

NOTE: Extra space in masthead was for a special logo that appeared on original issue. Not reproduced here.

A Genealogy Newsletter

Volume I No 8	The FOUR DRIVE	September 18, 1997
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A Review of Christopher Dixon's Biography of

John Henry Fitch

Review by Donald Chinnery

.It just gets better and better is about the best way to sum the recent release of Chris's Biography of John Henry Fitch. A project that started in high school for a class assignment has been continued since it's initial success.

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This years revision includes considerable new information from previous issues.

Highlights of new material included in this revision are: The birthplace of John Henry Ficht in a the small village of **Ingenheim** in the German speaking region of Alsace France now known as the Bas-Rhin.¹ Additional factual information regarding the birth of wife Harriett, 17 July 1849 in the Village of Reform, Dorset County, England and subsequent immigration to Canada.² As is the reporting of the marriage in the Civil record of Bruce County.³ Chapter Two - "Fitchville", Antrim County has several illustrations depicting Homestead patent, Map outlines of Michigan, Custer Township and section 30 of Custer Township. The subsequent chapters have additional maps, photographs and clarification's of previously reported data. Additional details have been included regarding the inventive

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and Tractor Specifications (1918)
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A look at the table of contents will give a good idea of the material that can be found in this document. Must reading for those interested in JHF as well as those interested in the genealogical information included.

¹ The Four Drive, Vol I, No 7, page 4

² Ibid, Vol I, No 2, page 1

³ Ibid, Vol I, No 7, page 3

achievements of John Henry and The Four Drive Tractor Company.

The biography closes with documentation and other information supporting the information provided in the biography chapters. Included is a Family Group Sheet for John Henry Fitch and Harriett Cecelia Lano This biography is a welcome addition to any genealogist's or family historian's library. Make arrangements with the author Christopher Dixon for your copy. Christopher Dixon, 3034 Albacore Dr., Apt #E-3, Silverdale, WI 98315.

THE PENSION FILE OF ANDREW J. ROSE

On September 15 1886 Andrew Jackson Rose filed "Declaration for an Original Invalid Pension". This declaration states that he was enrolled on the 6th Day of Sept. 1864 in company (on) US Gunboat Forest Rose commanded by A.N. Gould, A V Lieut Com'g and was honorably discharged at Mount City Ill on the 23 day of June 1865. That his personal description is as follows: Age 25 years; height 5 feet 4 inches; complexion fair hair dark; eyes blue. That while a member of the organization aforesaid , in the service and in the line of his duty US Steamer Forest Rose of the Mississippi Squadron on or about the month of May June & e, 1865 he was disabled by diarrhea and results generally affecting ? bowels ⁴, etc { editor note: balance continues with description of his health and results}

Before continuing with the balance of the contents of the pension file perhaps a review of the USS Forest Rose and it's service during the Civil War with the Mississippi Squadron would be of interest.

Andrew Jackson Rose served aboard the USS Forest Rose during the Civil War. The USS Forest Rose was "Tinclads" (called

light-drafts" at the time; they were armored with from a quarter to a half inch of iron in certain places;, enough to keep out small arms fire.) were generally known by their numbers; The Forest Rose was # 9.

She was acquired by the Mississippi Squadron on 15 November 1862, and commission just a few weeks later, on 3 December. She was a former Mississippi riverboat, 155' long, 32'3" wide and 5' deep. She was a sternwheeler and could make about 6 mph. She was initially armed with two 30-pounder rifled cannon and four 24-pounder howitzers; by August 1863, she had added two 32-pounder smoothbores, making her one of the more-heavily armed "tinclads"

She was one of the first few light-drafts in service with the Mississippi Squadron and served extensively around Vicksburg until the city fell in July 1863. She remained in active service on the Mississippi until 7 August 1865; she was sold ten days later and became the merchant "Anna White." She was destroyed by ice at St. Louis on 4 February 1868.

From the Official Records (Navies): As of 15 October 1864 her commander was Acting Volunteer Lieutenant A.N. Gould, and was assigned to the Fifth Naval District, between Natches and Vicksburg. On June 21, 1865, she was ordered to convey supplies from Mound City Illinois to New Orleans. As of July 1865 she was reported at Mount City Illinois being dismantled preparatory to her sale.

Discharge Certificate of A. J. Rose

This is to Certify That A.J. Rose an O Sea [Ordinary Seaman] has this day been discharged from the U.S. S. Forest Rose and from the naval service. Dated this 23rd June 1865

signed APPROVED: A. N. Gould A.V. Lieut. Com'g. Service record shown on Discharge certificate provides the following information. A.J. Rose enlisted 1864, Sep 6

⁴ Editor note: The description is generally hard to follow as it is written in script. and difficult to decipher.

for term 1 year as Lds [Landsman] and was born in Shelby Co., Ohio; age 25; occupation Shoemaker; Blue eyes; hair dark; complexion fair; height of 5 feet 4 inches;

Additional documentation included Proof of Disability an affidavit signed by Franklin Bonner Clerk of the Circuit Court of Macomb County. repeats the dates and service previous report in this article but clarifies his health as Sick with Chronic Diarrver?? and disease of the Bowels which result in the claimant being in a very weak rundown condition. Reason for discharge from the service was given as "close of the war"

From these two affidavits Andrew Rose was apparently granted a disability pension. The next document in the file originates from Bureau of pensions dated January 15, 1898 with a request for specific family information. Answers provided and signed by Andrew J. Rose in cluded married and maiden name of wife, date of marriage = October 29 1863 Macomb County Mich. by Rev Mr Starr. What record of the marriage exists, answer was Certificate. The last question requested names and birthdates for living children. Mabel A. Rose, born 10 Jan 1867; Estella M. Rose, born 3rd Dec 1868; Ethel V. Rose, born 26 Jan 1881; signed Andrew J. Rose. Not dated.

In 1908 we find two documents, one being a certified copy of Andrew's death certificate (d. Jan 5, 1908) and drop order for the paymaster to discontinue pension payment. The balance of the documents in the file are related to the application of surviving spouse for survivors pension. ⁵

The Journals of Charles Wesley Fitch Sr.

We are undertaking the project of inventoring the many journals by Charles Fitch. Charles's journals took various forms. Usually a hard bound small book. Entries would be made every day.

When he died in 1962 the various journals where divided between the surviving sisters. I recently had the opportunity to read the 1908 journal. Such wonderful wealth of information. We regret to report that aging makes the writing harder and harder to read. We are now undertaking to transcribe this journal so all can share in the copies.

I also want to make a list of who has the various issues. I will volunteer to transcribe those copies also. Or better yet if those that have any of the journals help with the transcribing. But first will all those in possession of a journal advise me what year it is for? Thank you Don Chinnery

VITAL RECORDS

This issue starts another new feature for our newsletter. Many of us in addition to tracking our ancestors are interested in keeping track of current generations. As the miles separate many of us this becomes increasingly more difficult to keep track of current happenings. Therefore we will report here Vital Statistics of current generations. This feature will only be successful if everyone keeps the editor informed.

Births:

David Thomas Burchett, Born August 15, 1997 in West Point NY to Bradley Thomas Burchett (b. 1 Jul 1965) and Carol Denise Burchett nee Davis (b. 5 Apr 1967). Paternal grandparents are James Burchett (b. 8 Jan 1937) and Joyce Burchett nee Herrick (b. 8 Apr 1937).

Marriages:

Jason Snell (b. 18 Feb 1964) and **Melissa Lea Moore** were married June 28, 1997 in Blountsville TN. Jason son of Lucille Snell nee Chinnery (b. March 14, 1937) and James G. Snell (b. 13 Jul 1934 d. 10 Jul 1994). Melissa, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Archie Moore

Deaths:

Lafayette Brant (b. 4 Mar 1919) died in Ludington Michigan on 1 Jun 1997 . Lafayette married Arlene Doris Dixon nee Fitch on 23 Jul 1971 who survives.

⁵ Editor's note: We will continue with the pension information of Mary Rose nee Heath in subsequent issue.

Preserving Photographs and Documents

by Christopher Dixon

All too often you see on the news when a family suffers a total loss of their possessions by fire or natural disaster, they say that everything can be replaced - except for their photographs. Photographs and documents are an important aspect in family research. Photography can be used for more than just showing what people looked like, but how they lived. If a picture is worth a thousand words, then a picture of a family standing in front of their old log cabin, surrounded by work tools and animals, wearing their daily dress, with a certain type of spectacle, corncob pipe, apron or rocking chair can enhance the family history enormously. You may want to take a picture of an ancestor's gravestone and include that photo with your documentation of the individual's death, such as an obituary or funeral card. [When taking pictures of gravestones, it is important to note information such as the date and location of the cemetery and location of the stone in the cemetery. Gravestones may be replaced with newer ones, been lost or damaged, or the lettering has faded.] Although some photographs and documents last for generations, none of them are immune to the effects of time. This article will discuss ways to properly care for and label your irreplaceable, precious memories.

Properly labeling and identifying photographs is perhaps more important than the care of the photograph itself.

When identifying photographs, take care not to destroy them in the process - writing on the back of some photographs will damage them. Depending on the quality of the paper, a pencil or other means may be appropriate, such as self-adhesive address labels. You should make some or all of the following notations:

1. Date of the photograph.
2. Names of the individuals in the photograph, in the order in which they appear (usually left to right, forward to back).⁶
3. The ages of the individuals.
4. The circumstances around which the picture was taken (ie: a family reunion).
5. Who took the photograph [if taken by a professional photographer, record the name and location of the photographer so that his archive or collection can be evaluated for additional family pictures].
6. If there is an original negative, where it is located.

7. If the photograph is a copy of an original, where the original is located.

Photographs are made up of several layers. The top layer - the emulsion - contains the image suspended in gelatin (purified animal protein). This layer is coated onto a base layer of photographic paper or film by a middle layer of adhesive. The materials used to form the image depend on the type of photograph. The image for black and white photographs is made up of light-sensitive silver salts. Color photographs and slides are made up of dyes. Like all dyes, those used in photography fade and/or change color over time. With proper care you can expect your color prints to last for decades, but they do not preserve as well as black and white images. Consider having black and white negatives and prints made from color prints since these tend to last longer.

Many factors can contribute to the deterioration of photographs. Since photos are made up of layers of material, damage to any one layer can ruin the image. It is often a combination of factors causing the damage.

Editor's note: Part II of this article will appear in the next issue of The Four Drive and will cover the factors related to storage and recommendations for storage.

⁶ Editor's note: When identifying the individuals use their full names. Do not identify as Aunt Mary. It is okay to include the fact that the person is Aunt Mary but indicate to whom she is an aunt.

Just What is in a Name?

By Theresa L. Chinnery

What is in a name? I have always been fascinated by the meaning of names. When I named my dog I bought a baby book and found a name that had a special meaning; Brina, which is Celtic for defender. I usually just looked at first names. Recently, however, I received some genealogy sheets from my mother's side of the family in Denmark and found an interesting quirk. My great, great grandfather's name was Niels Thomsen (b.1843) but his son's name was Thomas C T Raunholt (b. 1878)! Where on earth did the last name Raunholt come from? This mystery sat around for awhile. Then this summer while talking to my maternal grandmother I remembered to ask. As she explained it, "My great, great grandfather purchased a farm which had a great many ravens in the surrounding wooded area. They named the farm Raunholt, which means raven home. My great, grandfather then took this name for his own last name!" This is a family story I had never heard before and if it hadn't been for doing the genealogy, I would have never known. Neat huh! . . .tlc

Introducing Laura Lagana

Laura was born Laura Marie Hayes in Ludington, Michigan on August 7, 1944. The daughter of Melville John Hayes and Lucille Anne Shreatte. Laura is a granddaughter of George Albert Hayes and Norabelle Fitch and a great granddaughter of John Henry Fitch and Harriett Cecelia Lano. She is married to Thomas Gaetano Lagana, Jr and lives in Wilmington Delaware, where Laura and Thomas also have their own consulting firm "Sucess Solutions". Laura and Thomas have two children - Brandon T. Lagana (b. 14 May 1971) and Daniel A. Lagana (b. July 27, 1974)

Recent Acquisitions.

Your recent acquisitions of family history should be recorded here. Let us know what important piece of information you have recently found and or received from someone.

Received from Laura Lagana

Photocopies of several items have been received as follows:

Photograph of John, George and Michael Fitch.

Photograph of the Fitch Tractor.

Power on all Four Wheels, a brochure introducing **The Four Drive Tractor.** Contains several photo-graphs and specifications of the tractor.

Letterheads. John H. Fitch Street Car Switch & The Four Drive Tractor Co. This latter letterhead used as front piece for this issue of the newsletter.

Newspaper articles relative to John Henry Fitch and The Four Drive Company.

Genealogy notes by Melville Hayes covering G-grandparents (John H. Fitch/Harriett Lano) of Laura Lagana and their children and siblings. Many hand written notes by Melville Hayes.

Letters: Copy of a letter dated February 22, 1875 written by Emma (Lano) to her sister Harriett. Copy of a letter dated Oct 29, 1878 written by Martha Weston Lano to her daughter Harriett.

Received from Marilyn Bannister

As a follow up to an initial exchange of information with Marilyn Bannister (Mrs Fred.) we have received additional information and updates to the earlier transmittal.

"Descendants Chart for Agnes Naomi Lano". "Descendants Chart for Samuel Bannister".

Family Group Records for the following:

Emerson Bannister, Samuel Bannister, Charles Henry Gates, Roy Lawrence (m Mary Agnes Gates), Henry George Gates, Walter Cranston Gates, Earl Rourje (m.

Mabel Ellen gates), Percy Leonard gates, Charles Lee Kennedy (m Edna Kathleen Gates, Elgin Foster (m. Ida Florence Gates), Maurices Charles Gates, Samuel Doubt (m. Martha Lano Gates), Aubrey Lester Hosick (m. Harriett Susan Doubt), Elmer John Bannister, David Brian Bannister, Dennis Paul John Beachesne (m. Karen Lucille Bannister), Douglas Edward Ward Lennox (m. Mary Beulah Bannister), plus several sheets with children of the above groups.

Received from Hazel McDonald

A Journal (diary) for Charles Wesley Fitch for the year 1908. We found this journal to be very interesting. We understand that there are several of these journals. Elsewhere in this issue we are announcing The Charles Fitch Project.

Getting Started

While your editor considers himself to be a novice genealogist, it has become increasingly more apparent that many of our readership are not familiar with many of the terms we are using. As a consequence we will endeavor to include in every issue explanations and examples, where appropriate, of terms geni's use in their every day work.

Where to start?

Start out by putting down all that you know about your family and ancestors. Start by filling out a Pedigree chart with your name as the first person on the chart. A pedigree chart is used for depicting ancestral parents of the first person named on the chart. Then enter the names of your parents as persons #2 and #3. Your father's name being placed in position #2. Then enter his parents in positions #4 and #5. Note now that we have a pattern. Each successive parents are $2 \times "n"$ for the father while the mother is $2 \times "n" + 1$, where "n" is the individual you entering the parents for. I have enclosed as an example my mother's pedigree chart that is

generated by my computer genealogy program. While computer generated the principles are the same when filling one out manually. My mother, Alice Rose Fitch is #1 on this chart, her father is #2 and her mother is #3. You probably have not accumulated enough information to start entering data into the computer, thus this discussion is assuming you are entering your initial information manually on a blank pedigree chart. Also included with this issue of the newsletter is a blank pedigree chart. The computer generated copy used as this example is referred to as a five generation chart. Printing constraints restrict the information included in the printout for each success generation.

The Five "W's"

Who, When, Where, Why, What

For each individual you will want to enter dates and place of the events. They are Birthdate (bd.), Birthplace (bp.), Marriage Date (m.) and Place, Death date (d.) and location. Burial date and location. You will also want to enter the name of spouses.

As you fill out your first pedigree chart, there will be many gaps. Do not be concerned - this first chart provides information on what you already know and what you need to find out.

Most genealogists are now using their computer for accumulating data. As your information data base accum-ulates you may wish to obtain genealogy software for your computer. In the meantime manually entering data on pedigree charts is a good starting point. The next chart that will be discussed in a future newsletter will be a Family Group Sheet that continues on with what we have started in this article.⁷

⁷ Editor's note: Attached to this issue of *The FOUR DRIVE*, subscribers that are in my data base will also find enclosed a pedigree chart for themselves.

More Ashley, Gratiot Co., MI

Ann Faulkner of the Macomb County Library has provided the following information regarding Ashley Michigan. The village was platted by Ansel H. Phinney, George P. Dudley, and Miles W. Bullock, proprietors, in 1883; incorporated in 1883; Mr. Phinney became its first postmaster on January 14, 1884; incorporated as a village in 1887; named for John M. Ashley, promoter and builder of the Toledo, Saginaw & Michigan Railroad spur to the town.⁸

Ashley, Kent County; Patrick M. Tully became its first postmaster on St. Patrick's day March 17, 1854, succeed by Sheldon Ashley, pioneer settler, in 1859, the office operating until July 8 1878, thus allowing for the opening of an office of the same name in Gratiot County in 1884. Editor's note: At this juncture we do not have any information indicating whether these two Ashleys, John M. Ashley or Sheldon Ashley were related to the Alfred H. Ashley families of Macomb County.

SURFING INTERNET

A good reference for surfing the net would be - "*Genealogy on the Internet*", by Carolyn Hutchinson Brown, 1997.⁹ Since our last issue when we encouraged others to start surfing the net we were given the opportunity to so during our recent visit with son Dan and Theresa Chinnery in Marinette, WI.

Genealogical Sites we explored were:**Cyndi's List of Genealogical Sites**

<http://www.oz.net/~cyndihow/sites.htm>

This web page services as direction center directing and connecting you to sites of your interest. From within this web page we

were able to go further, of interest was the USGENWEB system.

Genealogy Home Page

<http://www.genhomepage.com>

From the genhomepage we were able to jump to Dorset County England home page¹⁰

Dorset Genealogy Resources

The direct address is:

<http://www.home.sprynet.com/sprynet/btop/portland.htm>

I spent quite a bit of time at this location. What caught my eye was a topic titled "Dorset Marriage Index, 1538-1837." This index is supposedly quite complete for the referenced time period. The last date coinciding with the start of Civil registration in England. Significant to us is Dorset county is where Richard Lano and Martha Fudge were married and the roots of their ancestors. We intend to explore this further. Unfortunately the index was not on line so it means correspondence with England.

Genealogy's Most Wanted

<http://www.citynet.net/mostwanted>

This location as the title implies has provision for posting messages of surnames that you "most want". These messages must be posted to the sysop and edits and then posts. You can look for current postings. Looking for surnames of your interest.

OTHER e-mail addresses.

Addresses for several of our subscribers. We invite you to contact and get acquainted with the following: Others please advise if you have an e-mail address. Recent changes are underlined

ADDRESSES DELETED FROM THIS PDF FILE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION.

⁸ Walter Romig, L.H.D. *Michigan Place Names.*, Wayne University Press, 1986 edition.

⁹ Carol Brown, P.O. Box 2040, Roseburg, OR 97470-0413 or sidcarol@juno.com or techco@theriver.com.

¹⁰ At this juncture don't ask me how, as I can't even remember which choice I clicked on to get there.

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.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

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Donald Chinnery,
Apt #F70321, P.O. Box 44209,
Cincinnati OH 45244

DONALD CHINNERY
F#70321
P.O. BOX 44209
CINCINNATI, OH 45244

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