

JAMES FITCH FAMILY HISTORY

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James Fitch Family History

PREFACE

At the end of this story, a table of vital statistics for the Fitch family is provided. This is a work in progress; new information would be most welcome.

We hope readers find the story interesting and contact me with additional information or corrections.

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James Fitch Family History

On Nov. 4, 1802, James Fitch, age 20, married Hannah Bradfield, age 16, in Frederick County, Md. That union resulted in the birth of Milien B., son (1803); Mortimer, son (1807); Adolphus, son (1810); Amanda A., daughter (1814); Dioclecian, son (1815); Malvina Ruth, daughter (1818); and Miranda Frances, daughter (1825). Hannah died sometime in 1829; her obituary has not been found.

On Dec. 23, 1828, James Fitch, age 46, married Ann Copelin, age unknown, in Frederick, Md. No issue has been found, and Ann's death date is unknown.

On December 11, 1828, the Canal Company let a contract to Thomas and Munroe for the construction of a lockhouse at Lock No. 26, Section No. 68. Work commenced in June 1829 and was completed in January 1830 for \$849.00. Canal company records identify this as Lockhouse No. 18; not every lock had a lockhouse. Some lock tenders were hired to tend multiple locks. The contract for the construction of Lock No. 26 was relet on March 14, 1829, to A. Knapp & Co. The completion date and excavation cost for Section 68 have not been determined. The lock and lockhouse stood unused until 1834, when the canal was completed to Harper's Ferry and water was admitted into the canal at that point. Lock No. 26 was identified as Fitch's Lock and then Woods Lock, suggesting that James Fitch was the first lock tender.¹

On Feb 22, 1834, James Fitch, age 52, married Mary Ann Frances Sarah Mullican, age 9, in Frederick, Md. That union resulted in Mary Moselle, daughter (1838); William Harrison, son (1841); John Townsend, son (1842); and James Ricard, son (1846). All these children were born when James Fitch tended Lock 26.

Starting on July 1, 1839, James Fitch, age 57, was paid \$150 per annum for tending Lock 26 on the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal.² He was paid the same amount on Feb. 1, 1840.

The 1840 census listed James Fitch, age 58, as living in the Medley District, Montgomery County, Md.³ James, at age 58, was the free white male 50 through 59. In addition, there were: one female under 5; one female 15 through 19; one female 20 through 29; and one female 30 through 39; for a total of five persons, with no slaves.

James Fitch was paid \$150 per annum to tend Lock 26 on June 1, 1841; May 31, 1842; May 31, 1845; Dec. 31, 1845; Dec. 31, 1846; Dec. 31, 1847; Dec. 31, 1848; and Dec. 31, 1850.

“The existence of grog shops in many of the lock houses continued to be a nuisance to the efficient operations of the canal. In May 1848, J. F. Lewis complained to the canal board that one of his boats had been damaged and its cargo of flour partially destroyed at Lock No. 26 because of the carelessness of James Fitch, the lock tender and his assistant. When the matter was investigated, it was found that the captain of the boat had been drinking when he arrived at the lock, and upon being informed that Fitch was repairing a break on the level below the lock,

¹ THE GEOLOGY AND ENGINEERING STRUCTURES of the CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL, by William E. Davies, Published 1999, p. 131.

² PAYROLL RECORDS FROM CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL COMPANY – 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, 1845 (2), 1846, 184, 1848 & 1850, available at <https://candocanal.org/payroll/>

³ 1840 census, Maryland, Montgomery County, Medley District.

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he had gone into the lock house to purchase more liquor. At midnight, the boat, which had been left untied near the canal banks, was found sinking to the bottom of the waterway, and the flour was floating on the surface of the water. The boat captain, who was drunk by this time, solicited the aid of the assistant lock keeper to recover some of the flour. With the aid of several other boatmen, the assistant recovered what flour he could. For his services, the assistant agreed to accept three barrels of flour and the lock tender too, one barrel of fine flour in payment of the captain's beverage bill. The board received the full report of this incident on June 5th.⁴

The 1850 census reported James Fitch, age 68, working as a Lock Keeper [Lock 26], in Medley District, Montgomery County, Md.⁵ Living with him were: Frances [Sarah], age 25, his wife; Mary, age 9, his daughter; William, age 7, his son; John, age 5, his son; and James, age 3, his son. He owned one slave, a 15-year-old female.⁶

The 1850 census listed Adolphus P. Fitch, age 40, as living in a Winchester, Virginia hotel.⁷ Living with him were: Mary, age 32, wife; Lewis, age 5, son; Gertrude, age 3, daughter; and [Emma], age 1, daughter. The data for the children does not match the family statistics.

On Feb. 26th, 1856, Nicholas W. Appleby, age 22, married Mary M. Fitch, age 17.

A young cow arrived at the Mortimer Fitch home, Mount Pleasant, Maryland, on Sept. 18th, 1857.⁸ The cow was a stray, had horns, and was red and white spotted. The owner was requested to come forward, prove property, pay charges, and take her away.

Adolphus P. Fitch died in 1860, before the census was taken; an obituary has not been found. The 1860 census listed Mary G. Fitch, age 42, [widow of Adolphus P. Fitch], as living with her father, Lewis P. Hartman, a druggist, in Winchester, Va.⁹ Living with her were: Lewis H., age 14, son; Gertrude A., age 12, daughter; Emma, age 10, daughter; and Flors, age 8, daughter. The data for Gertrude does not match the family statistics.

The 1860 census listed Nicholas Appleby, age 26, a farm laborer, living in Poolesville, Maryland, with his parents and siblings.¹⁰ Living with him was Mary, age 21, his wife; they had no children yet.

The Civil War began on April 12, 1861.

William Harrison Fitch enlisted on May 28, 1864, as a Sergeant with Company E, 11th Regiment, Maryland Infantry for 100 days. He mustered out on Sep. 28, 1864.

James Richard Fitch enlisted on May 31, 1864, as a corporal with Company D, 48th Regiment, Iowa Infantry for 100 days. He mustered out on Oct. 31, 1864, at Rock Island, Illinois.

⁴ Historic Resource Study: Chesapeake & Ohio Canal, by Harlan D. Unrau. August 2007, p. 802.

⁵ 1850 census, Maryland, Montgomery County, Medley District, enumerated on 9/5/1850, p. 20.

⁶ 1850 census, Slave Schedule, Maryland, Montgomery County, Medley District, enumerated on 4/5/1850, p. 8.

⁷ 1850 census, Virginia, Frederick County, Winchester, enumerated on 10/23/1850, p. 20.

⁸ *Examiner*, Frederick, Maryland, Wednesday, 10/7/1857, p. 3.

⁹ 1860 census, Virginia, Frederick County, Winchester, enumerated on 7/19/1860, p. 114.

¹⁰ 1860 census, Maryland, Montgomery County, Medley District, enumerated on 6/22/1860.

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Lewis Hartman Fitch enlisted on June 16, 1861, as a private (courier) at Winchester, Va., in the headquarters of Gen. Stonewall Jackson and continued until after the Gettysburg fight.¹¹ After the Gettysburg fight, he was in McNeill & Woodson's command in West, Va., and was at the capture of Gen. Cook and Gen. Kelly at Cumberland, Md. He surrendered with Capt. Woodson. He was paroled at New Market, Va., in 1865.

Lock No. 26 was damaged by Confederates in a raid on July 16, 1864.

The Civil War ended on April 9, 1865.

The 1870 census had Mary G. Fitch, age 47, as living with her father, Lewis P. Hartman, in Winchester, Va.¹² Living with her were: Gertrude, age 21, daughter; Emma, age 19, daughter; and Flors, age 17, daughter. Her son, Lewis H. Fitch, had gone off with the Confederates and remained in Alabama afterwards.

Lewis H. Fitch, age 25, married Fannie E. Hobdy, age 24, on Dec. 21, 1871, in Snow Hill, Wilcox County, Alabama. He was appointed post master of Snow Hill, Alabama on Jan. 6, 1873.

A newspaper reported: "Mrs. G. Fitch, ninety-three years old, widow of Adolphus P. Fitch, and daughter of Daniel L. [*sic*. Lewis P.] Hartman, died Thursday at her home in Winchester, Va."¹³

¹¹ U. S. Census of Confederate Soldiers, Alabama, Wilcox County, 1907.

¹² 1870 census, Virginia, Frederick County, Winchester, enumerated on 8/11/1870, p. 66.

¹³ *Evening Star*, Washington, D. C., Saturday, 11/19/1910, p. 18.

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VITAL STATISTICS OF JAMES FITCH FAMILY

Name	Rel.	Birth	Married	Died	Born in
James Fitch	Hus.	1782	11/4/1802	4/27/1852	Virginia
Hannah Bradfield (1st)	Wife	1786		1829	Maryland
<i>Milien B. Fitch</i>	Son	1803		1839	
<i>Mortimer Fitch</i>	Son	1807	twice	1870	Virginia
<i>Adolphus P. Fitch</i>	Son	1810	11/22/1842	1860	Virginia
<i>Amanda A. Fitch (Warthan)</i>	Dau	1814	7/1/1834		Virginia
<i>Dioclesian Fitch</i>	Son	6/22/1815	never	1/26/1886	Virginia
<i>Melvina Ruth Fitch (Trail)</i>	Dau	1825	12/19/1843	3/31/1878	Maryland
<i>Miranda Frances Fitch</i>	Dau	1825		10/13/1889	Virginia
James Fitch	Hus.	1782	12/23/1828	4/27/1852	Maryland
Ann Copelin (2nd)	Wife				
James Fitch	Hus.	1782	2/22/1834	4/27/1852	Maryland
Mary Ann Frances Sarah Mullican (3rd)	Wife	1825			
<i>Mary Moselle Fitch</i>	Dau	1838	never		Maryland
<i>William Harrison Fitch</i>	Son	3/30/1841	never	9/22/1918	Maryland
<i>John Townsend Fitch</i>	Son	12/10/1842	never	12/24/1900	Maryland
<i>James Richard Fitch</i>	Son	12/1/1846		3/19/1887	Maryland
End of 1st Generation					
Mortimer Fitch	Hus	1807	2/16/1829	1870	Virginia
Rebecca Snouffner (1st)	Wife	1807		7/26/1856	
<i>John J. Fitch</i>	Son	12/10/1829		1913	Maryland
<i>Mortimer Columbus Fitch</i>	Son	1/12/1834		1933	Maryland
<i>James Francis Fitch</i>	Son	1836		5/19/1887	Maryland
<i>Mary Hannah. Fitch (Harn)</i>	Dau	5/2/1837	1/12/1858	7/25/1902	Maryland
<i>Katherine Fitch</i>	Dau	1839			Maryland
<i>Melvina Frances Fitch</i>	Dau	6/24/1840		1920	Maryland
<i>Anna B. Fitch</i>	Dau	9/8/1843		12/10/1847	Maryland
<i>James Richard Fitch</i>	Son	12/1/1846	-1870	3/19/1887	Maryland

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Name	Rel.	Birth	Married	Died	Born in
Mortimer Fitch	Hus	1807	12/11/1858	1870	Virginia
Henrietta Stimmel Burgess (2 nd)	Wife	1812		1880	
Adolphus P. Fitch	Hus	1810	11/22/1842	1860	Virginia
Mary Gertrude Hartman	Wife	2/1819		11/17/1910	Virginia
<i>Lewis Hartman Fitch</i>	Son	10/21/1846	12/21/1871	1/15/1927	Virginia
<i>Emma Fitch</i> (Miller)	Dau	11/4/1850		1/24/1933	Virginia
<i>Gertrude Anna Fitch</i>	Dau	10/1852			Virginia
<i>Flora Fitch</i>	Dau	1853		6/1886	Virginia
Martin Warthan	Hus	1810	7/1/1834		
Amanda A. Fitch	Wife	1814			Virginia
James Lawrence Trail	Hus	1817	12/19/1843	10/23/1871	
Melvina Ruth Fitch	Wife	1824		3/31/1878	Maryland
<i>Hannah Lawrence Trail</i> (Minter)	Dau	1846		3/2/1871	Maryland
<i>William Edward Trail</i>	Son	2/16/1852		1926	Maryland
<i>Rebecca Ellen Noble Trail</i>	Dau	1/23/1855		1918	Maryland
<i>Richard Mortimore Trail</i>	Son	1857		1891	Maryland
<i>Charles Henry Trail</i>	Son	6/21/1861		1934	Maryland
<i>Mary Ann Trail</i>	Dau	1863			
<i>Amanda Harriet Trail</i>	Dau	1866			
Nicholas Watkins Appleby	Hus	3/9/1834	2/26/1856	4/25/1903	Maryland
Mary W Fitch	Wife	1840		8/20/1892	Maryland
<i>John Fitch Appleby</i>	Son	4/27/1861	9/28/1886	10/28/1950	Maryland
<i>Thomas J. Appleby</i>	Son	3/1863		1914	Maryland
<i>Henry Elsworth Appleby</i>	Son	2/15/1865		5/17/1932	Maryland
<i>Ida Florence "Addie" Appleby</i>	Dau	9/1868		1938	Maryland
<i>Oliver Grandville Appleby</i>	Son	12/5/1869		9/26/1956	Maryland
<i>Charles Appleby</i>	Son	1869			Maryland
<i>Anna M. Appleby</i>	Dau	1873		1912	Maryland
<i>Emma J. Appleby</i>	Dau	11/1874		1945	Maryland

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Name	Rel.	Birth	Married	Died	Born in
<i>Francis Melvina Appleby</i>	Dau	5/14/1878		4/25/1912	Maryland
End of 2nd Generation					
James W. Harn	Hus	1828	1/12/1858	2/15/1896	
Mary Hannah Fitch	Wife	5/1837		7/25/1902	Maryland
<i>Ida Rebecca Harn</i>	Dau	10/26/1858		2/17/1877	Maryland
Lewis Hartman Fitch	Hus	10/21/1846	12/21/1871	1/15/1927	Virginia
Fannie E. Hobdy	Wife	1847		1939	Alabama
<i>Edmond Hodby Fitch</i>	Son	10/22/1872		4/10/1901	Alabama
<i>Bradfield Charlie Fitch</i>	Son	2/22/1875		9/26/1914	Alabama
<i>Harold L. Fitch</i>	Son	6/1878			Alabama
T. Reese Miller	Hus				
Emma Fitch	Wife	11/4/1850		1/24/1933	Virginia
John Fitch Appleby	Hus	4/27/1861	9/28/1886	10/28/1950	Maryland
Rena May Morgan (1 st)	Wife	1871		10/15/1902	
<i>Edward Harrison Appleby</i>	Son	2/11/1889		1970	Pennsylvania
<i>Estelle Manervia Appleby</i>	Dau	1/14/1892		1982	Pennsylvania
<i>Walter Leroy Appleby</i>	Son	12/8/1893		1982	Pennsylvania
<i>Bessie Ada Appleby</i>	Dau	8/19/1896		1980	Pennsylvania
<i>Bertha Anna Appleby</i>	Dau	2/17/1897		1979	Pennsylvania
<i>Ruth Appleby</i>	Dau	8/1899			Pennsylvania
<i>John Appleby</i>	Son	5/24/1902		1994	Pennsylvania
John Fitch Appleby	Hus	4/27/1861	12/21/1920	10/28/1950	Maryland
Louise E. Ort (2 nd)	Wife	1869		10/30/1949	

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Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, MD, Will Book __, p. __, recorded __/__/1852.

In the name of God, Amen, I, James Fitch of Montgomery County, in the State of Maryland, being sick and weak in body, but of sound and disposing mind, memory, and understanding, considering the certainty of death and the uncertainty of the time thereof, and being desirable to settle my worldly affairs, and thereby the better prepared to leave this world when it shall please God to call me home, do therefore make and publish this my Last Will and Testament in manner and for following, trust and especially I commit my soul into the hands of almighty God, and my body to the earth to be duly buried discreetly. My will and desire is that all just debts and funeral expenses be first paid out of my estate by my daughter, Amanda Fitch. Thirdly, I give and bequeath unto my son, Milien B. Fitch, children, heirs of his body, one dollar to share and share alike. Fourthly, I give and bequeath unto my son, Deoclecion Fitch, the sum of one dollar. Fifthly, I give and bequeath unto my son, Mortimore Fitch, the sum of one dollar. Sixthly, I give and bequeath unto my son Adolphus P. Fitch, the sum of one dollar. Seventhly, I give and bequeath unto my daughter, Amanda A. Warthan, wife of Martin Warthan, the sum of one dollar. Eighthly, I give and bequeath unto my daughter, Melvina R. Trail, wife of James L. Trail, the sum of one dollar. Ninthly, I devise and bequeath all the residue of my property and estate to my two daughters and three sons hereinafter named, to wit: Miranda F. Fitch, Mary M. Fitch, William H. Fitch, John T. Fitch, and James [R.] Fitch in equal portions, share and share alike. And my will is in case either of my two daughters and three sons named should decease, then and there in that event their proportion or share to be equally divided between the survivors of them the last named two daughters and three sons, to wit: Miranda F. Fitch, Mary M. Fitch, William H. Fitch, John T. Fitch, and James [R.] Fitch or the survivors of them, their heirs or assigns, forever. My will and desires are that the parts or shares of my estate bequeathed to my [two] daughters [and three sons, to wit:] Miranda F. Fitch, Mary M. Fitch, William H. Fitch, John T. Fitch, and James [R.] Fitch to be and remain in joint stock until they all arrive at age or in case of marriage or either of them, then in that case or either of them, their heirs a majority of them shall select two men, and decent men, to divide their interest or share by sale, equally between the last named two daughter, and sons, to wit: Miranda F. Fitch, Mary M. Fitch, William H. Fitch, John T. Fitch, and James [R.] Fitch, or the survivors of them, their heirs or assigns, forever. And lastly, I do appoint and constitute my daughter Miranda F. Fitch to pay out of my estate all my just debts and collect and receive all debts due to me.

And lastly, this is my Last Will and Testament, revoking and annulling all former wills by me heretofore made, ratifying and confirming this and none other to be my Last Will and Testament. In testimony where I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 16th day of March in the year of our Lord, one thousand, eight hundred and fifty-two.

Signed, sealed, published, and declared by James Fitch, the above-named testator, in the presence of us, who at his request, in his presence, of each other, have subscribed our names.

Henry Talbott
B. Shreve

his
James X. Fitch {Seal}
mark