

## The Moundfords (information courtesy of David K Faux and Peter Hewitt)

On the 6th of August 1556, John's uncle Thomas Falke, Rector of Mundford and owner of considerable estates in the vicinity, wrote his will. Thomas wrote that "I do give to John ffalke the sonne of John ffalke whome I have brought upp of a chyld and to the heires of his bodie lawfullie begotten in manner and form following for terme of his lyff and his heirs male after hym the profightes of all my houses and lands in Weting within the countie of Norff with all their purtenannce both free and coppie also I do give and bequeath to the sayd John for terme of his lyff and to the heirs male of his bodie lawfullie begotten the pfights of all my merce lands tenaments with the comodities and purtenances for and being within the towne and folds of Ickburgh. Item I give and bequeath unto the said John ffalke and to the heires male of his bodie lawfullie begotten the pfights and increases of all my sheep going in foding for my liberties in Ickburgh and Weeting for terme of their lyves and so to remayne to the heirs male of their bodies lawfully begotten ..... Item I will for lack of psons male of the bodie of the said John ffalke ..... all my foresayd meces land and tenaments ..... to Thomas ffalke the brother of the aforesayd John ffalke and to the heirs male of his bodie ..... and for lack of issew male of the foresayd Thomas ffalke ..... lands and tenaments ..... to Thomas ffalke of Worlingham and to ye heires male of his bodie ..... and so all the premises to remayne in the name of ffalke so long as ye shall please god ....."

It seems clear that Thomas Falke was adamant about his property staying in the possession of someone of the Falke surname into the foreseeable future. John Falke did inherit these properties in Weeting and Ickburgh, with his primary residence being Mundford, and, according to the manorial records, they ultimately passed to his eldest son Thomas. The manorial records of Southall and Crocketts Manor Court Roll for Weeting clearly show the transfer of one parcel of land through three generations. In December 1549 "Thomas Falke clerk purchased from John Bull gent one acre of freehold land pertaining to Hogges messuage in Weeting ..... ". In February 1561 these documents record that "Thomas Falke clerk died after the last court, seized of one acre pertaining to Hogges messuage. By his last will, he gave the land to John Falke and his heirs, who is to come to the next court and make fealty." On 14 July 1592 it was stated that "John Falke gent died several years ago, being seized of one acre of freehold land pertaining to Hogges messuage ..... and Thomas Falke is his older son and heir and of full age ..... he is distrained to come to the next court". The adjoining Weeting Manor describes other properties purchased of John Bull, "which the said Thomas Faux had at the court hold 1593/4, as son and heir of John Faux, also at the court held on thursday in the feast of St. James 25 Eliz I" (July 1583). In one manor individuals were recorded under the surname spelled Falke, and in the manor next door, in the same time period, the same individuals are noted with the Faux spelling.

A review of the manorial records for Ickburgh indicates that the name showed considerable variation in the court records. His surname "evolved" over the years. Here, during the court of 14 May 1538, the records indicate that "Thomas Fauke clerk Bach Laws ..... owes suit of court." On 7 November 1556 these same records note that Thomas Faulke clerk owes suit of court" and that "John Faulke has allowed 7 pigs to trespass". The spelling of the name in these manor records changes from John Falke / Fauke (1565 - 1560), to John Fawkes (1560 - 1565). In 1563 his name was also spelled Faux. During the Heraldic Visitation of Norfolk

in 1563, the heralds recorded that Dorothy Mondeford, daughter of Francis Mondeford, Esq. and Gertrude Hoting, married "John Fawkes of Mondeford." John died in 1582 and the administration papers were filed under the spelling John Faulkes.

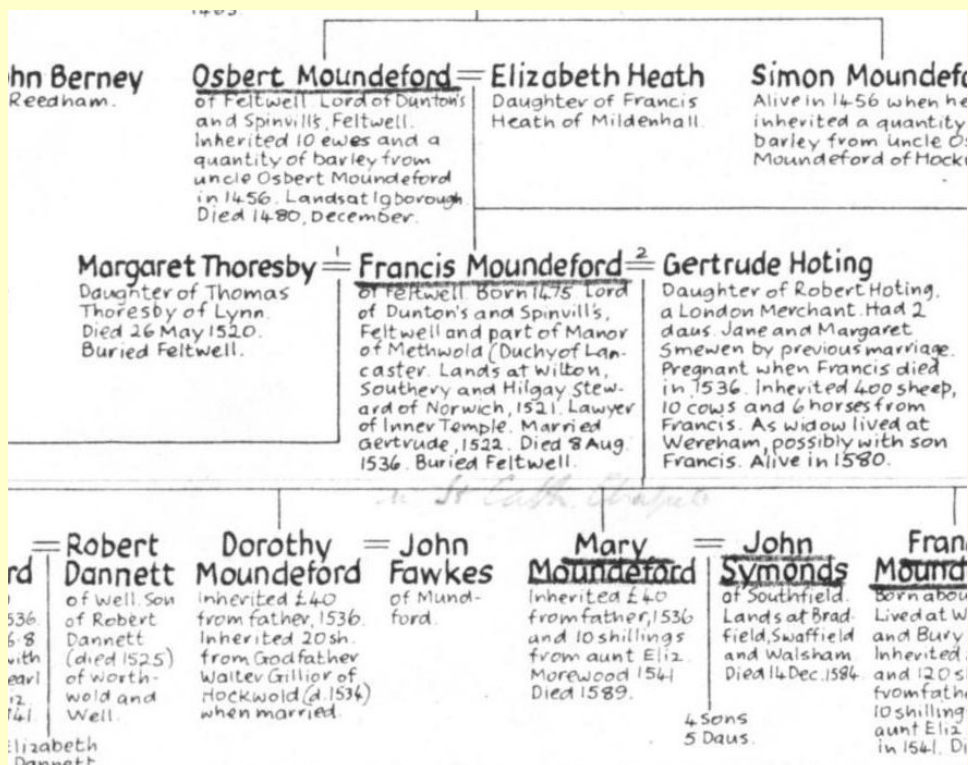
Clearly John Falke (Faux) "married well". He married the daughter of the local "squire". Francis Mondeford, Esq. was the Lord of the Manor at Feltwell St Marys and, like each generation before, was buried in the church with suitable effigies and brasses to commemorate his existence and status. Every generation back to at least the 1100s were Lords of the Manor - first at Mundford, then Hockwold, then Feltwell St. Marys. John, however, never rose above the rank of "Gentleman" (a member of the minor gentry) - a title shared by his two eldest sons.



The image above is a monument to Osbert Moundeford and his two wives at St Mary's, Feltwell. He was the half brother of Dorothy. The image below is of Francis who was Osbert's eldest son but who appears to have died childless just 10 years after his father and the inheritance passed to his brother Edmund. There are a number of references in the church to the Mundfords, Moundefords etc (they seem to have changed the spelling every few centuries) including the ornate pews which were endowed by the family. Unfortunately Oliver Cromwell's cronies took exception to their ornate nature and severely mutilated them along with many of the brasses. The Moundeford Coat of Arms is also in evidence in various places [source: Peter Hewitt].



The ancestors of the Moundfords are known to the 12<sup>th</sup> century with Adam de Moundeford who won a suit against Roger de Freville over lands in Letton and Shipdham in 1207. A segment of this impressive tree involving Dorothy is shown below.



Dorothy Moundeford's father was Francis Moundeford who was the eldest son and heir of Osbert Moundeford of Feltwell. Francis was born in 1475 and was only 4 years old when his

father died, from whom he inherited the manors of Spinvilles and Ditton in Feltwell and various other lands. He purchased more lands during his lifetime, near Feltwell, including the Manor of Methwold which held of the King as part of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Francis married Margaret Thorseby at about the turn of the century. Margaret died on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1520 and is buried at St. Mary's Feltwell. On the old grey marble stone was originally a brass plate with the inscription (in Latin) "Pray for the soul of Margaret Moundeford, wife of Francis Moundeford, esquire, who died on 26 day of the month of May, AD 1520. Whose soul is gracious to God, Amen".

Francis was a member of Parliament for Lynn during 1509-12 and took his second wife in 1522, Gertrude Smewen, the widowed daughter of a London merchant. Francis and Gertrude had 3 sons and 5 daughters. She was pregnant when Francis wrote his Will on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1536 and he died shortly afterwards. There is no record of this child which may not have survived.

Francis, throughout his life, was one of the commissioners appointed to assess, levy and collect the taxes granted to the sovereign by Parliament. On 1<sup>st</sup> April 1524, he made a loan to the King of £3438 6s 3d for the war against France. Francis died on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1536 and he requests in his Will to be buried in the middle of the Chapel of St. Katherine, St. Mary's Feltwell, but there is no monumental evidence that his was done.

Osbert Moundeford of Feltwell, Dorothy's half-brother, was the Francis' heir. He was 23 years old when he inherited the Manors of Feltwell and Methwold in 1536. In about 1528 he married his first wife, Margaret Townsend, and had two daughters. In about 1541 he married Bridget Spelman, his first wife having died, and produced a healthy 9 boys and 5 girls. The second son (who inherited from the eldest) became Sir Edmund, and amongst the other sons were a doctor, lawyer and clergyman. Osbert died in 1580.