



Fowke/Fooks Focus



Family Newsletter for the surnames Fowke, Fooks, Foulke, Fookes, Fowkes, etc.

Volume 1 Issue 1

Produced by Ray Fowke and Steve Fooks

February 2000

Hello, and welcome to the first issue of Fowke/Fooks Focus.

Subsequent issues will be produced periodically so return to this site regularly for new and up-to-date information, stories and contacts.

GETTING STARTED

This newsletter has been inspired by a very special friendship between **Steve Fooks** of Gainesville, Florida, USA, and **Ray Fowke** of Hamilton, New Zealand, as a result of a mutual interest in genealogy. And yes, we are related - distantly!

In June-July, 1999, Ray and Mavis Fowke undertook an extensive holiday, adventure and genealogy expedition to USA and Canada. The trip was the culmination of some 15 months of planning following an initial contact with Mrs Jessie Sims, nee Fowke, of Columbia, South Carolina.

Ray began collecting information for his own family tree line away back in 1981 and in June, 1990, he produced the first edition of Fowke Family Tree, a book of modest proportions outlining the results of his family research. Some years and three more editions later, keen to discover other family lines worldwide, he sent out a number of letters to families with the Fowke surname in North America. One thing led to another and soon e-mail and other correspondence was regularly flowing between New Zealand and USA and Canada.

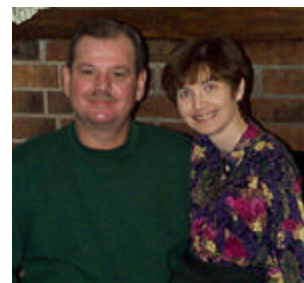
Early in 1998 Jessie Sims wrote to Ray about the Fowke Reunion that members of her family group in South Carolina have been holding in June each year for many years. Ray replied that he would really like to attend such a gathering some time in the future. Once again, one thing led to another, and Ray and Mavis made the decision to attend the Reunion in June, 1999.

Due to dozens of contacts made, the Fifth Edition of Fowke Family Tree also contained information about many USA and Canadian Fowke families and the stage was also set for Ray and Mavis to travel, not only to attend the Family Reunion in South Carolina but to visit several other Fowke families in Florida (including Steve and Vicki Fooks), Georgia, New Hampshire, Ontario and Saskatchewan, as well.

A report on the trip will appear in future issues.



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Steve & Vicki Fooks,
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NEWSLETTER CONTENT

Not everyone is into genealogy so we don't expect Fowke/Fooks Focus to be exclusively for that purpose. However, everyone will be fascinated by the size and extent of the world-wide family tree and the fact that most of us, if not all of us, are 'connected'. If you do want some genealogy information check out the rest of the pages on this web site. Steve and Vicki's Genealogy also includes all the connections from Ray's publication entitled Fowke Family Tree.

'People meeting people' is a good theme and we would like you to E-mail us with something about yourself, your interests (genealogy or not) and about the place and country in which you live. You will be surprised how many Fowke/Fooks (or however you spell your surname) families have parallel families in other countries around the world. Even many of the first names are the same! If you wish, submit a photograph of yourself and/or your whole family.

We propose a travel section. Ray and Mavis Fowke in New Zealand welcome enquiries about visiting the South Pacific and are willing to host you in their home. There are Fowke/Fooks families living in the same country, even the same state, who have never met each other. Why not arrange to do so? We are all a very friendly lot.

Profile

on
STEVE FOOKS
Gainesville, Florida, USA

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My part of this endeavor started with Ray Fowke sending an email to me introducing himself after having viewed my family website on the internet. Over a period of five or six months, we became friends. When he and Mavis visited the United States in June of 1999, Vicki, my wife and best friend, and I felt that when we met them in person it was as if old friends were getting back together.

I suppose my part of this newsletter really started five years or so ago when researching my family history became more than just a hobby. It became a bridge between my ancestors and my own personal history. At first, as most of us do, I was concentrating on collecting as many names and dates as I could. Then it occurred to me that the real value of my research were intangibles, not just statistics. Oral traditions and the "living history" parts of my family became more of a focus.

As one way of trying to reach other "relatives" and share my information, I decided to create a family website on the internet. It was through this website that I came in contact with Ray. After Ray and I had spoken on the phone a few times, and eventually met, we decided that a family newsletter was a great way to share some of our information with other folks (pun intended).

With my computer experience and Ray's editorial expertise, we hope to make this newsletter an enjoyable experience for everyone connected with the Fowke/Fooks family. One of our goals is to provide a forum for family members to get connected and share news and information.

It is my hope that everyone enjoy and participate in this newsletter. So tell us about yourself and your branch of the family. Give us your news and ideas to include in future editions of the [Fowke/Fooks Focus](#).

Steve Fooks - Email: Steve@fooks-robb.com
Family Website: <http://www.fooks-robb.com>

FOWKE FAMILY TREE PUBLICATION

If you are interested in learning more about this book or how you can obtain a copy, e-mail Ray Fowke without delay. The fifth edition is available now and the sixth edition is expected to be available towards the end of 2000.

A list of contact E-mail addresses will appear in each issue. Your approval required first. Please feel free to make contact with each other, and if you do, tell us about it.

PEOPLE MEETING PEOPLE

You are welcome to contact the following individuals who would like to hear from you about your family, country, and your interests.

E-mail:

Ray Fowke, New Zealand: rayfowke@clear.net.nz
Steve Fooks, FL, USA: Steve@fooks-robb.com

Let us know if you would like to be listed here

FAMILY NOTICEBOARD

Having a get-together or family reunion?

What are your genealogy interests?

What are your hobby and travel interests?

Looking for someone?

Announce hatches, matches and dispatches.

List them here.

Desperately seeking Nanny Fowke. In the Derby Evening Telegraph of Monday, December 8, 1986, there was an article entitled "Nanny Fowke's Great Walk". At the age of 90yrs in the year 1837, she walked the entire distance from Quarndon in Derbyshire to London in five days. She died in 1849 at the age of 103yrs (so the article says) but, as I don't know her full name or her maiden name, I can't find her in the records. A transcript of the article which provides additional information is available. Can anyone help?

Ray Fowke - E-mail: rayfowke@clear.net.nz

CAN'T FIND YOURSELF IN OUR TREE?

Steve and Ray have spent many hundreds of hours over many years researching the Fowke and Fooks surnames, plus a few others, but they know that there are still many family groups throughout the world that are not represented in the Tree which can be found on this site (Steve and Vicki's Genealogy - <http://www.crc.ufl.edu/genie/genie/html>).

If you can't locate your name or other members of your family line in the tree please contact us. With your permission we will seek your answers to a number of genealogy-based questions which will, hopefully, help us to locate your ancestors. We can never be absolutely sure that we will succeed but we will try very hard and will keep you informed of progress.

Perhaps you have prepared a family tree of your own and would like to have it included as part of our world-wide surname study. We would be delighted to receive any material that you may have.