

The Faux's and the Dukes of Grafton and Beaufort

From Suffolk to Northamptonshire

Benjamin Faux (nephew of Joseph, born about 1780 or John Burrell jnr's half second cousin) was born in Ixworth, Suffolk in 1811. It seems that he had some connection with the Duke of Grafton who had a residence, Euston Hall, a short distance south east of Thetford and less than 5 miles from Ixworth village.

It is also possible that Benjamin's father, also called Benjamin, also worked at Euston Hall - it is a short distance along the road from Thetford to Pakenham. The Faux's were supporters of the Graftonite faction (vs the Petries) for some time. In particular, John Burrell Faux (mayor of Thetford, Benjamin Snr's half-cousin) is firmly linked with the Graftonite party in Thetford elections. So it is possible that the Faux's could have secured jobs at Euston for their relations.

Much of the information below is taken (2005) from <http://www.tbheritage.com/Breeders/Grafton/Grafton2.html>



EUSTON HALL, c. 1710 with a stag hunt in progress (by Thomas Wyck), a red brick pile, was built in the 1660s for Lord Arlington in the French chateau style. It came to the Dukes of Grafton via the first Duke's wife, the Earl of Arlington's daughter. Eventually the 2nd Duke of Grafton hired William Kent to design a classical banqueting house on the property and to do additional landscape planning; Capability Brown, who later served as gardener to the Duke, added some landscape features.

The Duke of Grafton also owned Wakefield Lodge which is close to Potterspury, Northamptonshire, north west of present-day Milton Keynes. At some stage, Benjamin (b. 1811) moved to Potterspury and, later, two daughters worked as servants to the Duke.

One may speculate as to how this move came about. Benjamin, as for most male Faux's of the period, was a Carpenter. Perhaps he worked at Euston Hall, impressed the Duke, and was offered work at Wakefield Lodge. If so, he probably moved in the 1830's as he married Louisa Dawes in Potterspury in 1839 and she was born there, suggesting he met her after moving. If so, it was therefore George Henry Fitzroy, the 4th Duke of Grafton (1760-1844), with whom he found favour.

The Duke's of Grafton

Scandal, illegitimacy, seem rare with commoners, but commonplace amongst in "high" society. The Fitzroy family sprang from Barbara Villiers (1641-1709), Lady Castlemaine and later Duchess of Cleveland, one of King Charles II's mistresses, by whom she had five or six children. At least fourteen illegitimate children from various mistresses have been traced to this charming monarch. For this second son, named Henry Fitzroy, Charles arranged a preliminary marriage in 1672, when the boy was nine, to a five year old heiress, Isabella, the daughter of the eminent statesman Henry Benet, Earl of Arlington, who owned Euston Park in Suffolk. To commemorate the wedding and ensure this son's future, Charles created Henry Baron Sudbury, Viscount Ipswich and Earl of Euston, and in 1675 made the boy Duke of Grafton. The Duchess and her future in-laws were against the union, but Charles persisted in seeing the marriage through, and in 1679 witnessed the confirmatory marriage between the sixteen year old Henry and his twelve year old Arlington heiress. The young Duke was set up with Crown estates and hereditary revenues from customs and excise duties. Due to conditions Charles laid on the grants to his various sons, including the passage of pensions to existing sons or male heirs, should any of the family lines terminate without male issue, by the time Charles' great-great-grandson, Augustus Henry, the 3rd Duke of Grafton, reached middle age, his annual income due to these pensions had swollen to £9,000 a year, and other sinecures brought his total yearly income to £18,000, a true fortune in 1774.

George Henry, 4th Duke of Grafton served as an M.P. for 29 years but was most noted as a sportsman. Universally liked, and widely admired by the sporting writers of his day, he generally managed to avoid controversy and political intrigue, living, no doubt, the life his father would have wished for himself. He defied his father in marrying by licence, in 1784, Charlotte Maria Waldegrave, Horace Walpole's niece and granddaughter of Sir Edward Walpole by his mistress, Dorothy Clements. Being a charming and attractive young woman, she eventually won over her father-in-law, who had objected to importing more strains of bastardy into the family line. He acceded to the title upon the death of his father in 1811, at the age of 51. The Duke was famous for dressing whimsically, with a tall hat, brightly-colored frock coat and tightly strapped trousers, and always carrying a tightly-rolled umbrella under his arm at public gatherings. His son, Henry, born in 1790, acceded to the Dukedom upon his death in 1844.



Above, the 4th Duke: witty, cool and admired for his sportsmanship.

The archivist at Euston Hall has been contacted but no records exist relating to any Faux connection with the estate in the nineteenth century. Records are, however, poor and patchy. No records exist either for the period relating to Wakefield Lodge, Potterspury, where the Benjamin's daughters later worked.

The Faux's at Wakefield Lodge

There are seven recorded children of Benjamin (b. 1811) and Louisa born between 1839 and 1853. The 1861 census (surname "Fann") lists the family in Church Lane, Potterspury, with John J, Elizabeth, Benjamin B and Angelina. Daughter Elizabeth is listed as a Dressmaker and the Benjamin's are Carpenters. In 1871, Benjamin and Louisa are living in the High Street, Potterspury, with children Benjamin B and Angelina (surname in index as "Fant"). Angelina is described as a Dressmaker. Benjamin's son, John Joseph, and John's family live nearby. In 1881, Benjamin is living in Church Lane, Potterspury, once again. There are links with Dukes through three children – Elizabeth Hilder, Angelina and Benjamin Burrell.



WAKEFIELD LODGE in Northamptonshire, 117 acres of gardens, pleasure grounds and enclosed meadowland plus a share in pasturage offered by Wakefield Lawn was granted to the second Duke of Grafton as part of his appointment to Lord Warden and Chief Ranger of Whittlebury and Salcey forests by Queen Anne. In 1751 the original structure, used by Oliver Cromwell as a hunting box, was replaced by the William Kent designed structure seen in the distance, commissioned by the 2nd Duke. Kent was a leading and popular practitioner of the "landscape garden;" the landscape designer Capability Brown is also said to have had a hand in developing the park. The Grafton Hunt was founded here by the 2nd Duke, who also sponsored the Wakefield Lawn Races which were held here until 1868. The 3rd and 4th Dukes continued the Grafton Hunt from Wakefield. The 4th Duke also stabled "a splendid supply of first-class sires" at Wakefield to improve the breed of hunters in Grafton country. The property was sold in the 1920s. This watercolor was painted by Paul Sandby in 1767.

In 1881, Elizabeth was a servant ("Ladies Maid") for the Duke of Grafton at Wakefield Lodge. Her given age is 39 and she is unmarried. Ten years later she is a Housekeeper for widowed Marie Grafton and had been joined by her sister Angelina who was a Ladies' Maid. There were 10 visitors on this occasion supported by 10 servants. Elizabeth devoted her life to the Grafton's and she is recorded in the 1901 census at age 59, shortly before her death.

Benjamin had a son, Benjamin Burrell born in 1846, who was also a Carpenter. Benjamin Burrell married Ann Webb in about 1876 and their first son was born in the first quarter of 1879, Harry Burrell Faux. At the time of the 1881 census, the second son had been born and has a recorded age of 1 month. His name is stated as "John George". Benjamin Burrell died in 1883 and his wife later married William Woodward. There are three sons by her first marriage recorded in the 1891 census in the Woodward household as "son-in-laws" – Harry Burrell, Gregory J and Burrell F. The age of Gregory J corresponds to that of "John George" and Burrell F was born in about 1883, the same year as his father died. "Son-in-law" clearly should be "step-son" but at that time it was common to use son-in-law in this sense. "John George" is Gregory John (birth registered in the first quarter 1881) and so it is possible that, at the time of the 1881 census, the family had not firmly decided on the newborn's name.

It is Gregory J who appears in the 1901 census in Gloucestershire as a Footman for the Duke of Beaufort on the Great Badminton Estate.

The Dukes of Beaufort

Gregory J Faux was probably first employed by the 8th Duke of Beaufort (d 1899). The following is an extract from (2005) <http://hereditarytitles.com/Page52.html>

The Dukedom of Beaufort is one of the most highly revered in Britain. Sons descended from John of Gaunt and Katherine Swynford, born out of wedlock but later legitimized by the Pope, were given the surname of Beaufort. John of Gaunt was a son of King Edward III and is of Plantagenet origin. This family has a very strong position to make a claim to the throne of England, but illegitimacy would always stand in the way of pressing any such claim.

It was the Beaufort's devotion to the Monarchy that has distinguished this family throughout their history. During the British Civil Wars, Henry Beaufort (then 5th Earl of Worcester) supported Charles I financially with support of over a million Pounds. Henry also held Raglan Castle against the Parliamentarians for nearly four years, surrendering the castle only when it had been reduced to ruin. After the restoration of the monarchy, Charles II created the Beaufort Dukedom in 1682, recognizing their "having been eminently serviceable for the king since his most happy restoration, in consideration thereof and of his most noble descent from King Edward III by John de Beaufort, eldest son of John of Gaunt by Katherine Swynford."

The 5th Duke's youngest son, Lord FitzRoy, was quite a distinguished soldier. While serving as Aide-de-Camp to the Duke of Wellington, he lost an arm at Waterloo. Later, he commanded the British Army during the Crimean War (where he died) and is forever associated with the Charge of the Light Brigade.

There is a story that Henry Charles FitzRoy, 8th Duke of Beaufort, presented documents to Queen Victoria showing that John of Gaunt was actually married to Katherine Swynford. This could have proven that the present Royal Family was not entitled to the crown. Queen Victoria is said to have thanked the Duke for bringing the documents to her and immediately placed them into the fire.



Henry Charles Fitzroy Somerset, 8th Duke of Beaufort, born Paris 1 Feb 1824, died Stoke Gifford 30 Apr 1899. On the 8th July 1845, he married Lady Georgina Curzon-Howe at Hampton (29 Sept 1825-14 May 1906). A "gentleman carriage driver" and a noted sportsman himself, in the 1880's the Duke wrote a series of 23 books on various sporting interests. He was also an early patron of homeopathy.

The village of Great Badminton is situated on the high Cotswolds approximately 3 miles South of Hawkesbury Upton. Badminton House, the home of the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort, is visible in the distance from the approach roads across the Cotswold plateau. The village is famous for the annual Horse Trials organized by the estate. It is also the origins of the game of Badminton. Army officers brought the game of Poona from India and played the game at Badminton house. Census records show that Army officers were frequent visitors to the House. Then the court was an hour glass shape but, in 1873, rules and regulations were applied blending in a bit of lawn tennis and a court change to rectangular. Poona was renamed Badminton.



Badminton Hall (c 1885 by Morris from his collection of stately seats)

The Somersets and the Fitzroys

Did Gregory John Faux obtain the position of Footman for the 8th Duke of Beaufort through his aunts' links with the Duke of Grafton? The Somersets and the Fitzroys were most certainly related.

The 8th Duke of Beaufort's father was Lord Worcester, Henry Somerset (1792-1853), Marquis of Worcester, who acceded in 1835 as 7th Duke of Beaufort. He married Georgiana Frederica Fitzroy (born 3 October, died 11 May 1821 in London, Apsley House) on July 25, 1814 in London. He was infamous for his elopement with his first wife's sister Anne Caroline Fitzroy (born circa 1794, died 16 December 1835) in 1822. At the time such a marriage was considered to be against the Bible's teachings. The women were nieces of the Duke of Wellington.

Georgiana Frederica Fitzroy was the daughter of Hon. Henry Fitzroy whose uncle was the 3rd Duke of Grafton. Henry Fitzroy's great grandfather was the 2nd Duke of Grafton who married Lady Henrietta Somerset. So it looks as though relatives of the Duke's of Beaufort and Grafton had been marrying each other for many years!

During the time Gregory John Faux was employed at Great Badminton, Gloucestershire, the Duchess of Grafton had been widowed. Gregory J, a Footman Domestic, was one of many servants working for the 9th Duke and Duchess of Beaufort at the Badminton Estate in 1901. At the time of the census, the Duke and Duchess had three children including a newborn Marquis of Worcester. The Duke's brother-in-law (a Banker) was in residence plus 10 visitors. There was a House Steward, a House Keeper, a Cook, six Ladies' Maids, four Valets, two Still-room Maids, a Nurse, seven Housemaid Domestics, three Kitchen Maids,

three Footmen, a Groom, an Under Butler, a Needlewoman, a Butler, two Laundry Maids, two Laundresses and a Milk Maid plus, in the stables, 11 stable hands, two Coachmen and two Aldermen.

A citation for the 9th Duke of Beaufort states that Henry Adelbert Wellington FitzRoy Somerset, 9th Duke of Beaufort was born on 19 May 1847. He was educated between 1860 and 1864 at Eton College, Eton, Berkshire. He gained the rank of Cornet in 1865 in the service of the Royal Horse Guards and the rank of Captain in 1869. He was Yeomanry Aide-de-Camp to HM Queen Victoria in 1899, held the office of Aide-de-Camp to HM Queen Victoria in 1899 and he held the office of High Steward of Bristol in 1899. He succeeded to the titles of 11th Marquess of Worcester [E., 1643], 9th Duke of Beaufort [E., 1682], 15th Earl of Worcester [E., 1514], 9th Lord Botetourt [E., 1305] and to the title of 17th Lord Herbert [E., 1461] on 30 April 1899. He held the office of Hereditary Keeper of Raglan Castle and he gained the rank of Honorary Colonel in the service of the Gloucestershire Yeomanry. He held the office of Deputy Lieutenant of Gloucestershire and of J.P. for Monmouthshire, the office of Deputy Lieutenant of Monmouthshire and the office of J.P. for Gloucestershire.

The children of Henry Adelbert Wellington FitzRoy Somerset, 9th Duke of Beaufort and Louise Emily Harford were Lady Blanche Linnie Somerset (b. 15 Apr 1897, d. 30 Aug 1968), Lady Diana Maud Nina Somerset (b. 12 Sep 1898, d. 6 May 1935) and Sir Henry Hugh Arthur FitzRoy Somerset, 10th Duke of Beaufort (b. 4 Apr 1900, d. 5 Feb 1984). All three children appear on the 1901 census.

The 9th Duke of Beaufort died on 24 November 1924. His will was probated in February 1925, at £541,843 gross and £169,763 net.

The Archivist at Badminton, Mrs Elaine Milsom, has been kind enough to search her records for Gregory John Faux. She has searched Accounts Books and various other records but has found no reference to him. Unfortunately, the Head of a “department” appears on the records but not the underlings. She also searched the House Steward Accounts from 1906 but, again, with no success.

Gregory J married Christina Hill in 1910 in Glamorgan, Wales, and he may have still been working for the Duke of Beaufort as the Duke held estates in South Wales. At some stage, Gregory J moved to South Africa. The following information was provided by Robert Faux of South Africa and has been extracted from Mark Russell’s web site.

“Gregory J’s estate at death consisted of 7 plots of land in Margate, South Africa, and surrounding area. There was a letter from a Mrs. E. Mary FAUX. to a Sis. requesting his birth certificate, dated- 9 Feb.1967, with return address as, Whitehall Hotel, Box 23, Margate, Natal. Also Papers from the S.A.R & H. (South African Railways & Harbours) showed that he was a retired rail worker, and that his monthly pension was 3 pound and 16 pence.

Research for Gregory John FAUX, and found no mention of Frederick FAUX, the only principals in the files were , Christina, his wife, Geoffrey, his son, and Mssrs. TUCKER, his lawyer in Johannesburg, who handled the sale of his 5 properties in BELLEVUE EAST, Johannesburg, Transvaal. At the time of his death, his wife was resident at 106 Hopkins

Street, Bellevue East, Johannesburg, TVL. One of the 7 properties Gregory John had in Port Shepstone, was a service station, "Thanets Garage", a business he ran with his son Geoffrey John, The same property was sold by his Wife to his son for £1500.

Christina was name executor of his estate, comprising of the seven properties on the South Coast, namely in and around Port Shepstone, and five properties in Belleview East, Johannesburg. There was also some money, altogether totalling about £7,000.”