

# The Hunt for the Parents of Joseph

## INTRODUCTION

DAF's 4<sup>th</sup> great grandfather is called Joseph Faux. If a family stays in a similar location, it is usually straightforward to ascertain the parents of a particular descendent through parish registers of births, deaths and marriages. In the case of Joseph, finding his parents has proved a difficult but exciting challenge, with several researchers in two continents contributing to the hunt and involving the use of the latest gene technology.

The search for Joseph's parents is a fascinating story that deserves a separate chapter. It is a detective story, with ideas contributed from many sources, false leads, guess work and hours spent in record offices. The story is presented chronologically; that is, it is shown how the various pieces of the jigsaw have been put together to reveal at least a partial view of the truth.

## THE DISCOVERY OF JOSEPH

As a teenager DAF's father, Arthur, brought home a Faux family tree with ancestry traced back to his great grandfather, Benjamin Faux. The tree had been produced by "Uncle Ben", Arthur's uncle, Benjamin Joseph. During a visit to Uncle Ben, DAF was shown a Bible slip from within the family Bible. The slip referred to the arrival of "Joseph" from France at "about the time of the French Revolution" and settling in Drury Lane but other details could not be recalled subsequently. There was no other information in the Bible.

Uncle Ben's family tree extended to his grandfather, Benjamin (DAF's great great grandfather). Research at St Catherine's House (source of birth and marriage records) soon extended Uncle Ben's family tree two further generations, establishing that Benjamin's father was called Benjamin Joseph and that Benjamin Joseph's parents were called Joseph and Mary. But there the trail ran dry. It was known that Joseph and Mary lived in the Limehouse district of Stepney in East London, close to the Isle of Dogs, in about 1814 as census records stated that Benjamin Joseph was born there, although his birth is not recorded in the St Anne's, Limehouse registers nor in the registers of other local parishes. It was known, from the marriage certificate of Benjamin Joseph, that Joseph was a mason.

Then, a search of Boyd's Marriage Index (BMI) revealed the marriage of a Joseph Faux to Mary Manistre in Rickinghall Superior, north Suffolk, on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1801. Could these be the parents of Benjamin Joseph? No other Joseph Faux – Mary marriages could be found. Mary's death in 1846 in Radcliff Workhouse, with a stated age of 65, means that she would have been 19 or 20 at the time of her marriage in 1801, a reasonable age for a woman to get married. However, there was no firm evidence at all that Joseph Faux and Mary Manistre were the correct ancestors.

Visits to record offices in Bury St Edmunds and Norfolk lead to an extensive search of parishes in both Suffolk and Norfolk. Many Faux's were recorded, but the baptism record

of Joseph Faux, presumably born in about 1780, could not be found. It was discovered, however, that Joseph and Mary's first child was called Mary and she was born on 6 April 1802. No other children could be found between the birth of Mary and the birth of Benjamin Joseph in about 1814 in London. Did they have children between these dates and if so where? Or is this simply the wrong Joseph and Mary? If the Bible slip had any credence, Joseph was born in France and arrived in England in the 1780's ("about the time of the French Revolution") - this would explain why the record of his birth could not be found. But if the family "settled in Drury Lane" in the 1780's, why did they go from London to a rural area of Suffolk for an 1801 marriage before returning to London?

But the parish records revealed a second marriage of a Faux to a Manistre. Benjamin Faux married Elizabeth Manistre on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1805 in Pakenham, Suffolk, close to Rickinghall where Joseph Faux married Mary Manistre in 1801. Presumably, Joseph had a (younger?) brother called Benjamin and presumably Mary and Elizabeth Manistre were also siblings. Benjamin's birth record was also not to be found in any searched parish records, but it is known from subsequent records that he was a carpenter.

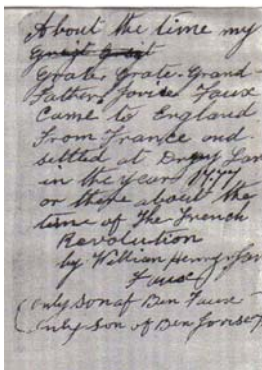
So it was, in 1986, that DAF wound down his genealogical research to spend 2 years in North Carolina, USA. He did not know of course, but at about this time another Dr David Faux, an American, was in Suffolk and Norfolk tracing *his* ancestry...

## **THE REDISCOVERY OF THE BIBLE SLIP**

In June 2001, DAF's second son was born, named Benjamin Joseph, and a web page announced his birth. In early 2002, an email arrived out of the blue from Ian Wilson (IW). He was also descended from Joseph Faux. He was tracing the Faux ancestry but he had also "got stuck" at Joseph and Mary and, too, presumed without good evidence that the Joseph Faux-Mary Manistre marriage in Suffolk was the marriage of our common ancestor. IW and DAF are third cousins.

IW had heard of the Bible slip and the anecdote about Drury Lane. The family who held the Bible slip were contacted (Uncle Ben had since died) but they said that they did not know of the whereabouts of either the Bible or the slip. Then, in September 2003, a second genealogist tracing the Faux family tree, Peter Hewitt (PH), made contact. He had been searching the internet and had stumbled across DAF's son's web page. PH's great grandmother was Emma Faux, Joseph's granddaughter. PH, too, was "stuck".

Within a very short space of time, others joined the collaboration – Dr David K Faux (DKF) in California, plus Rod Faux, Ivor Faux (IDF) and Mark Russell. DAF then dusted off his old genealogical files and folders and, when leafing through some odd sheets of paper, made an amazing discovery. There was a photocopy of a type-written summary of the information found by 1986 and, at the bottom of the sheet, was a copy of the Bible slip. Uncle Ben had typed up the information provided to him and made a copy for DAF, appending a copy of the Bible slip. Bless you Uncle Ben!



The slip reads:

*About the time my grate grate grandfather Jovise Faux came to England from France and settled at Drury Lane in 1777 or there about the time of the French Revolution by William Henry James Faux (only son of Ben Faux – only son of Ben Jovise Faux)*

There are some obvious spelling mistakes – Jovise is clearly Joseph, for example. There are some curiosities too. The French Revolution took place in about 1789 not 1777. And William Henry James' great great grandfather was not Joseph, Benjamin Joseph's father, but Joseph's father. Does the Bible slip name Joseph's father as also having the name "Joseph" or has the author simply written the wrong number of "greats"? As Joseph was most likely born about 1780, he could not have arrived from France in about 1777.

Quite clearly, a source such as this must be treated with caution. It is hard to think that all the information provided therein is false, but it is difficult to determine which aspects are accurate. This discovery provided the catalyst for further research, as we shall see, but soon a modern genealogical tool was also to provide some valuable information.

## GENETIC TESTING PROVIDES IMPORTANT CLUES

Nagging in the back of one's mind was the notion that Joseph Faux and Mary Manistre, married in 1801 in Rickinghall Superior in Suffolk, were *not* the parents of Benjamin Joseph born and brought up in London. There are many Faux ancestral lines in Norfolk and Suffolk and it is likely that Joseph Faux of Rickinghall Superior was descended from one of these. If the Bible slip was completely accurate, it was *unlikely* that this Suffolk Joseph was the sought-after ancestor.

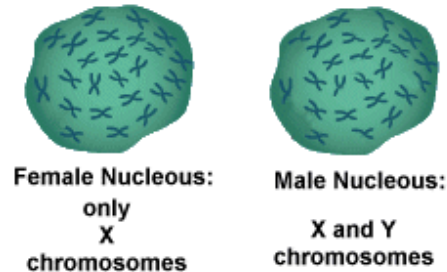
DKF is an expert in the application of genetic testing for genealogy. Both he and IDF had taken the test and the results demonstrated that they had a common ancestor. DAF was persuaded to also take the test, with the result arriving at Christmas 2003.

Let us first find out how the test works. The following information has been edited from the [www.familytreedna.com](http://www.familytreedna.com) website.

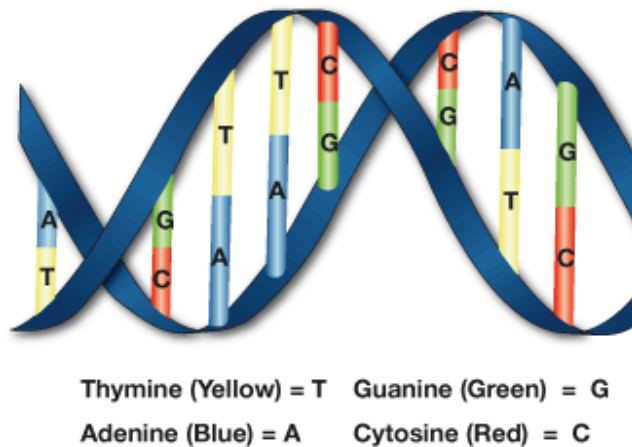
**DNA is the carrier of our genetic information.** At conception, a person receives DNA from both their father and mother. We each have 23 pairs of chromosomes, and for each pair, one was received from the father and one was received from the mother.

The 23rd chromosome is known as the sex chromosome. As with the other chromosomes, one is inherited from the father, and one from the mother. The 23rd chromosome from the mother is always an X. From the father, a person

either inherits an X chromosome or a Y chromosome. The chromosome inherited from the father determines their sex. An X from the father would result in an XX which is a female, and a Y from the father would result in an XY, which is a male.



DNA is made up of four proteins: Adenine (A), Cytosine (C), Thymine (T), and Guanine (G). The order of these bases is called the DNA sequence.



Whenever a base-pair occurs, its complementary base-pair is found on the other side. In the example see how the opposite base pairs compliment each other. In the example above green complements red. So we can write the DNA as:

T C A A G G T C etc.

For Genetic Genealogy, an area of the Y chromosome which does not contain information about a persons traits or medical information can be used. For example, the Y DNA area is known as Junk DNA by the scientists, since it does not code for personal information.

The Y chromosome is transmitted from father to sons. Scientists have identified a small portion, which is passed virtually unchanged. Testing of this portion of the Y chromosome provides information about the direct male line, which is the father, his father, and so forth back in time. The locations tested on the Y chromosome are called Markers. Occasionally a mutation occurs at one of the Markers in the Y chromosome. A mutation is simply a small change. These occasional mutations, which are estimated to occur about once every 500 generations per Marker, can sometimes be valuable for genealogists in identifying a branch of the family tree.

Each Marker has a name, such as DYS# 391, DYS #439 or GATA H4. The scientists classify these Markers as Short Tandem Repeat (STR) Markers. The

proteins at these Marker locations are short repeats (for example, ACGCACGCACGCACGC which is four repeats of the sequence ACGC). The result for a Marker is a count of the number of repeats at the location (4, in this example). The result received for a Y DNA test is a string of numbers, which represent the repeats found for each Marker. Each number is typically in the range 8-30. For a 25-Marker test, the result of the Y-DNA test yields 25 such numbers.

So what information could the Y DNA test reveal?

DKF and IDF had taken the test and the results revealed that two of the 25 numbers differed. In other words, where DKF might have the number 24 at one Marker, for example, IDF had 23. These results clearly indicated that they had a common ancestor and, indeed, Gregory (b 1618) is a strong candidate. Two mutations had occurred somewhere along the line to the present day.

Now, you may recall that there was a second Faux-Manistre wedding in Pakenham in the early part of the nineteenth century. *Benjamin* Faux married Elizabeth Manistre in 1805. It appeared that Benjamin and Joseph, living in the same area and marrying sisters, were probably brothers. IDF is descended from *Benjamin* whose descendents remained in the Pakenham area of Suffolk for generations.

Now, if DAF's Y-DNA test results were very similar to IDF's, it would prove conclusively that Joseph Faux who married Mary Manistre in 1801 is indeed our ancestor. If the sequence of 25 numbers were quite different, it would confirm a different lineage (a French one perhaps).

The results arrived at Christmas time, 2003, and revealed that DAF's Y-DNA matched IDF's in 24/25 markers, and matched DKF's in 22/25 markers. Conclusively, Joseph Faux and Benjamin Faux, both marrying Manistre's, have a common ancestor and that DAF, PH and IW have Joseph of Rickinghall as their ancestor. The results suggest that Joseph and Benjamin were brothers but does not exclude the possibility that they were cousins.

Time, now, to re-focus our attention on the Bible slip in the search for more clues.

## **DRURY LANE**

If you believe the Bible slip, the Faux "immigrants" settled in Drury Lane, London. Where we might accept that the date of 1777 is wrong, it would be extraordinary if Drury Lane was not significant. On the other hand, Drury Lane might be a famous London street now – was it so in 1777 (or thereabouts) or at the time the slip was written? Isn't it unusual to pass, by word of mouth through the generations, the *street* the family settled in rather than, say, the *town* or *village*?

Perhaps there might be a town or village called "Drury Lane". A search on [www.streetmap.co.uk](http://www.streetmap.co.uk) yields three. One is in Dumfries and Galloway, one near Wrexham, Wales ... and one in Norfolk. In fact, Drurylane, Norfolk, is close to Watton, south and west of Norfolk, and in the heart of "Faux country". Could this be the place the family

settled – perhaps after a period in France? We know from the DNA evidence that our origins lie in Norfolk back to about 1618 and before, but DNA evidence does not exclude the possibility of a temporary move abroad. The closest parish is Carbrooke but PH searched its records revealing no Faux entries.

Drurylane is a tiny hamlet and we don't yet know if it even existed around 1777, although it certainly did in about 1840. William Henry James Faux lived in north London – surely the Drury Lane he wrote about was, in his mind, London's Drury Lane. There was also much building work in Drury Lane in the period of the 1780's, some good job opportunities for a mason perhaps?

So the jury (or “Drury”) is still out on this one.

## CANDIDATES FOR JOSEPH'S FATHER

A flurry of emails early in 2004 lead to the identification of four possibilities for the father of Joseph and, indeed, his supposed brother Benjamin. These are detailed below. They are the four possibilities that existed by about February 2004, even though information has come to light subsequently to strengthen or weaken the case for each candidate.

- (i) **Thomas**, born in 1739 in Thetford, son of Gregory(1696) Faux and Anne. This Gregory is an important character and is labelled by his approximate date of birth to distinguish him from other Gregorys. **Thomas** and his wife, Mary, had 5 children between 1768 and 1775 (two surviving). The speculation is that the family moved then had two more children (at least) including Joseph and Benjamin. The primary basis for **Thomas** as the father of Joseph and Benjamin is one of timing – he was in the right place (Thetford) and having children at the right time. Further support for this theory lies with the Benjamin Faux who married Elizabeth Manistre in 1805 - their first son was called Thomas (although Elizabeth Manistre's father was also called Thomas). DKF, IDF and Mark Russell appear, independently, to have drawn the same conclusion, that **Thomas** was the father of both Joseph and Benjamin.
- (ii) **Joseph**, born in 1758 in Thetford, son of John Faux and Susanna. If the Bible slip is accurate, William Henry James' great great grandfather was called Joseph, not Thomas. So we seek a Joseph as the father of Joseph and Benjamin and this is the first of two candidates. The popular naming convention, in which a male was given the same name as the father, makes this option attractive. We will call this Joseph “Joseph(1758)” in reference to his probable date of birth. **Joseph(1758)** had one known sibling, an elder sister who was called Susanna, born about 1754, named after their mother.

Now, John Faux's father was Gregory(1696). In Gregory(1696)'s Will set out in 1769 he referred to his “late son John”. So John, father of **Joseph(1758)** was dead by 1769. It would appear that Susanna, **Joseph(1758)**'s mother and John's wife, was also dead by 1769 as she does not receive a mention in the Will. Gregory(1696) made bequests to his grandchildren Joseph and Susanna, the only

grandchildren mentioned. He obviously knew their whereabouts in 1769 and, indeed, may have been helping to look after them at this time. Gregory(1696)'s Will was probated in 1770.

Who was looking after the children, **Joseph(1758)** and Susanna (aged about 16 and 12 respectively) at the time Gregory(1696) passed away? One possibility was that their uncle Gregory, born in about 1726, who was the son of Gregory(1696), was their guardian. Both Gregory(1696) and son Gregory(1726) were carpenters and joiners as, also, was the Benjamin Faux who married Elizabeth Manistre.

There is additional circumstantial evidence to support **Joseph(1758)** as the father of Joseph and Benjamin. If, indeed, **Joseph(1758)**'s guardian was Gregory(1726), then they shared the household with John Burrell Faux, Gregory(1726)'s only (known) son born in 1769. The name "Burrell" is very unusual and derived from Gregory(1726)'s wife, Bridget Burrell. They were married in 1766. "Burrell" appears again as Benjamin and Elizabeth's son, Burrell Faux, as indeed does "Gregory". Note, however, that neither distinctive name appears in Joseph's line – although this may simply be because Joseph only had two known children, Mary and Benjamin Joseph.

- (iii) **Joseph**, born in about 1741, son of Gregory(1696) and Mary. Note (if it was not complicated enough already) that Gregory(1696) first married Anne and then, later, Mary. This is the only other candidate called Joseph that we can find. He would most likely have been in his late thirties if he fathered Joseph and Benjamin. The speculation was that Joseph(1741) went to France and returned in about 1777 (as indicated by the Bible slip) and married late. He is not mentioned in Gregory(1696)'s Will, however, suggesting that he was either dead or location unknown at this time.
- (iv) **Someone else.** It is quite clear that there are a number of Faux lines that have not (or cannot) be followed and, indeed, some Faux's that appear in the records (in Thetford for example where almost all these characters are based) who have not been pinned to a particular lineage. We cannot exclude the possibility that Joseph and Benjamin's parents are neither (i), (ii) or (iii) above.

At one point we were virtually convinced that Joseph(1758) was Benjamin and Joseph's father and nearly prepared to put the matter to bed.

Just as well we did not.

On the first day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty seven Administration (with the Will annexed) of the Goods Chattels and Credits of John Faux late Carpenter belonging to the East India Merchant Ship the Lord Clive at Calcutta in the East Indies a Widow deceased was granted to Gregory Faux and Joseph Casey the Nephews next of kin and Curators or Guardians lawfully assigned to Susanna Faux Spinster and Joseph Faux Minors the Children of the said deceased and Residuary Legatees named in the said Will for the use and benefit of the said Minors and until out of them shall attain the Age of twenty one years they having been first sworn by Commission duly to administer for that Joseph Faux the Brother of the said deceased and sole Executor named in the said Will dyed without taking upon him the Execution thereof.

## DISCOVERY OF JOHN'S WILL

Mark Russell discovered the Will of John Faux, the father of the two children, Susanna and Joseph(1758). This Will was probated at the Perogative Court of Canterbury and provides a host of information.

First, dramatically, the Will reveals that John was to set sail in the merchant ship *The Lord Clive* to Bengal with the East India Company. The Will states that he was a carpenter. There is no mention of his wife, Susan(na), who was clearly dead (or at least departed) by 7<sup>th</sup> March 1763, the date of the Will. The Will provides a sum for his (half)brother Joseph "of Saint John's Parish in Southwark" (also a carpenter) and names him as the Executor of the Will. This is Joseph(1741). The remaining sums John leaves to his two (note, just two) children Joseph and Susanna once they reach 21 years of age. Joseph(1741) was to be the guardian of John's children in the event of his death.

Sadly, John did meet his death and his Will was executed on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1767. But Joseph(1741) did *not* execute the Will – he had died also. This fact alone makes it very unlikely that Joseph(1741) was the father of Joseph and Benjamin.

It is stated that Gregory(1726), John's brother and the eldest sibling, would be the guardian of John's two children with the sums shared by Gregory Faux and Joseph Casey (probably John's brother-in-law). It may have been the case that Joseph(1758) and sister Susanna were being looked after by Joseph(1741) in Southwark while John was away. Perhaps they returned to Norfolk when Joseph(1741) died and were being cared for by Gregory(1726) anyway. Did Joseph(1741) have family in Southwark? We have no records of Joseph(1741) marrying nor any children. But is hard to imagine that John's children (aged about 5 and 9 in 1763) would have been looked after by an unmarried male, aged 22, far from home.

What trauma the family must have endured – especially Joseph(1758) and Susanna. Their mother had died some years earlier, their father sets off to India in the search of wealth and they are looked after in London. Their guardian uncle dies, they return to Norfolk. They learn of their father's death overseas. It is hardly surprising that, in his old age, Gregory(1696) decides to support them with a bequest.

Then, some more information came to light that puts a new perspective on the lineage of Joseph and Benjamin.

## **APPRENTICESHIP RECORDS**

We have seen that it is possible to find the occupation of individuals through Wills. It was often the case, as we have seen already, that trades continued from father to son. Joseph was a stonemason, Benjamin was a carpenter. This might suggest that they had different fathers (or guardians).

Apprenticeship records can be very useful. The web site [www.history.uk.com](http://www.history.uk.com) says that *“the survival rate for these records is fairly high but more numerous post-1800. They usually give the father's name, occupation, place of residence and the term of apprenticeship, often seven years. From this one can usually deduce that the individual will be fourteen years old when apprenticed but it is not always the case”*

PH looked at the Minute Book of Sir Joseph Williamson's Charity which is held by the Town Clerk in Thetford. The Charity provided funds to place boys and girls from Thetford into apprenticeships. Under the entry for the meeting of Trustees of "Monday Twentyninth day of June 1772" is the following:-

*Also it is ordered that Joseph ffaux the son of John ffaux of St Cuthbert's parish to becoming an apprentice to Gregory ffaux of the same parish Joiner for seven years.*

*His master to have Six pounds and double clad His apprentice at the end of his time.*

Joseph(1758) would have been around 14 at this time and would have finished his apprenticeship at the usual age of 21 in 1779. If he is the father of our Joseph and Benjamin, and assuming he married soon after qualifying at the age of 21, this would fit with Joseph's birth about 1779-80 with Benjamin following a few years later.

There are two other interesting entries:

*Gregory Faux otherwise Holder son of Thomas Faux of St Mary's parish in the County of Suffolk to James Stevens of Hopton in the Hundred of Blackbourn Suffolk Carpenter to learn his art until 21.*

This is dated 2nd June 1792.

*Also it is ordered that Benjamin ffaux otherwise Holder of St Mary's parish be bound to William Larnor of Stoke Ferry Blacksmith.*

This date is 9 June 1795.

So, by 1792, when Thomas's son Gregory(1778) was apprenticed to James Stevens Carpenter of Hopton he was also known as Gregory Holdor (or Holdon). "Otherwise Holder" also appears in an entry for a Benjamin. The two elder brothers John and Thomas are shown as Faux with no mention of "Holder". Both Gregory(1778) and Benjamin take the name "Holder" or "Holden" so that Thomas *did* have a child called Benjamin, born in the early 1780's after all! It seems, therefore, that Thomas must have died and Mary remarried after Benjamin's birth in the 1780's with the younger sons partially taking their stepfather's name. No mention of a Joseph, however. No record of a Mary Faux - Holder/Holden marriage has yet been found either.

Is this the Benjamin Faux who married Elizabeth Manistre in 1805? Is Thomas the father of both Joseph and Benjamin with both baptisms missing because the family moved? Or is Thomas the father of Benjamin only ... or neither?

Notice Benjamin's occupation – he was training to be a blacksmith, not a carpenter. Benjamin who married Elizabeth Manistre in 1805 was most definitely a carpenter. Did Benjamin change apprenticeships, or is this simply a different person?

As usual, genealogical discoveries raise more questions than answers.

## **HOLDEN, HOLDER, HILDER, HELDER**

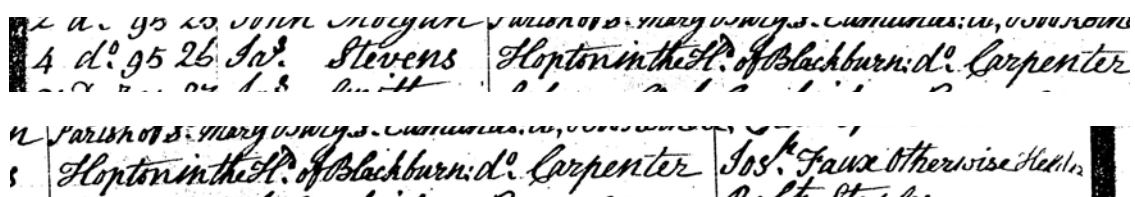
Benjamin Faux and Elizabeth Manistre, who married in Pakenham, Suffolk, in 1805, had many children. It was common practice at this time to include a parent's surname as a middle name and Benjamin and Elizabeth followed this practice. They had a son called John Manistre Faux. They also had a daughter christened Mary Hilder Faux. It is not clear what Thomas Manistre's wife Mary's surname was (the parents of Mary and Elizabeth), but if it were Hilder, this would explain why Benjamin and Elizabeth called their youngest daughter Mary Hilder Faux.

Is "Hilder" coincidentally similar to Holder/Holden that appears in the Thetford apprenticeship records? It would seem so. Old records can be difficult to read. "Holder" might be "Holden" or "Helden" or "Helder" but probably not "Hilder". Mary Hilder Faux was most definitely "Hilder". IDF says that the name "Hilder" is definitely a Suffolk family – there are many Hilder references in Suffolk, most of them quite close to Pakenham, particularly in Norton, Tostock, Hessett, Bradfield St George, Felsham and Cockfield, but none recorded in Norfolk. The Norton Hilders are of interest, since they were there between 1700 and 1750, and there were also Manistre's in Norton in the same period. Edmund and Martha Manistre had several children there: Elizabeth 1719, Elizabeth 1720, Mary 1721, Hellena 1725 and Robert 1727. Presumably they were related to the Pakenham Manistres.

## **THE INLAND REVENUE YIELDS A CLUE**

When an apprenticeship commenced a fee was paid. This fee was taxed and the tax, or “stamp”, paid to the government. The payment of this tax was recorded and these Inland Revenue Apprenticeship Stamp records are now held at Kew Public Record Office. If the apprenticeship was set up through a charity, as in the Thetford records reported previously, no stamp was payable and these apprenticeships were not recorded in the IR records. The taxes collected in the big cities were sent to London daily for processing, but in the country they were collected locally and sent to London in batches.

Many hours searching microfiche records at Kew yielded a stunning discovery.



The first image shows the left hand part of the record and the second image the right hand part. This record is in fact dated 4<sup>th</sup> March 1795 and states:

*James Stevens Hopton in the Hd of Blackburn: County of Suffolk, Carpenter, Joseph Faux otherwise Helder.*

James Stevens was also providing an apprenticeship for Gregory Faux at Hopton in the hundred of Blackburn (misspelt in the document). But notice “Joseph otherwise Helder”. There is no doubt that this previously undiscovered Joseph Faux was the brother of Benjamin and of Gregory, and therefore the son of Thomas and Mary (now Helder or Holder following remarriage). The surname looks more like “Helder” than “Holder” or any other variation, but there may be a minor transcription error.

We are left with a very interesting conclusion from the apprenticeship records from Thetford and Kew. Thomas Faux and Mary were one candidate for the parents of Joseph and Benjamin, probably brothers, who married Manistre sisters in the early nineteenth century. Thomas and Mary were having children at the right time in the right area – the simple assumption was that the family moved location and the baptism records of their later children, including Joseph and Benjamin, would ultimately emerge. No baptism records have emerged, but the apprenticeship records show that Thomas and Mary *did* have at least two further children, and that these two children were called Joseph and Benjamin.

So, the most likely candidates for the parents of Joseph and Benjamin are Thomas and Mary. Yet their son Joseph was apprenticed as a carpenter, the Joseph who married a Manistre was a mason. Their son Benjamin was apprenticed as a blacksmith, the Benjamin who married a Manistre was a carpenter. However, it is likely that an apprenticeship to a blacksmith might involve some carpentry, especially if the blacksmith concerned was manufacturing agricultural implements with wooden handles, frames etc, or if the blacksmith operated a foundry, when sand boxes would need to be made. In general, a blacksmith can be any worker in iron. Similarly, a carpenter may get involved as part of a masonry team, since the

frames on which arches, windows and doorways are constructed would need carpentry work. So it is possible that, Benjamin and Joseph's apprenticeships simply led them, after their apprenticeships, to move into carpentry or masonry work. Or as they moved on to Rickinghall and Pakenham, these may have simply been the work opportunities open to them, or the most lucrative.

## **FAMILY NAMES**

Now, a short comment on the practice of giving children family names. We assume that Thomas and Mary are the parents of Benjamin. Gregory 1697 had sons Gregory, John, **Thomas**, Joseph, Benjamin by his two wives Mary and Anne. **Thomas** 1739 had sons John, Thomas, Gregory, **Benjamin**, Joseph by his wife Mary. **Benjamin** 1782? had sons **Thomas**, Benjamin, Joseph, Gregory, John Manistre & Burrell. **Thomas** 1809 had sons Benjamin, Gregory, Joseph, Burrell, Thomas, Walter & William.

The consistency of the use of the names Gregory, Benjamin, John and Joseph is further compelling evidence that Thomas and Mary were the parents of Joseph and Benjamin.

**In January 2005, it was agreed that the evidence supporting Thomas and Mary as the parents of Joseph and Benjamin was overwhelming.**