney. It belonged to Mrs Smyth and I sent it after her.

To whom was it addressed? – To Mrs Smyth.

Will you swear that? Did you so address them? – I will scarcely swear it.

Your answers appear to be all framed with the object of evading a prosecution for perjury. You followed the furniture to Sydney. Where did you see it next? – In Mrs Smyth's house at Waverley.

What were your receipts from the wood and coal business about £2 800? – The thing is a bit mixed. I can't say exactly I can't swear whether those things were paid into any bank.

What proportion of it went into the Commercial Bank? – I can't tell. All except what was disbursed for trade expenses.

His Honour – What proportion do you accept? – I should say about two thirds.

Mr Braham – What were the takings in the Swanston Street business during the the months you earned it on? – I cannot give them even approximately.

Did you keep books of outgoing and expenses? – No.

Did you on a former examination on the 11th July 1887 before the chief clerk swear that you kept no books of outgoing and expenses of the Swanston Street business? – No.

If you did swear it was it untrue? – Yes.

Did you at the same examination swear you had no knowledge of what profits you made in that business? – No I did not.  
Did you not swear that you were unable to say from books whether you made a profit or loss? – I might have. I had no books.  
Did you swear that your receipts varied from £12 to £60 per week? – No, that is wrong also.  
What were the receipts then? – From memory I should say from £2 to £12 per week. I can't give any idea as to the average.  
His Honour – From £2 to £12 would average £7. – I'll put it that. The money was rarely paid into any bank. If it was, it was paid into either the Federal or the Colonial.

You have told us in this examination that the blocks of your cheque-books, which you left in the Brunswick office, would give information as to payments. – Yes.

Yet you swore in your examination before the chief clerk that you destroyed the blocks of your cheque-books, as you considered them valueless? – I don't remember. I didn't swear that I destroyed them. If I did, it was untrue.

Did you put those average receipts of £7 per week in your statement? – It would have been worthless. I had no data.  
Did you put the cash proceeds of the sale, amounting to £600, in any bank? – I don't know where I kept that money. I may have kept it on me. I think some of it must have found its way into some of the banking accounts.

Mr. Woolfe – A man may find it difficult after six years to say what he did with £600.

His Honour – I don't think so.

Insolvent – I paid in £100 on August 23, £70 on August 28. £90 on September 2. A further sum of £80 at least went into the Commercial Bank, Brunswick, between September 8 and October if over and above any Brunswick profits. The balance of the £600 I kept in my pocket in anticipation of personal expenses.

Mr. Braham – Did you swear before the chief clerk that you did not remember what you did with the £600 received for this sale, and that after August you had carried in your pockets a sum of about £400 in cash and notes? – I expect I said that, I quite believe I did.

Then which statement are we to believe, that you paid it into the bank or carried it about? – This £100 may have come from other sources.

You received a cheque for £350 from **Retallick** in May, 1886. Did you cash it or pay it into a bank? – I cashed that, but don't remember what I did with the money.

At this stage the further examination was adjourned until March 2, the insolvent being released from gaol on account of the charge of contempt, but being ordered to pay the taxed costs consequent on proceedings rendered necessary by his contumacy.

127. Saturday 7 May 1892 The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser v. 53 issue 1161 p. 1046

THE VICE-REGAL VISIT TO THE CLARENCE. AN ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME. (FROM OUR SPECIAL REPORTER)  
LAWRENCE, Monday.

A trip to the Clarence River, suggested about 12 months ago to Lord Jersey by the present Treasurer, the Hon. John See, was commenced on Saturday night last. No pains were spared to make it as enjoyable as possible. Many were invited, and there was published a long list of notabilities who were likely to accompany his Excellency; but the stern rule of "business before pleasure" gradually had such an effect that when the starting time arrived few assembled to sail under the Governor's flag. Admiral Lord Charles Scott was ill, but, to show that the Clarence had his respect, he sent H.M.S. Lizard to cruise in its waters. The Ministers for Works and Public Instruction and the Postmaster-General found that in the absence of the Premier, they could not leave the metropolis. Other leading personages had also to send regrets. The North Coast Company's beautiful steamer the Kallatina was the one chosen for the voyage, and it was determined to return on the following Saturday in a good craft – the City of Grafton. A more comfortable vessel than the Kallatina is not on the coast. She is admirably fitted, graceful, and clean as a yacht. Her commander, Captain Creer, has been trading to the Clarence for about 35 years, and, as his Excellency remarked during the voyage, ought to know every inch of the track.

Dismal, dreary, and damp was the weather on Saturday night. His Excellency reached the wharf, which was crowded, half an hour before starting-time. The Attorney-General was the last of the party to arrive. The Minister for Works and the Minister for Public Instruction saw us off. Slowly the Kallatina proceeded to the Heads. In front of her was the Electra, which, in consequence of the large number of passengers bound for the Grafton show, was put on as an extra boat. Outside, much to the joy of the passengers, the wind was westerly, and remained so for more than half the voyage. The Kallatina was as steady as if in the harbour. All the passengers were well, and the providore was not spared. His Excellency and Lady Jersey were present at every meal, as were Lord Ancram, Mr. Barton, Mr. See, Mr. Manning (Mayor of Sydney), Mr. McFarlane, and Mr. Hogan, members of the Legislature, and Mr. T. R. Allt, one of the managing directors of the North Coast Company. There were also on board Mr. W.A.B. Greaves, and Mr. Alexander Bruce, Chief Inspector of Stock.

Before breakfast on Sunday we were at the Seal Rocks, so close in that the party had an excellent opportunity of seeing hundreds of seals take refuge from the frightening steam whistle. From this point a grand panorama of scenery was presented. The coast appeared charmingly green, especially Port Macquarie, where we stopped to take a passenger from the pilot boat. Towards night speed was slackened, as the Heads could not be entered before daylight, the Kallatina preserved her good behaviour all through. At 6 o'clock on Monday morning we crossed the bar against a strong ebb, and saw the Lizard lying off waiting for the flood, which would be at 11. Most of the vice-regal party were on deck viewing the works at the Heads. The river never had a more charming appearance, and has quite recovered from the recent damaging floods.

The Kallatina arrived at Palmer's Island at 7, and even at this early hour the wharf was crowded with people in holiday attire. Before the lines were made fast seven sturdy young islanders, armed with fowling pieces fired a salute. His Excellency and Lady Jersey landed, and were introduced by Mr. McFarlane to several of the principal settlers. Among the crowd were coolies who work on the sugar plantations in the neighbourhood.

Mr. Alexander Ross read an address, which, after the usual terms of welcome, hoped that his Excellency would bear in mind that the district appeared to disadvantage, having been recently flooded. His Excellency replied in graceful terms. Lady Jersey shook hands with several of the ladies and children present, and was presented with a large bouquet. The vice-regal party were loudly cheered as the vessel left the wharf. Harwood Island was the next stopping-place. Here the company's large sugar-mill was decorated with flags. Mr. and Mrs. Barry came aboard, and presented Lady Jersey with a very handsome bouquet. A party from Maclean came in the launch Lorna, with the object of transhipping the vice-regal party, but his Excellency, after consultation with Mr. See and Mr. Barton, thought it better to keep to the Kallatina all the way up to Grafton.

Maclean, or as it is better known, Rocky Mouth, was reached at 9.30, where a great crowd assembled at the wharf, led by Alderman See and the Mayor of the town. Mrs. Todd was the first to welcome Lady Jersey, and presented a large bouquet. The party landed without loss of time, and found dozens of saddle horses and vehicles available for a ride of a mile and a half to the Lookout,

where the formal reception was to take place. Mr. Underwood, of the brewery, drove Lady Jersey and Lord Jersey. The Mayor of Sydney and Mr. Samuel See were in a buggy behind. Then came hundreds of horsemen. It proved a stiff pull up to the lookout, and a quarter of the way on the road the traces of the Governor's trap gave way, and allowed the horse calmly to take the driver over the splashboard. It was a ludicrous accident, about which no one was more good humoured than his Excellency, who refused all offers of other conveyances, and walked the remainder of the journey, chatting as he went to the other pedestrians.

On the top of the mount an admirable view of the heads, sea, and lake was obtainable. There were assembled, in the form of a square, the Loyal Star of Hope Lodge of Odd fellows, the Maclean Superior Public school cadets and a large body of school children, who lustily sang the National Anthem. Mr. S. M. Kelly (the Mayor), Drs. Orr and Young, Mr. S. MacNaughton, J.P., Mr. D. Shearer, J.P., Alderman Roderick, and the Rev. R. J. Moxon took an active part in the proceedings. Mr. E.A. Macfarlane read an address of welcome. His Excellency replied that he was delighted with the loveliness of the scene presented from the mount, and the hearty warmth of the reception accorded himself and Lady Jersey. It was evident the prospect was one of great prosperity. The reference to the word "waste" in the address reminded him that the sterling principle was waste not want not. He congratulated the residents of the Clarence on their powers of civilisation. All around he could see signs of plenty and sweetness, and he knew what he saw was but small compared with what other Governors who would visit them in the future would see. (Cheers.) He came to the Clarence to make the acquaintance of the Clarence people. Their gracious Queen, whose humble representative he was, took a deep interest in the welfare of all people of her dominions. Her Majesty would, he felt confident, be delighted to hear from him his impressions of this the northern part of New South Wales.

On the return to town a procession was formed which led to the temporary courthouse, where luncheon was laid for 50. The chair was occupied by the Mayor, Lady Jersey and the Mayor of Sydney being on his right, and Lord Jersey and the Minister on his left. Mr. David See was in the vice-chair replying to the toast of his health, Lord Jersey expressed his thankfulness for the kindness of the reception. He recognised the district as a great centre. Mr D. See proposed "The Ministry," and in a good humoured speech spoke of the wants of the Clarence, a training wall and a site for a school being the most prominent.

Mr. Barton, Mr. See, and other gentlemen addressed the assemblage. The proceedings closed with the health of the Mayor, proposed by Lord Jersey. The party had an enthusiastic send-off from Maclean, at half-past 12. The decorations of the town appeared admirable from the river, and the fact that several large substantial buildings are being erected was noted by the visitors. At lunch time Lawrence was reached where a crowd assembled and cheered the party, and about 2 p.m. Brushgrove, with a large assemblage on the wharf, was in sight.

Here Lord and Lady Jersey once more landed, and were introduced to several of the leading farmers. A pleasant hour and a half was spent at Ulmarra, where the most graceful reception tendered on the river was waiting the arrival of the party. The wharf was crowded. On a gentle slope the children of the public schools and the Ulmarra Grammar School were placed in two lines bearing festoons formed of young bamboo and choice flowers. Thus a lovely archway was formed. Lord Jersey, on landing, was met by the Mayor (Mr. Joseph Northcott) and the aldermen. The Council Clerk, Mr. W. J. Leeson, on behalf of the inhabitants of Ulmarra, read an address of welcome.

His Excellency was introduced to **Mr. J. Retallick** (the secretary of the School of Arts), Messrs. T. Glissan, J. Miller sen., D. Buchanan, V.R. M'Lachlan, A. Blanch, J. Miller jun., T.G. Small, W. Small, and G. M'Farlane. His Excellency replied to the address in happy terms. Miss M'Lachlan, for the school, presented an address from the school children, and several bouquets. Lady Jersey thanked the children in a brief speech, which was well received, and especially referred to the grandeur of the floral display presented. A procession was then formed, headed by the Ulmarra Brass Band, which previously had done good service on the wharf.

When the School of Arts was reached this arch was formed for the party to pass beneath, and as they proceeded Lady Jersey's composition on Arbour Day was sweetly sung. The effect was extraordinarily charming. Mrs. Thomas read an address, and Lady Jersey, in suitable terms, opened the bazaar. She understood the bazaar was due to the efforts of the ladies, whose object was to provide the School of Arts with funds, which were much required. They wanted more books and more members, and she felt confident that the ladies, ere the handsome bazaar closed, would provide these. There was no better sign of pleasant social intercourse and mutual improvement than a good school of arts. The inhabitants of Ulmarra could not hold back when the ladies of the district held forth such pleasant inducements. She thanked them for their kindly reception, and would long remember her pleasing impression of Ulmarra.

The vice-regal party returned to the steamer, and proceeded to Grafton.  
GRAFTON, Monday.

The Kallatina, with the vice-regal party and accompanying visitors, arrived at 4 p.m. Before reaching the wharf the steamer was met by the crews of the water brigade and the rowing clubs in their boats. They accompanied the steamer to the landing. On passing St. Mary's Convent, the school children were ranged on the bank, and sang the national anthem. The steamer could not touch at the public wharf owing to there being insufficient water, and the visitors were landed in the new ferry steamer Ruby. The banks were densely packed with people, and the reception was most enthusiastic. The Superior Public School Cadets, the members of the various friendly societies, with their respective banners, several hundred school children, and the city bond were in attendance. The main street was profusely decorated with a triumphal arch near the wharf, where the Mayor and aldermen and a number of prominent citizens were present to welcome his Excellency. Amongst those present were — Messrs. T. Bawden, J. H. Munro, H. Maurice, S. See, F. Doberer, G. Foote, W. H. Waterhouse, A. Lipman, and Inspector Casey, with the mounted police, the latter forming a body guard. On arriving at the arch Mr. W. Small, the council clerk, on behalf of the Mayor and Alderman read an address of welcome.

His Excellency sincerely thanked them for their manifestations of goodwill, and expressed himself highly pleased at the great numbers that assembled on the occasion of his visiting Grafton. He was particularly glad to see so many members of the friendly societies, in which he took great interest, and trusted they were nourishing. He referred to the water brigade as a most worthy institution. He was proud to know that he was associated with a country that could show such a splendid collection of people, and though in their brief stay himself and Lady Jersey would be unable to make friends with them all, they must remember that it was not because they did not desire to do so, but because their powers were limited. He desired it to be understood that the Governor was not removed from the body of the people, but was really one of the people, notwithstanding his exalted station. He was pleased to see the people happy and prosperous, and during the next few days would have an opportunity of seeing some of the resources of the district, of which he had heard so much. In his administrative capacity he would do his utmost to advance the interests of the country.

Cheers were then given for Lord and Lady Jersey. Lady Jersey was presented with a bouquet by one of the school children on behalf of the others. Lady Jersey gracefully acknowledged the gift, and in a few words complimented the children. There were about

4000 people present at the reception, and after the address was presented the vice-regal party were driven round the town and back to the Crown Hotel, where they will be quartered during their stay here.

Tuesday.

His Excellency the Governor visited the court house, the School of Arts, and other public buildings this morning, and at noon, with Lady Jersey, was driven to the showground to open the twenty-fifth annual exhibition of the Clarence Pastoral and Cultural Society. The pavilion was tastefully decorated, and on a dais at one end his Excellency was presented with an address, which he gracefully acknowledged, and referred to the splendid resource of the Clarence district. He then declared the show open. In the afternoon his Excellency was presented with an address from the bench of magistrates. A levee and reception were then held in the skating rink, which was beautifully decorated for the occasion. 127 persons attended. In the evening the vice-regal party patronised an amateur performance at the Theatre Royal, in aid of the Grafton Rowing Club, at which there was a large attendance.

128. Saturday 12 November 1898 The Australasian, Melbourne volume 65 issue 1702 p.45 Family Notices CHAMPION—**RETALLACK**.

The marriage of Mr. E. Champion, M.B., Ballarat, and Ida, second daughter of **Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Retallack**, Carn Brea, Mair-street, Ballarat, took place on October 26, at St. Peter's, Ballarat, by the Rev. Slaney Poole.

The bride, owing to her father's ill-health, was given away by her brother-in-law, Mr. W. L. Flint, Melbourne; she wore ivory duchesse satin, with court train, the skirt embroidered with silver and pearls in design of true lovers' knots, bodice trimmed with chiffon and flowers, and yoke of gathered chiffon, embroidered Brussels lace veil, fastened with diamond pins; and ostrich feathers.

There were three bridesmaids – **Miss R. Retallack** in buttercup glaze silk, trimmed with narrow white silk lace, and bebe ribbon, sash of white satin; and carried white flowers, gift of the bride-groom; hat of satin straw to match the dress; Miss Champion wore pale green glaze silk, and **Miss P. Retallack** pale pink glaze silk.

The bridegroom's gift to the bride was a diamond and opal pendant, and to the bridesmaids pearl brooches and gold bangles respectively.

Mr. J. Champion acted as best man. After the ceremony the guests (limited to relations and intimate friends, numbering about 40) adjourned to Carn Brea, where a breakfast was served. The travelling costume was a grey cloth coat and skirt, piped with white cloth, front of white chiffon and applique; black and white straw hat, trimmed with white chiffon, ostrich tips, and pink roses. In the evening **Mrs. Retallack** entertained a large party of guests at an at home.

The presents included:—Mother of bride, house linen and eiderdown quilt; father of bride, cheque; Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Flint, silver salver and pearl crescent brooch; **Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Retallack**, pedestal lamp; **Miss R. Retallack**, fire-screen; **Miss P. Retallack**, jardiniere; **Mr. P. Retallack**, salad bowl; **Mr. J. Retallack**, vases; **Misses J. and B. Retallack**, afternoon teacups; **Miss E. Retallack**, vase; **Master P. Retallack**, afternoon teacups; mother of bridegroom, gold muff chain with opal and diamond slide; Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Champion, entree dishes; Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Champion, cheque; Mr. and Mrs. B. Champion, cheque; Mr. and Mrs. G. Provost, mats and gold pin; Mr. W. Champion, cheque; Mr. John Champion, cheque; Mr. J. Champion, cheese and biscuit dish; Mr. and Mrs. Hicks, scent bottles; Miss Champion, candlesticks; Mr. A. Champion, biscuit barrel; Dr. Mary V. Cowan (Melbourne), Coalport fruit-stand and jardiniere; Mrs J. Cowan, lizard-skin purse; Mr. and Mrs. W. Vaughan (Learnmonth), carvers and fish slice; Colonel and Mrs. Cairncross (Melbourne), silver salver; Mr. and Mrs. G. Roth, vase; Dr. Eastwood, teaspoons; Dr. Salter, cheque; Mr. D. Clark, spirit stand; Mr. A. Phillips, cruet; Misses Garbutt, jardiniere; Misses Trewin, silver salts and tray cloth; Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Barrett, Doulton china cake stand; Mr. and Mrs. Murray Matheison, bread board and knife; Mr. and Mrs. H. Inglis, afternoon teaspoons; Mr. and Mrs. Barker, fish slice and fork; Mr. F. Brind, photo, frame; Mr. and Mrs. Cubbon, glass eperguez; Miss L. Eyres, painting; Miss R. Eyres, oil painting; Miss A. Eyres, doyleys; Mr. and Mrs. G. Cowan, rug; Mr. and Mrs. W. Lucas, jam dishes; Miss Lucas, photo, frame; Mr. W. A. Christy, jam dish; Messrs. Cocking and Skewes, quilt; Mr. A. Farrer, sugar and cream basins; Mr. A. J. Bailey, sardine dish; Miss J. Letcher (Melbourne), painting; Miss E. Edwards, fruit spoons and grape scissors; Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Smith, lamp and shade; Mr. F. Dale, sugar and cream stand; Mr. and Mrs. W. Ham, butter dishes; Mr. E. and Miss Storey, cruet; Miss A. Storey, photo, frame; Mr. G. Perry, tea and cake stand; Dr. and Mrs. Gutbeii, vases; Miss S. Smith, pin trays; Mr. and Mrs. G. Croker, glass jug; Mr. and Miss Holgate, serviette rings; Dr. and Mrs. G. Cussen, egg cruet; Miss Marjory Cussen, hat pins; Mr. and Mrs. C. Salter, vases; Mr. and Mrs. G. Rogers, tea urn; Mr. and Mrs. Lee Archer, screen; Misses Archer, flower bowl; Misses SL Salter, Brooklyn table centre; Dr. and Mrs. Morrison, cruet; Mr. and Mrs. G. G. Austin, cheque; Mr. and Mrs. S. Smith, carvers; Miss Ram, glass dish; Dr. and Mrs. Zichy-Woinarski, clock; Mrs. Libby, vases; Miss F. Barrett, photo, frame; Messrs. D. and P. Smith, crumb scoop; Messrs. C. W. and H. Vaughan, writing table; members of Medical Society, cheque; Dr. Goevart, case of fish knives and slice; Mr. and Mrs. G. Darbyshire, sugar and cream jug; Mrs. M. Williams, sugar barrel; Mr. and Mrs. M. Rosenthal, clock; Mrs. Evans, vases; Miss A. Holgate, painting; Mrs. Jones, silver sugar and cream stand; Miss F. Anderson pocketbook; Messrs. and Miss Arnold, salver; Emma Lord, afternoon tea cloth; Irene, glass dish.

129. Friday September 2 1904 Albury Banner and Wodonga Express p. 28 MISERY AND SQUALOR.

A remarkable case of misery and squalor has just been discovered at Lexton, near Ballarat. The local constable had occasion to visit a cottage in the Waubra-road occupied by **John Retallack**, his wife, and nine children. The place consists only of two rooms, measuring 8ft. by 8ft., a kitchen, and a bedroom. In the latter apartment there are two beds, one iron and the other constructed of deal boxes. Several of the children are deaf and dumb, and all being without bed covering, they sleep at night huddled together like swine. The small iron bed is occupied by **Mrs. Retallack**, an infant of 12 months, and two daughters, viz., Mary, 28 years of age, deaf and dumb, and Beatrice, 3 years. The old wooden stretcher is occupied by three girls, named Ethel, 9 years, deaf and dumb; Kathleen, 7 years, and Maggie, 5 years, deaf and dumb. There is no furniture of any kind in the wretched apartment, and the flooring boards are half an inch apart, allowing the cold wind to penetrate the place. **Retallack** and several of the children sleep on the floor on bags of grass. There are no sanitary arrangements, and the whole place is a menace to health. Constable Grey, in concluding his report to the authorities, says that Retallack has money, and could well afford to have his deaf and dumb children sent to the asylum, which he refuses to do. The Board of Public Health has been communicated with.