

The Faux/Foulger mystery

There appears to have been a strong connection between the Faux family from John Manistre Faux (son of Benjamin Faux who married Elizabeth Manistre) and the Foulger family. John Manistre Faux (1819-1896) married Anna Foulger (1816-1894) at Bury St. Edmunds on October 12 1839. Both died in Leatherhead. They appear to have had 8 children (Elizabeth Pertwee, Burrell, Louisa, Joseph, John (or George) Gregory, Walter, Fanny Jane & Frederick). John Manistre Faux had a brother, Gregory Faux, who married Jane Foulger, presumably Anna's sister.

Joseph Faux (b 1847, Burrell's brother) did not appear with the Faux family in the 1851 census in Ixworth. In fact, he was staying at the house of George Foulger in Great Barton where he is described as "grandson" and so I assume this is George Foulger, Anna Foulger's father. George's wife, however, is Sarah. George is aged 55 and Sarah is 48. It looks as though George had remarried.

Burrell Faux was the second child of John Manistre and appears to be the one who moved to Leatherhead, although John Manistre and his wife were also in Leatherhead in later years and John (George) Gregory was there for the birth of his first son.

Carol Munt says:

"My Grandmother was Dorothy Faux daughter of Thomas Faux and Amy (nee Goring). Thomas was the son of Burrell Faux and Susan (nee Collins). The papers and photographs I have show that the Faux and Foulger family were very close (cousins?)."

My Great Aunt Margaret (Peg) lived with the Foulgers some of the time during WW1 while my grandmother and her parents ran a boarding house in Hastings. Howard Faux my Great Uncle was in the RAMC in France during WW1. From the census returns it seems as though some of the Foulger children lived with the Faux family."

Jan Lane replied:

"My great great grandmother was Mary Ann Faux, sister of Thomas. Burrell and Susannah's first born son was also named Burrell who later changes his name to Robert Foulger. He moves to Hastings where he married Ellen Rachel Sims on 16th May 1895. Another of Burrell and Susannah's children changed her name and married under the name of Rose Foulger. It is very strange but the family seemed to change their name from one Census to the next i.e. in 1871 they were Fawkes, 1881 Foulger, 1891 back to Faux. Burrell and Susannah had 13 children altogether. Sadly 3 died in early childhood."

Census details:

In 1871 Census Leatherhead (RG10/800 p41) it states Burrell and Susannah as FAWKES, they are residing at Edwards Cottages, Fairfield with their children Burrell aged 7 born in Sydenham, Thomas 4, John 2 and William 11 months – all 3 born in Leatherhead.

In 1881 Census Leatherhead (RG11/763 p.48) the family are living at St Johns Road under the name of Foulger. They are listed as follows:-

Burrell (who is now calling himself William Foulger)

Burrell Jnr. is Robert Foulger

John is James Foulger

The rest of the family are Eliza, Mary, Rose, Stephen, Thomas and William.

In 1891 Census Leatherhead (RG12/548 p.5) the family are back calling themselves Faux. They are still living at St Johns Road and those residing there are Burrell and Susan, William, Rose, Stephen, Joseph, Nellie, Jane. Thomas also lived in the same building with his wife Amy. Mary is listed as a Foulger (RG12/623 p.13) living at Mortlake as a housemaid. Burrell Jnr is listed as Robert Foulger living with his Uncle and Aunt William and Ann Collins in Hastings. This must have been a boarding house as there were several visitors at the time of the 1891 Census.

In 1901 Census Leatherhead (RG13/585 p.23) the family are living again as Foulger at 2 Alma Villas St Johns Road. Those listed are:-

William (aka *Burrell Snr.*), Susan, William, Stephen, Rose, Nellie, Joseph and Jane.

Robert Foulger (*aka Burrell Jnr*) is now living with his wife Ellen (nee Sims) and their children Ernest E., John H., Nellie M, Thomas R and niece Elizabeth Sims.

The use of Foulger is frequent and even the first names change. The first three of Burrell Snr's children (Burrell 1864, Thomas 1866, John 1868) appear to be in the BMD indexes under Foux, Foux and Fauks respectively. It is possible that the father, Burrell Faux, was illiterate, probably his wife too. Faulty spellings in BMD records are rare and we have Foux, Fauks plus Fawkes in the census (spelling probably guessed by the census gatherer). This might also explain why, at the age of 16, Thomas registered Eliza's death. He was the only one who could write.

The fact that Burrell Snr committed suicide might also suggest a mental health problem of some sort. Was it therefore an embarrassment to be a Faux?! Is there any more information on the suicide? e.g. from a local newspaper report? It may be that the family fell out – when Anna (nee Foulger died), John Manistre went to Epsom workhouse where died a few years later. He was not taken in by Burrell Snr, which might suggest a conflict (although it was quite common for an elderly relative to go to the workhouse at this time).

(From Carol Munt) SURREY ADVERTISER. March 1910 Leatherhead report....

William Faux better known as William Foulger age 66...of 2, St Johns Road ...found by police in the River Mole by Old Mill Bridge Fetcham on 17th March 1910. His family found him missing at midnight so informed the police. He had been ill with pneumonia.

She could not find the coroners report of the inquest on 21st March 1910 but the death certificate is for Burrell Faux, male, 66 years, carpenter of St Johns Road, Leatherhead. Suicide during a state of unsound mind. West Surrey Coroner, Epsom.

Observations

The marriage of Robert Foulger to Ellen Rachel Sims took place on 16th May 1895. Robert's stated age is 30 years. Burrell Faux was born on 15th July 1864 and would have been 30 years old.

Robert Foulger's father is stated as "Robert Foulger, Carpenter". Burrell Faux's father was Burrell Faux Snr, a Journeyman Carpenter.

Robert Foulger's stated occupation on the marriage certificate is "Railway Goods Clerk". In the 1881 census, Robert Foulger is "Railway Clerk". His father is "William Foulger".

In the 1881 census, Robert Foulger's place of birth is "Sydenham, Kent". Burrell Faux was born in Sydenham, Kent.

There is no record in the BMD indexes of a "Robert Foulger" born 1863-1866.

The marriage of Robert Foulger to Ellen Rachel Sims took place in a Registry Office in Hastings on 16th May 1895 because Ellen was pregnant with Nellie May who was born on 30th May 1895. It had to be a quick marriage! Nellie May had a son called Henry **Burrell**.

No census records can be found with both Burrell Faux Jnr *and* Robert Foulger. In 1871, the son born in Sydenham, Kent was Burrell Fawkes.

The headstone for Burrell and Susannah Faux makes no reference to the suicide and is in the Churchyard at Leatherhead.

Ben Faux says "Susannah was actually SUSAN (Susan Collins) on her wedding certificate at Chigwell St Mary's 2/8/1863, she signed the entry but Burrell signed an Xafter the move to Epsom/Leatherhead I noted a son Thomas seemed to have been baptised "Fox" (and may have been registered in that name?). There seemed a great tradition for name changes in that family (unless it was down to accents), Burrell's mother appears as Anna, Hannah or Annie in different entries, and from memory I think Burrell's youngest brother Frederick (by registration) was actually baptised as FRED at Chigwell in 1860."