

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this seventh edition of The Folker Phyles, one year on from the previous edition.

The past year has flown by. I have been able to visit a good number of towns, libraries and record offices. However, this is likely to slow up somewhat as I took early retirement at the end of September and shall not therefore be travelling so much.

CURRENT WORK

Although I still have considerable interest in other branches of the family and frequently work on them, I have made some progress with the Folkers.

Much of the work has been to add detail to the history of Folker names which are already known. The item which still eludes me is the connection between the two larger branches of the family. I am sure the connection lies in North West Norfolk and I have recently been to Kings Lynn to search once more.

I have also spent quite a bit of time trying to go further back along the line of my branch of the Folker family. I have found connections where three members of the family were Officers of the Excise but I can not prove their relationship. The surviving records of the Excise are scant but they do show that the Officers were posted far and wide around the country. Without the Excise records it would be difficult to trace their whereabouts.

The Excise Minute Books give basic details of the postings of each officer. One of these details the dismissal of William Folker in 1753 for collecting unfair dues and keeping them for himself. I have enclosed an item about Folkers and the Excise with this newsletter.

ALFRED HANLEY FOLKER

Alfred was my great great grandfather. He was born in Brighton in 1830. He was apprenticed to a hosier and slept under the counter in the shop.

He had five children between 1855 and 1861 then moved to Guildford where initially ran a pub called The Bowling Green. Thereafter he became an auctioneer at the market.

His wife died in 1900 and he remarried but survived less than one year.

Very recently I accidentally came across a birth certificate for another child in 1864 which showed Alfred as her father but a different mother from the other children. Curious (and naughty).

ISAAC NEWTON

I was recently made aware of work that is to take place on the family tree of Sir Isaac Newton. This was as a result of a member of the Folker family sending me some newspaper clippings. As part of the millennium celebrations Isaac Newton's family tree is being updated and the results will be made public next autumn.

Now the reason that this is of interest is that the Folker family is believed to have connections with Isaac Newton. I am hoping that this connection may be brought to light when the millennium family tree becomes public.

The name Newton has persisted in the family right up to the present day. Examples are George Newton Folker (1858-1943), his son George Newton Folker (1904-1976), Percy Newton Folker (1868-1917) and Sydney Newton Folker (1888-1955).

GENEALOGY EXHIBITIONS

I have made up a compendium of information on the Folker family for display at Genealogy exhibitions.

From this I hope to attract enquiries from anyone else who may have an interest in the family. There is always the possibility that someone may have information which will help my research.

THE INTERNET

In addition to my family homepage of which I told you in the last edition, I have now started another specifically dedicated to the Folker name. I am using this page as an exercise to teach myself how to program on the internet.

The page is titled **Folker Genealogy On-Name Study** and is to be found at <http://Geocities.com/Heartland/Woods/7208/>

A reminder that my family homepage can be found it at :- <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/smithys>.

TO MAKE CONTACT

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

Malcolm Smith
Shaftesbury House
Eastworth Road
VERWOOD
Dorset
BH317PJ

My E-Mail address is :-
Smithys@compuserve.com