



FOWKE FAMILY TREE

FOWKE PEDIGREE



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Some explanations appear in brackets throughout the text of this pedigree. The Name and Tree Codes which appear have no significance in this context.

Possibly the earliest known use of the 'Fowke' surname, Sir Roland de Fowke, is recorded in connection with France, specifically in the area of Normandy near the mouth of the Seine River. Although information is very sparse, Sir Theophilus Fowke is recorded (although not proven) as having accompanied William the Conqueror and fought at the battle of Hastings in 1066. There is a Fowke and a FitzFowke on the Battle Abbey Roll of those who fought at Hastings but no Fowke appears in the British Museum List.

The 'Fowke Pedigree' below outlines, possibly, both fact and fiction of early Fowke genealogy. Detailed research on early Staffordshire Gentry and contributed some excellent notes which have clarified a number of hitherto questionable facts with respect to some early Fowke connections. A London 'expert' has commented as follows - "Much I fear is the invention of an heraldic romancer. People paid money in ancient times to the heralds to fabricate a fabulous genealogy and some of them were only too willing to oblige!" Much of this Pedigree may, if fact, be correct but separating fact from fiction in this very early data is proving very difficult so the whole document is reproduced for your appraisal It makes interesting reading!

To all nobles and gentles to whom these presents shall come I Thomas Hawley als (*autograph letter signed*) Clarencey Principal Herald King at Arms of the South Coast and West part of this realm of England from the river of Trent southward sendeth due humble recommendation and greeting as equity willeth or reason will ordain that men of vertue and noble courage shall by their merit and good renown rewarded not only in their persons in this mortal like so brief and transitory but also after them those that come and decended of their bodies and all their posterity to be in all places of honour and worship accepted and taken by certain ensings and demonstrations of honor and noblesse.

Therefore I Thomas Hawley als Clarencey (*Clarenceux: the second King-of-Arms in England*) Principal Herald and King at arms of the Southeast and West part of this realm of England aforesaid do give unto Sir Mathew Lynegar who I find is successively chief antiquary (*a person who studies ancient works, etc*) of Ireland a true copy of the most of the nobility of the South East West part of the realm as he hath well deserved of me by vertue and authority given and granted unto me by my ancestors by express words and true confirmation have devis'd ordained and assigned these several antiquities to the said Sir Mathew Lynegar and his posterity; in witness of the said I Thomas Hawley als Clarencey as above said written do assign this my certificate this **28th day of September** in the reign of our sovereign Lord Henry the 8th King of England and France, defender of the faith, Lord of Ireland, in Christ Supreme head of the Church of England.

30th year (1539) of his most noble Reign.

Thomas Hawley Knt. (*Knight*).

The genealogy and ensings armorial of the Hon'ble Coll. (*Colleague*) Thos. (*Thomas*) Fowke (*15H*) of the lineal decent of Jno. Fowke (*7B*) of Gunston, Esq.

Deriving his pedigree from Sir John Fowke (?) created Knt Banneret (*a knight who was entitled to command other knights and men-at-arms under his own banner; the title conferred by the King for valour on the battle field*) by King Henry the 8th in the **16th year (1525) of his reign**, originally descended from Sir Theophilus Fowke (*H8*) of a most valiant Knt who came to England with William the Conqueror who lineally descended of Charles Sr who was the second son to the most noble and high puissant (*powerful*) Harlovin King of France as the above said Sir Thomas Hawley gives account of in the ancient and authentick annals of England transmitted to me by my ancestors who were successively Chief Kings at Arms in Ireland.

I therefore Charles Lynegar have from thence drawn out the following antiquity of the Hon. Coll. Thos Fowke (*15H*) as a memorial to his posterity his genealogy carefully extracted from the root whence sprung his worthy and most noble ancestors given to your Honor with all respect by your obdt (*obedient*) and most humble servant Charles Lynegar.

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