

## John Burrell Faux Snr

There exists a NRO Norwich reference [PO 168/29) which listed John Burrell as Overseer of the Poor of St Cuthbert's Parish, Thetford in 1795.

John Burrell Faux was Mayor of Thetford in 1803, 1811, 1818, 1820 and 1825. He was also elected in 1833 but due to an "informality" he was replaced by the Mayor of the previous year, Leonard Shelford Bidwell.



Thetford Council Chamber (photo courtesy of Gavin Ranson, 2006)

The Thetford book called *A History of Thetford*, by Alan Crosby says:

*"In 1802 the election of John Faux, a Graftonite, was challenged by the inhabitants who in a poll elected instead Joseph Gill. This rare instance of the exercise of popular choice indicates the degree to which the Corporation had ceased to represent the views of the townspeople."*

"Of Public Parks and Promenades", by Anthea Talgel states:

*"The mayor of Thetford in 1820, Mr J.B.Faux 'at his own expense caused a gravel walk to be constructed extending from the spa to the Nuns Bridge, to serve as a promenade for invalids resorting to the spa'. The tree planting lining this walk was also a mayoral gin."*

The following letter was kindly provided by Julian Pooley, Surrey History Centre. It is a short letter from J B Faux to the editor of the *Gentleman's Magazine* and provides a copy of a memo written in 1578 concerning a visit of Queen Elizabeth 1<sup>st</sup> to Norwich and Yarmouth.

Dear Sir

Thetford Decr 4. 1625.

Having met with the following Memo  
in a History of Yarmouth. I hand it to you - as it may  
be worth the acceptance of your friend Mr Nicholds

I am D. Sir very truly yr.  
P. B. Faust  
This must have been the same visit of Eliz  
as she appears to have been within the verge  
of the Boro of Thetford on the 30 Aug. 1578.

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1578. Eliz: 20 August — Great preparations were made at Yarmouth  
for the entertainment of Queen Elizabeth - who was expected  
there by way of Suffolk; a silver cup, in form of a ship  
which cost sixteen pounds. was made on purpose to be  
presented to her majesty; but she came no further than  
Norwich - where the Lords of her retinue came to Yarmouth  
and were elegantly entertained in the priory at the Towns  
expense.

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Pigot's 1830 Directory for Thetford under Bankers shows John B Faux as Agent for Harvey and Hudson and under Insurance Agents, John B Faux as Agent for Norwich Union. This I think is John Burrell Faux Jnr as John Burrell Faux is shown under Grocers and Drapers trading from Well St.

*This is the last Will and Testament of me John Burrell Faux of the Parish of St. Cutbert in the borough of Thetford in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk Crown and Draper first 3rd ..??.. and appoint my son John*

*Burrell Faux of Thetford aforesaid this Executor and my dear wife Susan Godfrey Faux this Executrice of this my will and also trustees of the several purposes hereafter mentioned and I give and devise to the said John Burrell Faux my Executor and to the said Susan Godfrey Faux my Executrice all and singular my real estate of .. am now or at the time of decease may be possessed upon Trust that my said Exor and Executrice shall as soon as reasonably can be after my decease sell and dispose of the same by public auction or private contract and in such manner as fairly may think most advantageous and money arising from the sale shall be considered personal property in ... to be applied in the following That is to say I give a .. to Susan Godfrey .. liquots and so .. furniture and effects as she shall choose and think .. to furnish the house in which she shall reside after my decease and all the remainder of my .. furniture and effects I desire shall be sold with all other my personal estate and effects of whatever nature and .. by my said Executor and Executrice in the most advantageous way and the product of such sale shall be added to the proceeds of my real estate and applied ..after mentioned That is to say that after payment of all my just debts funeral and testamentary expenses .. my said Executor and Executrice shall with all convenient speed lay out and invest the remainder of the said produce in some or out of the public funds of Great Britain and .. the dividends and interest arising therefrom as they shall become due that my said dear wife shall be permitted to retain the sum for the use of herself and for and towards the maintenance and education of my youngest son Charles Harvey William Faux until he attains the age of twenty-one years But if my said son should die .. from that time I desire that the whole of that interest and dividends arising from the said funded property my dear wife shall be permitted to retain for her own sole use and benefit during the time of her natural life provided she shall so long continue my widow and immediately on the death of my said wife or her second marriage I desire that my Exor sell the said funded property. I give devise and bequeath the same and .. part thereof unto and equally between my two children John Burrell Faux and Sally the wife of William Wiggins of Swanley near Dartford in the County of Kent to for their own absolute use benefit and disposal But provided my said wife should die during the minority of my said son Charles Harvey William Faux and in .. of my said children shall happen to die before the said legacy shall become payable then I give and bequeath he share of him her or them so dying as aforesaid unto the survivors or the survivor of them his or her exors adutors .. But should they all die before the said legacy becomes payable then I give the said funded property to the .. of .. of my said three children as may be dead .. taking the same share or shares .. his her or their deceased parent or parents would have been entitled to had they been living But should they all die under the age of twenty one years without .. I give and bequeath the said funded property to my son Gregory Faux for his own absolute use and benefit and I do .. declare that my said Executor and Executrice and the survivor of them and the Exors and .. of such survivor shall and may at all times out of the first monies that may come to them or .. of their hands .. .. all such costs damages .. and expenses as they or .. of .. may be put unto or sustain in and about the trusts of this my Will .. shall .. of them be answerable for more monies than shall actually come into his or their hands respectively In witness that this is my last Will and Testament contained in ..*

One wonders what happened to Gregory, virtually written out of the Will, and he never married.

The 1851 Census shows his widow Susan G. still living in Well St. and his son Gregory and wife Ellen living in White St., St. Cuthbert.