

**John Falkinburg b. 1837**  
Samuel Falkinburg b. 1813, father  
Mary Ann Hunter b. 1816, mother

These are notes to support my Ancestry.com family tree

<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/931824/>

In most cases the citations and documentation is contained in the profiles of a tree entry. However, in some cases there are conflicting citations or facts posted in related trees. At times, the evidence is only circumstantial. These notes are intended to support the facts which I have posted in my ancestry tree. In using these notes I am indicating that there is some uncertainty in the facts, and this documents my decision for inclusion of certain data in my tree.

If anyone has any additional information or corrections to these notes, please let me know.  
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Sorting out the genealogy of this John Falkinburg was *interesting*. Both the 1850 and 1860 US Census show John living with his parents Samuel and Mary. Home was Woodcock, Crawford, PA (P.O.) Saegertown. In the [1970 US Census](#), John (now 31) has married. His wife is listed as Fannie (31 y/o) along with two children: Georgianna (7) and Nellie (4). From this I would infer that John and Fannie were likely married ~1862 or 63. The [1880 Census](#) lists six y/o Phoebe. By the [1900 census](#), however, John (61 years of age) is living with his mother Mary A. and sister Mary R.

Further exploration of the ancestry resources ([findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com)) shows the death of Fannie Falkinburg on 21 APR 1885. There is no listing of spouse or children in this citation. In 1885 the children would be: Georgian (~22) Nellie (~ 18) and Phoebe (~11). None of the children are listed in the 1890 census as living in the residence of their grandmother and their father. It is a bit difficult tracing the whereabouts of the three daughters. It is likely that by the 1900 census at least the eldest two are married. I did find the death certificate for the youngest daughter Phoebe. She died in 1942. At the time she was the widow of ? Brown. Interestingly, the Pennsylvania Certificates of Death require the names of the parents (even of not alive) but do not require the name of a husband/wife if dead.

Returning to the 1990 Census listing John Falkinburg. John's marital status is listed as DIVORCED. This likely means that he married again, but after as little as one or two years, he divorced. Again, the resources on ancestry provide some insight. On one family tree there is a copy of the [Marriage License and record of Marriage](#) for John Falkinburg and Ernestine Todd. The marriage date is listed as 13 JAN 1887. So, it is likely that John Married Ernestine Todd in 1887 and by 1990, they were divorced.

Now the plot thickens! I found a [record on findagrave for John Falkinburg](#). John is interred in Blooming Hill Cemetery, Blooming Valley, Crawford City, PA. John died 12 JUL 1910. There are actually several records which are linked here. While there is no photograph of the headstone, there must have been a transcription of the record which states: Husband of Francis "Fanny" (nee Breed) Under family links, a spouse is listed as Ernestine Todd Housnick. This is

the wife John married in 1887 and subsequently divorced before 1890. Children are listed as Frank Mortimer Falkinburg 1888-1985) and Ernest Joseph Falkinburg (1891-1948). There are no references to the children of the marriage with Fanny in the internment record on findgrave.

Before attempting to explain what is going on here, I will discuss the link to Ernestine Todd Housnick's documentation on findagrave. Ernestine is listed with two spouses: John Falkinburg and Peter C. Housnick<sup>1</sup>. Under Children we find (as we might suspect) Ernest Joseph Falkinburg (1891-1948). This is her child with John Falkinburg. In the 1990 Census referred to earlier, John's marital status is listed as divorced. The date on the census form is 1 JUN 1990. The date of birth of son Ernest Joseph Falkinburg is documented as 27 FEB 1891. That is after the 1990 census enumeration in which John is listed as divorced. The conclusion is that John and Ernestine were divorced before the birth of their child. Now for the kicker. Ernestine's findagrave page shows Frank Mortimer Falkinburg (listed as a child of John Falkinburg) as Ernestine's half-sibling! I figured that this was a mistake, so I followed the links to Frank Mortimer's findagrave page. His parents are listed as John Falkenburg and Mary Anne Mitchell Copeland Todd (1863-1914). That is **Ernestine's mother**. Frank M. also lists Ernestine Todd Housnick as his half sibling. Finally, the link to Mary Anne Mitchell Copeland Todd (above right) indeed shows both Ernestine and Frank as her children. Her documentation does not list John Falkinburg as a spouse.

*Ernestine Todd Housnick on findagrave.*

Birth: Mar., 1863, Ireland  
 Death: Feb. 15, 1914  
 Bemus Point  
 Chautauqua County  
 New York, USA

Information compiled by Loraine Smith

Family links:  
 Spouse:  
 Charles James Wesley Todd (1835 - 1915)

Children:  
 Uriah George Todd (1863 - 1958)\*  
 Ernestine Todd Housnick (1867 - 1943)\*  
 Henry Edwin Wilson (1876 - 1941)\*  
 Frank Mortimer Falkinburg (1888 - 1985)\*

\*Calculated relationship

Note: w/o Charles W. Todd who died 3/3/1915

Burial:  
 Bemus Point Cemetery  
 Ellery Center  
 Chautauqua County  
 New York, USA

*Ernestine's Mother Mary Anne Todd*

<sup>1</sup> In the 1900 US Census we find Earnestine and her second husband Peter Housnick with a marriage date listed as 1896. It looks as though she did not marry Peter immediately upon her divorce.

Birth: Oct. 1, 1837  
 Pennsylvania, USA  
 Death: Jul. 12, 1910  
 Crawford County  
 Pennsylvania, USA  
 Husband of Francis "Fanny" (nee Breed)  
 Falkenburg.  
 Family links:  
 Spouse:  
 Ernestine Todd Housnick (1867 - 1943)\*  
 Children:  
 Frank Mortimer Falkenburg (1888 - 1985)\*  
 Ernest Joseph Falkenburg (1891 - 1948)\*  
 \*Calculated relationship  
 Note: information from PA death certificate file  
 #70905  
 Burial:  
[Blooming Valley Cemetery](#)  
 Blooming Valley  
 Crawford County  
 Pennsylvania, USA

Now, the birthdate of Frank Mortimer Falkenburg is given as 16 JUL 1888. This is just 19 months after John's marriage to daughter Ernestine. Perhaps, this dalliance between mother and step-son is what precipitated the divorce between John and Ernestine; we will never know.

*John Falkenburg's listing on findagrave.*

In summary, I believe that the story is as follows: John Falkenburg

1. married Francis "Fanny" Breed. Children: Georgiann, Nellie and Phoebe.
2. married Ernestine Todd.
3. Frank Mortimer Falkenburg born out of wedlock to John Falkenburg and his mother-in-law Mary Anne Todd.
4. Ernestine and John Falkenburg divorced
5. Ernest Joseph Falkenburg born to Ernestine Falkenburg who was now divorced from the father John.

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<a href="#">Home</a>	<a href="#">The Falkenburgs, An American Colonial Family</a>	<a href="#">Research</a>	<a href="#">Resources</a>