

15 August 1985

Dear Robert,

I was much pleased to receive your letter of July 31st.

You doubtless are acquainted with the sketch concerning John Howard and his family, as shown in "The Hiern Genealogy". The exact date of his arrival in South Carolina and the first place of his settlement have not been learned. Some seventeen years after Braddock's defeat, during the French and Indian War, he was living in the Dutch settlement on Savannah Creek (in the n.w. corner of Bamberg County and the n.w. corner of Colleton County). His home apparently was situated a few miles from the present Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church. On one of her visits to the Low Country my mother tried to locate the graveyard in which he and his wife were buried. She was told that the graveyard had long ago been plowed up and taken into a cultivated field, and that the tombstones were thrown into the creek by a later owner of the land.

If Catherine (b.ca. 1762) was his first child he evidently married Miss Inman about 1760-61, when he was twenty-two or twenty-three years of age. This was only five or six years after Braddock's defeat. He apparently must have married her in Virginia or North Carolina and come to South Carolina about 1770-71 with Benjamin Inman (granted land in Newberry County in 1771), his son John (gave land for White Side meeting in Newberry County in 1800), and other children. The weak points concerning the said marriage are the following.

- a. No documentary proof is given.
- b. No children are shown for John and Mary Inman.

c. With the exception of "Mary" and "Elizabeth" the names of John Howard's known children are foreign to the names of the mentioned members of the Sumner family. Catherine might have been named for her mother or for one of her grandmothers.

In view of the above-mentioned weak points I would accept the statement that "John Howard married a Miss Sumner, the daughter of John Sumner" only if that statement is preceded by one or another of the following introductory words: - "It is supposed that" - "It is thought that" - "It is said that" - "It is probable that".

On page 346 of The Annals of Newberry it is stated: - "The Sumners, several in number, settled near the above named creek (Sudlow Creek in Miami County, Ohio) and were plain, unpretentious farmers." - They were Quakers who moved from Newberry County, S.C., in the early 1800s.

You doubtless know of the "Folk (Fulke or Foulque)" sketch which I compiled and which George Seland Summers, Sr., included in his history of Newberry County. During the 1930s, following some inquiries which I made concerning the Folk family, Mr. Summers sent some information to me and stated his familiarity with data on the Folk family. I replied by sending him the said sketch, which I had compiled for my own purpose, and requested that he inform me of errors and include additional information which he might wish to give. I then did not know that he was a genealogist looking for material to be included in his book; nevertheless, I would have paid him for the information. He gave a short reply to my request

and kept the sketch which I had sent to him. It was some time later when I learned that it had been included verbatim in his history. My subsequent research disclosed a number of errors (mostly concerning the children of our immigrant ancestor) contained in the sketch. These will be corrected in the Folk History which I hope to have published before I pass into eternity.

While searching for genealogical data in the Congressional Library at Washington, D.C., I once examined Kupp's lists of German immigrants in Pennsylvania and noted the name of Jacob Folk. I rejected him as an ancestor, because he does not fit into our family tradition and evidently was older than our Jacob Folk who settled in Newberry County. In 1737 he probably was a man of some age (from twenty years upwards). Though he is listed alone it is not unlikely that he had a family who came to Pennsylvania in another ship at a later time, which was sometimes the case among the early immigrants. There were Folk immigrants who remained in Pennsylvania and whose descendants are mentioned in some of the county histories of that state.

The tradition related to my mother by older members of the Folk family connection is that three brothers came from the fatherland (Germany) to Charleston, S.C., - Jacob came first, followed by the other two, - and soon thereafter settled in the Dutch Fork of Lexington - Newberry County. One of the brothers ~~later~~ went to another colony or state (North Carolina/Tennessee?). The "Annals of Newberry County, S.C.," state that Jacob came in 1740-41, which was several years prior to the arrival of Captain John Adam Eyston in South Carolina. Circumstantial evidence indicates that our Jacob was a minor, and probably an orphan, when he became an ex-

apprentice of a Mr. Coxy at Old Granby in the present Lexington County. It appears that he was twice married, his first wife being Pomona Koon and his second wife being Catherine Epling (daughter of Captain John Adam Epling).

Best wishes to you and Cora.

As ever,
Earle.