

JAKE: Anything standing out there that could have belonged to Mike and Catherine?

DONNA: Well, the property is now owned by a very friendly young Mennonite couple who invited us inside the house and showed us around. There are two houses on the property. A large one from the mid 1840's, and a small log house which is clapboarded on the outside, the original well spring, and the well house. Although the present well house is very old, I don't think it dates all the way back to 1790. It's probably a successor to the original building. The young couple believe that the small house is the actual dwelling from about 1790, and that Catherine and Mike lived in it.. I have a Cumberland County Tax list from 1789, which shows the taxable rates for "Michael Page" in Greenwood Township, Cumberland County.

JAKE: In 1790, Greenwood Township became part of the newly-formed Mifflin County. You have some photos of those houses. You ought to have copies made and send them to Wilma.

DONNA: - If I can find them! It was a great trip back in '96, Jake, but none of this proves that Mike Page was Philip Foulkrod's father-in-law.

JAKE: Oh, I'm not through yet! Didn't Wilma ask you about John and Elizabeth Foulkrod?

DONNA: Wilma says that if John Foulkrod married Elizabeth Page, he'd be marrying his aunt.

JAKE: Well, given the vagaries of genealogical research, I'm not entirely certain that's true. After all, we know of a researcher who gave you a fictional great Uncle Abram Foulkrod, Jr., and then had fictitious Uncle Abe marry your great grandfather's third wife, Louisa Hedges! And worse than that, this erroneous information is now in EVERTON's and available to everybody! Now, according to the information we've got from Jonathan Wert, John Foulkrod's wife, Elizabeth, was the daughter of Abraham Page, who was born in 1769, in Paxton Township, Dauphin County, Pa. The family farm in Dauphin County was known as REFORMATION. Abraham married Barbara Diehl, who lived from October 23, 1779 to April 19, 1844 and is buried in Greenwood Township, Juniata County. Fine. But which Abraham was Elizabeth's father? CASE IN POINT: LOOK AT THE 1820 CENSUS. THERE ARE TWO ABRAHAM PAGES LISTED. ONE IS IN MIFFLIN COUNTY AND THE OTHER IN LYCOMING. THEY CAN'T POSSIBLY BE THE SAME GUY! Are they brothers, father and son - or what? If we don't have it in a genealogical family list, we'll never know, because the U.S. Census tables told us practically nothing until the first itemized census in 1850. It's quite possible that the info got garbled and

Elizabeth isn't even Abraham's daughter. I think it's more likely that John Foulkrod and Elizabeth Page were first cousins. But, anyway, in 1996, you and Peg and Leonard Brion found the graves of John and Elizabeth Page Foulkrod. Where are they?

DONNA: They're in the Niemonds Lutheran Church cemetery, near Richfield, Juniata County. John was born Oct. 14, 1812 and died July 28, 1896. Elizabeth was born November 3, 1810, and died July 14, 1890.

JAKE: And I believe they had a number of children, didn't they?

DONNA: At least 11. Three of their children were named Michael, born in 1851, and John and Catherine. And they are the ancestors of a family group in Juniata County who spell their names FULKROAD, and don't give a rip about who or where they came from. At least, that's what Jonathan Wert told me when I met him.

JAKE: There now, see? It's more promising than you thought! And didn't Doris Vanderscors send you something about John and Elizabeth's son, Henry?

DONNA: Yes, he's mentioned in PRESIDENTS, SOLDIERS AND STATESMEN, published in 1892, and this book also mentions that Henry had brothers named John and Michael. I'm going to send Wilma a copy of this article. (PLEASE SEE EXHIBIT A)

JAKE: Well, while you're at it, why don't you send Wilma a copy of the family list you received some years ago from Doris? Doris Vanderscors was a great-great-granddaughter of Catherine Foulkrod Cohick (1811-1870), an older sister of your great grandfather, Abram Foulkrod. She didn't have Barbara or Sophia, but somehow she's come up with an Isiah, Joseph and Jane. (SEE EXHIBIT B)

DONNA: And please note that Doris hasn't got the right JOHN. She has listed John Foulkrod, who is actually the son of Isaac Foulkrod, who went out to Tioga County about 1820 from Philadelphia. . Isaac was the son of Jacob Foulkrod who served in the American Revolution. There's a ton a stuff about Jakie the Patriot in the genealogical records, but he's a cousin of ours, not a direct relation of Philip's, and budding genealogists keep confusing our two lines. The John Foulkrod who was born in Liberty in 1821, died there in 1908. He married ELIZABETH OSTROM in 1846. Elizabeth Ostrom was a sister of the DAVID OSTROM who married my own grandfather's sister, Sarah Foulkrod. I know that both John and Elizabeth Ostrom Foulkrod are in Union Cemetery in Liberty Township, Tioga County, because I walked by their graves this May when we went up to Liberty from Carlisle. Leonard's Aunt Charlotte Cstrom died in February

of 1999, at a very great age, and we went to check on the condition of the newly-sodded grave. Isaac, his wife, Verena Lenhart Foulkrod, and several of their children are in Union Cemetery and all have very legible markers.

JAKE: So now do you feel confident that Michael Page is your great-great grandfather?.

DONNA: I believe he is, but I don't know how else to prove it. I know when he and his wife, Catherine Leiter, were born, but I have no idea when or where they died.

JAKE: Well, if you care, you've got a much larger problem than Michael Page.

DONNA: What problem?

JAKE: So, WHO WAS PHILIP FOULKROD'S father? Our Philip must have come out to what is now Juniata County or Lycoming County about 1807-1808. Somewhere along the line in Central Pennsylvania he got married to Barbara Page. He didn't spring full grown into this world. SO, WHO WAS HIS FATHER?

DONNA: I don't know, and I've never been able to find out. If you look at the typed copy of the Will of the man I call Philip Foulkrod (or Philip Fackeroth) The Founder of the line, you will see that he had two sons, George and Philip, Jr. The first Philip was born in 1717 and came to Philadelphia from Europe with his two brothers, George and Jacob, in 1744. He made a Will in 1785 and died the same year. This Will leaves most of the male bequest to George. Philip, Jr., gets only 8 acres of land. Was Philip, Jr., the father of our Philip who came out to Central Pennsylvania? I can't find any birth or death dates for Philip, Jr. Or was George our Philip's father? (SEE EXHIBIT C)

JAKE: Well, if the Internet Group doesn't have the answer to this one, now they have another puzzle! Now, I'm going to find myself a nice, meaty bone and chew on it for awhile...

As you can see, Jake is a very articulate beagle-basset.

I am going to write Lee Stradley this weekend and send him a copy of the same photo I'm sending you. I hope it won't disturb his digestion. I owe letters to everyone and his brother. They're going to think I died and went to Heaven with the rest of the Foulkrods. The problem is, that I am gone from home 11 hours a day, it's been beastly hot here, I have a house to run (and clean!) and I have had a clump of I & M Canal and Civil War programs this summer. The Civil war presentations don't let up until after November 7, which is the date of my big show, combining Illinois-Michigan Canal and Civil War re-enactors.

If I don't have to have a new furnace this fall, I'm going to buy a computer because Lee is always after me to E-mail him! I really need one, anyway, for Canal and Civil War research.

Wilma, I want to thank you and Lee for all the information you two have provided over the past months concerning the Foulkrod galoots. I only hope you can make sense of Jake's material. He's a beagle who tends to get wrapped up in his explanations!

~~Wilma~~, I'd like to know what you think of Jake's circumstantial evidence theory on Mike Page. We don't have a death date or place of demise for either Mike or his wife, Catherine Leiter Page, and I wonder if we ever will. A lot of people were buried on their farms. Robin Lydecker, of the Lycoming Historical Society, says she gets phone calls from people who have just purchased an old farm and have found tombstones on the property.

Oh, oh, I just got one of Jake's big paws in my back. I forgot to tell you something: Margaretta Gutte Page, Michael Page's mother, died in 1812 and is buried in the Mennonite Church cemetery at Richfield, Juniata Co., just a couple of miles from Mike's old farm. We saw and (recorded) her grave in the churchyard.

I promise I will answer any letters you may care to write. Now that I've finished this letter I have to start writing the script for the November 7th performance because my actors want to start rehearsal by September 20.

Will sign off for now. I'm getting black and blue from punches from Jake's paws!

Sincerely,



Donna - and Jake, the Genealogy Beagle.

JAKE!!