

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this eighth edition of The Folker Phyles, once again a whole year on from the previous edition.

As predicted in the last edition, the pace of my research has slowed up somewhat since I took early retirement. I do not travel so much now therefore am not able to make opportunist visits to places of interest.

## CURRENT WORK

One particular thing has been irritating me for some time and that is the difficulty in finding the burial details of 'sailor' Samuel Folker.

The indications are that he was buried in Kings Lynn around 1824 but I have not been able over many attempts to find the actual record. In desperation I engaged a local professional researcher but she has been equally unsuccessful. I intend to place a request for help in the Norfolk Genealogy magazine but if that is not fruitful I think I am going to have to leave this item fallow for a while.

## STOKE ON TRENT

The Folker family had a strong connection with Stoke on Trent so I am preparing a booklet on this subject. Although there are some more items of information which I wish to gather, I have included an advance copy with this newsletter.

William Henry Folker was a surgeon at the North Staffordshire Hospital and in 1859 was the first person to perform the removal of a cataract. His son Herbert became a distinguished ophthalmic surgeon.

## THE INTERNET

I have made further changes to my Internet pages since the last newsletter. I have created a new universal and permanent front to all my Internet locations. This means that any changes that I make in future will not change the way the pages are accessed.

The new front page has an index showing all the contents. It is titled **Malcolm Smith** and is to be found at <http://www.malcolm-smith.com>

All the Folker material is still at the old location but can from the above universal address.

## NEW CONTACTS

Since the last newsletter I have had contact with more members of the family all of whom have been living overseas at some time. I am now in correspondence with them and it is my hope to meet them also in the near future.

I was lucky enough to go over to California earlier this year to visit a sick uncle. Whilst there I went to San Francisco where I met more Folker relatives and learned about their part of the Folker family history. They are the descendants of George Newton Folker who emigrated at the end of the 19th century and settled in Mill Valley.

George Newton Folker had a very colourful and quite difficult life. My mother remembers him 'as the uncle who went to the Wild West'. He will be a target for future biographical notes.

## FUTURE WORK

I expect to come to a virtual standstill for the rest of this year. After relative freedom recently I now have two jobs as of next week. I shall be working on weekday mornings at Salisbury Hospital records department then continuing my weekend job at Bournemouth University library.

I have in mind a visit to Surrey as I have identified a number of places connected with the Folker family. These range from schools, businesses and homes. I would like to see the places and possibly photograph them.

I think also that it is about time I produced a volume about the Folker family in East Anglia. Something to ponder upon.

I have a number of old photograph albums together with many loose photos. I would like to make up copies of these for distribution both for the sake of interest and also as a means of ensuring their perpetuity. I will probably make a start on this project quite soon.

## TO MAKE CONTACT

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

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My E-Mail has also changed to a new and permanent address which is :-  
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