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Dear Wilma:

It's a real pleasure to hear from you! Just think, you are now the hostess-with-the-mostest for a bunch of coots variously named, Fackeroth, Volkrath, Fuckerodt, Folkrode, Foulkrod and Fulkrod, etc.! If these guys were baseball players you'd have a larger talent pool to draw from than the New York Yankees! Wilma, I certainly want to thank you for the information on Christian Foulkrod (I've been looking for this galoot for 6 years!!) All I knew was that his name was Christian, he was born about 1821 and he married a gal named Elizabeth Brouse. Christian, thanks to Wilma Sakowsky, you are now in my bag!

Seriously, I want to give you special thanks for furnishing the obit information on Leroy Foulkrod. Peg and Leonard Brion, of Carlisle, Pa., and I, met Roy and Carol in Elmira, back in 1995. Leonard's relationship to me is about that of a 5th cousin. He is a descendant of my grandfather's sister, Sarah Foulkrod Ostrom. In 1995, Roy and Carol were living in Gillett, Pa., on U.S. 14, just below the New York Line, and Roy wasn't terribly well even then. Roy was a proud little man who had done a tremendous amount of work on the Foulkrod genealogy, but I believe he was touchy about his lack of education and his inability to spell, and once he made up his mind about something, you couldn't get him to back off, no matter how many facts there might be in evidence to the contrary. But it was entirely due to Roy that I got started on the right track in early Foulkrod genealogy. I owe him a great debt of gratitude, and I hope the Lord has given him a place in Heaven, and that now he has all of the answers we're still searching for.

I've enclosed a photo of myself, along with an incredible canine - Jake, the Genealogy Dog. Jake's a low-to-the ground Beagle-Bassett, who has a nose for genealogy, and he's my advisor. Jake belongs to my friend, Sue Bevell, who is a teacher and educator in the Southwest Suburban Illinois School Districts around Chicago. Sue's antecedents include an ancestor who arrived at Jamestown, Virginia with Captain John Smith, and other ancestors who were Quakers and settled in William Penn's Philadelphia back in 1684. This picture was taken in Sue's front room where Jake is relaxing from the rigors of genealogical research. Now, I'm going to try to recreate the conversation he and I had concerning Michael Page.

DONNA: Jake, Wilma would like me to prove that Michael Page was Barbara Page's father. Can we do this?

JAKE: Well, I don't know that we can definitely prove it, but I looked over the material you gave me, and after a couple of good chews on a rawhide bone, I did come up with some interesting facts.

DONNA: Like what?

JAKE: What did Philip and Barbara Page Foulkrod name their first two children?

DONNA: Well, the first boy was MICHAEL, born in 1809, and the first girl was CATHERINE, born 1811. Oh, I see what you mean! Michael Page and Catherine Leiter Page were Barbara Page Foulkrod's parents.

JAKE: Yes, and during that period, it was common for mothers of German extraction to name the first girl child for her own mother.

DONNA: But in the case of baby Michael, Michael Page was Philip's father-in-law. Shouldn't Philip have named his first son for his own father?

JAKE: Well, we've got a problem with that one, and we'll take it up a little later. For the moment, let's stick to Michael Page. Now, Mike first appears on the 1790 First Census of the United States, and he is residing in Greenwood Township in what was then Mifflin County, Pa.

DONNA: It's Juniata County, now. Was he still there for the 1800 census?

JAKE: Yes - he was. But then he disappears from all census records, at least the ones we have here in Chicago, until 1820.

DONNA: And then he's shown as living in Muncy, Pa.!

JAKE: Correct. And who else was living in Muncy Pa., in 1820?

DONNA: Philip and Barbara Foulkrod.

JAKE: And Mike's still there in 1830. And he probably attended the wedding of his granddaughter, Elizabeth Foulkrod, to Charles Casselberry. But in 1840, the last time I can find him on a census record, he's living in Fairfield Township, Lycoming County.

DONNA: Super! My great grandfather Abram Foulkrod married Catherine Cox in Fairfield Township in January, 1840.

JAKE: Yes, and that may have been the old fellow's last hurrah. He was 80 years old in 1840. Living to that age was quite an accomplishment in 1840.

DONNA: But we can't find a list of his children. We don't know where Michael or Catherine died, or where they're buried. I checked the 19th Century Will Files of the Lycoming Historical Society. I found a will for my great-great-great grandfather Benjamin Corson, but I couldn't find anything for Michael Page.

JAKE: Well, Ben Corson's very visible in early Lycoming County history, but you don't know where he's buried, either. Did you check for a Will under the name "Michael Barge"?

DONNA: No, I didn't. And you know, I should have done that. I have a deed from the Mifflin County court house dated 1812, and signed by "Michael Barge".

JAKE: Well, perhaps there's no record of Michael and Catherine Leiter Page today because they moved from Juniata to Lycoming County, and their descendants, wherever they wound up, didn't keep in touch with the Juniata County people. Doris Vanderscors sent you a piece of research done by a member of the Lycoming County Historical Society that said that Mike was involved in a sheriff's sale about 1827. It looks as though family members bought a piece of his Lycoming property to keep it from being confiscated for taxes. Perhaps Wilma or one of her Internet group would be willing to look for a will drawn up in Lycoming County and signed by "Michael Barge". That way, we could find out who his heirs were. I've seen a couple of deeds signed by Mike, at the Mifflin County court house, and he signed those deeds as BARGE, not BERTSCH.

DONNA: Early in 1996, I contacted the Perry Historians of Newport, Pa., and they sent me the Page Family History, listing all the early family members. Shortly after that, I got a letter from Dr. Jonathan Wert, of Port Royal, Pa., in Juniata Co., offering help, and we corresponded on a regular basis. Jonathan is not a Page descendant, but he's very familiar with the history of all the old Juniata families. He suggested that I visit Noah Zimmerman, who at that time was the curator of the Mennonite Center at Richfield, Juniata County, Pa.

DONNA: So Peg and Leonard and I drove first to Port Royal, which is also in Juniata County, where we had a very productive visit with Jonathan Wert, and then we went to the Mennonite Center at Richfield. When Mr. Zimmerman found out that I thought I might be a great-great granddaughter of Michael Page, he put us all in his car and took us out to the Michael Page farm which is just a couple of miles from the Mennonite Center..