

## THE FOLK FAMILY

The FOLK name is spelled in such diverse ways as Folke, Foulk, Foulque, Fowke and Fulk. An unpublished manuscript giving the history of the Folk family traces its ancestry back to the year 40 BC, showing descent from the Kings of Scandinavia. The Swedish noble Folke lived about 1100, marrying Ingegaerd, daughter of King Canute the Great who died in 1086, and was the ancestor of the Folke family which furnished a line of Scandinavian kings, the Folkungs, who ruled in Sweden, Norway and Denmark from 1250 to 1365.

A family of the name of Foulque, or Fulk, settled in France at an early date. In the 10th century, simultaneously with the conquest of Normandy by the Northmen, or Scandinavians, the Foulques rose to great prominence as the Counts of Anjou. From them were descended the Plantagenet kings of England who ruled from 1154 to 1485, the Angevin kings of the Sicilies who ruled from 1266 to 1399 and the Angevin kings of Hungary who ruled from 1308 to 1382. One traditional origin of the Folk family is that they are descended from the Counts of Anjou, the family name being originally spelled Foulque or Fulk. If this tradition be true, in view of the aforementioned Scandinavian ancestry of the Folk family, it would appear probable that the ancestor of the Counts of Anjou was one of the Folke family of Scandinavia who migrated to western or northwestern France near the beginning of the 9th century.

During the Conquest of England by King William the Conqueror in 1066, members of the Folk (Foulque or Fulk) family settled in England. From them are descended the Baronets Folkes, the Baronets Fowke and the family of Fooks.

During the Reformation, beginning in 1529 with the rise of Protestantism, many members of the Folk (Foulque or Fulk) family remaining in France identified themselves with the Huguenots. Because of the bitter persecutions during the reign of King Louis XIV (1643-1715), many Huguenots fled from France. Some settled in Germany, others in Holland, others in Switzerland.

The Norman-French family of Folk (Foulque or Fulk) bore a coat-of-arms: "Sable a lion Or armed Gules, fronting a stork Argent", some members varying the arms to show "Per pale, Vert and Gules, a fleur-de-lis Ermine" or "Vert, a fleur-de-lis Argent".

The FOLK family of South Carolina, whose name in early records was also written Foulque, Foulk and Fulk, is descended from:

I. <sup>John</sup> JACOB FOLK, according to family tradition a native of Wenningstadt, Germany, though there is a possibility that he was a native of Willemstadt, Holland. He came to the United States in 1740/41 and settled in the Dutch Fork section of Newberry-Lexington County, South Carolina. Among his children was

II. JACOB FOLK, who was born in Germany (or Holland) and came to South Carolina with his parents. He first settled at Old Granby, three miles south of Columbia, where he was a tanner by trade, and lived with a Mr. Cary in partnership for five years. Around 1750 he moved to Pomaria, S. C. where he married CATHERINE EPTING, daughter of Capt. JOHN ADAM EPTING, leader of a group of settlers who came from Wenningstadt, Germany to Newberry County, South Carolina, receiving a royal

grant, dated 28 November 1749, of 250 Acres on Crim Creek, opposite Upper Saxe-Gothe Township in the Fork between the Broad and Saluda Rivers. Jacob Folk was born prior to 1740; he died 20 June 1777, leaving a family of seven children, among whom was

III. JACOB FOLK, born 24 December 1772 at Pomaria, Newberry County, S. C.; died 10 November 1845 in Colleton County, S. C., being buried in the Churchyard of Wesley Chapel, a Methodist Church which he helped to organize and build. In early manhood he moved from Pomaria to Barnwell District, S. C. where in 1799 he was appointed by the South Carolina State Legislature as "one of the Commissioners to Lay Out and Keep in Repair a Road from Charleston to Augusta; to Broxton's Ferry and passing Old Cowpen Ford on Little Saltcatchers direct to Orangeburg". In 1803 he removed from Barnwell District to Colleton County where he became possessed of a large estate. In 1797 he married MARY ELIZABETH HOWARD (born 1780<sup>1780</sup> died 18 February 1839), daughter of John Howard who came from ~~England~~ Virginia to Barnwell/Colleton County, S. C. where he became the owner of large tracts of land. Among the twelve children of Jacob and Mary Elizabeth were:

<sup>(3rd child)</sup>  
\* IV. (a) JACOB FOLK, born 17 March 1802 Barnwell County, S. C.; died 16 March 1881; he married <sup>in 1821</sup> OLIVE BRABHAM KEARSE (born 7 Sept. 1803, died 13 Jan. 1886, daughter of Jacob Kearsse and his wife, Nancy Brabham). Among their eleven children were: *Nancy Brabham was the seventh child of the eleven children of Joseph Brabham and Flora McPhail.*

V. (a) 1. JOHN FRANCIS FOLK, born 11 Oct. 1822; died 11 Mar. 1861; married MAHALA ELIZABETH PLATTS (born 28 May 1829, died 14 December 1897); among their eight children was

VI. (a) JOHN JACOB FOLK, born 20 June 1845; died 14 March 1918; he married (1) MARGARET R. L. DURR, (born 29 Oct. 1844; died on the Brasos River in Texas 26 May 1870, daughter of John L. Durr and his <sup>1st</sup> wife, Margaret ~~Byrd~~ Byrd) on 3 Oct. 1866; they were the parents of one child: MARY OLIVE ELIZABETH ("Minnie") FOLK (born 23 Nov. 1868 in Texas, died 15 Sept. 1895 in Orange, Texas; she married her cousin, ELLISON CAPERS FOLK, see below); buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Orange, Texas.

V. (a) 2. Henry Nimrod Folk, born 5 Feb. 1836, died 28 Nov. 1916; married (1) 27 Aug. 1857 Mary Rebecca Weissinger (born 25 June 1841, died 8 Oct. 1869, dau. of Johannes Weissinger and his wife, Martha Meldred Zeigler) and (2) 18 May 1870 Elizabeth Ann Felder (born 30 Apr. 1838, died 13 Aug. 1908, dau. of Evan Darley Felder and his wife, Elizabeth Jane Zeigler); among his children was:

VI. (a) 2. a. Henry Calhoun Folk, born 4 Dec. 1859; married 12 Apr. 1883 Elizabeth Weissinger (dau. of John Jacob Weissinger and his wife, Virginia Hutto) and was the father of:

- 1. Ethel Folk, married R. B. Still
- 2. Lucile Folk, married Prof. J. C. Guilds, *Ph D., Pres of Columbia College*
- 3. Henry Nimrod Folk, married Simsie Rowe McMichael
- 4. Leonard Folk, married Clarence E. Black
- 5. John W. Folk
- 6. Mary Folk (who died in childhood)
- 7. Virginia Folk
- 8. Oliver Faber Folk

\* IV. (b) LEVI FOLK, born Colleton County 1815, died 1848; married <sup>14 March 17 Feb.</sup> 6 Nov. 1834