

FOULKE REUNION PLANS PROGRESS

Descendants of Welsh Settlers to Have a Big Celebration.

THE FOUNDER'S RECORD

Extracts From the Family History of Edward Foulke, Who Came to America in 1698

At the close of two hundred years after the arrival of Edward and Eleanor Foulke with their children in this country the descendants of their family are arranging a reunion which promises to challenge wide-spread attention and bring together hundreds of their descendants from all over the United States, including those who do and those who do not bear the family name. Scores of representatives of various branches of the family have expressed their great interest in the forthcoming reunion, and it is expected that members residing as far west as the Pacific coast will be in attendance.

Gwynedd township, near the present Penlyn station, on the Reading Railway, was the location selected by Edward Foulke for his home, and the reunion as arranged will be held in the township at the old Friends' Meeting House located a short distance from Gwynedd station, and in which Edward Foulke was in his time much interested. Such a location is considered eminently fitting for the gathering of the family. Some of the descendants of the Foulkes are still connected with the Gwynedd Meeting, the house of which stands on the same location as that occupied by the first meeting house, located there several years after the arrival of the Welsh company of settlers of which the Foulkes formed a part. May 20 has been selected as the date of this



HOWARD M. JENKINS,
Chairman of Committee.

bi-centennial celebration. It will be followed on the next day by a celebration of the bi-centennial of the settling of Gwynedd township.

THE FOUNDER.

Edward Foulke laid the foundations for just such an event as is to take place four years after the arrival of the settlers in Gwynedd, on the fourteenth day of the eleventh month. At that time January, A. D. 1702, he wrote an account of his migration as well as a record of his ancestry. This forms the only explicit relation of the facts surrounding the voyage of the Welsh company from their native country and their settlement in Gwynedd that at this time is on record, and from this fact as well as others it is inferred that he was the best educated of these Welsh yeomen. It is also recorded that Edward Foulke was a good singer, and companies of his friends gathered at his home in his native land on Sundays to hear him sing together with others of a musical turn who joined him. A careful and thorough collection of these historical facts concerning these early settlers has been made by Howard M. Jenkins, of Gwynedd, one of the descendants of Edward Foulke, and chairman of the Executive Committee of the reunion. He is a member of the Gwynedd meeting, which Edward Foulke helped to organize.

The account of this removal was written in Welsh and was translated into English by his grandson, Samuel Foulke, of Richland, who was a member of the Colonial Assembly. This account begins with a genealogical record of Edward Foulke, in which he traces his lineage direct to

Ririd Flaidd, Lord of Penlyn, a prominent personage in Welsh history.

"I was born," he wrote, "on the thirteenth of fifth month, 1631, and when arrived at mature age I married Eleanor, the daughter of Hugh ap Cadwallader, continuing with a record of her ancestry, according to the Welsh manner of recording it. Further he states that he had nine children—Thomas, Hugh, Cadwallader and Evan; Grace, Gwen, Jane, Catherine and Margaret. They lived at a place called Coed-y-foel, a beautiful farm belonging to Roger Price, of Rhiwaf, Merionshire.

ELEVEN WEEKS AT SEA.

"But in process of time," he wrote, "I had an inclination to remove with my family to the province of Pennsylvania, and in order thereto we set out on the third day of the second month, A. D. 1683, and came in two days to Liverpool, where, with divers others who intended to go the voyage, we took shipping, the 17th of the same month, on board the Robert and Elizabeth, and the next day set sail for Ireland, where we arrived and staid until the first of the third month, May, and then sailed again for Pennsylvania, and were about eleven weeks at sea."

On the voyage it is told by him that a plague broke out on the ship, from which forty-five persons died, but his family was spared from loss and all arrived safely at Philadelphia on the seventeenth of the fifth month (July), where they were kindly received and hospitably entertained by friends and old acquaintances. These were undoubtedly Welsh settlers in the country, surrounding Philadelphia, who had previously emigrated to America.

In concluding he states that he soon purchased 700 acres of land about 16 miles from Philadelphia, on a part of which he settled, and others of the company which came across the sea with his family settled near them. This was the beginning of November, 1698, and the township was called Gwynedd, or North Wales.

Edward Foulke died in 1739 or '41, accounts differing. One authority states that he was 88 years and 5 months old when his life ended. His wife, Eleanor, died in 1733.

Sally Wister, of revolutionary renown, made the old stone house on the Foulke

into close contact with Benjamin Franklin and the prominent men of his time.

Coming to more recent times, William Parker Foulke, a grandson of Dr. John Foulke, was prominently identified with many leading enterprises of a philanthropic and educational character. An ardent worker in the interests of the betterment of prison conditions in this State, his efforts with those of one or two others bore fruit in an act of the State Legislature in 1860. Among other things in which he was interested was the Pennsylvania Colonization Society. He was promoter of the Hayes Arctic expedition, in recognition of which the winter harbor of the explorers, in North Greenland, bears the name Port Foulke, and he was one of the three earliest promoters of the Academy of Music. He died in 1865.

In another branch of the family several were representatives to the Provincial Assembly, and later to the State Legislature.

In the meetings of the Friends they have taken prominent places, and in the present generation there are many prominent members of the family.

Details for the reunion and celebration are rapidly being arranged and will include addresses, reading of papers and an exhibition of MSS., coats of arms, portraits, silhouettes, marriage certificates and ancestral furniture.

For the proper carrying out of the celebration the descendants of Edward Foulke have organized under the name of the Association of Descendants of Edward Foulke, and the following officers have been elected: President, William Dudley Foulke, of Richmond, Indiana; vice-presidents, Hugh Foulke, Philadelphia; Samuel Emlen, Germantown; Rebecca J. Foulke Corson, Philadelphia; Charles M. Foulke, Washington; Frances C. Day, Germantown, and Edward Foulke, Washington; secretary, Frank Foulke, Philadelphia; assistant secretary, Joseph T. Foulke, Philadelphia; treasurer, Edward M. Wister, Philadelphia, and Executive Committee, including officers, Howard M. Jenkins, chairman; William G. Foulke, J. Roberts Foulke, Daniel Foulke Moore, Abigail W. Foulke, Jesse Foulke Spencer, George Rhyfedd Foulke, Robert R. Corson, Letitia Foulke Kent, Jane S. A.; William Wister Comfort, James Emlen, Anna Foulke Bacon Neff, Charles F. Jenkins, Lydia A. Foulke Wilson and Joseph F. Foulke.



FRANK FOULKE,
Secretary.

estate, which was built some years after the settlement of the Welsh, famous by writing her much-read journal within its confines.

JUDAH FOULKE, GENTLEMAN.

The descendants of Edward and Eleanor Foulke have achieved distinction in the adopted country of their ancestors. The first to become a public man was Cadwallader, the third of their sons, who became a justice of the peace in Philadelphia. His son, Judah Foulke, was collector of excise for Philadelphia from 1735 to 1750, and Sheriff of the city and county of Philadelphia in 1770-72, and a document is on record stating that "His Excellency, John Penn, with the advice of the Council, constitutes and appoints Judah Foulke, gentleman, keeper of the standards of brass for weights and measures for the county of Philadelphia."

John Foulke, son of Judah Foulke, became one of Philadelphia's leading physicians during Revolutionary times. He was one of the first elected members of the College of Physicians, and was also made a member of the American Philosophical Society in 1784 and in 1786 became one of its secretaries. He conducted a private medical school at his home. During his various labors he came