

GREGORY FAUX

Background:

It is possible that Gregory Faux was a grandson of John Faux (Faulkes), who was a member of the local gentry residing at Mundford, Norfolk County, England (PRO, PCC, Admin., 1582 / 51, 52), who also had landholdings in various locations throughout the area (e.g., NRO, Weeting Manor Court Roll, Calden 31/8/62, 10 Oct. 1598). However, the dearth of baptismal registers and other pertinent documents in relation to that part of Norfolk, in the era prior to the English Civil War, make the likelihood of accurately determining the parentage of Gregory rather slim. To complicate matters, the surname Faux was relatively common in sixteenth and seventeenth century Norfolk.

Nothing is known of Gregory during his childhood. There is no evidence that Gregory had any formal schooling, as a matter of fact the use of a mark for signing his will suggests that he was illiterate (NRO, ANF Wills, 1681, 227/357).

The first reference to Gregory, located to date, occurs on 29 September 1641 when he married Frances Elmore at All Saints Parish Church in Croxton, Norfolk (NRO, Croxton, PR). The Faux name would soon feature prominently in the registers of this parish (with the occasional entry spelled "Fakes"). Croxton is about three miles north of Thetford, and is deep within the Breckland District of southwestern Norfolk. This is a region of rolling heathland composed of sandy soil, over a bed of chalk laced with layers of flint cobbles (Cook, 1980). The characteristic heaths of the area are composed of open spaces covered with a low - lying scrub brush called furze or gorse. This plant, distinctive for its yellow blossoms in May and June, was used as firewood by the local inhabitants (Crosby, 1986). The town is today, as it was likely 300 years ago, composed of houses made of characteristic local flint cobbles which are often split in two to expose their black interior surfaces. The buildings today line both sides of the main road heading north-south from Thetford. The Faden map printed in 1797 (NRS, Vol. 42) shows the same basic arrangement. The church is located on the east side of the road, on a rise at the southern entrance to the town. It is a thirteenth structure built of flint cobbles with a nave of about 38 feet in length, and a round tower at the western end (Blomefield, 1805, Vol. 2, p. 152). Through the entrance porch, positioned at the southwest corner, generations of the Faux family would have stepped every Sunday, and during the ceremonies for baptisms, marriages, and burials during their tenure in this village.

Civil War:

Two sons were born close on the heels of the marriage-

Gregory Junior in 1641 (?), and Thomas in 1643 (NRO, Croxton, PR). In between these two dates, in 1642, war was declared between the Parliamentary and Royalist forces. Doubtless there was considerable anxiety in the community as the threat of armed conflict loomed large in these years. There were meetings of the Eastern Association (a body constituted by Parliament) in every village (including, presumably, Croxton) where all adult male residents signed a document indicating their support of the aims of the Association. Typically the more substantial inhabitants also pledged material support in the form of money or arms. In 1643 Parliament ordered that 20,000 soldiers be raised from the Eastern Association. Men were impressed into service at this time such that by January 1644 Parliament had raised 14,000 persons for service in foot, horse, and dragoon units. Only certain categories of persons were exempt (e.g., those rated at L.5 in goods or L.3 in land in the Subsidy Rolls). Married men as well as single men were impressed into the army of the "Roundheads" (Ketton - Cremer, 1969). The fact that the records are silent for 12 years (no children seem to have been born to Gregory and Frances in this interval) suggest that Gregory may have been directly involved in the Civil War. Perhaps a search of the relevant muster lists will demonstrate that Gregory served with the Parliamentary army, since Norfolk was strongly pro-Cromwellian, and since persons of his class (yeoman) made up the backbone of Parliamentary supporters. Since Norfolk was largely in the backwash, being spared any major devastation during the war, it is unclear how the Faux family were affected on a day-to-day basis during the unpleasantness. The War came to the doorstep of Croxton in 1646, but the locals were probably oblivious to the whole matter. In April, when the fortunes of war turned sour for the Royalist cause, King Charles realized he must leave England. Disguised as a servant he left Oxford heading for the port at King's Lynn Norfolk. Stopping at Downham Market he had a barber trim his hair, which in his haste to leave Oxford he had crudely chopped. Concerned that the barber, in an area which was a hotbed of Pro - Parliamentary sentiment, may have suspected something, Charles changed his disguise and his route. Disguised as a clergyman, his new route took him to Mundford, immediately west of Croxton. No doubt this caused a bit of a stir when the residents later became aware that they had a brush with a Royal visitor (Wade Martins, 1984).

According to the baptismal registers of All Saints Church, two more children were born to Gregory and Frances - Ann in 1655 and Mary in 1659 (NRO, Croxton, PR). By this time the war had cooled and life was returning to a more normal state, particularly after the death of Oliver Cromwell in 1658, and the restoration of Charles II in 1660 (Morgan, 1984).

After 26 years of marriage Frances (Elmore) Faux died and was buried at Croxton on 1 January 1667 (NRO, Croxton, PR). The cause of death is not recorded. It is however unlikely that the

reason was one of the series of plagues that had troubled England for so many centuries, since the last major outbreak was in 1665 (Morgan, 1984). One year later, on 2 February 1668, Gregory married Margaret Worth, who lived only a little more than a year - being buried at Croxton on 21 October 1669. Less than a year later Gregory married a third time. On 23 May 1670 he married Grace Butter, a widow who was then living in St. Peter's Parish of Thetford (NRO, Thetford St. Peter's, PR).

Yeoman Status:

It would appear that, at least by the time of his third marriage, Gregory Faux was a well - established farmer with the social rank of yeoman - occupying a position between the husbandman / farmer, and the gentry. Often these men were the sons of yeomen or the younger sons of the lesser gentry. As a group they were characterized as ambitious entrepreneurs ready to answer when opportunity came knocking. In the seventeenth century yeomen were respectable countrymen with considerable holdings, usually including freehold properties. They have been described as having a particularly close relationship with their lands, and a pride in their role in the community. Furthermore, they had sufficient rank to sit on juries and vote for members of Parliament (Campbell, 1942). That Gregory had a sense of class consciousness, as was typical of the time, is expressed in the desire recorded in his will that his executors see his "body decently buried according to my vocation" (NRO, ANF, 1681). His status is also reflected in the fact that his son - and - heir, Gregory Junior, was accorded the rare honour of being buried in the nave of All Saints Parish Church at Croxton (Blomefield, 1805, Vol. 2, p. 152).

As a yeoman, Gregory would likely have taken the produce of his farms to London occasionally, but the nearest market more routinely. He was fortunate in having a large market on his very doorstep. About 3 miles due south of Croxton was the Thetford marketplace, wedged between the River Thet and Castle Hill. It was divided into separate sections for each commodity (e.g., cheesemarket, cornmarket). Here, Gregory would likely also have bought what he needed for household use (e.g., fish and timber) (Crosby, 1986).

Gregory's will was signed on 12 March 1676/7 at which time he was "sick in body" (NRO, ANF, 1681). He was then living at Methwold Hithe which is a small hamlet about a mile west of Methwold and on the edge of the Fens (then a vast, largely undrained marshland). According to his will he grew wheat on his farm(s), and kept dairy cows (using the milk to make cheese) and pigs (from which he made bacon). Gregory left selected cows to his third wife Grace. He wished her to have, "three cowes called by these names a brown cowe a brown Whiteface cowe a black cowe called by ye name of Nancy"; and to his stepdaughter he

instructed that she should have a brown calfe. Furthermore, Gregory asked that his wife receive a sow, there is no mention of those ubiquitous English creatures - sheep in his will (NRO, ANF, 1681). This is not surprising, however, since southwestern Norfolk was one of those rare areas in England where cattle raising out distanced sheep raising (Campbell, 1942).

While no inventory of his possessions appears to have survived, some glimpse into at least some of the furnishings of Gregory's home(s) can be gleaned by reference to his will. Here he mentioned a cupboard, table, warming pan, cheese press, churn, milk bowls, cheese vats, milkpans, tubs, a killer (?), a beer vessel, a trunk, two chests, and meat in a "powdering" tub - all of which were to go to his wife. Furthermore, he notes a feather bed, a bolster, a pillow, a blanket, and a "kisteringe" that were to go to his son Thomas. Gregory also makes provisions as to who should receive his clothing. While he does not give details of specific items of clothing, at this point in time, after the restoration of the Monarchy, dress generally was ornate with the profuse use of lace, with cravats and fine coloured cloth used to make coats, waistcoats, and breeches. This was in sharp contrast to the stark severity in clothing seen during the time of Cromwell when grays and blacks were the fashion fare (Collins, 1984).

There is no indication why Gregory was living at Methwold in 1676/7. Perhaps it was on land his wife inherited from her deceased husband, or on land Gregory had inherited from his father. The manorial records for Methwold do not help in choosing between these alternatives. What is clear is that his holdings in Methwold were not extensive. He apparently had one messuage or tenement with 2 acres of copyhold land in Methwold (NRO, Methwold Court Books, Bantoft Collection, 10 Oct. 1700). Gregory still possessed his freehold tenement in Croxton since he willed said property to his son Gregory Junior. In addition, it appears that he had copyhold properties at Croxton - probably the Red Hipp Farm and Norwick Farm noted in the will of son Gregory (son - and - heir) (NRO, ANF Wills, 1698/9, 34/132). Norwick Farm (Croxton Park) is the largest in the area. Norwick Farm includes a series of flint buildings which appear to date from the 1600s. The main house is a two story building with two Dutch gables facing the entrance. Furthermore, other interesting features include the two stone gargoyles which guard the opening to the second story of the adjacent flint barn complex.

Gregory Faux died sometime between 12 March 1676/7 when he signed his will, and 5 October 1681 when his will was probated - probably in 1681 since estates were usually settled soon after a person's decease. It is unknown whether Gregory was buried at Methwold (the registers do not survive at this date) or Croxton (the lack of an entry in these registers argues against this possibility). At the writing of his will both of his sons were

alive, as well as his daughter Ann (Faux) Gathercoale, and at least 12 grandchildren. His wife Grace survived him, and was buried 5 April 1695 at Thetford St. Peter (NRO, Thetford St. Peter's, PR).

THOMAS FAUX

Early Life:

Thomas Faux was baptised on 30 August 1643 in All Saints Parish Church at Croxton, Norfolk (NRO, Croxton, PR), the second son of Gregory and Frances (Elmore) Faux. The ceremony marking this event would have been celebrated at the large 15th century octagonal font, whose basin is supported by five pilasters of stone, and which is situated at the west end of the nave. It is probable that the ceremony was performed by Rev. William Jenkinson Junior, minister of Croxton at the time (Blomefield, 1805, Vol. 2, p. 152-155). Thomas had three siblings - an older brother Gregory, and two younger sisters Ann, and Mary (who may have died in infancy).

Since Thomas was born at the beginning of the English Civil War, and grew up in the midst of it, it is likely that these circumstances (including possible father absence) may have had a particular impact on his development. It is unknown whether Thomas received any formal education, however his status as the son of a yeoman meant that it was a distinct possibility. By the mid seventeenth century approximately 65% of yeomen in England were literate, however figures for Norfolk in particular tended to be lower (Harrison, 1984). It is a matter of record that Thomas' older brother Gregory signed his name when he composed his will (NRO, ANF, 1698/9, 34/132), supporting the hypothesis that Thomas too may have received at least some schooling.

Marriage and Middle Years:

At the age of 25 Thomas married Anne Ollet on 24 June 1668 in the parish church of Croxton (NRO, Croxton, PR). It is likely that the sequence which culminated in the wedding ceremony included courtship, betrothal, and the calling of banns in the church soon thereafter. No doubt there was considerable joking and teasing attendant upon the reading of their names, indicating their intention to marry, on three successive Sundays. After successfully enduring these rites they were ready for the wedding day ceremonies. Here there would be processions to and from the church, including family, friends, and neighbours. The details of the ritual elements of the time are unclear, however the groom may have, for example, given a pair of gloves or some ribbons to each friend prior to the ceremony, then gone to his future wife's home with these friends to fetch her - with suitable fanfare. In Norfolk it was typical for the bride to throw shoes during the procession to church (a symbol for the renunciation of authority), accompanied by fiddle music. The actual ceremony would have taken place at the altar, with vows, and a ring blessed by the act of putting it alongside coins on the priest's service book. The bride would then receive a kiss from the minister, then from all in the wedding party. A ritual jumping

of an object (e.g., stone or wooden bench) at the church door (would have been), followed by the race for the bride's garter. Finally, the day would have been capped by a round of feasting, drinking, and dancing (all provided by the couple, not the bride's father) at the bride and groom's new home (Gillis, 1985).

The children of Thomas and Anne, namely, John, Thomas Junior, Francis, Mary, Elizabeth, Robert, and Isaac were baptised between the years 1669 and 1683 - all at Croxton (NRD, Croxton, PR). Thomas Senior is mentioned in his father's will which was signed in 1676/7 (NRD, ANF, 1681, 227/357). Gregory Junior was given the freehold lands in Croxton, and, as son - in - heir, also obtained his father's copyhold properties. Thomas, then residing in Croxton, was not given any lands but was willed 12 pounds, to be paid one year after his father's decease; as well as "three green curtaines one feather bed one bolster and pillow one blanket one kisteringe and all my wearing apparell and hose shoes hatts and shitts ..."

There is nothing at all to point to Thomas' lifestyle and his status, however certain inferences can be made. The fact that his eldest son John became a servant does not give a clear indication since, as well as servants from the lower ranks, it was typical that yeoman's sons became servants in the households of the gentry. The fact that, although he died intestate at a young age, John's estate went through administration suggests some degree of recognized status (NRD, ANW Admons., 1704/5, 127). The fact that Thomas' second son became a labourer, however, points to the likelihood that Thomas Senior did not equal the social rank of his brother i.e., yeoman. Instead it seems probable that Thomas was either an agricultural labourer with no land to call his own, or a small farmer / husbandman with at most a few acres of copyhold land (held according to the custom of the manor on terms described on a copy of the entry in the manorial court roll).

Disappears from the Records:

After the baptism of their son Isaac at Croxton in 1683, Thomas and Anne both disappear from the records. It is known that son John lived at Thetford (NRD, ANW, 1704/5), son Thomas at Mundford (NRD, Munford, PR), and son Isaac at West Harling (NRD, West Harling, PR) (all within a six mile radius of Croxton) but it is unknown where their parents went to live. Their burials do not appear in the Croxton registers. On 15 July 1691, however, a Thomas Faux was buried at Northwold (NRD, Northwold, PR) which is situated adjacent to Methwold where Thomas' (bp. 1643) father Gregory was living when he wrote his will. Furthermore a Mary Faux, wife of Thomas Faux, was buried on 20 November 1685 at Methwold (NRD, Methwold, PR). However, unless the minister / clerk erred in writing the name Mary instead of Anne, this could not be the Thomas and Anne originally from Croxton. The Thomas

who was buried in Northwold was married on 13 April 1686 at Northwold to Ann Dobbs and had two children Jacob (baptised 1689), and Sarah (buried 1690) (NRO, Northwold, PR).

ISAAC FAUX

Early Years at Croxton:

Isaac Faux was baptised on 6 March 1683 in the parish church at Croxton, the son of Thomas and Anne (Oillet) Faux (NRD, Croxton, PR). Isaac was the youngest of seven children, having four brothers and two sisters. Nothing is known of his early life, although he is not likely to have enjoyed the status and lifestyle of his cousins, and may have seen the writing on the wall. The laws of primogeniture dictated that the eldest son (son - and - heir) inherit his father's lands en block. Therefore, being the youngest son of the youngest son allowed little possibility for living a comfortable existence a rural society where the measure of a man was the amount of land he possessed. Likely all that was realistically available, if he wished to stay in the area, was to work for daily wages as a farm labourer.

Marriage and West Harling:

Isaac next turns up in the records during the reign of Queen Anne, when he married Ann Slagg on 13 June 1708 in the parish church of Old Buckenham (Kenninghall Parish Church Chest, Old Buckenham, PR) - a considerable distance (about 12 miles) east of Croxton. His residence, however, was given as West Harling - a village six miles east of the village where he was born. There is no obvious reason why he chose Old Buckenham since his wife was from East Harling. At West Harling one daughter Mary (baptised 1710) and two sons John (baptised 1711) and Isaac (baptised 1716) were born to Isaac and Ann (NRD, West Harling, PR). There may have been other children, however the parish register has suffered extensive water damage and many of the entries are illegible.

Final Move - Kenninghall and Banham:

In all likelihood, in order to secure adequate employment, Isaac was forced to move from West Harling. He appears to have charted a course that, in two successive moves, followed a path taking him six miles to the east. He turns up during the reign of George II in Kenninghall, in 1729, when the baptism of his son Robert was registered (Kenninghall Parish Church Chest, Kenninghall, PR); and four years later in adjoining Banham when his son David was baptised (NRD, Banham, PR). Isaac and Ann would remain here (Banham) for the rest of their lives. It is interesting to note the spelling variations that emerged at this time. The 1729 entry records the surname as "Forks" in the original parish register, and as "Ffoakes" in the Bishop's Transcripts of the register (NRD, Kenninghall, BT). In 1733 the name was written as "Faux", but from 1738 to 1762 the spelling of "Forks" was used at Banham.

On 13 November 1738 Ann (Slagg) Faux was buried at Banham leaving children ranging in age from 28 to 5. Between the years 1739 and 1746 Isaac would also have seen the births and subsequent deaths of all four grandchildren born to his son Isaac Junior. In addition, he would have likely attended the marriage of son Robert in 1746, followed by the baptisms of the latter's three sons between 1749 (NRD, Banham, PR) and 1753. After 1753 it appears that of the children, only Isaac Junior remained in Banham with his father. Robert, however, was living in an adjacent parish (Kenninghall Parish Church Chest, Eccles, PR); and evidence suggests that eldest son John was living only a few miles (about 9) to the east, in Wymondham (NRD, Wymondham, PR).

On 18 June 1762 (during the reign of George III and toward the end of the Seven Years War) Isaac Junior was buried, and was followed 7 days later (25 June) by his father, who was then 79 years of age. Both were buried at Banham (NRD, Banham, PR). One wonders whether this short time interval is a coincidence, or whether Isaac Senior was despondent over the recent death of his son.

ROBERT FAUX I

Early Years at Kenninghall and Banham:

Robert Faux was baptised on 28 March 1729, two years after the succession of George III, at Kenninghall Parish Church (Kenninghall Parish Church Chest, Kenninghall, PR), the fourth child of Isaac and Ann (Slagg) Faux. He was probably named after his father's older brother Robert. Robert's siblings included one older sister, and two older and one younger brother. Sometime prior to 1734 Robert and his family moved to Banham, the adjoining parish to the east. Nothing is known of Robert's early life. Since all indications are that his father was a farm labourer, in all probability their existence was harsh and unvaried. There is no evidence that Robert ever went more than a few miles (at most) from the place of his birth.

Marriage:

It would appear that he married very young, at age 17, his wife being 20 years of age. This age figure for Robert is an estimate based on his baptismal date, however he may have been baptised as a child, rather than as an infant a few days or weeks old (typical of the times). These ages for the groom and bride are about 10 and 5 years lower than the average age at marriage, respectively, for men and women at that time. The early marriage may suggest that Robert was like many members of the rural proletariat, launched into the workforce at an early age by "industrious" parents who wished their son to earn a substantial "nest egg" prior to marriage. Perhaps Robert worked very hard, was prudent in saving, and happened to meet the "girl of his dreams" a few years earlier than others in the community. If luck prevailed and they found a ready cottage near the village green they could begin investing in livestock for their small plot while Robert hired himself out as a day labourer to a local farmer (Gillis, 1985).

The wedding of Robert Faux and Ann Doubbleday took place 18 December 1746 in the parish church at Banham (NRO, Banham, PR). Since the baptism of their first child does not take place until 1749, there is no evidence that the motive for the early marriage was "one on the way".

From Banham to Eccles:

The first child of Robert and Ann, Robert Junior, was baptised in 1749, followed by John in 1751 - both ceremonies occurring at Banham (NRO, Banham, PR). Sometime between the latter date and 1753, the family appears to have moved to the parish immediately to the northwest. Here, at Eccles, their son Davy was baptised in 1753 - but was buried 19 days later in the churchyard of Eccles Parish Church (Kenninghall Parish Church

Chest, Eccles, PR). It would appear that only one child of the couple survived, Robert Junior, who moved a short distance away to a parish north of Eccles when he reached adulthood.

There is no evidence that Robert led anything but a quiet relatively uneventful life composed of hard manual labour and little leisure. Ann (Doubbleday) Faux (spelled "Fawkes" here) was buried 13 November 1796 (age 70) in the churchyard of Eccles Parish Church. It appears that Robert married a second time since there is a burial entry at Eccles for a Christianna Faux (age 89) in 1827, however a search for the relevant marriage entry has not been initiated. Robert Faux was buried 11 September 1814, aged 85, at Eccles (Kenninghall Parish Church Chest, Eccles, PR). It is interesting to speculate whether prior to his death Robert was aware of the return to England of Robert III. Robert was his only grandson with the Faux surname, and had returned to English soil in 1813 after serving with the British army in Portugal. Whether he knew of the birth of his great-grandson Charles Faux at Canterbury in January of 1814 is also unknown

ROBERT FAUX II

Banham and Eccles:

Robert Faux II was baptised at Banham on 15 January 1749, the first child of Robert and Ann (Doubbleday) Faux (NRD, Banham, PR). Robert had two siblings, a brother John (whose fate is unknown), and Davy who was born and died when Robert was four. Sometime between ages 2 and 4, Robert and family moved to the adjacent parish of Eccles (Kenninghall Parish Church Chest, Eccles, PR) where he apparently lived until he married over 25 years later.

Occupation as an Agricultural Labourer:

As is typical of the farm labourer class (his occupation according to his wife's death certificate) in general, and his predecessors in particular, Robert moved a number of times to adjoining parishes - but never far from his village of birth. While his son Robert III gives his father's occupation as "farmer" this may mean "farm labourer". It may be useful now to explore what it meant to be a farm labourer in England during the reign of George III. In a rural society the social class immediately below the copyholding husbandman (small farmer) was the agricultural labourer. In the hierarchical society of the 1700s, the agricultural labourer was the sixth, or second to last, class (just above vagrants, paupers and criminals). After the enclosure of the small holdings and many commons, the peasantry had no access to large areas on which to graze their animals, obtain wood for fuel and building, rabbits for food, etc. They therefore had to rely solely on wages they could earn working for farmers, or from small cottage industries such as weaving to supplement their meager income. A further factor conspiring to push rural residents down to the lower ranks was the population growth after 1750 with the result that there was not enough land for all to have a share (Harrison, 1984; Hey, 1987).

Generally, the agricultural labourer had to be a rural jack of all trades. Specific tasks included leading the plow horses, mowing, hedging, taking care of livestock, etc. They sometimes lived in rented accommodation, or in cottages tied to the Lord's demesne. Their tenure was insecure in that they were hired for a weekly or daily wage, or for piece work. Often hiring was by contract for a year. At the end of a contract the agricultural labourer might attend hiring fairs in a local market town, with the result that they might secure employment miles from their previous home. The lifestyle generally involved a perpetual round of heavy physical labour over long hours (except, perhaps, during wet weather). A man, and often his wife, could look forward to coming home to a drafty cottage with little room for an expanding family. There was always the worry of scarcity

hanging over their heads, especially with repeated bad harvests. Among the few forms of recreation available to agricultural labourers was the "frolic" given by the employer at the end of harvest time (Harrison, 1984; Hey, 1987). Not quite an enviable lifestyle. It is a matter of record, however, that this class tended to be more robust than those at the lower rungs of urban society (Strachan, 1984).

Marriage at Snetterton:

When he was 30, while the American Revolution was raging overseas, on 19 June 1779, Robert married Elizabeth Betts (age 20) in the Snetterton Parish Church (NRO, Snetterton, PR). Their ages closely match the average age at marriage at this time. Robert was residing at Eccles when he married. It is noteworthy that Robert signed his name in the marriage register - suggesting that he had at least received a rudimentary education at Eccles. While it is unclear as to the relative numbers of labourers in Norfolk who were literate in 1779, it was probably somewhat more than the 8% reported for East Anglia in the mid seventeenth century (Harrison, 1984). If required to pay for schooling (as was likely) it is evident that Robert's parents put a high priority on education despite their limited circumstances. A further fact of consequence recorded in this marriage entry is that although the minister spelled the surname "Faux", Robert signed "Forks" - the way the minister at Banham had spelled the name, suggesting the possibility that he was the individual who taught Robert to read and write.

Shropham:

It would appear that the first child was "on the way" when Robert and Elizabeth were married as their daughter Mary was baptised less than four months later. This event took place in Shropham (NRO, Shropham, PR) which is a parish adjoining Snetterton. Pre-marital pregnancy was typical of the times when people were courting relatively early, and were having sexual intercourse before marriage - especially after the betrothal. In 1779, the rate of pre-nuptial pregnancy was about 30%. Motives varied, but one reason was that women used sex to hold a man; another was to have proof of fertility prior to contracting a formal union (Gillis, 1985).

Final Move - Stowbedon:

One more change of venue was in the cards for the couple when they moved to Stowbedon sometime prior to 1786. In April of that year their only other child, Robert III, was baptised (the spelling "Fox" being used in the register) (NRO, Stowbedon, PR). It is likely that the 1790s were particularly challenging for Robert and family. The rural proletariat were among those most severely affected by a series of disastrous harvests during the

1790s, following close on the heels of the commercial slump due to trade restrictions during the American Revolution (Gillis, 1985). Also, between 1750 and 1800 wages in Norfolk did not rise with the cost of living (25% versus 60%). This was the era of an expanding system of workhouses to cope with rural unemployment and an increase in the number of paupers (Wade Martins, 1984). It is unknown how the Faux family in particular was affected by the various vagaries inherent in the life of an agricultural labourer.

The records are silent until 18 December 1821 when Robert, age 72, was buried in the churchyard at Stowbedon (NR0, Stowbedon, PR). While it is not known specifically where Robert lived during his long residence in Stowbedon, in 1841 Elizabeth his widow was living along Mear Road (PRO, Censu for England and Wales, Norfolk County, Stowbedon). Elizabeth (Betts) Faux died on 19 May 1845 at Stowbedon, at the advanced age of 86 (GR0, Death Certificate, Wayland District, Sub-District of Watton, 1845, No. 300).

ROBERT FAUX III

Stowbedon - Early Years

Robert Faux was baptised on 2 April 1786 at Stowbedon (NRO, Stowbedon, PR), the second child and only son of Robert and Elizabeth (Betts) Faux. Robert had one sister Mary, who appears to have remained in Stowbedon throughout her life.

In all likelihood Robert would have followed in his father's footsteps and spent his life as a farm labourer in the service of a local landowner, however events conspired to provide opportunities, denied his father, which would lead him far from his native land. As the eighteenth century drew to a close war clouds were looming on the horizon, and fears of war with France intensified (Morgan, 1984). In this climate Robert spent his teenage years, and doubtless worked for a few years as a farm labourer. He must have, however, had the chance of attending school at some point as he was able to read and write as a young adult.

Enlistment in the Army

In 1803 the West Norfolk Militia was embodied in preparation for possible invasion of England by Napoleon's troops (Petre, Vol. 1, 1918). Robert Faux, then 17 years old, must have been one of the first to sign up as he appears on the muster lists as of 11 March of that year when he was registered as a private in the 1st Vacant Company (PRO, WO/1565). While it is tempting to conclude that Robert voluntarily joined due to his desire to defend his country against an invader, the truth may be somewhat different. When war with France was declared, Parliament ordered an increase in the number of men in uniform, including county militia units. Each parish within a county was required to supply a set number of men for the militia. Men were selected by ballot, which in essence was a form of conscription. Robert's name probably came up in this way and, lacking resources to supply a substitute, he was forced to don the uniform (Myatt, 1983). By September 1805 his unit was at Dungeness (Petre, Vol. 1, 1918), and from 25 December of that year to 24 March 1806 they were stationed at Blatchington Barracks. The rest of the year was spent at the Canterbury Barracks in Kent County (PRO, WO/1569). At some point Mary Clarke of Rockland All Saints Parish (adjacent to Stowbedon) must have come from Norfolk to Canterbury. Since she had no brother, and her father had passed away (NRO, Rockland All Saints, PR), there seems no other reason for her to be in Kent County other than to be with her boyfriend from back home. On 27 August 1806 Robert obtained a marriage licence (CCA, Marriage Licenses) and married Mary (both age 20) the same day at St. Mary Northgate Church in Canterbury (CCA, Canterbury, St. Mary Northgate, PR). At the Shorncliff Barracks on 31 August 1807 Robert volunteered to transfer to the 9th Foot

(Infantry) Regiment (East Norfolk), 2nd Battalion, for which he received L5. 5s in levy money (PRO, WO/2725). It was typical in this era for recruiters to "persuade" selected men from the militia to line regiments with the offer of bounty money to men well lubricated with alcohol and primed by exciting stories of fabled overseas lands (Myatt, 1983). However, since Robert was married at the time, it is unclear as to the motive for the transfer. He must have known that should overseas duty be required, his wife stood a good chance of being sent back home to wait in complete uncertainty until the return (if ever) of her husband. Was it then because army life was preferable to that as a labourer, or because of a sense of patriotism and loyalty? At any rate, soon thereafter, on 25 October 1807 he was promoted to the rank of corporal (PRO, WO/2725). There were only three corporals to every 100 men (Foster, 1981). This suggests that, in becoming a non-commissioned officer, he was a cut above the common herd - possibly because of his behaviour, and certainly because he was literate, since N.C.O.'s were required to be both literate and numerate (Strachan, 1984).

Portugal and Gibraltar

After marches around southern England, the regiment marched to Ramsgate and on 17 July 1808 embarked for Portugal, landing at the Bay of Maceira on 19 August. On 21 August the Battle of Vimieiro took place in which the 9th Foot participated.

Battle of Vimieiro: On the 19th Robert's brigade landed on a crescent shaped beach at the mouth of the River Maceira, between Mondego and Lisbon. A short distance inland the river takes a 90 degree turn to the south between two steep ridges. Immediately to the south, on the east side of the river, is a lower round vine and brush covered eminence called Vimieiro Hill. Vimieiro village is wedged between this hill and the Eastern Ridge to the north. Among those positioned on Vimieiro Hill was the 2nd Battalion of the 9th Foot Regiment (2/9th). There were over 16,000 British troops commanded by Wellington about to face about 13,000 men of the French army under Junot. At about 9 a.m. clouds of dust were spotted to the east with bayonets glistening in the sun. Of the three French columns, the heaviest was heading for Vimieiro Hill from south of east. The 2/9th had 633 men waiting for the assault, positioned behind three battalions and 12 guns at the crest of the hill, and held in reserve to provide support. The French deployed two infantry columns against the hill, with field artillery, plus cavalry to protect the flanks. The second and southern-most column with 1,200 men approached the area where the 2/9th was located. The British 2/97th were the first to contact this French brigade under Charlot and succeeded in dissolving the head of the French column, whereupon the 2/52nd moved on the left flank, and the 2/9th wheeled against the right flank of the French. Panic broke out among the French and they retreated swiftly. They were

quickly replaced by two fresh columns. It was the 2/9th who, being then positioned just south east of Vimiero Hill, were first to contact the head of the French column which was composed of a brigade of grenadiers. The 2/9th were supported by the 1/50th to the north, and the 2/97th to the south. At about 200 yards, a relatively long distance, these regiments began a converging fire from their three respective angles. The French halted and the British advanced slowly, firing all the way. In less than two minutes the French brigade disintegrated and their 4 artillery pieces were captured. The same situation prevailed elsewhere on the field, with the French everywhere completely beaten by 11 a.m. Decisions from above, however, kept the British from pursuing their quarry and dealing the final blow. The battle, however, was significant in that a French army attacking in an open field, outnumbering their enemy, using Napoleon's tactics was soundly defeated - much to the surprise of the French and all Europeans. Concerning the 2/9th, that day they had 4 men killed, plus one lieutenant, one sergeant, and 16 men wounded (Petre, Vol. 1, 1918; Weller, 1762).

Three days after the Battle of Vimiero Robert was still in the "field opposing the enemy". After a brief stay at the Castle of Belem in the suburbs of Lisbon Robert and his regiment were assigned to Gibraltar where they arrived in September of that year. In 1809 Robert was at Santarem on the right bank of the River Tagus (a few miles above Lisbon), then at Coimbra, Aveiro, Ovar, Oporto, Lisbon, and Tancos in the interval between January and June. He may have participated in the effort to push the French from Oporto 20 May, however the specific activities of his unit are unclear. What is known for certain is that on 25 March 1809 Robert was promoted to sergeant in Number 9 Company (PRO, WO12/2725; Petre, Vol. 1, 1918). This rank was, with rare exceptions, as high as an enlisted man could attain in that era (Farwell, 1981) and suggests that Robert had substantially impressed his superiors, since he went from private to sergeant in the period of two years. Sergeants at this time were paid 1s. 6 3/4 d. per day (1s. for a private). Out of this money he had to pay for the meager food he was given (e.g., biscuit and, occasionally, cheese) and for many sundry items such as brick dust and oil to keep his metal accoutrements shiny (plus enough sustenance for his wife and family). With respect to his uniform, as a sergeant Robert would have carried a pike (a 9 foot staff with a spearhead) whereas the privates would have carried the "Brown Bess" musket. He would also have sported a sword on his left side, and been adorned with a variety of accoutrements such as a knapsack, and canteen (right side). He would have had a large pom - pom adorned "shako" (stovepipe hat) with brass plate on his head, an ornate red jacket with pale yellow facings and three stripes on his right sleeve. White breech pants, a red and yellow sash around his waist, and black leather boots would have completed his ensemble. In all, the infantryman's load, including all the items in his kit, totalled about 60 pounds. As

a sergeant, Robert's role in battle was to direct the line of march as the battalion moved forward, and to use their pikes to protect the regimental colours (Foster, 1981).

In July 1809 Robert and his regiment were stationed at Gibraltar for garrison duties. Other than a brief excursion by ship to Malaga on board the Hydra in 1810, and a similar jaunt to Tarrogonia and Fort Mahon in Minorca, Robert appears to have called Gibraltar home until early in 1813 when the regiment was sent back to England (PRO, WO/2725; Petre, Vol. 1, 1918). It appears that at least one child was born to Robert and Mary overseas. William was born sometime in 1812 (NRD, Rockland All Saints, PR), and there may have been others whose names will come to light if the relevant church registers are located. In regiments sent on active service, only 6 wives per 100 men were allowed to accompany it overseas. The choice was done by lot, and by all accounts it could be a very gut wrenching process. The typical procedure involved the husbands and wives assembling in the pay sergeant's room. Tickets marked "to - go" and "not-to - go" were placed in a hat, then the women came forward in order of seniority to select a ticket. Needless to say, those who drew "not - to - go" tickets would be distraught, and their time until embarkation would be agonizing. After the departure of their husband, with likely scenes of crying and futile pleading to be allowed to embark, the unlucky wives would be given a cash allotment to enable them to return to their home parish or other place of residence - at that point they were on their own to fend for themselves until the return (if ever) of their husbands (Page, 1986). It is not entirely clear into which category Mary (Clarke) Faux fell. The birth of at least one child (William) at a date which appears to predate Robert's return to England, however, argues for the "to - go" scenario.

In April 1813 the regiment was at Canterbury (PRO, WO12/2727), and on 23 January 1814 Charles Warren Clarke Faux was baptised in the same church where his parents, Robert and Mary, were married 8 years earlier (CCA, Canterbury, St. Mary Northgate Church, PR). At Chatham, on 11 November 1814, Sgt. Robert Faux of Number 8 Company was discharged from the army (PRO, WO12/2727).

Return to Stowbedon

There is nothing to indicate how Robert and family made their way back to their parent's homes in Norfolk, but in all likelihood they reached Norfolk sometime in November and initially set up their home with Susan (Warren) Clarke, Mary's widowed mother, in the parish of Rockland All Saints. Next spring, on 30 April 1815, their son William was buried in the churchyard of Rockland All Saints Church (NRD, Rockland All Saints, PR). Soon thereafter Robert and family must have moved one parish to the west to Stowbedon, Robert's place of birth.

Whether they lived with Robert's parents is unknown. What is known is that on 24 December 1815, at the baptism of son William Warren Clarke Faux (spelled "Fawkes" in the register), Robert was reported as being a labourer - an occupation also given at the baptism of daughter Priscilla in 1818 (NRO, Stowbedon, PR).

Between 1818 and 1820 Robert and Mary must have flirted with non - conformity in religion. The baptismal entry for their next child Ebenezer, on 27 February 1820, is found in the registers of the New Buckenham Methodist Church (IGI). Since there may have been a Methodist chapel in Stowbedon (I saw a small brick building of this description during my 1987 visit), the family may have attended a local Methodist church for a few years. The baptismal record for sons Emmanuel born in Stowbedon in 1823, and son Lionel born in 1825, have not been located. The family appears to have returned to the Church of England by 1826 when, on 26 March of that year, their daughter Caroline was baptised in the Shropham parish church. This also means that between 1823 and 1826 Robert and family likely moved one parish south to Shropham at which time his occupation was recorded as farmer. Also found in the registers of this church is the baptism of Ellis Cook Faux (born and died in 1833), the illegitimate son of Rebecca Faux (NRO, Shropham, PR). It is likely that Rebecca was another child born to Robert and Mary when they were overseas.

Norwich

Some time between 1826 and 1835 the Faux family left their ancestral Breckland home for the provincial capital, Norwich. It is likely that the depression in the agricultural economy had something to do with the move, as did the draw of the big city. Despite the high rate of unemployment among ex - soldiers returning home from the Napoleonic Wars after 1814, Robert seems to have escaped this difficulty for the first few years at least. By 1816 grain prices and wages had plummeted and resulted in riots (often targeting threshing machines) in Norfolk. A farm labourer's wages in 1815 was only 7s. a week, however at this time and over the ensuing years many of these men lost their employment due to the hiring of children and gangs of women at lower rates (Wade Martins, 1984). A fresh wave of riots ("Swing Riots") washed across the county in 1830 with labourers demanding higher wages and to abolish threshing machines. At this time (1831) approximately one out of eight Norfolk agricultural labourers was unemployed (Wade Martins, 1984). The mechanization of agriculture meant that families were unable to supplement their starvation level wages with much needed wages during the winter by threshing grain by hand with a flail (Harrison, 1984). Whether Robert left Stowbedon and Shropham as a direct result of these factors is unknown. They may have had connections in Norwich at the time since Mary's mother Susan (Warren) Clarke was living there when she died in 1821 (NRO, Rockland All Saints, PR). If he was living in Helleston at the time (see below), then

Robert may have participated in an event on 30 October 1830 when a number of concerned people attended a meeting in Norwich to discuss the agricultural situation. An unruly element in the assembled crowd left the meeting and went to Mr. Gowings farm in Hellesdon and demolished his threshing machine. They then returned to Norwich and committed further property damage (e.g., breaking gas lights) (Hipper, 1978).

Soon after their arrival in Norwich son Charles followed his father's path to the British army by signing on for what was to be a 21 year stint in India (PRO, WO97/1552). Soon thereafter, in 1837, daughter Priscilla married Edward Austin, giving her father's occupation at the time as a labourer and their residence as Hellesdon just outside (north and west of the Medieval city walls) Norwich (NRO, Hellesdon, PR). In the 1841 census Robert is listed as an agricultural labourer living on St. Faiths Road in the hamlet of Hellesdon with wife Mary, four of their sons, and their daughter Caroline (PRO, Census of England, 1841, Hamlet of Hellesdon, Norwich).

On 23 February 1851 Mary (Clarke) Faux died at age 65 of chronic bronchitis at St. Augustine Street, St. Augustine Parish Norwich with husband Robert at her side (GRO, Death Certificate, Norwich, Coslany). She was buried 7 days later in the churchyard of the Hellesdon parish church (NRO, Hellesdon, PR). The 1851 census of Norwich, taken a few days later, confirms that Robert was living on St. Augustine Street, in a house with his daughter Caroline, son - in - law Christopher Annison, and grandson William Annison (PRO, Census of England, 1851, Norwich, St. Augustine Parish). Robert did not wait long after his wife's death before tying the knot again. At age 65, on 16 October 1851, he married Mary Austin (nee Plummer), a widow who was of the same age (GRO, Marriage Certificate, Norwich, Register Office). The reason for not marrying in the parish church is unknown. Those who resorted to a civil marriage often did so in order to have a measure of privacy (Gillis, 1985). Possibly there was disapproval of the families to contend with, or possibly the fact that Robert appears to have married his daughter's mother - in - law could have some bearing.

In the above census record Robert is noted as a "victualer", and as a "publician" in the marriage record. Some time between 1849, when his sons Ebenezer and Emmanuel both gave their father's occupation as "labourer" at the time of their marriage (NRO, Norwich, St. Augustine Parish, PR), and 1851 Robert effected a late life career change. At the relatively advanced age of 65 or so, Robert must have either bought or rented a building where he broke with a long tradition of employment in agricultural pursuits, and became the operator of a pub. The 1852 directory of Norwich gives the name of the pub (operated by Robert "Fox") as "The Bushel" which was located at 27 St. Augustine Street. The 1854 directory provides the same details,

but by 1859 "The Bushel" was operated by another individual (LSL, Directories of Norwich). In the meantime, in 1856, Robert's son Charles, absent for 21 years, returned to Norwich (PRO, WO97/1552). One wishes that Robert's reaction to this event would have been a matter of record, but we can only speculate.

By 1861, according to the census of that year, Robert had returned to his former occupation of agricultural labourer, and was living with his second wife Mary at Whalebone Square on St. Clement Road, St. Clement's Parish Norwich (PRO, Census of England, 1861, Norwich, St. Clement's Parish). As a member of the labouring classes of Norwich, Robert would likely have lived in cramped substandard housing, with a number of families sharing a water pump often located in a churchyard or being a shallow well (the sanitary disadvantages should be obvious). If piped water was available, it was only put through the system at certain times of the day and week. All the water before 1850 came directly from the river, which was then little more than an open sewer (Green and Young, 1981). The "working class quarters were mostly to be found in narrow streets and lanes where courts and yards were linked by a single opening or doorway, some three feet wide which led into the adjoining thoroughfares" (Pound, 1984, p. 48). In these districts the drainage was poor with sewage and filth an ever present part of life. The waste was often just put in a pit. The excess was sometimes sold to farmers when sufficient quantities had accumulated. The water closet privies, where they existed, were usually placed away from the house as far as possible, but flushed their contents into the river (Pound, 1984).

There is some evidence that Robert, however, had a bit of a sideline as a schoolteacher. When Robert registered the death of his wife in 1851 he stated that he was a "schoolmaster", which is the same occupation given by the informant when his own death was registered in 1869. Robert was probably a schoolmaster in one of the so - called "Dame Schools" in Norwich at the time. Since Wade Martins (1984) has provided a clear concise description of these schools, her words will be quoted here in full:

A 'school' might consist of ten or twelve children in a back room, with perhaps a shop at the front and the 'schoolmaster' divided his time between the two. Very often little more than babysitting facilities were provided. There was no inspection of premises, or any examination of the master or mistresses's fitness to teach. Teachers were often cripples or elderly persons who could not cope with manual work. The limited remuneration offered by teaching the children of the poor could not attract teachers of ability (p. 85).

Also during the interval between 1861 and 1869 Robert moved nearby to Sun Lane where he died 26 July 1869 at the age of 83 of

"senile decay", with Ann Woodward (relationship unknown) being present at the death (GRD, Death Certificate, Norwich, Coslany). Robert was buried, presumably with his wife Mary (Clarke) Faux, in the churchyard of the Hellesdon parish church (NRO, Hellesdon, PR). Available evidence suggests that all subsequent residents of Norwich with the surname Faux were descendants of Robert III.

CHARLES WARREN CLARKE FAUX

Early Life

Charles Warren Clarke Faux was baptised 23 January 1814 at St. Mary Northgate Church in Canterbury, Kent County (CAA, Canterbury, St. Mary Northgate, FR), the son of Sgt. Robert and Mary (Clarke) Faux. Having two prenames, let alone three, was rare prior to 1830. Generally it was indicative of gentry status, or that the family had clear social aspirations (McLaughlin, 1986). Neither explanation accords with known facts in relation to the Faux family. It is more likely that this naming practice reflects the desire of Mary (Clarke) Faux to preserve and memorialize her maternal (Warren) and paternal (Clarke) family surnames since she was the only child born to this couple (NRO, Rockland All Saints, FR). There is, however, no evidence as to why the name Charles was chosen.

The first few months of Charles' life were spent at Canterbury and at Chatham then, in November of 1814, his father was discharged from the army and the family moved back to Norfolk (PRO, WO12/2727). Their first destination seems to have been the Clarke home in Rockland All Saints parish (NRO, Rockland All Saints, FR), then, in 1815, to Robert's home of Stowbedon - the parish immediately to the west (NRO, Stowbedon, PR). It appears that Charles attended school at some point during his childhood as he was able to read and write (PRO, WO97/1552). None of his brothers and sisters, however, seem to have been afforded this opportunity since they used a mark to sign their names (NRO, Norwich, St. Augustine's Parish, PR). Charles grew up with at least two older siblings, William who died as an infant, and Rebecca. There may also have been others who were born in Portugal. He also had at least 4 younger brothers and 2 younger sisters, all born in Norfolk.

Enlistment in the Army

As a young man Charles worked as an agricultural labourer (PRO, WO97/1552) and doubtless followed his parents from Stowbedon to Shropham, then to the vicinity of Norwich sometime around 1830. In all probability Charles worked as a labourer while living with his parents just north of the city walls of Norwich, in the hamlet of Hellesdon. Perhaps the stories told to him by his parents about the exciting lands overseas, and his father's recounting of exploits in the army induced Charles to "take the King's shilling" when a recruiter came to town. It is possible that Charles' father did his utmost to warn his son against the army, providing lurid tales of how the cat - o' - nine - tails was used for even minor infractions. This is precisely what happened when one John Ryder spoke to his father about joining in 1844 (McGuffie, 1964). Perhaps the more Robert spoke against a career in the army, the more convinced Charles

became that it was what he wanted (reactance effect). It is also equally likely that, pinched with numbing poverty, and seeing no other way out, Charles chose the army as the lesser of two negative alternatives. Other than unemployment, other reasons for enlisting include those who, "enlisted because they were idle and considered a soldier's life an easy one; then there were the bad characters and criminals, the discontented and restless, and those perverse sons who seek to grieve their parents" (Farwell, 1981, p. 84). The usual recruitment procedure at the time involved putting posters, which extolled the virtues of army life, in various convenient places. A recruiting sergeant resplendent in a fancy red uniform would then frequent pubs and other gathering places and, often with alcohol to smooth the way, he would get the potential recruit drunk then place a shilling (token of his acceptance as a recruit) into his hand. In this way many a young man was signed on for life service (the only length of service offered at this time) (Farwell, 1981). At any rate, Charles enlisted 18 April 1835 in Norwich with the 62nd Foot (Wiltshire) Infantry Regiment (PRO, WO97/1552).

Robert's response to the news of his son's enlistment is not a matter of record. John Ryder's diary, however, shows that in a somewhat similar situation, his (John's) father initially made a fuss but soon resolved himself to the situation to the extent that his parting words were to, "be a good soldier, and never desert my colours" (McGuffie, 1964, p. 28).

Charles probably met up with the recruiting sergeant of the 62nd Foot at a local pub early in May. There, with others that had been recruited in the interval, he would have begun the march south (McGuffie, 1964). Charles joined the regiment 21 May 1835, and was in hospital at the Chatham Depot two days later (PRO, WO12/7191), likely for his inspection by the regimental doctor and for suiting up in his uniform (McGuffie, 1964). Here he would have been examined by a medical officer and pronounced fit for service, then taken before a magistrate for attestation. Here he would have sworn that he enlisted voluntarily, and would have answered questions about his age, trade, etc. When Charles answered as to his willingness to join, the magistrate would then have read him the articles of war concerning desertion, etc., then administered the oath of allegiance. Soon thereafter Charles would have received a bounty of L.3, with 10 s. in cash, and the rest applied to purchase clothes, etc. (Marshall, 1840). Presumably the next month would have been spent in basic training, where Charles would have learned the drills and maneuvers expected of a British soldier. The routine here has been described by one MacMullin, where a new soldier would arise at 5 a.m., make his "toilet", then begin drill at 6 a.m. At 7:45 a.m. the men were dismissed for breakfast; 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. more drill; dinner at 1 p.m. ("wretched" potatoes and meat); 2 to 4 more drill; then free time until tattoo (if not on guard duty). Reading, walking, and drinking beer (not necessarily in that

order) were common amusements (McGuffie, 1964).

On Board Ship - The East Indies

Charles embarked with his regiment for Madras India on 3 July 1835 (PRO, WO12/7191). These voyages aboard troop ships were generally characterized by indescribable wretchedness. The trip took 124 days to India, with one stop at or near Cape Town South Africa (before the Suez Canal was built). However, fear of desertion meant that the enlisted men were not allowed to disembark. The food and water were usually spoiled and unwholesome, the conditions in the hold were crowded (sleeping was on hammocks) and filthy, and fever and scurvy were ever present dangers. Of course sea sickness would aggravate the picture. Perhaps during the first storm at sea Charles had thoughts similar to those recorded by John Shipp. He focused wistfully on the white cliffs of England and the very real possibility that he would never see the shores of his native land again (McGuffie, 1964). One of the ways used to pass the time on board ship was to play a game of "Crown and Anchor" with the sailors (who typically found the soldiers to be easy marks) (Farwell, 1881).

Private Charles Faux remained at Madras until March 1836 when he was transported to Moulmein Burma - remaining there to protect the town from the forces of the Old King of Burma until 31 August 1840. One wonders how Charles would have passed his time during these years. Typically soldiers amused themselves in rather standard ways. Often a monthly visit to one of the army supervised brothels (called "rags" in India) was part of the routine. Similarly gambling (e.g., "House" which was a variety of bingo), and drinking were common diversions. Perpetual drunkenness was characteristic of this era. Not only did the soldiers have their daily rum ration, but they would spend considerable time swilling beer in the canteens. In the caste system that was the army, the gentlemen officers drank together in their clubs, the rankers drank in their own canteens, and the sergeants had their own mess - they didn't drink with the privates. Other diversions included tattooing, boxing, wrestling, and sometimes stage entertainments produced by the rankers. Meals were mundane at best. At 7:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. the two main meals were served. This would consist of 3/4 pounds of meat, a pound of bread, and a pound of potatoes. For this fine fare 6 pence per day was deducted from each soldier's pay. Tea was then, as now, at 4:00 p.m.; and in the evening a visit to the canteen relieved the hum drum of the barracks (Farwell, 1881).

Charles sailed in September 1840 for Calcutta, arriving at Fort William in that city by October (PRO, WO12/7192-6). The

remainder of his stint in India involves a series of moves across India and Pakistan for 15 more years. The highlights will be presented below.

India with the 62nd Foot

The 62nd began a month long march to Hazaribagh in the Hills of Bihar on 5 November 1840, returning to Calcutta in July of 1841 - first at Camp Soorigpoora then from November 1841 to July of 1842 at Ft. William (PRO, WO12/7196-8). During this latter interval two important events occurred. First, on 7 January 1842 Charles was promoted to the rank of corporal and was given a good conduct badge (PRO, WO97/1552) - setting the stage for the next event. On 15 March 1842 the 28 year old Charles married Mary Ann Williams, a 14 year old girl who was born in Cape Town South Africa, the daughter of John Williams a private in the 55th Foot Regiment (IOLR, Marriages Solemnized at Ft. William). Charles would have required the permission of his commanding officer in order to marry. The latter's decision was usually based on rank (e.g., Charles was a corporal so was more eligible than a private), and whether the candidate had a good conduct badge (as Charles did) and some savings (Farwell, 1981).

On 11 August 1842 the 62nd left Calcutta and proceeded by boat up the Ganges toward Dinapore. En route, on 6 September, a violent storm hit the convoy capsizing boats and drowning many soldiers. From 1 October 1842 to November 1844 they remained at Dinapore. In December they began their march to Ambala along the Grand Trunk Road, reaching Delhi in February 1845. Since the Sikhs were giving every indication of mounting a major offensive the troops were sent to Ludhiana, then to Ferozepore near the Sutlej River at the frontier of Sikh territory where they arrived at the end of March. By May barracks had been built for the soldiers, on a sand plain without any grass or trees, a mile from town - they would have remained in tents until that time. The married couples and their children lived in the barracks with the single men. Their only privacy was to be located in a corner with sheets or blankets slung over ropes to screen them off from the teeming mass of people and pets (e.g., mongoose, chickens, and rabbits being popular). The environment was anything but optimal. Here they, and their children, would have been exposed to the, "habitual use of blasphemous and obscene language" (p. 124). The soldier's hard swearing was often in English and Hindustani. Indian words other than of the "foul" variety were also introduced into the language of those who served there. For example, "wallah" was a term for anyone in charge of something. In the barracks one also would have heard unusual English expressions such as "muckers" when a soldier referred to his pals or buddies (Farwell, 1981).

In the month of June hot weather arrived, and there was an outbreak of cholera (PRO, W012/7198-7200; Kenrick, 1963). This is likely what caused the death of Charles and Mary's first known child Mary who was buried at Meerut (IOLR, Burials at Meerut, 1845). Later in 1845, 21 to 22 December, the Battle of Ferozeshah took place against the Sikh army (Kenrick, 1963) with Corporal Charles Faux as a participant (TPL, The Sutlej Medal Roll).

Battle of Ferozeshah: Immediately prior to the battle, the 62nd was stationed at Ferozepore with seven regiments of Native Infantry, plus assorted units of artillery and cavalry; and to add to the exotic tapestry of the place, there were camels and elephants used for transportation purposes constantly milling about. After the Battle of Moodkee on 18 December, the Sikh army retired to the village of Ferozeshah, between Moodkee and Ferozepore on the route to Lahore. At 8 a.m. of 21 December 600 men of the 62nd under Sir John Littler of the Bengal Army marched south and east from Ferozepore. They were in full dress but were able to link up with other units by 12:30 p.m. at Shukroor, five miles southwest of Ferozeshah. The British had about 18,000 troops (mostly sepoy or native infantry). They were to face about 30,000 seasoned Sikh troops with supporting artillery. The Sikhs were entrenched in a horseshoe formation (facing the British) along a high embankment around the village of Ferozeshah. There was about 300 yards of open ground between the Sikh lines and the jungle scrub which extended about 1000 yards to the British lines. At about 4 p.m. the British artillery opened fire against their much superior Sikh counterparts. Then the division including the 62nd, who were on the British left flank south and west of the Sikhs, were ordered to attack - but prematurely. Thus the 62nd (who had removed the white covers of their shakos) on the right, and the 12th Native Infantry on the left, were completely exposed on both flanks. The 12th Native unit, and one other immediately behind, fell back leaving the 62nd virtually alone against the full weight of the Sikh army. All during their advance through the jungle the 62nd was peppered with constant bombardment of round shot and shell. Still, they went forward, emerging into the open ground without any support. They were soon met with a hail of grape and canister shot and had the Sikh cavalry nipping at their left flank. For 20 minutes they continued to fight toward the Sikh lines, even though by then half of the regiment were casualties. Most of the regiment then halted and began firing, with only some of their number able to reach the Sikh fortifications and the sword wielding Sikh soldiers. The men were exhausted from the arduous advance and from a lack of water. For 5 or 6 minutes what was left of the regiment continued firing. When their commander, Reed, ordered the charge most were physically unable to comply (many were wounded, many were recovering from cholera, they had marched 9 hours in the sun without food or water). The men agreed to hold their ground but couldn't charge. Therefore Reed ordered them to

retire, which they did in good order. The regiment suffered 281 rank and file out of 580 as casualties (97 killed, 184 wounded). Clearly Corporal Charles Faux was lucky to come away from this battle intact. That evening the 62nd used their hands and bayonets to dig trenches in the sandy soil near the bodies of their fallen comrades, who were scattered all about. They spent a night which was probably mixed with feelings of relief at being alive, and horror at the cacophony around them (e.g., moans of the wounded; Sikh guns). The next morning the bulk of the British army succeeded in breaching the Sikh entrenchments and capturing the artillery - their enemies retreating toward the Sutlej River. The 62nd then moved forward along their previous line of march, reaching Ferozeshah to find the Sikh cavalry and supporting artillery appearing on the horizon. One of the 62nd's duties at this time was to escort the commanders to a small mud fort immediately north of Ferozeshah. The Sikh artillery withdrew about an hour later, followed by their cavalry. The 62nd then followed the retreating cavalry, meeting the main body of Sikhs (including fresh reinforcements) whereupon the rest of the British army came forward setting the stage for another engagement. The casualties were light this time as the Sikhs were very ineffective in their use of muskets, and in the afternoon a British cavalry charge dispersed their enemy who fled across the Sutlej River. The 62nd went back to their camp of the previous night - some of them being assigned to "clear the village" of wounded Sikhs. On the 23rd the regiment buried their dead in a mass grave, and were able to "enjoy" their first rations since they had left their barracks in Ferozepore. Their only sustenance until then had apparently been contaminated water, plus limes and black sugar which were scavenged from the Sikh camp. On 24 December, the remnants of the 62nd returned to their barracks in Ferozepore (Cook, 1975; Kenrick, 1963; TPL, Sutlej Medal Roll).

A few days after the Battle of Ferozeshah, on 30 December, Charles Faux was promoted to sergeant (PRO, WO12/1552). After moves to a variety of camps (e.g., Rodawolo, Nihalkee) the 62nd joined other contingents of the British Army to again face the Sikhs at the Battle of Sohraon on 10 February 1846 (Kenrick, 1963). Again Charles Faux was there, and eventually receiving a medal for his part in the Sutlej Campaign against the Sikhs (TPL, The Sutlej Medal Roll).

Battle of Sohraon: Sohraon is about 15 miles up the east side of the Sutlej River from Ferozepore. Here the Sikhs had 35,000 men and 67 artillery pieces in a well - fortified position. Among the 16,000 British troops were the 62nd, who were positioned in the third of four brigades of three regiments each. The brigades were composed of mixed Native and British infantry, to the left (from the British vantagepoint) of the Sikh entrenchments. The battle began in the middle of the night on 10 February 1846 (at 1 a.m. breakfast and the rum rations were

given) with the 62nd advancing to capture a ridge 2500 yards in front of the Sikh defenses on which was sited the hamlet of Rhodawala and containing Sikh outposts. They then occupied a nearby nullah (dry river bed) and awaited the signal to advance. At about 6:30 a.m. the mist lifted and the British artillery began pounding the Sikh positions in their camp, and their bridge of boats on the river. The Sikhs were unaware that the 62nd were hidden nearby and had captured their outpost sites, so were taken by surprise by the artillery fire (i.e., they had no advanced warning). They soon recouped and some of their shots managed to inadvertently reach the 62nd's nullah (doing no damage). At 9 o'clock the 62nd was ordered to charge. They encountered heavy fire from the Sikh batteries, but were quickly able to penetrate the outer defensive ring. Soon the 62nd were compressed with the masses of other British units, all with bayonets striking at the Sikh defenders with their fearsome "tulwar" curved swords. The sappers succeeded in breaching the interior defenses allowing the cavalry units to enter the fray and carve an opening for the infantry, who in turn performed their grim task - slowly pushing the Sikhs to the Sutlej River at the point of the bayonet. By 11 a.m. 10,000 Sikhs were casualties, and were thoroughly defeated. The 62nd remained within the former Sikh position until dark, being served their "grog" ration there. In terms of casualties, the 62nd suffered one officer and 3 other ranks dead, and one officer and 43 rankers wounded (Cook, 1975; Gibson, 1969; Kenrick, 1963). Again, Corporal Faux was fortunate to avoid being at least maimed (TPL, Sutlej Medal Roll).

In February Charles was with his unit at Lahore for the signing of a treaty between the British and Sikhs. On 23 March 1846 the 62nd left Lahore, crossed the river at Nuggar, and marched down to Ferozepore where they camped under canvas until they were sent in October to reinforce Lahore. John Ryder has described the conditions of marching across the sandy deserts and plains in the Punjab during the Sikh Wars. The winds would often drive clouds of sand into the faces of the soldiers making it impossible to see anything in the darkened air. Men would succumb to the ill effects of these circumstances combined with a lack of water and many had to be buried in unmarked graves alongside the line of march. Only the periodic sounding of "The Close" by the bugler kept the regiment from drifting off in all directions. These storms were sometimes followed by violent thunderstorms to add contrast to conditions of indescribable horror (McGuffie, 1963).

On 30 November, at Camp Jelor, Sgt. Charles Faux volunteered to serve with the 53rd Foot Regiment instead of returning to England with the 62nd (PRO, WO12/7200-2; Kenrick, 1963). The reason for not returning to England at this time is not a matter of record. While the bounty money may have been an inducement, as a sergeant this decision cost him his stripes as he was required to start again at the rank of private. While

publications relating to the regiment have been inspected, as yet the muster lists have not been searched.

Concerning the uniform that Charles Faux would have worn during service in the Sikh Wars, he would have sported an "Albert" shako hat with a white covering and the tuft removed. For parade and inspection purposes, Charles would have worn a red coat and grey cloth trousers. While marching and during battle he would have been found in more comfortable cotton trousers (perhaps blue in colour), a short shell jacket (white in hot season), and black lace boots. His weapon would likely have been a smoothbore pattern Minie percussion cap musket (when a sergeant) (Barthorp, 1987). As a sergeant, Charles Faux also would have (after 1845) worn a solid red sash (Carman, 1957).

India with the 53rd Foot

During 1847 the 53rd Regiment was at Ferozepore (Rogerson, 1890), and on 18 July of that year daughter Ellen was baptised here (IOLR, Baptisms at Ferozepore). On 3 January 1848 Charles Faux was again promoted to corporal (PRO, W097/1552). The next month the regiment went to Lahore and occupied the barracks in the Hazaree Bagh part of the city - providing sentry duty. On 17 September they occupied the palace and provided a guard for the Kohinoor diamond (later to be among the Crown Jewels of Queen Victoria). In February 1849 the regiment went to Ramnugger to join the Army of the Punjab (Rogerson, 1890). Charles would later receive a medal to commemorate his role in the Punjab campaigns - specifically for the support at Goojerat (TPL, Punjab Medal Roll). In March the bulk of the regiment arrived at Rawal Pindee, to be joined by the rest in June (Rogerson, 1890). On 11 August 1849 Charles received his promotion to the rank of sergeant (PRO, W097/1552). It is likely that the women were left at Lahore at this time as Charles' son Charles Warren was baptised there on 3 September (IOLR, Baptisms at Lahore). By 15 October 1850 the families of the soldiers had joined the regiment at Rawal Pindee where son Charles Warren was buried on this date (IOLR, Burials at Rawal Pindee). One year later, on 23 November 1851, daughter Caroline was baptised at the same place (IOLR, Baptisms at Rawal Pindee). Seven days later disturbances among the Moslem tribes at the Khyber Pass resulted in the 53rd marching the 91 miles to Peshawur - in 8 days (Rogerson, 1890). While stationed here daughter Caroline was buried 19 August 1852 (IOLR, Burials at Peshawur) - apparently the last Faux to leave their bones in India.

Almost a year later, on 10 July 1853, a happier event occurred - son Francis Warren was baptised at Peshawur (IOLR, Baptisms at Peshawur). He was the first of their children known to survive infancy, and to bear descendants who survive to the present day.

In 1854 the regiment moved to Dugshai (Rogerson, 1890). On

13 October 1855 Sgt. Charles had his pension hearing where it was noted that "his character has been good. In possession of two good conduct badges when promoted Sergeant". The medical officer also noted that Charles was suffering from, "failing strength & activity" and was "unfit for further military duty, owing to debility resulting from a long service of over twenty years chiefly in a tropical climate. His disability has not been caused in any degree by intemperance, or other vices". We are also given a description of the man at this time: 5 feet 8 1/2 inches tall with dark brown hair and grey eyes and a fair complexion (PRO, WO97/1552). He was also recommended for the "Long Service and Good Conduct Medal" (with a gratuity of L.10) for his 21 years of service (PRO, WO102/14) - an item known to the soldiers by the disparaging nickname of "rooti gong" (round loaf in Indian), called that because "it came with the bread ration, and was a reward for eighteen years of undetected crime" (Farwell, 1981). Charles was issued this medal on 8 March 1856 (PRO, WO102/14). At this time he also would have possessed his Sutlej Campaign Medal engraved with "Ferozeshah", and with a bar embossed with "Sobraon" to put on the ribbon, as well as a Punjab Campaign medal (Carter and Long, 1893). The whereabouts of these medals is unknown.

Toward the end of the year 1855 the regiment moved to Dum-Dum just northeast of Calcutta, then in early 1856 occupied Fort William (Rogerson, 1890). Soon thereafter Sgt. Charles Faux must have sailed for England. Perhaps his arrival was similar to that of one MacMullen. The latter and the remnants of his regiment anchored at Gravesend whereupon a "cornopaeian player" on board a river steamer regaled them with "Home, Sweet Home" and "Auld Lang Syne" resulting in loud cheers from the returning soldiers (McGuffie, 1964). On disembarking the next day some of the soldiers knelt and kissed the ground. They then marched "silently through the gateway of Chatham barracks" (McGuffie, 1964, p. 401).

Charles was discharged as a Chelsea Pensioner at Chatham on 5 August 1856, with his stated destination given as Norwich (PRO, WO97/1552).

Return to Norwich

It is interesting to speculate on the reunion Charles had with his father and siblings after a continuous absence of 21 years. It is probable that Charles and family took the train back to Norwich and would have debarked at either Victoria Station on the western limits of Norwich, or Thorpe Station just east of Norwich - both linked to London (Edwards, 1984). Perhaps his experiences were similar to those of John Ryder who returned home to Twyford Leicestershire via train after the Sikh Wars. He first bought a suit of clothes then went to a pub near his parent's house - not wanting to disturb them since they were

not expecting his return. Although some of his friends were there, not one recognized him even though they were chatting with him for some time. When his father arrived at the pub the same situation prevailed. Ryder even had two drinks with his father without the latter showing any awareness of who his companion was. Ryder then said, "Well then, father, so you do not know me" (p. 403). Everyone was quite overcome with the emotion of the situation and the whole village was abuzz. The main reason given for the lack of recognition was Ryder's dark complexion due to the many years in India (McGuffie, 1964). Similarly Charles had left his friends and family when a young man, and returned 21 years later a middle aged man. It is therefore likely that this veteran would have borne little resemblance to the rosy cheeked youth they all remembered.

Charles may have lodged with relatives for a time, however with his pension of 1 s., 10 d. per day (PRO, WD97/1552) and army savings he may have been able to get a fair start toward finding his own residence. It is interesting to speculate as to Mary Ann's reaction to England. She had been born in Cape Town South Africa, raised in India, and had spent 14 married years travelling across the breadth of India and Pakistan. It must have amounted to considerable culture shock.

Portrait Painted

Soon after returning to Norwich, at some time before November 1857, Charles enrolled in the West Norfolk Militia (PRO, WD13/1582). Likely he was so socialized to the military it was "in his blood" so he returned at the first opportunity to a known role which would satisfy his social needs and allow some much needed cash to supplement his pension. Two children were born to Charles and Mary Ann in the interval between 1856 and 1860. Robert was born in 1857, and Charles Williams in 1859 (PRO, Census of England, 1861, Norwich, St. Gregory's Parish). A very significant happening in 1860 was the role as sitters or models played by Charles Senior, Mary Ann, and Robert for the painting by Frederick Sandys entitled, "Autumn". Their involvement is chronicled in a manuscript which is filed at the Castle Museum in Norwich (Faux, 1987), therefore only a few details will be included here. Charles, his wife and child posed on the east bank of the Wensum River in Norwich with the Bishopsgate Bridge in the background. Charles is suited in his military "undress" (for casual wear) uniform with ribbons from all three medals sewn on to the left breast of his red tunic. The portrait shows Charles as being bald with a fair bit of grey hair, a prominent nose of the type still seen in descendants to this day, a ruddy red cheeked complexion, muttonchops, and a moustache. He appears to have a slender but sturdy build. In all likelihood Sandys was awestruck by the old soldier bedecked in ribbons with his young wife and children as they walked near his (Sandys) father's residence nearby. It is also possible that Sandys Senior knew

the Fauxes, however the important point is that a permanent visual record of the three Fauxes is available for public viewing today in the Castle Museum of Norwich.

Sergeant in Militia

In terms of his involvement with the West Norfolk Militia, Charles Faux was first listed 10 November 1857 at Norwich and Chester when he was noted as a "Volunteer Serjeant". The regiment was embodied at this time because there were increasing fears of a military conflict with France. Between January and March 1858 he was again at Chester, and was at Chester and Norwich in the muster return for April 1858. Charles Faux is next recorded in July 1859 at Norwich when he was listed as a "Permanent Sjt." The pay lists for the now disembodied militia unit note that in 1862 and 1867 he was an "Acting Hospital Sgt.", and in the lists to 31 March 1867 he was described as a "Hospital Sergeant" (PRO, WO13/1582-3). The later records have not yet been searched.

Last Years

Concerning residence, son Robert was born in 1857 on Philadelphia Lane in St. Clement Parish of Norwich (New Catton) (GRD, Birth Certificate, Norwich, Coslany) where Charles' brother Ebenezer was living (at least in 1851). It is therefore likely that they lived with Ebenezer, who had no children (PRO, Census of England, 1851, 1861, Norwich, St. Clement's Parish), for the first year or so after coming back to Norwich. The 1861 census shows the family living on Pottergate Street in St. Gregory's Parish of Norwich (PRO, Census of England, Norwich, St. Gregory's Parish). The city directory of 1868 gives the specific house location as number 102, and his occupation as "serjeant, militia hospital" (LSL, Norwich Directories). Two more children were born between 1860 and 1870 (PRO, Census of England, 1871, Norwich, St. Clement's Parish), son Alfred in 1863 and daughter Amy Williams in 1865. Alfred was buried in the Norwich City Cemetery in 1863 (NRO, Norwich City Cemetery Burial Records). By 1871 the family returned to Philadelphia Lane in New Catton, St. Clement's Parish, just outside the walls of old Norwich (PRO, Census of England, 1871, Norwich, St. Clement's Parish). It was here on 21 August 1873 at the age of 46 that Mary Ann (Williams) Faux, with her husband present, died of heart disease (GRD, Death Certificate, Norwich, Coslany); and was buried 4 days later (NRO, Norwich City Cemetery Burial Records). Somewhat over a year later Charles, then aged 60, married Hannah Maria Tann (nee Futter), a widow, at St. Clement's Parish Church (NRO, Norwich, St. Clement's Parish, PR). At some point in or before 1879 Charles moved to Old Palace Road in Heigham just outside Norwich. It was here on 27 October 1879, in the presence of his wife, that Charles Faux died at age 65 of "general decay" (GRD, Death Certificate, Norwich, West Wymer); and was buried 7 days later.

Both Charles and Mary Ann (Williams) Faux are buried in unmarked graves, in separate locations in the Norwich City Cemetery (NRO, Norwich City Cemetery Burial Records). Their known descendants today reside in Norwich and other locations in East Anglia (e.g., Peterborough, Ipswich); as well as Australia, and North America (Ontario, Texas).

ROBERT FAUX

Early Life

Robert Faux was born on 28 October 1857 on Philadelphia Lane in St. Clement's Parish of New Catton, Norwich (GRO, Birth Certificate, Norwich, Coslany). He was the first child of Charles and Mary Ann (Williams) Faux born in Norwich after their return from India. He was doubtless named after his grandfather Robert Faux III. The name had been passed down in the family since at least the 1600s. Robert had at least one brother and two sisters who died in India or Pakistan, and a younger brother Alfred who died as an infant when Robert was 6 years of age. In terms of siblings who lived to adulthood, Robert had one older brother Francis Warren (born in Pakistan); a younger brother Charles Williams, and a younger sister Amy Williams who were born in Norwich.

It appears that Robert lived with his parents on Philadelphia Lane, Pottergate Street, and Philadelphia Lane again prior to marrying. He had his paternal grandfather and at least 3 uncles, and one aunt, with a number of cousins living nearby. His childhood can only be wondered at, however his father's involvement in the army (militia) would have brought him into contact with this element - a rather coarse lot perhaps. In addition, his mother was new to England and may have been very dissatisfied with her circumstances which would in turn have affected Robert's development. Unfortunately there is a paucity of data to use in confirming these hypotheses.

In 1860, when three years old, Robert sat with his parents as a model for the painting by Fredrick Sandys entitled "Autumn" (Faux, 1987). It shows a little boy with fine wavy hair, reddish blonde in colour, and light blue or grey eyes, cradled in his mother's arms and staring at his father.

Robert Faux was in school for an indeterminate length of time. In the 1871 census taken while the family was living on Philadelphia Lane Robert, aged 13, was noted as being a "scholar" (PRO, Census of England, 1871, Norwich, St. Clement's Parish). It is probable that he left school the next year (age 14 being the limit for most English youth) (Smith, 1984) and obtained training as a journeyman bricklayer - a trade he would keep all his life. When he was 16 his mother died and his father remarried a year later. How this situation affected Robert is entirely unknown.

Marriage and Children

At some time Robert met and courted a woman named Emma Jane Sexton who he married at the St. Clement's Parish Church on 20 January 1879 (GRO, Marriage Certificate, Norwich, Coslany). Both

were 22 years old and were residing in this parish. It is unclear as to the social status of Emma Jane when she married Robert, although then a "machinist" and her father Henry Sexton was a "shoemaker". In a few years Henry Sexton would "make it big" such that by the time of his death in 1894 he owned a 3 story factory for his boot and shoe manufacturing establishment, and employed 1000 persons (LSL, H.J. Sexton, N 685.3). He was among the wealthy industrialists of Norwich. It is suspected that Robert, a bricklayer of humble origins, may have been adversely affected by the good fortunes of the Sexton family in that it meant that he and his wife were light years apart in terms of social class. This may have set the stage for future problems. He was, however, a witness at the marriage of his brother - in - law Henry Walter Sexton on 18 January 1880 at St. Clement's Parish Church (NRO, Norwich, St. Clement's Parish, PR). Robert and Emma Jane had two children, Charles William, and Claud. The latter was born in 1886 at 4 Rose Terrace on Philadelphia Lane in New Catton, St. Clement's Parish Norwich (GRO, Birth Certificate, Norwich, Coslany).

The Rift

While the records are silent, it would appear that Robert at some point became a heavy drinker and may, during episodes of drinking, have been prone to behave in the course manner characteristic of the soldier class (Report of Doris (Faux) Aston, 1986). This, plus feelings of inadequacy due to his wife's family fortunes, may have caused spiraling problems that drove a wedge between Robert and his wife and children.

It is known that in 1901, after 22 years of marriage, Emma Jane wrote a will instructing her brothers as executors to ensure that any money to which she was entitled as a member of the Sexton family be used to pay for her funeral expenses, and the rest put in trust for her two children (PRO, PPR, 4 March 1917). Reading between the lines, it appears that Emma Jane had separated from Robert by this time and wanted to ensure that her boys would be properly looked after. Clearly she wanted to shut out her husband from any claim to her money - and therefore she did not trust that her husband would behave responsibly in this capacity. It is unknown whether Emma lived always, occasionally, or never with her husband after this time. City directories indicate that in 1896, 1900, and 1908 Robert was living at 33 Albany Road in the New Catton district of Norwich, and that by 1914 Robert and Emma Jane had separate residences at 14 and 13 Denmark Road respectively (LSL, Norwich Directories). The close proximity suggests some sort of partial reconciliation at least.

In 1907 son Claud left Norwich for Canada - never to return. Claud never spoke about his father, nor did he keep a picture of this man. It was clear to all his descendants in Canada that

when Claud left, although he continued to correspond with his mother and brother, he had completely severed all ties with his father.

On 4 March 1917 Emma Jane (Sexton) Faux died at 13 Denmark Road aged 59. Her cause of death was stricture of the oesophagus and pulmonary congestion. Her sister Elizabeth Edwards was with her at the time (GRO, Death Certificate, Norwich, East Wymer). Emma Jane was buried with her parents in the Rosary Cemetery (NNGS, 1986) and a large monument marks their resting place. It is noteworthy that in the obituary notice printed in the "Eastern Daily Press" (a Norwich newspaper) her father's name is given as well as the names of her sons, but there is no mention of her husband - clear evidence of the rift in the family at this time.

Last Years

Robert's life during his last years is totally obscure. By 1925 his son Charles William was living in the house Robert had formerly occupied at 14 Denmark Road (LSL, Norwich Directories). Where Robert was living, most likely boarding, is unknown until 12 February 1930 when he was admitted to Doughty's Hospital. The criteria for admission to this facility was that "almspeople shall be poor persons of good character" (Jewson, 1978(?), p. 21), and nominated by someone involved with the charity. Inmates were to be 60 years of age, and typically they were individuals who had fallen on hard times. Robert was nominated by J.F. Henderson who was then Chairman of the charity. The building where Robert stayed was built between 1688 and 1694 - being a two story structure, four sides around a courtyard, with 8 almshouse apartments on each side. Little is known of Robert's life here. He was allowed a stipend of 3 s. a day. The matron ("Head Nurse") at the time, who would have more or less run the institution was a Mrs. Oliver. In the records of this hospital a blank is left under "Next of Kin" - despite the fact that his son Charles William was living nearby. Robert died there, in Room 9 (designated as Room 11 in Robert's day) over a year later (DH, Register Book; Jewson, 1978(?)). On 31 August 1931 Robert died of mitral disease of the heart. The person with him at the time of death was H.F. Faux, his nephew (GRO, Death Certificate, Norwich, East Wymer). Robert was laid to rest 6 days later in an unmarked grave in the Norwich City Cemetery (NRO, Norwich City Cemetery Burial Records) - a stark contrast to the opulence which adorns the final resting place of his wife. A very sad ending indeed.