

## THE FOLK FAMILY

In various documents the name of this family is spelled in such diverse ways as Folk, Folke, Foulk, Foulque, Fulk, etc. An unpublished manuscript giving history of the Folk family traces its ancestry back to the year 40 B.C., and shows descent from the kings of Scandinavia. The Swedish noble Folke lived about the year 1100. He married 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.

At an early date a family of the name Foulque, or Fulk, was settled in France. In the 10th century, simultaneously with the conquest of Normandy (the western and northwestern part of France) by the Northmen, or Scandinavians (warriors from Sweden, Norway, and Denmark), the Foulques, or Fulks, 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 tradition as to the 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 the 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, and that he migrated to western or northwestern France at about the beginning of the 9th century.

During the Conquest under William the Conqueror, in 1066, members of the Folk (Foulque, or Fulk) family settled in England, from them being descended the Baronets Folkes, the Baronets Fowke, and the family of Focks.

During the Reformation, beginning in 1529 and resulting in the rise of Protestantism, many members of the Folk (Foulque, or Fulk) family remaining in France identified themselves with the Huguenots. In the reign of Louis XIV (1643-1715), on account of the bitter persecutions launched against them, a number of these adherents to the Huguenot faith fled the country. Crossing the borders of France, some of them settled in Germany, while others settled in Switzerland and Holland.

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

1. Jacob Folk - Who, according to family tradition, was a native of Wenningstadt, Germany; though there is a possibility that he was a native of Willemstadt, Holland. He came to America

in 1740 or 1741, and settled in the Dutch Fork of Newberry-Lexington County, S.C. Among his children was -

2. Jacob Folk (2nd) - Was born in Germany or Holland, and came to America with his parents. He first settled at Old Granby, three miles below Columbia, S.C., where he was a tanner by trade, and lived with a Mr Cary in partnership for five years. At about 1750, he moved to Pomaria, S.C., where he married ~~Pamona~~ Epting <sup>\*Catherine</sup> (daughter of Captain John Adam Epting, a pioneer colonist of Newberry-Lexington County, S.C.). He died 6/20/1774, leaving a family of seven children, among whom was -

3. Jacob Folk (3rd) - Was born 12/24/1772, at Pomaria, in Newberry County, S.C., and died 11/10/1845, in Colleton County, S.C., being buried in the churchyard at Wesley Chapel, a methodist church which he helped to organize and build. In young 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 Saltcathers direct to Orangeburg." In 1803 he removed from Barnwell District to Colleton County, S.C., where he became possessed of a large estate. He married, in 1797, Mary Elizabeth Howard (born in 1780 and died 2/18/1839; daughter of Samuel? Howard, who came from the borders of Maryland and Virginia to Barnwell-Colleton County, S.C., where he was the owner of large tracts of land.- Samuel was probably the son of Henry Howard). Among his children was -

4. Jacob Folk (4th) - Brother to Levi Folk who married Sarah Copeland, was born 3/17/1802 and died 3/16/1881. He married, in 1822, Olive Brabham Kearse (born 9/7/1803 and died 1/13/1886; daughter of Jacob Kearse and his wife Nancy Brabham). Among his children was -

5. Henry Nimrod Folk - Was born 2/5/1836 and died 11/28/1916. He married (1), 8/27/1857, Mary Rebecca Weissinger (born 6/25/1841 and died 10/8/1869; daughter of Johannes Weissinger and his wife Martha Meldred Zeigler); and (2), 5/18/1870, Elizabeth Ann Felder (born 4/30/1838 and died 8/13/1908; daughter of Evan Darley Felder and his wife Elizabeth Jane Zeigler). Among his children was -

6. Henry Calhoun Folk - Was born 12/4/1859. He married, 4/12/1883, Elizabeth Weissinger (born ; daughter of John Jacob Weissinger and his wife Virginia Hutto) and was father of -

(1). Ethel Folk - Married R.B.Still.

(2). Lucile Folk - Married Prof. J.C.Guilds.

(3). Henry Nimrod Folk - Married Simsie Rowe Mc

Michael.

- (4). Leonard Folk - Married Clarence E. Black.
- (5). John W. Folk -
- (6). Mary Folk - Died in childhood.
- (7). Virginia Folk -
- (8). Oliver Faber Folk -

5.(a) The oldest brother of Henry Nimrod Folk (see above No.5) and the first child of Jacob Folk (4th) and his wife, Olive Brabham Kearse, was John Francis Folk, born 11 Oct. 1822, died 11 Mar. 1861; married Mahala Elizabeth Platts, born 28 May 1829, died 14 Dec. 1897. Among their eight children was:

John Jacob Folk, born 20 June 1845, died 14 Mar. 1918; he married (1) Margaret R. L. Durr, born 29 Oct. 1844, died on the Brasos River in Texas 26 May 1870, dau. of John L. Durr and his first wife, Margaret Byrd; they were the parents of Mary Olive Elizabeth ("Minnie") Folk, born 23 Nov. 1868 in Texas and brought back to South Carolina by her father after her mother's death. Mary Olive Elizabeth Folk married her cousin, Ellison Capers Folk (born 24 Apr. 1869, died 14 Aug. 1933, son of Jacob Levi Folk, son of Levi Folk (1815-1848) and his first wife, Sarah Copeland (1813-1844), born 21 Nov. 1837, died 6 July 1885, married 23 Dec. 1858 Elizabeth Anne Weissinger, born 18 Nov. 1833, died 29 Jan. 1904, dau. of Johannes (John) Weissinger and his wife, Martha Meldred Zeigler. Ellison Capers Folk and his first wife, Mary Olive Elizabeth Folk, moved to Texas where their two daughters were born: Mahala Varie Folk, born 11 Dec. 1892, who married Dr. Johnston Peeples of Estill, S. C. and had six children: Johnston Folk Peeples, Otis Benjamin Peeples, Rev. Charles LaMade Peeples, Mahala Olive Peeples (who married Charles Forrest Summer, Jr.), William Peeples (who married a Folk-Weissinger descendent, Reba Miley) and Dr. Paul Wiggins Peeples; and Margaret Anne Folk, born 1 Dec. 1894, who married Robert Rhodes Peeples of Estill, S. C. and had three children: Rev. Robert Epting-Howard Peeples, John Randolph Peeples (who married Ruth Elizabeth Pate and lives in Sumter, S. C. with their five children: John Randolph, Jr., David Dwane, Robert Fred, Derbianna and Margaret Celia) and Margaret Ruth Peeples. Mary Olive Elizabeth Folk died at Orange, Texas (where her <sup>youngest two</sup> ~~two~~ daughters were born) on 15 Sept. 1895 and her husband, Ellison Capers Folk, brought their two daughters back to South Carolina to be raised by his mother, Elizabeth Anne Weissinger Folk. John Jacob Folk married (2) Ella E. Ayer (1857-1893) by whom he had three children, and (3) Daisy H. Watts, by whom he had nine children: