

INTRODUCTION

Seasons greetings to everyone.

Although my communications are not very frequent, I have had contact with some members of the Folker family since the last newsletter but conversely I have lost touch with a few.

FOLKERS IN GUILDFORD

The main bulk of my work on the Folker family has been in connection with the town of Guildford.

Several members of the family lived in Guildford between 1875 and 1932, the most illustrious of whom was Horace Shepherd Folker. The biography of Horace was enclosed with newsletter number 3 last autumn.

Amongst his other interests, Horace played an important part in the local fire brigade. There were two items from this connection in the museum in Guildford.

The first item is a ceremonial fireman's axe bearing a silver plate inscribed "Presented to Mr Folker by Guildford Fire Brigade for valuable services rendered to the Fire Service 1893".

The second item is a silver model of a fire engine which was one of three similar models all made at the same time. One of the other models was presented to Queen Victoria.

The model is no longer in the museum as it has been transferred to the Guildhall in Guildford. There it is now displayed with the civic silverware all of which is put out on the dining tables when there is a banquet. The fire engine itself is actually a coaster to carry cigarettes and matches and is pushed around the table.

Because of its value, the silver fire engine had not been displayed at the museum. The transfer to the Guildhall was to enable it to be displayed in their secure cabinet.

The curator of the museum had decided to make a small ceremony of the transfer. He was aware of my interest in the Folker family and invited me to attend to represent that interest.

The inscription reads : NATIONAL FIRE BRIGADES UNION GRAND INTERNATIONAL FIRE TOURNAMENT & EXHIBITION LONDON JUNE 12th TO 17th 1895 PRESENTED TO HORACE S FOLKER F.A.I. FOR SERVICES RENDERED.



To coincide with the ceremony, I produced a booklet entitled The Folker Family in Guildford, copies of which I deposited at the museum and also the Local Studies Library in Guildford.

CURRENT WORK

In the previous newsletter I gave a bit of detail about Samuel Folker who was a sailor.

I have managed a bit more research on him but now seem to have come to a halt due to having lost the trail.

I have laid out his story as it is known at present and it is enclosed with this newsletter.. Later versions will include pictures and a bit more historic detail.

However, I have been spending quite a bit of time continuing the research of Samuel's father. As mentioned in the previous newsletter, he was an Exciseman along with several relatives.

I have been trying without success to establish more clearly the relationship between these other members of the family. It is my hope that I will be able to tie together the several branches of the Folker family.

PRODUCTION

You will see from this newsletter that I am now able to reproduce colour pictures.

This has proved to be a great asset and one that vastly enhances the biographies. I have a scanner attached to my computer which enables me to copy in any photograph.

The computer also enables me to edit the photographs so that bad pictures can be improved or unwanted objects removed. A good example is where a picture of a house has a lamppost in the way, it can be erased as if it had never been there.

TO MAKE CONTACT

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

Malcolm Smith
Shaftesbury House
Eastworth Road ,
VERWOOD
Dorset. BH31 7PJ
Email : Smithys@compuserve.com