

The FOLKER PHYLES

servare
modum

Issue No. 1

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INTRODUCTION

This is the first issue of an occasional publication giving information on research into the history of the Folker family.

It will be produced from time to time and will contain items which hopefully will be of interest to others who bear the name Folker or who are descendants.

This first edition will be sent to members of the family with whom contact has been established plus a few 'new discoveries' from the telephone directory.

An exploratory letter was sent out last year to those Folkers whose names are in the telephone directories and an undertaking was given not to make further contact if no reply was received. If you know of any members of the family who may be interested, please ask them to make contact and they will be included in the circulation.

The motto *Servare Modum* translates as 'To keep the mean'. It is taken from a published Coat of Arms for the name Folker, however, it is not necessarily correct for this particular family.

It is intended in each issue to give details of any particular area that is being studied and also advise where information is missing in the hope that someone else may have answers to some of the questions.

Future issues will have features on branches of the family or detailed profiles of individuals will also be included.

ABOUT THE PRODUCER

This news-letter is produced by Malcolm Smith. His connection with the Folker family is via his mother, Dora Emily Smith, née Folker.

Malcolm has acquired a substantial amount of family documents and photographs over a period of time. He considered that they would be of more interest and value if they were put together in some manner that enabled them to be meaningful and accessible to others. For his more immediate ancestors, he has created a series of albums each containing a biography, family tree, photographs, certificates, newspaper cuttings, etc.

Although he is tracing many different branches of his family, he decided to make a detailed study of the Folker name as it is relatively uncommon therefore should be more easily researched.

Malcolm is a member of the Society of Genealogists also the Hampshire Genealogical Society and he has completed a course in Family History study.

THE FOLKER NAME STUDY

The study of the Folker name is an individual effort by Malcolm Smith and has been undertaken by way of a hobby. There is no commercial intention and anyone within the family is welcome to any of the information that he has.

Following the exploratory letter noted earlier on this page, interesting and useful correspondence has ensued with a number of Folkers.

The study is registered with The Guild of One-Name Studies.

Work so far has provided comprehensive charts on two branches of the family, but between which no connection has yet been established.

The first set of charts detail descendants of John Folker who was an Excise Officer in Essex during the mid 18th century. The second set of charts detail descendants of Robert Folker and Susan Ford who were married in 1846.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE

Most of the research undertaken so far has been made in the Indexes of the General Records Office at St. Catherine's House, London. Every entry of the Folker name that appears in the Indexes of Births, Marriages or Deaths has been compiled into a list. This covers the period from 1837 up to the present. Copies of some Certificates have been obtained where necessary to prove relationships in the family tree charts. A partial list of names associated by marriage also exists.

A list of Wills listed at Somerset House is being drawn up and is nearly complete. The period covered for this is from 1880 up to the present.

Names from telephone directories have been listed for Austria, Australia, Canada, Channel Islands, Eire, Great Britain, and USA. South Africa has been partially completed.

The entire set of records of Parish Registers available from the Church of the Latter Day Saints has been searched and Folker names listed. Also, some transcripts and actual registers have been searched and any instances of the name Folker have been noted.

Various other sources from Libraries and Records Offices have been searched and noted. These include :- Census Returns, Street Directories, Emigration Records, Trade and Profession Directories, Etc.

It is proposed that future editions of this news-letter will contain a detailed and up-to-date list of research and reference sources.

PITFALLS AND PROBLEMS

One of the main problems is that there many variants of the name Folker. It is also not uncommon to find that the name has been mis-spelt when being transcribed into published documents.

The spelling of names did not really stabilise until the latter part of the last century. For this reason, some of the entries in the Indexes at the General records Office can not always be found where they are expected.

Valid variants of the name FOLKER that I have found so far include FALKER, FOKER and FOLKINS. However, others which I have seen but which may not be connected are FOAKER, FOOKER and FOLKEN. There are many other variants but any connection with these will only be brought to light as research proceeds.

The search for names prior to the start of the Registers in 1837 becomes more difficult. It is more important to know where events took place, right down to the specific parish, in order to find the required information. This is not often easy as it is surprising how much people travelled about even when travel was not easy.

WORK IN HAND

Work started with the preparation of charts using information provided by those who responded to the letter sent out last year. It was possible to make some connections between the families of those who responded even at that early stage.

Searches of the Indexes at St. Catherine's House provided further information to build on. Where necessary, certificates have been obtained and the charts updated.

Information gleaned from Street Directories and Wills Indexes also proved useful in identifying the location of some ancestors.

A project book has been kept for this study to note progress. After each stage, the charts have been redrawn in accordance with the findings. and all contributing documents have been kept in the file. It is possible to follow the pattern of earlier searches and see where information had been missing or mis-interpreted. It is also possible to see how the charts have grown in volume and complexity.

All this information has now been amalgamated into one set of charts containing names and dates. It is possible that some names are missing from the charts and these will hopefully come to light later. It is hoped to trace back one more generation after which work will be suspended on this particular set of charts.

A second set of charts on another branch of the family has been constructed from existing information on a pedigree commissioned by a relative in 1926. Some information has been added but more is required.

Ideally, it would be nice to find the link between the families of each of the two sets of charts.

There are still a lot of names which have been obtained from the General Records Office which have not yet been drawn up into charts. The reason for this is that not enough information is to hand to make the necessary positive connections between persons. Although it is sometimes possible to make assumptions as to the relationship of persons, the charts should properly be drawn up on proven facts.

THE FUTURE

Research will continue but the pace will dependant on time available. Mal-

colm intends to spend more time in the immediate future on the study of his more direct lines of ancestry.

One of the limiting factors in progress is that information has to be sought from Record Offices and Local Study Centres. This requires a fair bit of travelling and has to be fitted in around other obligations.

Enquiries will be welcome and all correspondence will be answered. It goes without saying that the exchange of information will always be readily undertaken.

The eventual aim is not only to produce a comprehensive Family Tree but also biographical notes where sufficient information and keepsakes exist.

TO MAKE CONTACT

Your letters would be most welcome. Please address any correspondence to :-

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