



FOULKE FAMILY HERALD

A Newsletter For Descendants of Edward & Eleanor Foulke

November 2007

Foulke Family 310th Reunion – Save the Date!

The Descendants of Edward and Eleanor Foulke will be reuniting on July 4, 5 & 6, 2008 at the Radisson Hotel-Valley Forge in Pennsylvania to celebrate the 310th year anniversary of Edward and Eleanor's arrival in the New World. Any person, young, old or in between that can trace their ancestors back to Edward and Eleanor Foulke are invited, with their families, to attend the reunion. See the Chairman's Report on page 2 for more details.



Reunion of Descendants of Edward & Eleanor Foulke, Gwynedd PA, July, 1998



Reunion of Descendants of Edward & Eleanor Foulke, Gwynedd PA, May, 1898

Tell Us Your Story!

We all have stories to tell! Plan now to tell your stories of Foulke Family History at the 2008 Reunion. We plan to have a good listener and recording equipment to do oral history interviews during the Reunion. Plan now to sign up for an hour appointment to contribute to our unwritten family history! Your stories of family history are unique, valuable treasures for the family. Irretrievable information is slipping away from us with every moment. This project aims to catch and hold valuable history for future generations to enjoy. Just imagine how thrilling it would be to have the family history stories from those ancestors who attended the reunion in 1898! Well, we can plan now to leave an oral history for those who will remember us at the 400th anniversary reunion in 2098. The central issues we would like for you to address in the interview are:

- What would you like for reunion attendees in 2098 to remember about you? Who are you and how are you related to Edward and Eleanor?
- What did your parents or grandparents tell you about the Foulke family? When did you hear first about the emigration of Edward and Eleanor and who told you?
- What do you remember about your ancestors? What stories do you recall having heard about the family history?

If you can't be at the Reunion in 2008, we still invite you to participate by submitting a tape recording or written text to: Janice Foulke, 246 Picture Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15236.

NOTICE

Reunion Committee Meeting

Date & Time: Saturday, April 19, 2008 at 10:00 am

Location: Foulkeways at Gwynedd
1120 Meetinghouse Road
Gwynedd, PA 19436

****All family members are welcome to attend***
We are looking for volunteers to help with the reunion. If you cannot attend the meeting, please call or write to let us know how you can help!*

For more information contact:

310th Year Family Reunion Committee
Attention: Bruce Foulke
2047 Valley Forge Rd, Box 768
Worcester, PA 19490
Telephone: 610-584-1423

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

We're getting closer to the 310th reunion date and are expecting a large crowd of cousins to gather at Valley Forge Radisson on July 4th - 6th. The official invitation will be mailed at the end of January, 2008. Hotel rooms are limited at the Radisson so we are requesting that if you are attending the reunion and need a room at the hotel, please make your reservations soon. You can contact the Radisson at (888) 201-1718 or make online reservations at www.radisson.com. Be sure to mention that you are attending the Foulke Family Reunion to receive the discount room rate. The Radisson is a first class hotel located across the street from the Valley Forge National Park and is only a five minute car ride from one of the biggest malls in the country. It is also only 25 minutes from the many downtown Philadelphia Historical sites such as the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, and the Constitution Center. This is a great time to bring the family, not only to meet cousins from around the world, but to also experience a wonderful sight seeing adventure in Philadelphia.

The Foulke Family Reunion Committee has been working diligently to plan this worthwhile and memorable event. There will be educational sessions about our family background and heritage. We will hear from the family of Chris Brees who located the site of the discovery of the Haddasourfoukii dinosaur bones. As you know from reading past Foulke Family Heralds, your cousin, William Foulke, located the first full set of dinosaur bones in the United States. His find created an unprecedented change in the way paleontologists believed dinosaurs lived proving that some dinosaurs walked upright

and not on all fours. William Foulke uncovered these bones in Haddonfield, New Jersey deriving the name of Haddasourfoukii. There are not many people in the world that can say they have a dinosaur named after them!! We will also have the rare opportunity to see the actual bones of Haddaourfoukii which will be on display at the reunion. The Philadelphia Natural History Museum, where the bones actually reside, rarely ever show the actual bones, so, this just another reason to attend the reunion along with your children and grandchildren.

You don't know how to speak Welsh? Just come to the reunion and learn your family's native language. The Committee is also working to put together various slide presentations that will show you historical sites in The United States and Wales. Most family reunions only serve as "gathering." The Reunion Committee is trying to make this an event that will include fun, education sessions about your family and leave time to talk with your cousins from around the country about their lives.

Over 825 cousins attended the last reunion and few were acquainted with each other. I have heard so many stories about cousins who hadn't seen each other in decades and were happily surprised to see each other. This is just one more reason to come, meet old friends and new cousins. Too many times people lament that they regret not attending a family event and being able to see a family member perhaps for the last time. Don't let that happen to you!

The reunion fees are minimal; we only charge the actual cost of the events. Due to your generosity in the past we have been able to produce a bi-annual family newsletter. Thank you, keep it up!

Bruce K. Foulke, Chairman

F O U L K E N E W S

Christina Nicole Hine - born April 22, 2007 to Charles Foulke Hine DDS, MSD and Jennifer Mason Hine, 5701 Autumn Breeze Court, Indianapolis, IN 46237 and joins her sister, Carolyn Elizabeth Hine (b. Nov. 18, 2003).

Suzanne Foulke Judge passed away in her home in Annapolis, MD on Wednesday, April 18, 2007. She and her husband, Francis Judge, were both at the 1998 reunion. Suzanne would have celebrated her 95th birthday on June 16, 2007.

Ifor Owen of, Bala, Wales, passed away on May 22, 2007. Ifor was the artist who completed the woodcut of the Foulke's arriving by ship. He was a retired schoolmaster and a very talented historian.

Raymond H. Foulke of Quakertown, PA passed away on March 27, 2007.

Eleanor Foulke passed away in August of 2006. She is survived by her husband, Kenneth and two daughters, Sharon Foulke Johnson and Margaret Foulke Evans.

CORRECTION: It was incorrectly reported in the May 2007 Foulke Family Herald that *William B. Foulke* of Dover, Delaware passed away rather than *Willing Bayard Foulke, Jr.* of Dover, Delaware.

Please share your news, stories and ideas with us!

**Send your submissions to the Foulke Family Herald to foulkelore@aol.com
or mail to: Bruce K. Foulke, Box 768, Worcester, PA 19490**

Foulkes Journey in Wales—Part 2: St. Melangell

Richard W. & Lucinda Foulke

Attending the 300th year reunion of the Foulke Family in 1998 rekindled our desire to see the “Land of Our Fathers.” We finally had the opportunity to take a trip to Wales last Fall. We were more fortunate than most who go seeking their ancestors, as we could take advantage of the extensive research efforts of many other Foulkes concerning our family’s names, places and lineage. There were four important sites that we wanted to see: (1) Plas Rhiraedog, (2) St. Melangell Shrine & Effigy, (3) Coed-y-Foel Isaf & the Thomas Family, and (4) Llanuwchllyn Church & Effigy. The first stop on our journey was Plas Rhiraedog.

Monday—September 18, 2006

It is only a little after 10 am, and the weather is overcast, but warm. We decide to go on to the second site we wish to see—a very old church called ‘Pennant Melangell’ or the Shrine of St. Melangell. We go back through Rhos-y-gwaliau, and turn east for Llangynog. A winding road heads high up through fir-covered hills into the Berwyn mountains. Between the pines, we can see far out over the valley; we are up about 350+ feet according to our maps. The trees thin out, and we notice the rolling mountain tops are covered by a russet brown plant, about 18-24” tall, with tiny pink flowers. I think it is a kind of heather.

We finally come through a pass and can see below a green patchwork of fields in the valley. The drive down towards Llangynog is interesting because we have to drive around sheep which are *outside* their barb-wire fences. Since there is rarely more than a foot or so between the road and the pasture fences—or at some points, a sheer drop-off, we have to carefully pass these wooly escape artists, who ignore us and continue to nibble the short roadside grass.

We enter Llangynog and spy a lovely old stone church right on a main street corner. But we learn it is not the one we have come to see. We figure from our maps that St. Melangell is on a small lane, heading back northwest out of Llangynog through the middle of the valley. For two miles, we drive slowly along a narrow road, bordered by 6-8” tall hedges, from which pheasants fly out and dart in front of the car!

Eventually, just past a tiny white cottage, we see the archway of the rock wall surrounding the old church, encircled by ancient yew trees. Later we learn from the historical material that some of these yews are over a

thousand years old. Passing through the tall stone gateway, pushing open the wrought iron gate, we feel as though we have stepped back in time.

We approach through leaning gravestones and broken cairns. The old chapel is built of striated gray stone and above the entry arch is carved a date, “1737”. We are awed by the solemn setting. At first, we wonder if it is abandoned, but as we pass through the lych gate of the front entry porch, we see notices and bulletins posted on a board to the side.

Rick tries the heavy wooden door, and finds it is open. Although no one is here, it is evident that this timeless site is still very much in use; announcements of services are posted, needlepoint cushions decorate the dark wooden pews, dried flowers and other decorations fill the tall thin windows. On one wall is a marvelous needlepoint, delineating the history of the shrine, from 607 AD. There is a feeling that strangers are welcome here. They also have a visitor’s book, which we sign.

At the west end is a shop—mostly of religious items, but also there are a number of historical pamphlets about St. Malengell. We purchase “A History and Guide” by dropping coins into the metal lock box. From the small pamphlet we learn of the legend:

“Saint Melangell was an Irish princess who left her native land over 1,400 years ago to come to Britain, seeking a place to live her life in quiet prayer and devotion to God. Her legend tells of the illustrious Prince Brychwel Ysgithrog of Pengwern Powys who in AD 604, whilst hunting in Pennant, started a hare and with his hounds gave chase. They came to a thicket of brambles and thorns wherein he found a beautiful maiden, given up to divine contemplation, with the hare lying boldly under the hem of her garments.”

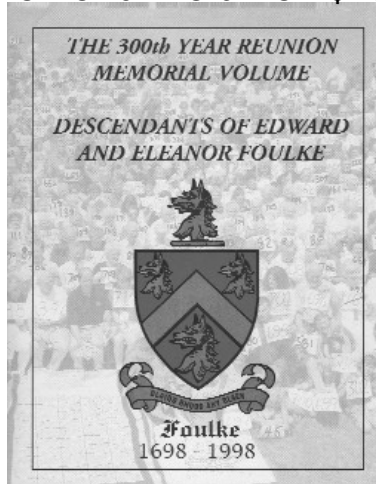
Continued on Page 3

GET READY FOR THE REUNION WITH FOULKE FAMILY MEMORABILIA!!

Throw - \$50.00



300th Year Reunion
Memorial Volume - \$25.00



Mug - 1 for \$9.00
6 for \$40.00



Journey thru Wales—Part 2: St. Melangell - *continued*

Richard W. & Lucinda Foulke

Between the dark wood pews and the shrine is a wooden 'rood' screen with beautiful carving. The pamphlet describes the screen as, "carved...from a single solid piece of oak, with elaborate cusping and foliation characteristic of the late fifteenth century". Passing under the screen into the chancel gives the sense of entering a holy place. In the center of the chancel is carefully re-constructed shrine to St. Melangell.

And on the left side by the wall, we finally see the stone effigy for which we have searched (see pages #46–47 of the 300th Year Reunion Memorial Volume). The St. Melangell historical pamphlet offers this description: "A male effigy, dated to around 1315 AD, has been identified as Madog ab Iorwerth, or alternatively as Iorwerth Dryndwyn (Edward of the Broken Nose) the eldest son of Owain Gwenedd."

But much more important to the Foulke family, the pamphlet also contains the following information: "It is quite large and ambitious for a church built at such an early date, in a poor and remote part of Wales. Substantial funds must have been available...It may have been paid for by Rhirid Flaidd, described by a contemporary bard as 'proprietor of Pennant', who died in 1189." This information definitely suggests that the stone effigy is of Madog ab Iorwerth, and not Owain Gwenedd's son.

We believe it to be the final resting place of Madog ab Iorwerth, ab Madog ab Rhirid Flaidd, the last lord of Penllyn. These chieftains ruled this beautiful, rolling land—their coat of arms three wolves' heads on shields and armor.

Unfortunately, this effigy was outside for many years, and was only brought back inside in 1876-77, which accounts for the sadly weathered state. We are lucky that it has been preserved at all.

After our disappointment at Rhiraedog, it feels incredible to gently touch this ancient carving. We gaze down at the worn figure atop a long stone cairn and note that repairs have been made to the effigy's legs. Other parts, like the nose, are simply gone. We take several photos, hoping the markings will show, as it is dim inside. Unfortunately, the flash on my small camera seems to white out the image. We finally get one good picture of the figure from above; the carved lion is just visible in the center of the shield.

We wish we had more time as it would be wonderful to attend a service here. As we leave, we decide to walk around the church. From the back, you can see how the St. Melangell is nestled in a vale at the foot of the mountains. We begin to appreciate that we have only just begun to experience a bit of the deep history of Wales.



Treasurer's Report - Last 12 months 11/1/2006 to 10/31/2007			
Beginning Balance on 11/1/2006			\$ 14,445.31
Inflows			
Donations:			
Family	\$	535.00	
Individual	\$	395.00	
Patron	\$	450.00	
Tri-Centennial	\$	500.00	
Total Donations			\$ 1,880.00
Interest Earned			\$ 134.62
Sales:			
Memorial Volumes	\$	75.00	
Throws	\$	890.00	
Total Sales			\$ 965.00
Total Inflows			\$ 2,979.62
Outflows			
Deposit on Room Nights 2/8/07	\$	1,500.00	
Deposit on Tent 7/23/07	\$	500.00	
Envelopes	\$	193.91	
Cost of Throws	\$	1,136.00	
Cost of Cups	\$	487.51	
Newsletter Fall 2006	\$	258.89	
Newsletter Spring 2007	\$	259.41	
Web Page Fee	\$	152.55	
Postage:			
Newsletter Fall 06	\$	370.63	
Newsletter Sprg 07	\$	359.85	
Postage - Other	\$	59.35	
Total Postage			\$ 789.83
Total Outflows			\$ 5,278.10
Net Inflows/Outflows			\$ (2,298.48)
Ending Balance on 10/31/2007			\$ 12,146.83

310TH YEAR FAMILY REUNION COMMITTEE

Executive Committee

Chairperson – Bruce Keller Foulke
 Vice Chairperson – Edward Sidney Foulke
 Treasurer – Larry Ray Foulke
 Secretary – Melissa Kay Foulke
 Genealogist – Margaret Ann Foulke Hellmann

Members-At-Large -

Linda White
 Dessa Cassens
 Edwin G. Foulke, Jr.
 Brent Foulke