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24 April 1967

Dear Robert,

It was a great pleasure to have you, Cera, and your mother visit me.

I am sorry that my memory of the Folk family history was not up to par at the time of your visit. During the past year (or a longer period) I have devoted much effort to the assembly and coordination of accumulated data on other family lines. The Folk family had been temporarily laid aside, which caused my memory to become uncertain on many points so that it now needs refreshing by careful review of the data in my files.

My active interest in genealogical research began in 1930. During November of that year I addressed a letter to the Clerk of Court for Newberry County, requesting to be informed as to what records on the Folk family might be found in his office. The Clerk gave my letter to Mr. George Leland Sumner and asked that he reply thereto. Mr. Sumner informed me that he then was "doing some genealogical research" in Newberry County, and offered to undertake a research program for me. I did not accept his offer, since I was doing my own research during periodic visits to South Carolina from Washington and only wanted to be informed as to what records (if any) showing mention of the Folks were available in the Clerk's office. However, Mr. Sumner and I conducted a correspondence through which both he and I received certain data on an exchange basis. In order that he might be in better position to be of help to me, he requested that I furnish him with a sketch on the Folk family to be placed in his file. The sketch (based on such data as I then had in hand) was sent to him during the summer of 1932, with the hope that he would correct errors therein and add new data thereto. I was then "new and inexperienced" in genealogical research, and enthusiastically accepted and believed all that other persons told me about the Folk family. Also, I then had no knowledge of the will (dated 6 July 1775) of our Jacob Felck (sic.).

My files show no correspondence with Mr. Sumner after 1932. In 1950, eighteen years afterwards, he incorporated the abovementioned sketch (without change) of the Folk family into his "Newberry County South Carolina Historical And Genealogical". Since 1932 I have found documented material which proves some of the statements contained in the sketch to be incorrect. In the subsequent paragraphs of this letter I shall set forth what now seems to be the true facts as to Jacob Folk, his wives, and children.

The statement regarding Huguenot descent was based on the following.

1. The name in France was variously spelled as Fulk, Foulque(s), Faulques, Fouque(s), and Foucques. - (Magny's "Nobiliaire de Normandie", Vols. 1 and 2; "Familles Du Poitou", Vol. 3; Freeman's "The Norman Conquest", Vols. 1 through 5; "Nouveau Larousse Illustre"; "Petit Larousse Illustre"; Feeks' "Fowke - Feeks Family"; Sheppard's "Lineage of the Counts Of Anjou".)

2. The name in Germany and Holland was variously spelled as Folk, Foulque,

Fouque, and Volk (the "v" is equivalent to "f" in English). - ("Deutsches Geschlechterbuch, Band 58"; Kneschke's "Deutsches - Adel - Lexicon", Vol.3; Feeks' "Fowke - Feeks Family".)

3. The name in South Carolina was variously spelled as Fulk(s), Folk(s), Felke, Felch, Felck, Foulk, Foulke, Fokes, Fouke, Faulk(s), Velch(s), and Velck (the "v" is equivalent to "f" in English). - (Census Records of South Carolina; Land Grants in South Carolina; Council Journals of Colonial South Carolina; "Memorials" at the South Carolina State Archives; Will of Jacob Felck of Craven County, 96 District, S.C.; Revolutionary Records of South Carolina.)

4. Members of this family were Huguenots (in France) and refugees to other countries (Germany, Holland, etc.), as evidenced by Caen (Normandy) Protestant Church Registers; Records of Société De L'Histoire Du Protestantisme Français; Kneschke's "Deutsches - Adel - Lexicon"; Records of the Walleen Church (French Protestant Refugees) in Holland. It is my understanding that the records of the Huguenotten Verein of Berlin, Germany, also contain mention of some members of this family who were Huguenot refugees to that country; but the occurrence of the Second World War and conditions existing subsequent thereto have thus far prevented contact with this source of information (if it still exists).

5. In the year 1932 I corresponded with Mrs Rebecca Eleanora Bedenbaugh, Route 6, Prosperity, S.C., regarding history of the Folk family. She, a daughter of John Wesley Folk (grandson of Jacob Felck whose will is mentioned in item 3 above) was born in 1852 and her father was born in 1816. In response to my query regarding Huguenot descent of the family she replied (letter dated 27 April 1932) as follows: - " I have heard my father speak of the Folk family as being of French descent as you mentioned".

There is ample proof that many early members of the Folk (Fulk, Foulque) family were French Huguenots, and that some of them became refugees to Holland and Germany. If our line of Folk (Fulk, Foulque) descends from one of these refugees, as is said to be the case, the immigrant ancestor came to South Carolina after the family had lived in Germany for one or more generations, and after the family name had been subjected to changes conforming with the German style of spelling. On coming to America in a later generation, and in company with other persons from the same country, it was natural that our immigrant ancestor was not recorded and identified as being of French Huguenot descent. Therefore, it is likely that membership in the Huguenot Society would require stronger evidence of descent than what is stated in this letter. If the needed proof still exists in Germany it probably would be useless to attempt its procurement under the conditions which now prevail in that country. I would very much like to know what specific information Mrs. Selomens (nee Damaris Theresa Folk) gave to the Huguenot Society which led them to accept her as a member. I cannot identify her immediate ancestors in any of my records; but wish that I could be informed of her Folk line back to her earliest known ancestor.

Jacob Folk, Jr., who settled in Colleton County, had a son "Henry" who was supposed to have been so named in honor of an uncle; therefore, the sketch shows this supposed uncle as a brother of Jacob, Jr. The will of Jacob Felck

(sic.), Sr., does not mention a son "Henry". It now appears that Henry Folk (Fulk) the revolutionary soldier was the son of John Henry Folk (Hans Heinrich Volch - Volche - Volck), an immigrant to South Carolina in 1753, who might have been a younger brother to our Jacob Folk (Felck), Sr. Another immigrant to South Carolina in 1753 was John Conrad Folk (Volk - Foulk) who also might have been a younger brother to our Jacob Folk (Felck), Sr. Both of these 1753 immigrants settled in the Dutch Fork of Newberry - Lexington County, S.C. It now further appears that the George Folk (Fulks) who is shown in the sketch as a brother of Jacob, Jr., was another son of the immigrant John Henry Folk (Hans Heinrich Volch - Volche - Volck), and that he might have been the George Folk who in 1797-8 and 1811 claimed lands by settlement right in old Attakapas County of the Mississippi Territory.

The will of Jacob Felck, Sr., was dated 6 July 1775 and the inventory of his estate was dated 4 December 1777, it being thus indicated that he died in 1777 and not in 1774 as stated in the "Annals Of Newberry". In addition to bequests made to specifically named children, he gave property to his wife Catherine and her heirs, which indicates that she was a second wife. She evidently was the mother of (at least) the five youngest children of Jacob Folk, Sr. In 1812 Jacob Folk, Jr., deeded 150 acres of land to Catherine Folk (widow of Jacob Folk, Sr.). She died in 1821 and John Folk (older brother of Jacob Folk, Jr.) released his right and interest in the said land to his daughter Mary Magdalene Folk. Since Catherine held this land in fee simple, and apparently died intestate, if she had been the stepmother of John he would not have had any right and interest in the property at the time of her death.

The "Annals Of Newberry" states of Jacob Folk, Sr., that "There were born to him seven children, four sons and three daughters". His will mentions only five children. These children were as follows:

1. John Benedict (eldest son) - He evidently was a son of the first wife of Jacob Folk, Sr. On 1 December 1779 "Benedict Fulk" was listed on the Roll of Captain John Murphy's Company of South Carolina Loyalists (Tories) present at Savannah, Ga. It doubtless was he who "died in the Revolutionary War", as stated in the Annals Of Newberry.

2. (The second son being killed by a falling tree, as stated in the Annals Of Newberry, doubtless happened to this accident prior to 6 July 1775 and therefore was not named in his father's will.)

3. Eve Catherine (b. ca. 1768) - Md., in 1786, Henry Keene - (Mrs. Edith Willingham Blackburn of West Columbia, S.C., in 1957, is one of her descendants.).

4. John (b. 7 Mar. 1770; d. 21 Dec. 1844) - His full name probably was "John Adam Folk", and he had a son who bore that name. In 1784 he was a minor under the guardianship of Peter Steckman.

5. Jacob (b. 24 Dec. 1772; b. 10 Nov. 1845) - In 1784 he was a minor under the guardianship of Peter Steckman. - (This is our ancestor who went to Colleton County in 1803.)

6. Elizabeth (b. ca. 1774/5; d. ca. 1830) - She was the first wife of Jacob Gremer. In 1784 she was a minor under the guardianship of Peter Steckman.

7. Christina (b. ca. 1777/8;) - Md (1) George Suber (d. 1823) and (2), in 1831, Jacob Gremer as his second wife. She evidently was born at about the time of or shortly after her father's death, and therefore was not named in his will. - (It was Lornia Elizabeth Folk, daughter of John Adam Folk, who married Levi Kibler and was the mother of J. D. A. Kibler.)

The Annals Of Newberry erroneously state that Jacob Folk married the daughter of Adam F. Epting. Jacob Folk was born before 1740 - 1, while Adam F. Epting was born in 1752. Adam F. could not have had a daughter old enough to have married Jacob Folk prior to the latter's death in 1777. The second wife (Catherine) of Jacob Folk evidently was the sister of Adam F. Epting and the daughter of John Adam Epting the pioneer colonist of the Dutch Fork. Sumner's "Newberry County South Carolina Historical And Genealogical" mentions only these daughters of John Adam Epting who were known. The names of some of his daughters were not found by Mr. Sumner.

The first wife of Levi Folk (b 14 Mar. 1815; d. 27 Feb. 1848), your ~~great~~-grandfather, was Miss Sarah Copeland (b. 10 Mar. 1813; d. 6 Oct. 1844). They were married on 6 November 1834. His second wife was Miss Susan Catherine Grimes (b. 9 May 1824; d. 1896), to whom he was married on 3 April 1845. Sarah Copeland was the daughter of Jacob Copeland (b. 1776; d 3 Nov. 1853) and his wife Mary Riser (b. 1781; d. 1860) who were married in 1797. Jacob Copeland apparently was the son of Jacob Copeland, Sr. (a revolutionary soldier) and the grandson of Isaac and Christiana Copeland.

Mary Riser was the daughter of George and Francina Riser. Neither the father nor the daughter is mentioned by name in the Annals Of Newberry, but it is stated that one daughter married a Copeland. George Riser (then unmarried) came from Stuttgart, in Wuerttemberg, Germany, to Cape Fear (probably Wilmington on the Cape Fear River), N.C., in 1750 - 1, "from whence he came (in 1751) to South Carolina at the first opportunity". On 18 August 1751 his petition for a grant for 50 acres of land "in the fork between Bread and Saludy Rivers" was approved. He married Francina Covints after his arrival in South Carolina. During the Revolutionary War he first served as a private with the Americans, but later (in 1779) attached himself to the Loyalist (Tory) Cause. He eventually rejoined the Americans, and in 1781 - 1782 furnished provisions and forage for public use. It appears that he was born about 1728, and he was living as late as 13 October 1801.

I would be glad to hear from you, or see you again, at any time.

Sincerely,

Earle
Joseph E. Steadman, Sr.