

THE
F O U R D R I V E
A Genealogy Newsletter

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Whole No.25

“How is Your Novice Accent?”

Our title comes from years ago when I first started out as a novice licensee in amateur radio. “QST”, The Amateur Radio Journal for American Radio Relay League, featured a column of good operating practices, bearing this same title. Novices tended to indicate their inexperience on the air by their poor operating procedures.

The more I thought about it, I figured that it might also be a good “lead in” for genealogy. “How is your Novice Accent?”, in other words are you following good procedures and practices as you do your genealogy research and record the information you have worked so hard to obtain. Are you recording in good format to be followed by others?

One of my volunteer projects is at the local genealogy society, Old Buncombe County Genealogy Society (OBCGS), I work on the ancestral file project, where a group of us are working to computerize the family history sheets submitted by the membership. Our ultimate goal is to have the information available on CD and also on line. For this to be achieved we must have a good index and a search engine (software to search and retrieve the information). To facilitate the retrieval of this information it is important that we maintain a consistency in the format of the data being entered.

This consistency applies to persons names, dates, and locations. The standard we are using includes the following: Names, locations, dates . remember the old “Who, When, Where” phase? [We will discuss reasons in the article]. The committee long before I became involved establish format guidelines that we still follow us we add information for more and more members files.

NAMES

First Middle Lastname

No commas separating the names.

Donald Gene Chinnery

Only the names given at birth are listed in the name field. Sr¹ , Jr., Ill. suffix follow the name with a period.

Charles Wesley Fitch Jr.

Women are listed with their maiden names only. If they have a last name from a previous marriage, the maiden name is still used. The first married name is more correctly shown by adding the first husband as an entry and linking the two as a marriage.

Nicknames are not listed in the name field. At OBCGS we are using Brothers Keeper (BK). BK provides a special box for listing “aka” names. Herein we also include any titles that the person was using such as Rev., Capt., General, etc.² . Additionally we can included detail notes in the note/message fields.

We do not use as a name the term “Unknown”, UNKNOWN” or similar. Most of the better genealogy programs such as BK and Reunion (for the Macintosh) accept just a single name in the name field and treat it as a first name. The way we handle situations where we know the last name of an individual but do not know the first name we enter “_____” that's 5 underlines with out the quotes as a first name. This tells the program for indexing purposes that the second name in the field is the last name. By the way the

¹ There are some thoughts that since “Sr.” was not given at birth it thus would not be used. The rule being only the name given at birth.

² Be guided by the rule if not part of the birth name, then it belongs in the note or memo field.

reason for the period after the suffix previously mention is necessary, it tells the program that the suffix is not the last name.

LOCATIONS

There are several options that one could follow here. At OBCGS we use the following format - County, State, Locality:

Mason Co.-MI - Ludington
Mason Co.-MI - Summit Township
CANADA - Ontario - Wariton
ENGLAND - Dorset - Portland

I personally use for my³ record keeping the following format - locality, county, and state.

Ludington, Mason Co., MI
Portland, Dorset, England

One very significant factor here is while you have the flexibility to use whatever format you desire, be consistent and note that this location field is to be used for geographical locations. This leads us into one of my soap box topics. While hospitals and cemeteries might be locations, their names **DO NOT** belong in the location field.

Reunion gives a specific field for placing the name of the cemetery for burial. If your program lists burial along with the other fields, birth and death it is intended that it be the geographical location placed here. In other words Ludington, Mason Co., MI - not Lakeside Cemetery.

If your program does not provide a specific field for the name of the cemetery then list the information in your notes/message lines.

Inclusion of hospital names, cemetery names, "died young", "died at sea" in a location field will provide erroneous data in your listing of locations.

DATES

Date Fields and Format for the dates to be inserted in this field. We utilize the dd/mmm/yyyy format. We strongly recommend this as it fits in with areas of the world that record dates in this manner.

21-Mar-1929

CIR 1929

CIR=circa or around that period

ABT 1929/30

ABT= about that time period

³ It is my understanding that this format is also used by Chris Dixon.

BEF 1930

BEF=before the indicated date

AFT 1-Jan-1930

AFT=after the indicated date

We use the above format at OBCGS with exception, we do not use ABT as we feel CIR takes care of "about"

Be alert of dates indicated in the following format: 20-Jan 1724/25. This equates to 20 January in our calendar year of 1725. Under the old calendar the year covered the months of March thru February 28(9). Thus, January and February were designated by the number for the previous year.⁴

Died Young, Died in War, Died at Sea

Died young, died in war, etc. are designations that belong in the notes or memo fields - NOT the date or location fields.

Summary

Use the name of the individual as given at birth. Enter as complete a name as you have available. Enter the maiden name of the female. Use location field for geographical locations only. Establish a format standard. Most genealogical programs provide date and location fields for your events. Any information not a date or geographical location should be entered in specific fields, notes, or message lines. Standardize the entry style for your date fields.

Conclusion

We have provided some guidelines or rules as suggestions for you to follow: I would be the first to say "record your data - as it pleases you". The main exception - **be consistent with the formats you elect to use.**

I strongly recommend that in addition to consistency you try to follow the suggestions presented in this article. Else, I promise you that some time in the future you will realize that maybe the **suggestions** made in the

⁴ See The Four Drive, Volume I, No. 9, page 6 -

The Julian and Gregorian Calendar Notation. Also see Volume II, No. 1 page 4 for "The Great Calendar Change.

newsletter are the way to go, and now you have a momentous job making conversions. This especially comes true when you start exchanging information with others.

The information presented in this article is one of many articles for the beginner we have in The Four Drive since its inception. I am encouraged that we some of our cousins starting to get in involved with genealogy for their families. I would like to think that this newsletter has played at least a small part in developing this interest.

To assist our new and experienced researchers in their endeavors, I have included a listing of past articles that may be of interest to you.[note added Oct 17, 2007 seeweb page]-----enjoy-----

SOURCE DOCUMENTATION

Your information should have source documentation included. This documentation reference may be to a copy of an original document you obtained, information from others [who gave you information?] , Census records, Social Security Death Record, etc. A future article will cover documentation and it's importance in detail.-----

Fitch Family Reunion July 28, 2001 - Ludington

Your editor is looking forward to attending the Fitch Family reunion the last week end in July. I am combining this visit with my annual trek to Wisconsin and the GenCon game convention in Milwaukee. I will be flying to Green Bay on Thursday July 26th. The following day Daniel and I will take the noon ferry out of Manitowoc to Ludington. I am looking forward to seeing and a chance to visit with you. I will be bring an updated ancestor chart for Charles Wesley Fitch and also Ethel Vivian Rose. Grandmother Fitch's chart fills 44 - 8 1/2 x 11 inch pages. While grandfathers is only 11 pages.

Melville Hayes Letter

Starting on page 4, you will find a letter written by Melville Hayes to Alice Chinnery (nee Fitch) in February 1981.

I started to include the letter in our last issue but soon realized the newsletter would be several pages longer. I think the letter is important and interesting for several reasons, such as- the letter includes considerable amount of family history information - it demonstrates Melville's keen interest in family history. Results of research subsequent to this letter by others and in some cases by Melville himself has provided answers to questions raised in his letter.

A book review by Don Chinnery.

"The Year 1000"

by Robert Lacey and Danny Danziger

[Editor Note: I have always been interested in how our ancestors lived and any information that one can find related to this. As we trace our ancestry further and further back it is difficult if not impossible to find details of their lives. We haven't quite traced our ancestry back to the year 1000 (The ancestors of Charles Fitch are traced back to the year 1200). Not quite the year 1000 but close.]

"The Year 1000" tells us what life was like at the turn of the first millennium. The book covers the year by using each month of the "The Julius Work Calendar". Our authors start by introducing the reader to the Calendar with it's unique format and it's origination. Each page has one month beginning with a drawing of English Life to go along with the writings presented for each day. We are introduced through out the year to the different forms of work that typical individuals would be doing in the English Country side during that month.

Interspersed with explanations of the calendar and daily activity is information about the influence created by past conquerors and leaders of England. We learn about their clothing. Did you ever wonder why the early garments appeared to be nothing but a sack with a whole in the top at the neck? Well in the year 1000 buttons had not been invented, nor had the safety pin.

We have been led to believe that we are taller then our English ancestors, and while this may be true for our ancestors that immigrated to our country, our ancestors of the year 1000 were quite tall, very much the size of anyone alive today. Nine out of ten of them lived in a green and unpolluted countryside on a simple, wholesome diet that grew sturdy limbs and very healthy teeth. It was only in later centuries that overpopulation and overcrowding started to affect stature and well-being of western Europeans. Though out the book we learn about the work habits and how it varied by seasons and what they were wearing. Much of the information has been substantiated though archeological digs, etc.

The authors have provided good information relating to their source notes. The book is very easy to read and flows nicely through the months as we learn about a typical early year. We recommend this book highly. It is not a large book. 220 pages 5 1/2" x 8 1/2 "., abt. 3/4" thick

**Letter by Melville Hayes
to Alice Chinnery**

1019 Sedwick
Wilmington, DE 19803
2-22-81

Dear Alice

Thank you very much for your letter and outline data for your family. I'm sorry Arlene has been ill. I hope she feels better soon. We can appreciate how stubborn a respiratory infection can be from our experiences the last few years. I wonder if Bea Smith has been ill too. She was going to send me some data after Christmas. We are sorry about the sadness you have had in your family.

I few weeks ago I read a book from the Library that tells a beginner like myself about the methods that can be used to trace family history. The book is "Tracing Your Ancestry" by F.W. Helmbold © 1976. If your library does not have it, maybe it has another just as good. It only took 2-3 hours to read the parts of interest to me. I wish I was as close to the Mason Co. Courthouse as you are so I could look up some things there. Helmbold does mention the Salt Lake City research center you mention, but I got the idea the author thought one could find most of all they need in other places. He discusses the use of the courthouse records, state vital (birth and death) records dept., old family bibles, county records on estate settlements and land ownership, and census records - which he explains fully how useful these can be. They are very available public records. Our library, and maybe yours too, will order rolls of microfilm for you to look at free of charge. I recently ordered for the first time a roll on Hayes and Fitch for Michigan. When they come in, I'll see what I can learn there from the 1900 Census. The librarian has an index book which explains in the back how to use the Soundex Code - I believe Fitch is F320 - and you order the roll no. shown in the index for the state and code no. of interest. Of course each roll has a lot of other stuff on it too. I'll see how long it takes to find the Hayes's listed for Mich. I have been unable to learn anything about 2 members of my Dad's family.

The Census records can also be seen in the National Archives in Wash. D.C. and in other places. The author said the Detroit Library was very strong on gen[ealogy]. research material. You can often find useful material in local Probate Records (Wills and Estates). He tells how to use them. The custodian at a cemetery can often be

helpful with more complete and accurate inf. then on the gravestone.

Do you know what Harold Fitch's middle name or initial is? Is he listed in your phone book? Does he still have the same old house next to Uncle Mike's?

My wife typed a revised draft of the Fitch Family Outline for me a couple of weeks ago to include what we have had to date. I will have another page typed to cover the data you kindly sent on your family. I will get a Xerox copy made for you at the Library and sent it to you. Please let me know of any corrections or additions you can suggest. My daughter Laura did a lot of work on our Hayes and Fitch outlines in 1966. She started completely on her own while still in high school.

Apparently Grandma and Grandpa Fitch⁵ were married in Harriston⁶, Ontario, about 50 miles North of Woodstock (where your Dad⁷ was born). I understand Grandma's parents were quite well off until a partner ran off with the money they had invested in a stone quarry⁸.

I was told that Uncle Ernest adopted a young man later in life and Ernest D. was very upset - I guess it hurt his inheritance.

I understand that Grandpa's sister Catherine married Gatke, and he is the one who built the Court House on Ludington Ave. Do they still use it as a Court House? He also built the Sauble Inn Resort. I guess the Dummy Train used to run up there and to Epworth. I believe a Gatke daughter (of Catherine) named Mary or Marie⁹ married a rich man (Thompson?) who died, and then another one (Zoll?). She lived just East of the Court House and had two daughters Catherine and Lucille.

I can barely recall sitting next to Lucille Andrews¹⁰ and your brother Charles¹¹ in a car enroute to fruit farm your dad was operating

⁵ John Henry Fitch and Harriett Cecilia Lano

⁶ John Henry Fitch lived in Harriston at the time, but the marriage was performed by a minister from Bruce County. The witnesses were also of Bruce County.

⁷ Charles Wesley Fitch

⁸ Here he refers to the Richard Lano's. They owned a stone quarry on the Isle of Portland, Dorsetshire, England.

⁹ I have a daughter Mary listed but no other information. Later on Melville talks about the Andrus girls, and I have their mother as Margaret. I have a large gap in the family information for the Gatke'.

¹⁰ The last name is spelled Andrus

¹¹ Charles Wesley Fitch, Jr.

(renting?). My brother Charles said his LHS class of 1922 had a banquet at Sauble Inn. I believe Laureen was in his class. He said Tom and Ed Gatke were also active in early life of Hamlin and Epworth. How were they related to Catherine's husband Charlie?

I believe Grandpa Fitch's sister Margaret Doubledee worked at a place on Ludington Ave. and her daughter Clara¹² Grover and husband Eli had a farm next to Grandpa's, and had daughters Velma and Ruth (Valedictorian at LHS).

I looked up Gatke Corp. in the library (Standard and poor register). They make brake linings, etc. at 228 N. LaSalle St., Chicago. They employ 250. President Frank T. Gatke, VP & Sec is Frank Jr. One of the directors is Marian Gatke. Maybe grandchildren of Catherine Fitch Gatke. I wrote to Frank to inquire about sharing family history material, but have no answer as yet.

When Grandpa died so soon after that tractor shop dinner, wasn't there a theory that he was probably poisoned? I believe you[r] dad was at the dinner. Didn't someone say "This piece of pie is for you John"? Did some suspect that Uncle George was jealous of his brother? Awfully hard to prove what happened, especially in those days. My brother Marion's death from falling down the basement steps was also strange. His wife of 1 yr. had bought extra insurance. And she remarried only a week after Marian was buried. He had told his son that he was a little suspicious of what was going on. I told his son I wish insurance co. and police would have made a thorough investigation.

I have had an enjoyable exchange of letters with Carrie¹³. She was told our great-great Grandma Lano (Grandma Fitch's Grandma) played as a child with the future Queen Victoria.

It is interesting to me that Grandpa's family lived quite near the Traverse City area for a while. I wonder what Grandpa did for a living in Antrim Co.? Uncle Richard, Willie and Nettie were born there. Carrie said her dad went to school in Alger. I can't find that on my map, but there is an Alden on Torch Lake.

Carrie let me read a letter she has which Grandma Fitch's mother (Martha Weston Lano) wrote to Grandma (Harriett) in October 1878.

We typed a copy and returned it to Carrie.¹⁴ Grandma's mother was very upset about the romance one of her daughters was having with a Charlie Clifford. She wrote the letter from Amabel, which is not on my map of Ontario. But she must have been living not far from Allenford, Ontario (where Mr. Clifford was living until he moved in with the daughter). Allenford is about 50 mi. North of Harriston, where Grandma was married and where daughter Emma Hindes and husband William lived. Maybe Amabel has a different name now. I would guess Grandma was living at the time (1878) in Woodstock, where your dad was born. Her mother said she was surprised "Johnny" (Grandpa) gave up his business. What kind of business did he have in Woodstock? I wonder who "George" was¹⁵? She said, he vowed to "put Charlie Clifford off the place" if he showed up again.

We had the date wrong on your mother's marriage. We had October 19 instead of the 29th. No doubt there will be other corrections needed. Carrie thought she heard that Great Grandma's maiden name was Fudge, so she wondered why she wrote it Martha Weston Lano on her letter. Do you have anything on Grandpa Fitch's parents? I wonder if they moved to Ontario too. It might be hard to trace his ancestors in Alsace-Lorraine, which went through war and political turmoil. Let me know if you have any further questions about my family. Maybe later on we can do something with occupational comments, etc. Marion's son said Marion told him he had a daughter with Kathryn, maybe it was adopted out, his first wife, but I have nothing on this. The genetics of the Fitches appears to be of very high quality considering there have been many who have had excellent intelligence and a long active life.

Love - your cousin Melville

¹² Clarissa Doubledee.

¹³ I believe this to be Carrie Mae Fitch, daughter of William Fitch. Would be first cousin to Melville.

¹⁴ This letter reprinted in The Four Drive, Volume III, No. 2 June 18, 1999. Also explains how the copy I had access to was type-written. I wondered about there being a typewriter in 1878.

¹⁵ George Gates husband of Agnes Naomi Lano. In the 1871 Canadian Census Martha Weston Lano, mother of Agnes was living with George and Agnes on their farm in Bruce County, Ontario.

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“Old Wills”

- Vol III, No. 2, pg. 7.

All references to “The Four Drive”

AppleWorks6

This issue has been prepared using AppleWorks6 replacing my Microsoft Word, version 5.1, ca 1993.

Additionally it is part of my ongoing campaign to quit using anything that is Microsoft.

VITAL RECORDS**BIRTHS**

Anne Louise Massie was born on Friday, June 15, 2001 in Las Vegas, NV. She weighed 7lb 15 oz. and measured 20 1/2 inches. Her parents are **Michael and Sheryl Snell Massie**. Sheryl is the daughter of Lucille Chinnery (Snell) Rogers. Anne Louise has a brother Andrew Massie who is eleven years old.

Jasper William Pieter Franken was born on Thursday July 5, 2001 in Dublin, GA. He weighed 7 lbs. 14 oz, and 22 inches long. Mother and son are doing fine. Proud parents are **Leslie (Snell) and Eddy Franken**.

MARRIAGES

Theresa Marie Snell Reumont and Scott Frederick Burgess were married on Saturday, 5 May 2001 in Bethel United Methodist Church, Prince William, VA. Theresa is the daughter of Lucille Rodgers and the late James G. Snell.

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**Andrew J. Rose****Naval Service during the Civil War**

Thanks to Christopher Dixon for his surfing the internet and the USS Forest Rose picture and related information.

Andrew J. Rose enlisted in the U.S. Navy 6 September 1864 in Chicago and was discharged 23 June 1865 at Carro. He served aboard the USS Forest Rose. For further information refer to article in The Four Drive, Volume I, No. 8, page 2- “The Pension File of Andrew J. Rose”

**Sponsors**

We are please to acknowledge as a Four Drive sponsor for the year 2001.  
Laura Lagana (nee Hayes)

Thank you

**SURFING THE INTERNET**

Thanks to Christopher Dixon for the URL for the following information and picture.

USS *Forest Rose* (1862-1865)

<http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/sh-usn/usnsh-f/forst-rs.htm>

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY -- NAVAL HISTORICAL CENTER

805 KIDDER BREESE SE -- WASHINGTON NAVY YARD

WASHINGTON DC 20374-5060

**Online Library of Selected Images:**

-- U.S. NAVY SHIPS --

**USS *Forest Rose* (1862-1865, "Tinclid" # 9)**

USS *Forest Rose*, a 260-ton stern-wheel "tinclid" river gunboat, was built in 1862 at Freedom, Pennsylvania.

Purchased by the Navy in November 1862, she was commissioned early in December and assigned to the

Mississippi Squadron. In January 1863, *Forest Rose* was involved in the capture of Fort Hindman, Arkansas. She

was active on the Yazoo River and on the Mississippi above Vicksburg until that city fell in July 1863. In May

1864, *Forest Rose* took part in the Red River expedition. She was decommissioned and sold in August 1865.

Renamed *Anna White* as a civilian steamship, she was destroyed by ice at Saint Louis, Missouri, in February 1868.

This page features our only view of USS *Forest Rose*.

**If you want higher resolution reproductions than the digital images presented here, see: "How to Obtain Photographic Reproductions."**

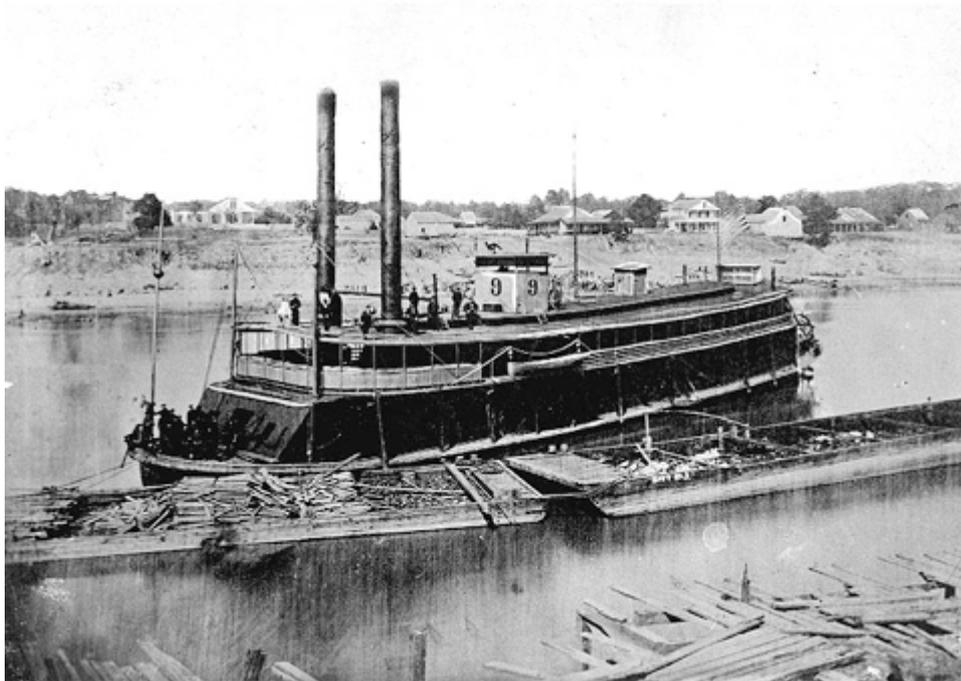
**Click on the small photograph to prompt a larger view of the same image.**

**Photo #: NH 61566**

**USS *Forest Rose* (1862-1865)**

Alongside two Navy fuel barges, during her Civil War operations on the Western Rivers theater.

Photo # NH 61566 USS *Forest Rose* (1862-1865)



*U.S. Naval Historical Center Photograph.*

[EDITOR NOTE: See The Four Drive, Volume I, No. 8, page 2 - "The Pension File of Andrew J. Rose" for additional description of the USS *Forest Rose*.]

The FOUR DRIVE, a genealogy newsletter brought to you for promoting genealogy of our ancestors and their descendants.

**Need copies of any of the information referenced?**

Contact the editor or the individual shown.

What about Family Group Sheets? Editor is most happy to provide what we have available upon request. GEDCOM files can also be provided. Your editor also accumulates as much information as he can concerning siblings. Family group sheets and information in many cases are also available. Photocopying cost and postage appreciated.

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**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

For this newsletter are free. If you wish to receive or continue receiving this newsletter please acknowledge receipt of this newsletter with your comments and request to the editor .

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FIRST CLASS