

THE FOLKER FAMILY AND THE EXCISE

On the pedigree chart that I inherited, the earliest Folker name was that of Samuel Folker, a sailor who lived between 1756 and 1824. When I checked the parish register for his baptism I discovered from the following entry the additional information that his father John was an Officer of the Excise.

Anno 1758 Samuel Son of John & Mary Falker [sic] Officer of the Excise was baptized March 23rd.

As there was no mention of John elsewhere in these parish registers or anywhere in the IGI so I decided to research the records of the Excise and found the following entries:

Friday 5th October 1744 John Folker

Wm. Bradford Off. of Salop 5th OR having been thirty two years in the service of this Revenue & being his infirmities become incapable of performing his Duty as by Letter from Mr. Price of the 3d Inst. Order'd that he have leave to qualify himself for the Charity, that the Supernry. or a proper Offr. supply the vacancy & that John Folker be Supernry. on Mr. Fowle's motion the Off. who instructed him to give him notice.

April 1747 John Folker

... that John Folker, Officer of Hodnet Dn: in Salop Collection be at his own request / See his letter of 4th: inst: / Officer of Grays or such other Dn: as he shall be fit for and that Morgan herbert, restord, be officer of Hodnet or such other Dn: as he shall be fit for on Mr. Eyres' motion. Notice to be given him with Richd: Lloyd Esq: at Mabns Cardiganshire.

5 February 1759 John Folker

Edward Williams Officer of Lynn 10K having on the 8th most: Omitted to Survey his Residence; having gone to Survey his Ride but return'd without surveying a great part thereof; and having refused to take his Books from his Supervr: who had them to examine as by Mr: Vernons Letter of the 10th: instant ordered that the said Williams be discharged; that John Folker Officer of Dunmow 5th: OR Essex Colln: be Officer of Lynn 10K at his own request as by his letter of the 3d of December last; that the Supernry or proper Officer Supply the vacancy; and that Rich: Jones be Supernuy: by Order of the Board the Officer who ...

These finds led me on to search the entire index for any entry of a Folker name as a result of which I turned up the following references to William Folker and Ambrose Folker:

Tuesday 11th September 1744 Wm. Folker

Wm. Brock late one of the fixed Assists. at Yarmh. being dead as by Mr. Dauber's letter of the 7th Instt. Order'd that Wm. Folker succeed him on Mr. Earle's motion the Offr. who instructed him to give notice.

Tuesday 22nd May 1753 William Folker

William Folker, Officer of Norwich 2nd OR, having, whilst Officer of Yarmouth OR, demanded of the wife of Timothy Hewett, who had just set up the Business of a Tea Dealer, two shills for a Tea Book, to enter therein Tea he Sold and writing something on a piece of paper; alleging that the same was his fee having received of the wife of Edward Lowe, Tea Dealer; two sixpences for two Teabooks, and at the same time hold her husband a shilling from other people, and there being reason to believe that the officer has made a Trade of it for some years in that Divn, upon the delivery of a Teabook to the wife of John Clarke, demanded a shilling which he received, having received of the wife of John Gold, another Tea Dealer, a shilling which he demanded for entering the Rooms, having demanded of Richard Newman, another Dealer, a shilling which Newman for some time refused alleging that it was not his Due, but, upon the Officer insisting upon it as his right, Newman gave him the shilling, As by December Depart of 16th instant, ordered that the said Folker be discharged, and that John Potts, draft aforesaid at Bridlington, be officer of Norwich 2nd OR, and such other Divn as he shall be fit for.

September 1751

Four Hop Officers and a Superny: in Essex Colln: John Agnis; Harry Lewis; Henry Nugent; Chris Drake; Alwell Whitworth; Ambrose Folker That these be four Hop Officers and a Superny: in Essex Colln, who are beat Halstead the 11th: August, that John Agnis, Harry Lewis, Henry Nugent and Chris: Drake be the said officers, that Alwell Whitworth, Officer of Halstead 2d Dn: be Hop Superny:, that the Collector place a proper officer in Whitwall's Burial, and that Ambrose Folker official for such officer.

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Friday 13th July 1753

Four Hop Officers and a Supert in Essex Collection: Ambrose Folker, Saml Goslett, Henry Johnson, Leonard Grooms, John Wood, Henry Thwaites.

That there be four Hop Officers and a Supert in Essex Collection who are to be at Braintree the 10th August, that Ambrose Folker, Saml Goslett, Henry Johnson and Leonard Groom be the said Officers, that John Wood Officer at Braintree 2nd Dn. be Hop Supert, that the collector place a proper officer in Braintree 2nd Dn. and that Henry Thwaites officiale for such Officer.

Wednesday 17 July 1754

Five Hop Officers and a Superv in Essex Collection John Mill, John Smith, Philip Snows, Benj Smith, Robert Woss, John Wood, Ambrose Folker.

That there be five Hop Officers and a Superv in Essex Collection who are to be at Braintree on 10th August, that John Mill, John Smith, Richard Snow, Benjamin Smith, and Robert Wass be the said Officers, that John Wood Officer of Braintree 2nd Dn. be Hop Supervr that the Colln place a proper officer to officiale for the said Wood and that Ambrose Folker officiale for such officer

Wednesday 6 November 1754 Thomas Monk Ambrose Folker

Thomas Monk Officer of Farringdon of the Marlboro Collection having granted a permit pa: 142 Sept for 5 galls of British Brandy, another on 11 for 5 galls British and Foreign must, another on : for 2 galls British stocking another and shewing only a Decrease of 2 galls Foreign and 4 galls British having been guilty of very great neglect, failures in duty and all his performance bespeaking him to be an idle, slothful Officer, being indebted to said person underling Survey and the Revenue not safe under his management as by Mt Denham and Mr Clarkes report of 2nd inst ordered that he should be discharged that the Superint or a proper officer supply the vacancy and that Ambrose Folker be Supert per Mr Erlbars motion, the officer who instructed him to give notice.

Monday 5th: Feby 1759 Ambrose Folker

Notwithstanding the minute of the 29th ulto; it is now order'd that 30 Ambrose Folker Officer of Bampton Dn: Marlbro Colln: be Officer of Paddington Dn: Hertford Colln: and that Joseph Wright late Superny of Hartford Colln: be Officer of Bampton Dn: or such other as he shall before say.

Thursday 13 May 1762

A new division called Leachlade Ambrose Folker John Frost

The business in Leachlade Dn. , Bampton Dn., Burford 1st & 2nd Dns. * OR, Northleach Dn., 1st & 2nd Out Rides, of Fairford Dn., in Marlboro: Collection being too weighty for the Officers to secure the Duty in the manner their Instructions require Order'd that there be a new Division called Leachlade as proposed by Mr Fryer Colln & Supervr ny letter of the 8th inst. with the General Examiners Report thereon that the said Dns. & Rides together with the new Division be laid out according to the ????? sent up with the said proposal, that that Officer of the new Division have a salary of £50 pr ann to be placed to the Duty on Malt that Ambrose Folker Off. of Paddington Dn. Hertford Collection be Officer of the new Ride at his own request, & that John Frost draft Officer of Foulsham OR be Officer of Paddington Dn. or such other as he shall be fit for.

8 March 1770 Ambr. Folker

William Whiting Office of Oxford 5th Dn. Oxford Collection being by Minute of the 22d. past discharg'd; Order'd that Ambrose Folker Office of Lechlade Dn. Marlbro: Collection succeed him on Mr. Barryer's motion; that the Superny. on proper Office supply the vacancy; if that Thomas Walch be Superny. on Mr. Papillon's motion.

Friday 18th May 1781. Ambrose Folker

James Dov Officer of Sarum 5 Dn. Sarum Collection, being by Minute of March 1st appointed Officer of Bridgewater 2d Dn. Ordered that Thomas Wescott, Officer of Devizes 2d ORide same Collection, be Officer of Sarum 5 Dn, in his stead on the stead of the Board, that the Superny. or a proper Officer supply the vacancy, and that Ambrose Folker, be Supernumerary on Mr. Brooksbank's Motion.

Tuesday 3 March 1789 Ambrose Folker

Ambrose Folker draft officer of Oxford 5th Division Oxon Collection, being thro' infirmities rendered incapable of performing the Duty of an Officer as by letters of the 1st instant from Thomas Young Collector, and James Bailey, Supervisor. Ordered that he relinquish

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The Customs and Excise started out as totally separate entities, Customs covering ports of entry into the country and Excise covering internal revenue. They were not amalgamated until 1909. The Excise was divided up into Collections which were geographical areas in which Riding Officers went out to collect the duties.

Some of the items which attracted excise duty in the period around the mid 18th century were malt, hops, candles, soap, paper, starch, hides, plate, coffee, tea, chocolate, glass, etc. It seems that the cost of administering the Excise amounted to about 10% of the revenue. In 1749 the gross revenue was £3,501,934:6s:3¼d and the costs £353,430:4s:6d.

An example of duty payable can be seen from this certificate held in the Gloucestershire Record Office:

Hair Powder Annual Duty 1797 Stamp Office Certificate No 14 Apr 6th 1797 Wm Halford at W Watlingtons Kingscote in the county of Gloucester 1 pound 1 shilling For the year 1797 Office Filbury District Gloucester This certificate will expire on the fifth Day of April 1798

And below is an extract from an Analysis of Excise Revenue held in Norfolk County Archives:

Excise to 1757	1,575,690	15	11½
Malt	467,905	17	''½
Candles	158,366	15	5¼
Hops	48,027	4	2¾
Sope, paper, calicoes, wire & starch	281,723	15	''½
Hides	199,542	5	5
Plate	8,734	16	5
New duty plate	23,799	13	2¼
Cofee	39,808	4	7
Tea	419,091	16	''¾
Chocolate	10,228	16	2
Licences to 5th April	54,134	4	11½
Glafs	61,074	16	10¾
Coaches	60,862	10	5½
Grofs produce	3,408,991	11	10¼
Charges of management	380,728	"	3½
Net produce	3,028,263	11	6¾

There do not appear to be any other useful records in existence relating to the Excise that might help identify exactly how the three Folker's in these extracts are related to each other. I have found from records in Gloucestershire that Ambrose Folker had a son William who became mayor of Oxford therefore it is possible that the Ambrose was the son of William and followed him into the Excise. Possibly John was a brother of Ambrose but I am certain that they are all closely related as William, father of Ambrose, and descendants of both Ambrose and John are recorded as living near each other in Oxford. Further evidence is that a grandson of John was given the name Ambrose.