

Letters from Home

Amabel, Oct. 29, 1878
(Ontario, Canada)

Mr ever dear Harriett¹,

I suppose by this time you will be looking for a letter. I waited until I could tell that William² has returned from England. I had a letter yesterday, he came home about the 24th. He must have done well for he is going away again in about a week or 10 days. Emma seems pretty sad about it, but if he can make money I suppose that's his only aim. It's getting late in the season and I shall be very anxious until his return. I was quite surprised to hear that Johnny³ had given up his business, but I think if he gets constant employment he will do better. I haven't seen or spoken to Eliz.⁴ for the past 2 months. I shall be very glad when she leaves. I heard from strangers that Lenny was to have been here last Saturday, but he did not come. The cause of the dispute is this: Last spring Jim's⁵ Mother Mrs Haines was sick, Eliz. went out, left her children and stopped there nearly three weeks without pay. Martha⁶ and James went to and fro and they both told of her shameful behavior with Charley Clifford⁷, things that I could

not write. I told them I would not believe unless I could see myself. When she came home he came with her, and his boy she was going to board. I persuaded her not to, and told her not to encourage him, for she would get a bad name. I told her she was silly to get another husband, but if she did to get a person of credit, not to think of a man with another wife living.

She flew in a towering passion. Mother she said, I do like Charlie and I would marry him tomorrow⁸ if I was sure he could get a divorce, but he will get one in the fall. We had

Letters from Home

Our theme for this issue of The Four Drive is *Letters from Home*. These letters should provide an incite to life 100 years ago. While one of the letters is more recent it reminisces of about the same time period. We have added footnotes where appropriate to the letters to identify individuals, happenings and locations.

several such talks, to the same purpose. George told her he would put him off the place, and one night he went down to do it. He went in one door, Charlie went out at the other.

Then she and George had a terrible fuss. He told her she should not stay on the place if she encouraged him there. I then met him at Martha's and I told him I thought it very wrong and if he had any respect for her character he would not go there and stay there until 11 O'clock at night. Just a lone women. He ought to be ashamed. He stayed away then for about 6 weeks, she meeting him at Martha's. I then went down to her house the same as ever. She was very kind to me and we were very friendly except on the one thing. I told her if he came there again I would stay away. He went again. George forbid her coming to the house. He is there now every day before I am up and after night and any time as if it was his own house. They go to dancing sprees, staying until morning, they go berrying, go to the fishing ground. and last Sunday they went about 4 miles to

¹ Our first letter is addressed to Harriett Fitch nee Lano by her mother Martha Weston Lano. Harriett's father Richard Lano died in 1867 and Martha was living at this time with son-in-law and daughter George and Agnes Naomi Gates. This letter was written sometime after Harriett and husband John returned to Michigan. We know this from information that son Charles Wesley Fitch was born in Ontario while the family was visiting and helping out on various projects.

² William would be husband of daughter Emma. We have never been sure of the exact spelling of their last name - Hinde, Hindes, Hines, etc.

³ John Henry Fitch husband of Harriett.

⁴ Daughter Elizabeth Snook Lano married to Edward White.

⁵ Probably James Clifford husband of daughter Martha.

⁶ Daughter Martha Weston Lano (b. 18 Aug. 1839.).

⁷ I believe Charley Clifford to be brother of James Clifford.

⁸ My record shows that she married Edward White, but I do not have any dates for Edward nor marriage. Were their children by this marriage. What was her marital status at this particular point in time.?

a funeral. Every person say that they are married. Whether they are I cannot say. He has shut up his house in Allenford and makes his stopping place at Martha's. He gave her a new best dress last week and a half pkg. of tea. Now Harriett, this is causing me more trouble than you all did when you were yound. It's wearing me out. And see what an example for her children. I do pray for her. It's all I can do, for she won't hear persuasion. It seems very hard to live so near each other and not speak, I would rather she was a thousand miles away. Now my dear Harriett, I must bring my scribble to a close. Agnes sends her love. She is very poorly and complaining she has much to do. She milks 3 cows. And she has a yound man-the school teacher-to board, wash and mend for. Times are so hard. We do a great many things that would not do but for hard times. And I am so weak and poorly all the time, this trouble making me worse, that I cannot help her much. Give my love to Johnny. Kiss the children for me. And believe me your affectionate

Mother

Martha Weston Lano

God Bless You All

Harriston, Feb. 22, 1875

My Dear Sister Harriett⁹

You will think I am long in answering your welcome letter but I have been so unnerved and out of sorts with one thing and another that I did not feel fit to sit down and write. I was sorry you all had such a bad time going up, but if you waited for better weather I think you would have had worse, for I never knew such weather as we have had since. I don't see how you can get to Kincardine yet, the roads will be so very bad. I have had Mr. and Mrs. Doubledee¹⁰ here and visit. I don't know how they got home. I have not heard. They said the roads was bad when they came. It took them 3 days; and they were far worse when they went back. Mr. and Mrs. Hardy and all there family has been to see us. And Mr. and

⁹ This letter is written by Harriett's sister Emma Fudge Lano married to William Hindes. You will note from the dates that it was written 3 years before the letter by Harriett's mother. Harriett and husband John Fitch would probably have been living in Antrim County, Michigan at this time. He, John, having received his citizenship papers on 16 February 1875. Shortly after they did relocate to Woodstock, Ontario.

¹⁰ Mr. and Mrs Doubledee probably refers to Edward Doublede and wife Margaret nee Ficht. Margaret being sister to John Henry Fitch. We know they were living in Ontario at the time as daughter Clarissa was born 18 Nov 1877 in Woodstock.

Mrs. John McTavash from Harwick. So you see I have had lots of company since you left. But I have been very poorly. Don't feel much like having company. When William loaded his Pork thinking then he was going to Toronto the next day, he wanted me to go too. He would not take no for a answer. But I thought I was better at home; he thought it would do me good. But I did not want to get stuck in a snow drift. The cars is never up since that is on the Narrow????¹¹ Willie was at Wroxeter last week. He was at Harpers all day. It stormed so he did not come home. so he went to see them Gibbs. Wife is still there, she is not gone yet. I have never been to Harriston since you was here. So you see I don't go out much. The New ME Chapel was opened 2 weeks ago. They had a tea meeting the Monday the 2 boys went. Martha Aim(?) was going but it was such a stormy night she did not go. One of the Ice Cakes they sold fetched 45 dollars. They got the Chapel out of debt and \$300. over. Don't you think that was good? And such a stormy time as they had. I think I not must say goodbye. I don't think I have any more news to tell you. You must write and tell us when you are coming and some one will meet you at the Station.

I remain your loving Sister,
Emma

Jan 23, 1907

Dear Daughter¹²

We received your letter yesterday was glad to hear from you but sorrow to hear that you was not feeling well. I am improving slowly but sometimes just able to do my chores but we have good neighbors. Charlie Stearns came over last Sunday and split some wood. ___ was over one day and split some. We have everything quite comfortable. last week Friday Charlie Fitch¹³ brought up from town 1640 lbs coal and I guess we will have enough to run us through the winter. I wanted to be on safe side Since the first of September we have paid out \$98.28 for hay, straw and coal. 3 1/4 tons Hay, 3 tons of straw nearly 4 tons coal, 5 cord wood. Bran and oil meal. Our hay will run us to the springs if we can get

¹¹ The first two letters reproduced herein are typewritten copies of the original. The transcriber apparently had trouble deciphering some of the original handwriting. We have no information as to the original transcriber or location of the original letters.

¹² Dear Daughter, referring to daughter Estella Hansen nee Rose written by her father Andrew Jackson Rose. Andrew died approximately one year later at age 69. They were living in Summitt. The Hansens lived on a farm NE of Ludington.

¹³ Charles Wesley Fitch, son-in-law married to Ethel Vivian Rose.

some one to work . Ma is feeling fairly well today she is quite well - we have a little sleighing today. We've received a letter from Mabel last week - they are well our Christmas presents are - I received a pair of heavy winter shoes rubber and leather high tops Ethel gave me a cup and saucer and ma an apron. Mrs Turner gave ma a netting collar and a chamsons skin to wipe her glasses with. Lew gave ma a vegetable dish.

Did Neils receive a paper from Farm Progress I sent in the names a received as a premium a Family Record it is nice one and will want our family names _____ and then have it framed.

Yes, we take the Young Peoples Weekly with the Michigan farmer the first of the year. Would like to see you but its not run too many chances on the weather. I have not been down to the store Since Saturday after Xmas and I do not know when I will go. I guess we are in for the winter. I have sent down after some medicine of Dr Graz he gave me some in the fall and I felt good until I had this cold come on me.

Charlie Stearns trial came last Saturday - she did not appear against him.

How is Neils - you do not say anything about him.

Our cow is doing well this winter. When you come Ma wants to know before hand so she can have something to eat.

Our love to all

Father-----

December 19, 1951

Dear Charles¹⁴:

I just received your Christmas card which carries a very interesting message.

It is nice to know that you are down where it is warm and comfortable while we are experiencing the coldest weather we have experienced for years at this time of year, and we had about 14" of snow, all coming in a couple of days. We are promised 10 below tomorrow night and then there may be a break in the weather.

This is pretty tough on poor people, but those of us who have warm homes, warm clothing, and plenty of food, it becomes merely a matter of routine.

¹⁴ Addressed to Charles Wesley Fitch by Thomas Gatke under letter head of the Gatke Corporation. While comparatively a recent letter it reminisces of happenings 50 years earlier. The letter and following footnotes we conclude that the period would be the early 1890's.

I am thinking of the changes that come in our life. You mention the cold you experienced during a horse on the mail route, but it is nice to know that you patterned your life so that you can get a lot of comfort and enjoyment as you are getting now instead of experiencing the suffering that comes with old age in many cases.

You ask, do I ever tell people I was a mason. In answer I will say there is hardly a month but what I have occasion to tell of the things I did as a young fellow, and I always mention my experience as a bricklayer. I can hardly imagine a boy these days doing what we did when we were twelve years old, at which age we were expected to be able to do a man's job and some of us were even better than the average man.¹⁵

I like to think of the many jobs I did during the erection of the Court House¹⁶. You may not know that I painted all of the metal work on the tower and all of the cornices that pretty much surround the building. There were no painters in Ludington who had worked that high so the job was given to me, and I can remember crawling all around the building with a paint pot and brush, hanging out of the gutters with one knee in and the other leg out without any more thought or falling than though I was on the ground.

I could relate any number of such experiences, but one I recall you would not know about. Every day there was a contest at noon to test the strength of all the workmen. This test consisted of pushing a wheelbarrow loaded with brick up the runway from the ground to the first floor, and at twelve years old I was able to push up more brick than any man on the job, including my brother Bill¹⁷ who, you know, was pretty much of a giant in strength.

¹⁵ Thomas Gatke's parents were Charles T. Gatke and Catherine Fitch. Catherine being sister to Charles' father John Henry Fitch, making Charles and Tom first cousins.

¹⁶ The Mason County Court House was built in 1893. We do not have any birth dates for the children of the Gatkes but from this letter we believe Tom to have been born ca. 1880 while Charles we know was in born 1878.

¹⁷ We do not have detail information regarding the Gatke siblings other than we know them to be Charles, William, Edward, Mary, Lillian, Ellen and Thomas.

The next feat of skill was as a woodcutter, when brother Ed and I broke all records for cutting wood, and there were many days that we sawed, split and piled as much as twelve cords of wood, which, you will remember, was used in the steamboat "Lillian G"

Then, you know, through the summer I became a guide on Hamlin lake and would row a flat-bottom boat from daylight until dark with as many as four men in the boat.

I look back at this as more or a record than an athlete would who broke sprint records, or who won a tennis championship, or even a golf championship, and I have done the latter.

I have carried the results of all this exercise, which may have been responsible for a good sound body and good health, and perhaps it may be responsible for a good clear mind; at least it gave me energy that has lasted me until now, and if God is willing it would seem I could continue at the present pace for another ten years or more.

I have not laid bricks or sawed any wood, or piloted any rowboats since those kid days, but I have made the most of my time and I am still trying to break records in the things I undertake, and the combination of a severe hard driving Father with great physical strength and endurance, who was an exacting disciplinarian, and a Mother who had all the tenderness and sweetness and love that could be poured into a human being, I should have a psychology necessary to overcome obstacles one encounters these days yet do it with a smile; and for all these things I am really everlastingly grateful.

You little thought that your question regarding my having laid brick and your driving a horse on the mail route would bring out such a long story as this, but there is much I could add if I had the time for I can think back and remember most incidences of my Life almost to the cradle, and I want to mention one time when I went to your farm, when you and I must have been eight or nine years old, I rode home with Uncle John¹⁸, your Father, during

strawberry time, I was going to pick strawberries and make some money. We arrived at the farm in time to do a little picking before supper time, then after supper you boys had to milk cows and do the chores while I rode the little old grey mare that I have a vision of at this time, Then I sat on the fence while you boys finished the chores, after which I expected we would play some baseball or have the same kind of fun we would have in the city, but it was time to go to bed. Actually, we went to bed before it was dark and much against my will. We slept on the floor although we had a bed tick and bed clothing. It seemed I had hardly gone to sleep when it was 4 o'clock and time to get up, and it was still dark, Needless to say, that was a more strenuous life than I was accustomed to and when the wagon was loaded and ready for town your little cousin Tom was right up on the wagon seat with your father, and that was the beginning and the very end of my farming experience, and it all seems only yesterday.

You ask, are we going West for the winter, and I will say our present plans call for our leaving for Arizona about February 1st, and ordinarily we get back during the last week of March. We go to Chandler, Arizona, which is 20 miles from Phoenix. It is a gorgeous spot and the climate is absolutely perfect - bright, warm sunshiny days and cool nights that require two and three blankets. Hardly ever do we have rain, and I play 18 holes of golf practically every day. Golf has been my greatest sport ever since my baseball days ended, and if it doesn't sound too much like bragging, I would like to tell you that I have been champion of all the golf clubs I have been a member of, and at present and for the past three years I have been Illinois Seniors Class "A" Champion, which means shooting the lowest score for all members seventy years of age or older. Our membership is made up of members from all over the state. We have a tournament in the spring and a championship tournament in September, and we always look forward toward these meetings that bring many grand fellows in age brackets from fifty-five, sixty, sixty-five, and seventy altogether, and there is a reunion twice a year as a result. I play regularly at the country club in Oak Park where we live during the summer and I get to play rather infrequently at Lincoln Hills where I have been able to keep pace with young fellows I helped to train while in their growing up period

18 John Henry Fitch

until now most of them are in their forties, and nearly all of them are still looking forward to the time they will be able to defeat their "Uncle Tom" as they all call me.

Naturally, Charles, I have made many friends, and these friendships I value as a great achievement, and as time goes by we make new friends but value the old ones even more.

I wish you would make it a point to drop in on us at Epworth¹⁹ - give us a telephone call to be sure that I am home as I make periodical trips through the summer. We can have a good visit and exchange experiences we will never have time to write about.

May I use this opportunity to wish you and Grace and all your people A MERRY CHRISTMAS and a NEW YEAR Filled With abundance of health and happiness and everything that is good?

Sincerely,
Tom

Save those letters

We have attempted to present to you some interesting letters from the past. We hope it will encourage you to go through your old boxes and dig out any that you have. I would appreciate receiving copies for my files and possible publication in the future.

Abstracts of Title

An **abstract**, in law, is a summary of a case or a document. Abstracts are often made of titles to real estate, giving the names of past owners and describing liens, easements, or other agreements affecting rights to the property, in order to protect the purchaser against defects in the title.

Those of us who years ago purchased a new home or a parcel of land are probably quite familiar with an abstract of title. The seller was usually required to supply and up to date "abstract". Current tend rather than providing an abstract is to procure title insurance which protects the purchaser against defects in titles.

None the less the "abstract" more properly referred to as "**Abstract of Title to _____ land description 20 _____**".

What a wonderful document for tracing family history. To give you an idea of the information contained we will be following through with the details from an abstract as related to the house owned by my mother and dad on North James Street, Ludington, MI. This abstract was prepared by the Mason County Abstract Association and begins with a one page map showing the sections within the townships of Mason County. The first entry indicates that this abstract begins with the ownership by the United States and is of the following lands in said county, to wit; Lot Nine(9) of Block Fourteen (14) of Tinkham's Addition to the Village, now city, of Ludington, according to the plat record of the office of the Register of Deeds of Mason County, Michigan, being a part of the North half of the North East quarter of Section Fifteen (15), Town Eighteen (18) North, Range Eighteen (18) West.

The next page shows a small plot map of Block Fourteen and the surrounding streets.

We now begin with succeeding entries. We will list enough of them to give an idea of the type of information provided in this document.

¹⁹ Epworth Heights, located just north of Ludington, MI, originally established as a Methodist summer resort area.

²⁰ The complete legal description of the land would be provided here.

No. 1

United States
to Kind of Instrument, Grant
Flint & Pere Marquette
Railway Company

Description: The land described in caption with other land, Patent not recorded. As per United States Tract Book. (Congress by an Act approved June 3, 1856 made a grant of certain lands to the State of Michigan to aid in construction of certain Railroads and the State of Michigan by an Act approved February 14, 1857 granted to and conferred upon the Flint & Pere Marquette Railway Company so much of said lands as were granted by said Act of Congress to aid in the construction of a railroad from Pere Marquette to Flint.

Entries 2..7 entailed related transfers to trustees and recording of mortgages.

No. 8

Covers transfer by Railroad and its trustees to
Liber 3, Page 526
July 8, 1872
Recorded July 23, 1872
Warranty Deed.

John F. Tinkham,

Description: The land described in the caption with other land . First parties warrant against acts of said Railway Company.

No. 9

John F. Tinkham
Liber 1 of Plate, Page 7
Sept 20, 1871
Recorded Oct 10, 1871

to
Tinkham's Addition
to the
Village of Ludington.

Description: The land described in caption with other land.

No. 10

Begins a series entries, the first of which being dated in 1875 for processing the estate of John F. Tinkham.

We now. have series of entries related to various purchases & mortgages attached to the property bringing us to the purchase of the property by the Woodlands the predecessor owners before my parents. This purchase occurred in 1920. Mrs. Woodland died in 1944. We here find two entries related to Probate Court orders for

distribution of the estate(property) to Albert Woodland and his children.

The abstract does not show the date my parents purchased this property but the date of certification by Clay F. Olmstead is December 19, 1945. The warranty deed held by my parents was dated December 7, 1945 and recorded 2 January 1946. As a stamp collector I am interested to note that it carried three revenue stamps for a total amount of \$6.05.

Our genealogy research has shown us that land transactions can be a very important source of information²¹. All of the information in this abstract could of course be obtained by searching through the register of deeds records and the probate court records. But why reinvent the wheel? The "abstract" has it all summarized for you. So hang on to any old "**Abstracts of Title**" you may come across. Usually they would have been passed on to the purchaser with the latest entries added. This one wasn't because when selling the house we had to provide "**Title Insurance**", thus the abstract would no longer be used for this particular piece of property.

Old Wills

Utilization of probate records and old wills can be an important source of information to the genealogist and aid further with their research. Amongst our genealogy papers we ran across a copy of a presentation "Old Wills".

[We have no information as to the author of the paper we do know that a lot of the material was excerpted from an article by John W. Heisey titled "Old Wills and Settlements: Who got what and Why"]

It seems that our ancestors never had a will setting forth a list of the heirs. We know they died and had property and we must look to the rules governing the settlement of intestate cases to understand how estates were settled.

21 "Deeds Can Provide a Wealth of Information" by Chris Dixon, The Four Drive, Volume I, No. 3 page 1.

First one must understand the European practice of primogeniture. Webster's Dictionary defines it as the exclusive right of inheritance belonging to the first born. This practice which was prevalent in certain of the thirteen colonies explains why the eldest son inherited everything.

Colonies practicing primogeniture were George, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. The other seven colonies followed the more common practices as outlined below.

Connecticut: The eldest son got a double share of the estate, while the widow claimed her dower, plus a third of the remaining estate.

Delaware: The eldest son received a double share of the estate, while the widow one third. If there were no children the widow received half of the estate.

Maryland: The state followed the usual matter of dividing the estate with the eldest son getting a larger share and the widow accepting her dower.

Massachusetts: The eldest son got a double share of the deceased father's estate. The widow received her dower. If there were no children the estate went to the next of kin. This was the remainder of the estate after the widow's dower was taken out.

New Hampshire: The eldest son was allowed a double share and the widow got her dower, plus 1/3 of the estate. If there were no children the widow received half of the estate. The rest went to the next of kin.

Pennsylvania: The eldest son received a double share and half the estate went to the widow. If there were no children the residue of the estate went to the next of kin. The widow had life interest in the estate which was not always the case in other colonies.

Rhode Island: This colony had no laws governing the division of estates for intestate persons and property was usually passed on through wills.

The dower was the portion of money a woman brought to a marriage. It might be other goods, too. It belonged to her and her husband had the use of it during their married life. He was not allowed to dispose of it, but was supposed to insure that when needed, the dower would be taken out of the family estate.

Quite often the dower was divided among the children of a deceased wife, if the husband remarried and later died. Then the children of the first marriage demanded their share of the estate, causing some hot court battles.

Often a widow and widower would marry, but first they had legal articles drawn up to spell out exactly who got what from the estate, and what each person was to bring to that marriage. These were called antenuptial agreements and are still used today.

In listing the children and in setting down what each child got in the distribution of an estate the eldest son was usually listed first. Then followed the other sons in order of birth, and finally the daughters, in the order of birth. However, don't always assume this is correct as to the order of birth. Check this information against other sources.

When looking over amounts of monies or other goods awarded to the children in an estate settlement it is often possible to determine which one was the eldest by the amount of the share.

Searching in the probate court records where your ancestor died may be a rewarding experience. Wills are particularly interesting to read. And when you know it is your ancestor who wrote it the greater is your interest. Many family traditions can be

either confirmed or refuted by a will. Typically the number of people who left a will was a much smaller number than those listed in the administrations records. But don't despair because you do not find will. Much information can be gleaned from careful examination of the intestate records. Even the sale records tell a tale. Learn to check the Probate Court records early in your research.

Some states do not have probate court records by name but rather refer to it as surrogate records. New York for example is one whereby if you desire to research old probate records (wills, estate administrations, etc) you would go to the Surrogate Records. **surrogate** - a probate court judge in charge of probating wills and administering estates.

FITCH FAMILY REUNION

Saturday July 24, 1999

The annual family reunion for descendants of Charles Wesley Fitch and Ethel Vivian Rose will be held on Saturday, July 24, 1999 at Memorial Tree Park, Ludington, Michigan. Children and grandchildren of Alice Fitch Chinnery are this years hosts. For information you may contact:

Lucille - handlebarg@aol.com
Don - dongeni@aol.com
Pamela - pmileskln@aol.com

Friends and relatives not descendants of Charles and Ethel are also welcome. dgc

GATES FAMILY REUNION 2000

Descendants of George Gates and Agnes Naomi Lano will hold a reunion in Ontario the summer of the year 2000. Descendants of Richard Lano and Martha Weston Fudge parents of Agnes are also invited. Future issues will update the information to keep you posted.

VITAL RECORDS

MARRIAGES

Laurel Snell and Timothy Alliston were united in marriage on May 22,1999 in Tellico Village Community Church, Loudon, TN. Laurel the daughter of Lucille Rogers and late James Snell.

DEATHS

Lawrence (Larry) Bertrand Lawrence (b. 2 Feb. 1948) passed away Friday, April 23, 1999 in Warton, Ontario, Canada. Funeral services were held on April 26. Larry was married to Marilyn McKinnon September 3, 1967 in Owen Sound, Ontario. They had three children Vaughn, Shawn and Ronald. Larry was a g-g-g-grandson of Richard and Martha Fudge Lano.

William Richard Gates died at age 67 on May 11, 1999 in Hepworth, Ontario. Burial was on May 15th in Zion Cemetery Hepworth. He was married to Dawn Cameron and they haad 4 children Phyliss(Dave Highfield), Paul, John and Marty. Richard was g-g-grandson of Richard and Martha Fudge Lano.

Evelyn Bruder nee Dawson (b. October 3, 1910) passed away on May 17, 1999 in Detroit, Michigan. Burial was on May 19, 1999 in Livonia, Michigan. Evelyn was a great granddaughter of Richard and Martha Fudge Lano.

Virginia McDonald nee DeMorest died in Belding Michigan on May 7, 1999. She was the wife of Louis McDonald and they had two children. Angelique(Shawn Montgomery) and Larry McDonald. Two grandchildren Myles and Landon Montgomery. Her parents were Robert DeMorest and Irene Marsack.

THE FOUR DRIVE - 1999 SPONSORS

The cost of reproduction and postage for mailing The Four Drive in 1999 has been sponsored by Lucille Rogers, Carliton and Carol Finch, Marie and Charles Rumfola and an anonymous donor. Thank you very much.

SURFING the INTERNET

Where have you been surfing? Have you found any exciting sites?

Here's a some web sites for you to try:
**BY THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
 OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, SALT LAKE
 CITY**

<http://www.familysearch.org>

LDS is now on line. Portions of the web site is still under development.

**BY OLD BUNCOMBE COUNTY
 GENEALOGY SOCIETY**

<http://www.OBCGS.com>

I have listed OBCGS [Old Buncombe Couty Genealogy Society] web site again as the url has changed. The web site can still be reached with the old url but this is more direct. Essentially the differance is the society now has it's own domain. Lots of genealogy links on this web site. A large portion of the society's data is now accessible on line.

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

ANNUALLY I request subscribers to The Four drive to reaffirm their interest in continuing to receive the newsletter. The last issue of 1998 (Volume II, #6) included a colored sheet for recipients to return for extension of their subscription.

To say the least, I was very disappointed with the response. But, then maybe the renewal request is taking care of the situation where the newsletter has been received but set aside and not read. Naturally this is what I am trying to avoid, thus, the reason for annually requesting a positive response to contine the delivery of the newsletter.

I am sending a friendly reminder along with a copy of this issue to those delinquents that I feel could very well be an oversight on their part. This same mailing will also include a special annoucement and invitation to the Fitch Family reunion being held in Ludington on July 24, 1999. Chinnery's being the host.

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 NEHGS

[New England Historical and Genealogical Society.] Information obtained regarding the Gutterson Family. Excerpt from "The Gutterson Family", compiled by G.L. Gutterson and others, Fair Haven, Vermont, November 1, 1927

THE GUTTERSON FAMILY

WILLIAM GUTTERSON was in this country at an early date. His name appears as a holder of a share Plum Island in 1644, again as a witness of the will of Joseph Morse of Newbury, Mass., April 24, 1646. He died June 26, 1666. We know of his wife's name "Elizabeth". in administration of will.

CHILDREN:

Susannah, born abt 1654

William, born Sept. 20, 1658

Mary, born Aug 8, 1660

John, born Mar 26, 1662

Sarah, born July 3, 1665

Our interest in the Gutterson family is through daughter Susannah. Unfortunately the remainder of the family lines provided in this compilation had was descendants through the children other than Susannah. By a hand written note in the margins Susannah's marriage to Samuel Preston was indicated as being 27 May 1672. Susannah and Samuel Preston are 7*g-grandparents of your editor Donald Chinnery.

RECENTLY REVIEWED

A GENEALOGICAL REGISTER of the inhabitants of the Town of Litchfield, Conn. by George C. Woodruff. Originally published by the author in 1845. Recently reprinted by Clearfield publishing company.

Litchfield, Connecticut is of interest to us because Joseph Heath and Mercy Adams settled there. Their children Jacob(Aug 19, 1764), Joseph(Feb 4, 1766), Susanna (Jan 4, 1768), Lois (March 30, 1770), Sybil (May 29, 1774), Waitstill (Sept 7, 1776), Waitstill (Sept 4, 1778) and Aaron (Nov 19,1780) were all born there.

Joseph and Mercy are your editor's 4*g-grandparents being descended through their son Jacob. Marie Rumfola is descended through daughter Lois while Nancy Lanni is descended through son Joseph.

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

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.

PUBLISHERS STATEMENT

The F O U R D R I V E, a genealogy newsletter is published on irregular schedule by Donald Chinnery. Please let your family genealogists know about this newsletter.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

to this newsletter are free. If you wish to continue receiving this newsletter please acknowledge receipt of this newsletter with your comments and request to continue to the editor . [phone 828 665 7853]

Donald Chinnery,
3606 Florham Place
Asheville, NC 28806
dongeni@aol.com

DONALD CHINNERY
3606 Florham Place
ASHEVILLE, NC 28806

FIRST CLASS