

Fletcher Family History

By J.B. Hogan

The Fletcher family of the Baldwin community here in Washington County has a long and storied history. Tracing their ancestry to colonial America, present-day Fletchers count Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War veterans among their predecessors.

Reaching Northwest Arkansas by way of Virginia and Kentucky in the early 1820s,¹ the Fletchers settled in the Baldwin area and the stones and monuments dedicated to them in the Hester Cemetery (Baldwin), as well as the King Cemetery in Harris, Arkansas bear witness to their impact on the county.

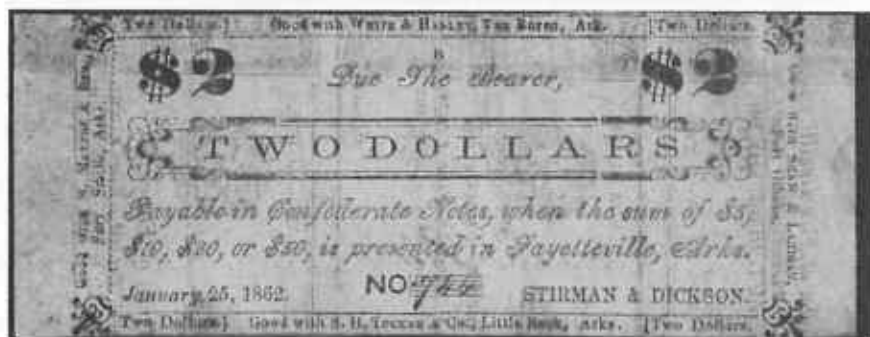
From present day members of the family like Jimmy Fletcher, now of rural Fayetteville, the genealogical path leads back to Robert Fletcher (Sr.), who served two tours of military duty with Virginia Regiments during the American Revolution.²

The youngest son of John Fletcher, of Chester County, Pennsylvania and Eleanor Hindman Fletcher, born in Londonderry County, Ireland, Robert Fletcher (Sr.) was born sometime between 1738 and 1745 in Chester County, Pennsylvania. By no later than 1749, the Fletcher family had moved to Augusta County, Virginia.³

On June 12, 1777, Robert Fletcher (Sr.) enlisted for three years as a Private in Captain Richard Stevens' Company of the 10th Virginia Regiment, which was actually commanded by Colonel Edward Stevens. Family genealogical records indicate that Robert Fletcher (Sr.) was hospitalized (no reasons given) from July 1777 until March 1778.

After leaving hospital in 1778, Robert Fletcher (Sr.) enlisted again for a term of about three months, this time to replace his brother John Fletcher. Robert Fletcher (Sr.) served in Captain Samuel Haw's Company of the 1st Virginia Regiment commanded by a Colonel Woodford.⁴

Robert Fletcher (Sr.) had two older brothers: Jobe and John



The prosperous Stirman & Dickson mercantile on the Fayetteville square issued notes on January 25, 1862, at Fayetteville. James Harvey Stirman and Joseph Dickson were among the leading merchants in Fayetteville at the beginning of the Civil War.

Stirman & Dickson added to the cachet of its notes by working with other merchants in Arkansas and the Indian Territory who would also redeem the notes. The other merchants included Mayers & Bro. of Fort Smith, White & Hanley of Van Buren, Shaw & Lanigan of Fort Gibson, and S.H. Tucker and Co. of Little Rock.

The value of these two notes dropped precipitously in February when Confederate troops, evacuating Fayetteville at the approach of Union troops, set fire to many of the city's buildings that might hold military value, which included the Stirman & Dickson store.





Photograph courtesy of Jimmy Fletcher

The gravestone of Job(e) Fletcher, King's Cemetery, Harris Community, Washington County, Arkansas.



Photograph courtesy of Jimmy Fletcher

The gravestone of Robert Fletcher (Jr.), King's Cemetery, Harris Community, Washington County, Arkansas.

Jr. Jobe moved from Virginia to Kentucky in 1779 and John Jr. did the same in 1800.⁵

Prior to the war, around 1763, Robert Fletcher (Sr.) married Christian Febiger in Virginia. They had two sons: John and Robert Fletcher Jr. Little is known of John Fletcher, but Robert Fletcher Jr. was born July 19, 1788, in Rockbridge County, Virginia. On June 25 or 26, 1811, he married Mary "Polly" Wilson in Christian County, Kentucky. Polly Wilson Fletcher was born November 3, 1795, in Harden County, Kentucky.⁶

Robert Fletcher Jr. and Polly Wilson Fletcher had ten children, the first four born in Kentucky. The oldest, John was born in 1811, followed by Timothy Henry, 1813; Jobe, 1815; Eliza, 1818; and Elizabeth, known as Betty, 1820.⁷

On June 18, 1812, war broke out between the United States



Photograph courtesy of Jimmy Fletcher

The gravestone of Polly Fletcher, wife of Robert Fletcher (Jr.), King's Cemetery, Harris Community, Washington County, Arkansas.

and Great Britain. On August 23, 1812, Robert Fletcher Jr. enlisted in the Kentucky Militia for a six-month tour of duty. He served in Captain John W. Shirley's Company, Barbee's Regiment in the Kentucky Militia.⁸ After the war, around 1820-1821, Robert Fletcher Jr. moved his family to Baldwin, Arkansas. Five more children were born in Baldwin beginning with James Alexander, 1822; Andrew Jackson, 1824; Jesse L., 1829; Mary Ann, 1832; Robert III, 1833; and Nancy A. 1834.⁹

During the Civil War, other Fletchers continued the tradition of serving in the military. On October 26, 1861, John C. Fletcher enlisted as a private in Company E, 1st Battalion, Arkansas Cavalry (Confederate). On December 6, 1861, Robert and William F. Fletcher also enlisted as privates in the same Company E.¹⁰

At the time, Company E was commanded by Captain William



Fletcher family, 1929. From left: John Howard Fletcher, Sarah Ellen Enyart Fletcher



Photograph courtesy of Jimmy Fletcher

(holding granddaughter Audra Marie Fletcher) and Charles Clifford Fletcher.



Photograph courtesy of Jimmy Fletcher

Jimmy Fletcher, Army basic training photo, Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, 1958.



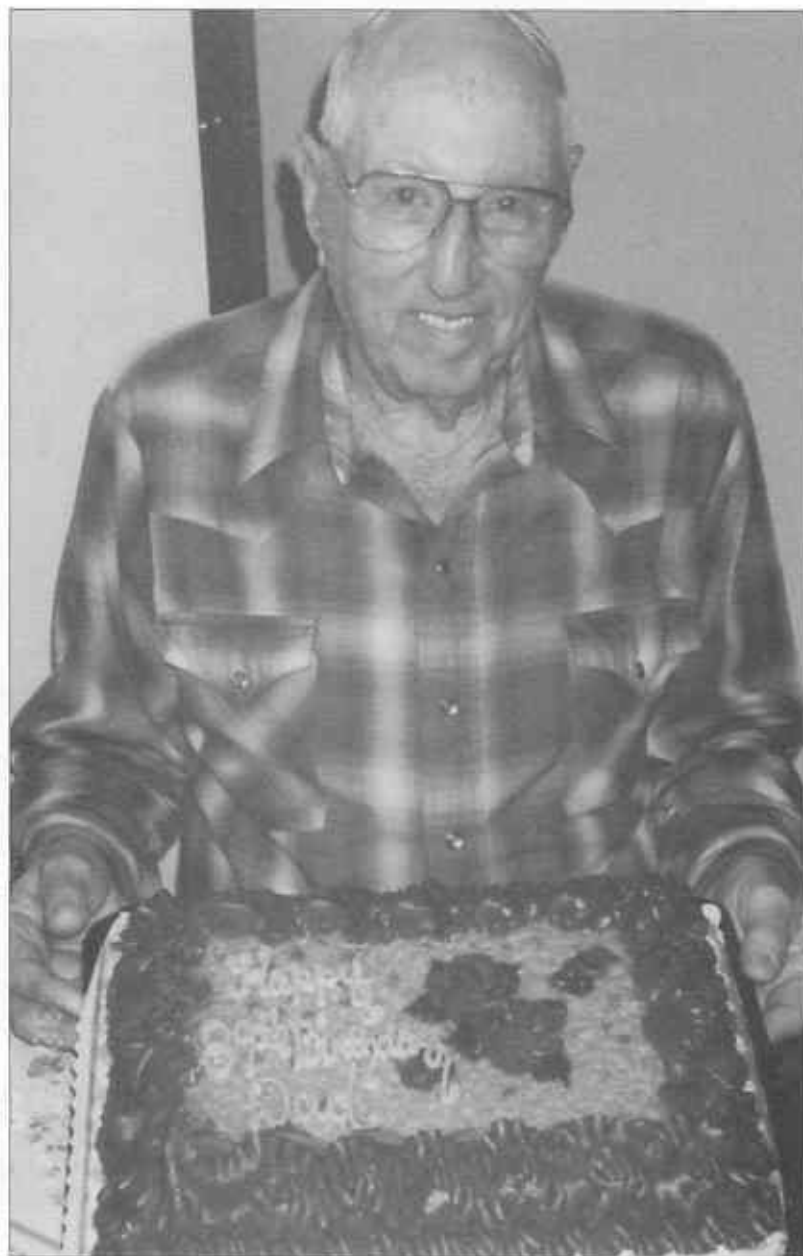
Photograph courtesy of Jimmy Fletcher

Charles Clifford Fletcher, holding grandson Shahn Fletcher, 1966.

H. Brooks. Among the company officers was 2nd Lieutenant E. I. "Ras" Stirman who later became the youngest Colonel in the Confederacy and after the Civil War served as mayor of Fayetteville.¹¹

John C. Fletcher was mustered out of the military in January or February of 1863 because he was "Left sick in Arkansas."¹² William F. Fletcher became a prisoner of war after being captured July 4, 1863, at Vicksburg, Mississippi.¹³ Robert Fletcher died February 19, 1863, at Grenada, Mississippi.¹⁴

Jobe Fletcher, older brother of Robert Fletcher, III, was born December 4, 1815, in Kentucky. Settling with his family in Baldwin, Arkansas, Jobe became a farmer and a wagon maker and on



Photograph courtesy of Jimmy Fletcher

John Howard Fletcher, 80th birthday, 1989.



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
FRANKFORT 40601

24 August 1964

STATEMENT OF SERVICE: FLETCHER, Robert
War of 1812

Rank: Private

Date of Appointment or Enlistment: August 23, 1812

To what time Engaged or Enlisted: Six months

From Roll of Capt John W. Shirley's Co., Barbee's Regiment, Kentucky Militia.

"I certify that the above is a true and correct statement of service for the above mentioned person as found on file in the office of The Adjutant General, Commonwealth of Kentucky, Frankfort, Kentucky."

FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL:

Eugene P. Reynolds
EUGENE P. REYNOLDS
Major, AUS (Ret)
Records Custodian

Document courtesy of Jimmy Fletcher

Robert Fletcher (Jr.), copy of War of 1812 statement of service.

January 23, 1840, married Sarah Ann Williford who was born December 5, 1821 in Tennessee. Jobe and Sarah Fletcher had thirteen children, only eight of whom reached adulthood.¹⁵

The fourth oldest surviving child, John Franklin Fletcher, born at Baldwin, Arkansas on March 4, 1849, married Mary Jane Enyart of Fayetteville, Arkansas on September 10, 1876. This union produced five children who reached adulthood, including Charles Clifford Fletcher who was born April 20, 1887, in Baldwin, Arkansas.¹⁶

On June 17, 1908, Charles Clifford Fletcher married Lou Emma Eacret, born March 26, 1886, in Red Star, Madison County, Arkansas. They had two children: Thelma Ruth, born October 2, 1910, and John Howard, born February 3, 1909. On July 21, 1928, John Howard Fletcher married Audra Beatrice Phillips, born December 24, 1908, in Wyman, Washington County, Arkansas. This union produced two children: Audra Marie, born May 28, 1929, and Jimmy Lee, born February 10, 1940.¹⁷

More recently, the late Dr. Donald Fletcher, well-known chiropractor in Fayetteville, was honored by having Fletcher Avenue named after him and his family. Dr. Fletcher passed away on September 14, 2009, in Fort Smith, Arkansas.¹⁸

The following family tree begins prior to the Revolutionary War with prime progenitor John Fletcher of Pennsylvania and Virginia and ends seven generations later with Jimmy Lee Fletcher of Baldwin and Fayetteville, Arkansas.¹⁹

Fletcher Family Genealogy²⁰

John Fletcher (1717-1758) m. (ca. 1735-1739) Eleanor

Hindman (1719-1790)

Jobe

John

Robert

Robert Fletcher (ca. 1738-1745 – 1796) m. (1762)

Christian Febiger (ca. 1746-1800)

John

Robert Jr.

Robert Fletcher Jr. (1788-1856) m. (1811) Mary "Polly"

Wilson (1795-1875)

John

Timothy Henry

Jobe

Eliza

Elizabeth (Betty)

James Alexander

Andrew Jackson

Jesse L.

Mary Ann

Robert III

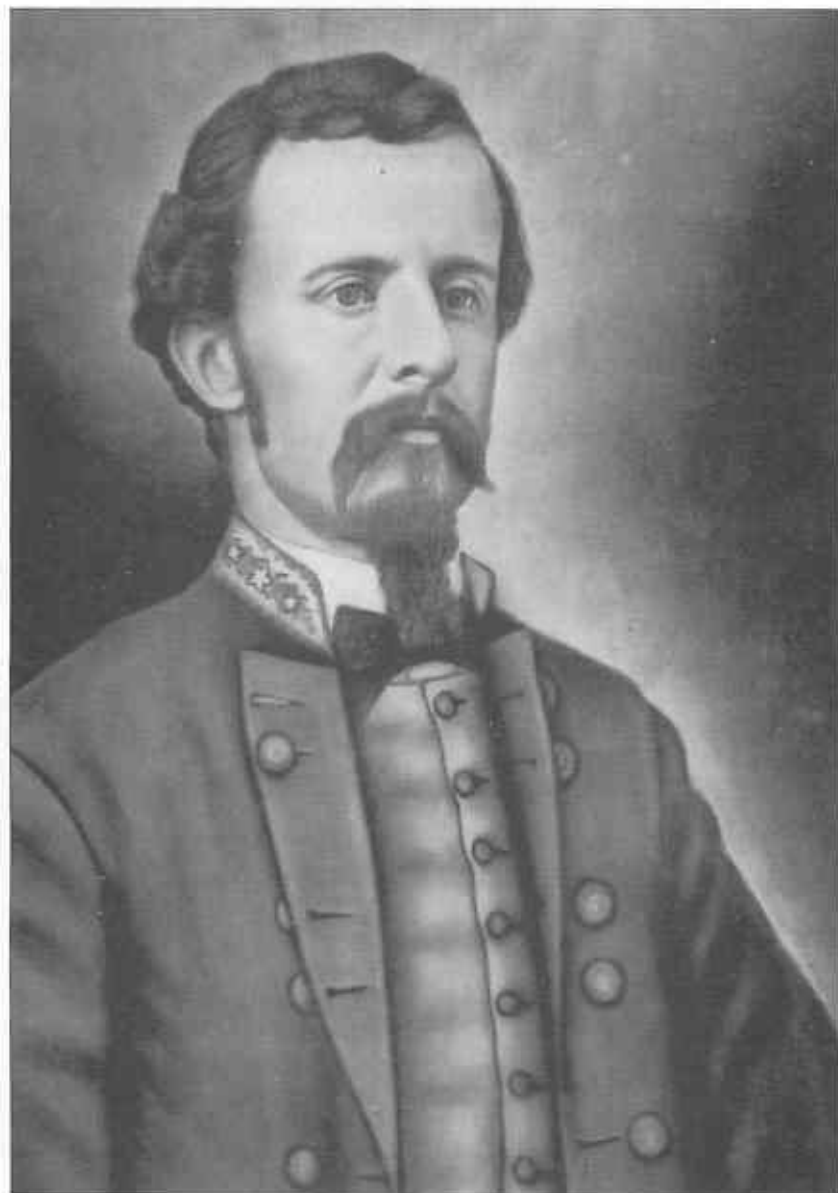
Nancy A.
Jobe Fletcher (1815-1875) m. (1840) Sarah Ann Williford (1821-1888)
Mary Jane
James W.
Lorana
Martha (twin)
Margaret (twin)
John Franklin
Sarah Elizabeth
Robert Jobe
Analiza
Francis A.
Thomas M.
Alice Magdaline
Amanda B.
John Franklin Fletcher (1849-1898) m. (1879) Sarah Ellen Enyart (1858-1942)
Leland Alonzo
Bessie Leonara
James Franklin
Charles Clifford
Thomas E.
Martin Edward
Gertrude
Charles Clifford Franklin (1887-1967) m. (1908) Lou Emma Eacret (1886-1952)
Thelma Ruth
John Howard
John Howard Fletcher (1909-2001) m. (1928) Audra Beatrice Phillips (1908-1997)
Audra Marie
Jimmy Lee

END NOTES

1. Fletcher family genealogical records.
2. National Archives search, May 23, 1947, Mrs. O. L. Fletcher, Temple, Texas, and on-line ancestor search of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) website, Mickey Clements, Reference Librarian, Grace Keith Genealogy Collection, Fayetteville, Arkansas Public Library, April 27, 2011.

3. Fletcher family genealogical records and online ancestor search of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) website, Mickey Clements, Reference Librarian, Grace Keith Genealogy Collection, Fayetteville, Arkansas Public Library, April 27, 2011.
4. Fletcher family genealogical records.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid.
8. Department of Military Affairs, Commonwealth of Kentucky, Statement of Service, War of 1812, 24 August 1964. Robert Fletcher, Jr.'s service in the War of 1812 is also corroborated by the listing of his wife Mary "Polly" Wilson in the Widows of 1812 Veterans Pension roster, Flashback, publication of the Washington Country (AR) Historical Society, Vol. VII, No. 4, July 1957, p. 9.
9. The children of Robert Fletcher, Jr. and Mary "Polly" Wilson are listed in the 1840 and 1850 Federal Census of Washington County, Arkansas.
10. Arkansas History Commission Certification of Confederate Service, Old State House, Little Rock, Arkansas, February 8, 1966. Private Robert Fletcher is listed in the roll of Company E, First Battalion, Arkansas Confederate Cavalry. This unit was organized in Fayetteville, Arkansas, October 9, 1861.
11. Campbell, William S., One Hundred Years of Fayetteville 1828-1928, Fayetteville, Arkansas, 1928, pp. 26, 45, and 98.
12. Arkansas History Commission Certification of Confederate Service, Old State House, Little Rock, Arkansas, February 8, 1966.
13. Ibid.
14. Ibid.
15. In the 1850 Federal Census of Washington County, Arkansas, only three children were as yet listed for the Jobe and Sarah Ann Williford Fletcher family.
16. Fletcher family genealogical records.
17. Ibid. and author interview with Jimmy Fletcher, 2010.
18. Obituary, online at www.lewisfuneralchapel.net
19. Fletcher family genealogical records.
20. Ibid.





Artwork courtesy of Diane Metzger

A drawing of Erasmus I. "Ras" Stirman as he appeared in Confederate uniform. Stirman, who lived in Fayetteville at the time the war started, served in the trans-Mississippi throughout the war.

QUERIES

Queries are free to SCGS members. Please limit each query to 75 words. Limit of two queries per quarterly.

- 1995-17
MORGAN
CLIFFORD
MEISNER
- Seeking info on my g-grandparents Henry M. & Mary (MORGAN) (CLIFFORD) MEISNER. Mary b 12 Feb 1848 Wales, d 26 Oct 1935 Spfd., IL, m #1 Charles CLIFFORD 1868, wid 1872; m #2 Henry MEISNER 10 Dec 1873 Menard Co., IL. Henry b 14 Mar 1835 Prussia, d 2 Apr 1906 New Douglas, Madison Co., IL. Henry was a coal miner; have no info prior to his m to Mary.
Shirley Fuhrmann, 3501 St Francis Dr., Springfield, IL 62703
- 1995-18
WRIGHT
WILSON
COOPER
SIMPSON
JOHNSON
- Researching the WRIGHT-WILSON families. John WRIGHT b 23 Nov 1805, d 19 May 1852. m Helen WILSON in Dumfries Scotland. Came to Riverton, IL in 1844, settled in Clear Lake Twp, had 11 ch. They m into the COOPERS, SIMPSONS JOHNSONS. Would like info from families of above and info on the WILSON fam.
Wayne Wright, PO Box 432, Panama City, FL 32402
- 1995-19
- Seek info on records pertaining to employees of the Chicago and Alton Rail Road from 1860 to 1920. Anyone knowing of a source for these records, please contact:
Dan Dixon, 901 W Jackson, Auburn, IL 62615
- 1995-20
LEE
WAGNER
EARNEST
- Seeking info birth of Henrietta Matilda, ch of Solomon & Isabelle E. EARNEST. Need siblings & anc's. Also info on Ancestors from PA. Info on Harvey LEE, b ca 1790-1800, d ca 1847-1848. Believe 1st wife was Henrietta. Wife of William EARNEST was a WAGNER. Need info as to births, deaths, siblings, places of residences. Also 1830-1840 census records.
Lorene Marie Dalrymple, 9143 South Bell, Chicago, IL 60620
- 1995-21
LACY
HUGHES
- Seeking burial year and place of Ellet LACY and wife Sarah nee' HUGHES. They lived in Jersey County IL in the 1850's.
Thomas J. Anthony, 781 Southshire Dr, St Louis, MO 63125.
- 1995-22
DONNER/
DONNOR
BETTIS
- Tobias and Nancy DONNER were husband and wife. Who were their parents? Their ch were Green Berry DONNER, Louisa DONNER, Jonathan C. DONNER, Mary Ann DONNER, Barbara DONNER, George Washington DONNER and Nancy J DONNER. Any info greatly appreciated.
Dr F. Paul Schilling, 2240 Paloma St., Pasadena, CA 91104-4923.

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Marriages of the Fletchers - McElvains & Dixons

Job Fletcher to Margaret _____ ca. 1773

Andrew McElvain to Margaret Workman ca. 1774

John Fletcher to Elizabeth McElvain 5 February 1799

James B. Fletcher to Jane McElvain 1 October 1801

Cary A. Patterson to Margaret Fletcher 26 November 1840

Lewis B. Richardson to Sarah Patterson 5 January 1860

Oliver F. Bettis to Margaret Jane Patterson 20 July 1866

John H. Gates to Martha Ann Patterson 20 January 1867

James Lindsay to Martha Ann (Patterson) Gates 29 January 1875

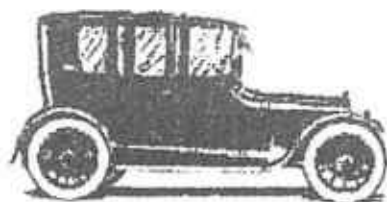
Loren Gates to Mary Carmody 23 January 1895

Josiah Booker to Martha Ann (Patterson) Gates, Lindsay 16 July 1895

James Everett Dixon to Mae L. Gates 16 July 1916

Dale William Dixon to Anna Magdalen Madiar 21 September 1946

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



he worked at Allis-Chalmers, retiring only a few years before his death on January 12, 1962.

Mae L. (Gates) Dixon raised four of her six children to adulthood (James Leo died August 24, 1937 and Delbert died one day after birth that same year). Mae kept house at 1031 West Monroe in Auburn until the year 1987 when, due to failing health, she was moved to Sunrise Manor Nursing Home in Virden, Illinois. Then, in 1989, she was moved to Pleasant Hill Nursing Home in Girard, Illinois. At the age of 99 [as of April 25, 1995] she is still living and in fair health.

On September 21, 1946 my mother and father, Anna Magdalene Madiar and Dale William Dixon were married in Virden, Illinois. Anna's parents were Mary (Havach) and John Madiar. Mary was born in Streator, Illinois and John was born in

Teplicka, Nova Ves, Slovakia. Dale and Anna lived at his grandmother's house (Mary Carmody Gates) in Auburn, Illinois for one year then moved into a four room house about a block away. Dale and Anna had four children: James William, Marianne, Richard and Daniel Wayne.

In 1946 Dale began working at the Auburn Market, a local grocery store. He also started working on the city council as the city clerk and a notary public. In that same year he also became the scoutmaster for the local Boy Scout Troop #56. All three of these activities would last thirty years, with him eventually becoming mayor of Auburn.

Anna has also worked most of her life. She worked at the Costley's Grocery Store in Virden, Illinois from 1942 to 1946. In 1948 she also went to work at the Auburn Market. She was hired as a meat wrapper but she also worked as a clerk. Not only did she help support Dale in his political career, she also helped out with the Boy Scouts and raised a family of four children. When the owners of the Auburn Market decided to sell the store, she retired.

After a period of thirty years, the owners of

the Auburn Market decided to sell their business and Dale decided to retire from the city council and Boy Scouts. In 1976 Dale applied for and received a position at the Illinois Department of Agriculture as an inspector for the division of weights and measures.

On December 31, 1990 Dale retired from the Department of Agriculture. He now works at his hobby of toy making and enjoys his family including his five grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

The author of this article, Daniel Wayne Dixon, was born March 3, 1964. He is a graduate of Auburn High School, has an Associates of Arts and an Associates in General Education from Lincoln Land Community College as well as a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in Public History from Sangamon State University. Currently, he is a Technical Associate working for the Lincoln Legal Papers Project in Springfield, Illinois.



The Circuit Rider

supposed that it was there that she met her future husband, Cary A. Patterson. On November 26, 1840 she was married to Cary in the Original Town of Auburn by Rev. William C. Greenleaf. After they were married, they moved to Cary Patterson's farm near Athens, Illinois.

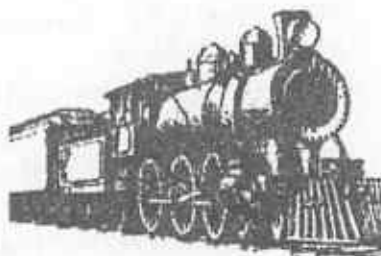
While living in Athens, Margaret (Fletcher) and Cary A. Patterson had two children. Martha Ann was born on May 14, 1843 and Margaret Jane was born on January 4, 1847. Some time between 1847 and 1850 Cary, Margaret, Sarah Jane (a daughter from Cary's first marriage), Martha and Margaret Jane moved to Auburn, Illinois.

On January 5, 1860 Sarah married Lewis B. Richardson. On July 20, 1866 Margaret Jane married Oliver F. Bettis and on January 20, 1867 Martha Ann married John H. Gates.

Of the three marriages above, the author's connection is that of John H. Gates and Martha Ann Patterson. That marriage resulted in the birth of one son, Loren Gates who was born September 1, 1867 in Auburn, Illinois (at this time there is also speculation that they had a daughter named Allie but no information can be

found to prove this point).

Some time between 1874 and 1875 the paper trail for John H. Gates disappears, apparently John died. Martha Ann remarried to James Lindsay on January 29, 1875. They had a two children: James and Jennie. After the death or possibly the divorce of her second husband, Martha Ann married Josiah Booker on July 16, 1895. Josiah died August 21, 1903 leaving Martha with no new children. She outlasted her third husband by seven years dying at the age of seventy-three on March 10, 1910.



On January 23, 1895, in Girard, Illinois, Loren Gates married Mary Carmody, the daughter of James and Bridget (Ahern) Carmody. Two children were the result of the marriage of Loren and Mary: Mae L. and Loren Leo Gates. Mae L. was born in Girard, Illinois on April 25, 1896 and Loren

Leo was born in Auburn, Illinois on March 13, 1899.

Loren Gates worked for the railroad for most of his life as a flagman for the Chicago & Alton Railroad and the Gulf, Mobile & Ohio Railroad companies. He would often sit (in his shanty near the railroad tracks) for hours in preparedness to warn people of trains coming so they were not on the tracks when the trains would pass. Mary (Carmody) Gates was a housekeeper and raised their two children.

On July 16, 1916 Mae L. Gates married James Everett Dixon at the courthouse in Carlinville. The result of this marriage was six children, four of who grew to adulthood. The children were as follows: John Lawrence, Dale William, James Leo, Mary Catherine, Delbert and Dorothy Mae Dixon.

James Everett Dixon, better known in later life as Grandpa Dickie, worked at several different jobs during his lifetime. He was an electrician during the 1920's, he owned a Chevrolet dealership in the early part of that same decade and the latter half of the 1920's he ran Dixon's Automotive Shop. During the 1930's he got a job collecting specimens for the Illinois State Museum. The remaining years of his life

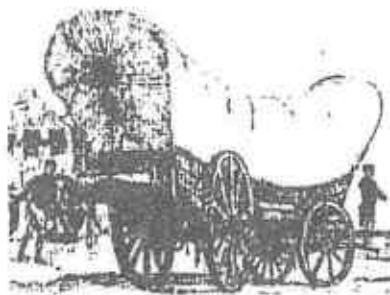
As is stated in the 1881 edition of the History of Sangamon County, Job Sr. was one of the few members of the area of Sugar Creek who was literate, so it was natural that:

"On the very night of his arrival in the settlement, Mr. Fletcher was called to write the will of George Cox, who came the year before with the Drennan and Dodds families. That was the first will from what is now Sangamon county ever put on record, and was registered at Edwardsville." Since Job Sr. was so readily needed for the writing of wills, letters and various legal documents, it is likely that he felt very welcome in the community and would naturally pass this information on to his brother, James in the letters he wrote.

James decided in the Fall of 1828 to move his entire family of eleven children and two adults to Sangamon County, Illinois. The trip took twenty-two days and nights. It was accomplished by use of ox-team and wagon. Upon arrival, James bought an eighty acre tract of land in section twenty-two, township thirteen (now Auburn Township) and began to set up his wheelwright business.

Another brother and wife joined the Fletcher clan in the Spring of 1830. John and Elizabeth (McElvain) Fletcher the story was told in the 1881 edition of the History of Sangamon County as follows: "The family, including his son, Job, with wife and child, consisted of eleven person, and their first place of residence was a log cabin, sixteen feet square, belonging to his brother Job, who had preceded him eleven years."

The year 1830 was a very tough one for the Fletcher family. That year four members of the family died: Mary, (daughter of James & Jane Fletcher) August 22, James, husband of Jane (McElvain) Fletcher on September 14, Elizabeth (McElvain) Fletcher September 16 and John September 19. This left



only one of the original four children of the Fletcher-McElvain marriages.

Left to fend for herself and her eight remaining children, Jane Fletcher did quite well as a farm manager. As a result of her hard work, most of her children lived to early childhood or adulthood without the aid of a father. Jane lived to the age of sixty-eight dying on November 2, 1853.

Of the eight children that survived their father, Margaret, the second oldest, would later become the mother of Martha Ann Patterson upon whose name the Dixon family line connects with the Fetters and McElvains.

Born March 13, 1808 in Adair County, Kentucky, Margaret Fletcher, the second eldest of the eleven children of James and Jane Fletcher, came to Sangamon County with her parents in the Fall of 1828. Very little is known of her childhood other than that she helped her mother care for the other children of the family and helped raise the crops which kept them alive and provided a means of financial support. The job of raising crops must have been quite a hardship as agriculture was accomplished virtually all by hand from planting to harvest. Even though Margaret was a very busy person, she did take time out for church and it is

History of the Fletcher - McElvain, Dixon Line

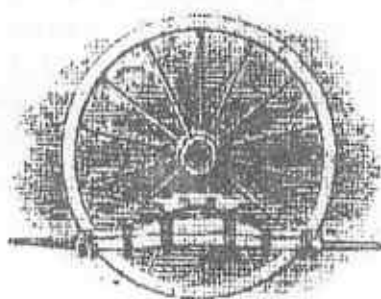
Since the day that the first white people set foot on the land which we now call the United States of America, men & women alike have been anxious to explore or discover new and wondrous lands. It was this spirit of adventure which led to the first men and women of the Fletcher and McElvain families to come to America from England and Scotland.

Some time prior to 1774 Andrew McElvain and Margaret Workman were married in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Around the same time, joined in wedlock as Mr. & Mrs. Job Fletcher. The McElvains had eight children during their married life: Elizabeth, William, Jane, Rebecca (Polly), George, Andrew, Margaret, and Samuel. The children of the Fletcher marriage were: John, James B., Job, Elizabeth, and Agnes Nancy. Of the above listed children, four intermarried: Elizabeth McElvain to John Fletcher on February 5, 1799 and Jane McElvain to James Fletcher on October 1, 1801.

James Fletcher was born on July 7, 1779 in Rockbridge County, Virginia and Jane was born

in the same county November 2, 1785. They moved to Adair County, Kentucky between 1804 and 1805.

During the time that James & Jane Fletcher lived in Kentucky they had eleven children. The names are as follows: Job I. (not to be confused with his uncle of the same name), Margaret, Robert, Mary, James Washington, Elizabeth, Nathan, Rebecca F., John, Martha, and Nancy. With such a large family to provide for, James was constantly working to support his family.



While living in Kentucky, James Fletcher took on the professions of wheelwright and farmer. As a wheelwright, it was likely that James heard many stories of the new West from the people who's wagons he was preparing for the long journey they

would be taking. These stories helped to increase his anxieties of not being able to properly provide for his family. Another source of stories about the west came from his brother Job.

Job Fletcher Senior was born November 17, 1793, in Rockbridge County, Virginia. His father, (the first Job Fletcher of this family to come to America), died when he was an infant, and he and his mother, (Margaret Fletcher), moved with her elder son John, in the Autumn of 1808, to Logan County, Kentucky. The next spring they moved to that part of Christian County, Kentucky which was later known as Todd County. It was in John Fletcher's family that Job Fletcher Sr. grew to adulthood.

During the War of 1812, Job Sr. served as a soldier for six months assisting in burying the dead after the Battle of Tippecanoe. On December 22, 1818 Job Sr. married Mary Kerchner. The couple had one child born to them in Kentucky and then moved to Sangamon County, Illinois, arriving at the area of Sugar Creek (now Ball Township) on November 11, 1819.

Margaret's death, their orphaned daughter was adopted by Herbert's brother, George. Child: Margaret "Peggy" Fletcher.¹⁹⁷

27. Carolyn Louise³ Fletcher (John², Matthew¹ Punshon alias Fletcher, Luke^A Punshon, Luke^B, George^C), born 28 July 1894, Brooklyn;¹⁹⁸ died 24 June 1984, Santa Monica, Los Angeles County, California.¹⁹⁹ She wed 16 September 1919 in Brooklyn, Edgar "Ed" Lucien Woodward,²⁰⁰ who had been born 2 August 1889 in North Waterboro, Maine, to Charles and Viola (Nason) Woodward.²⁰¹

Carolyn was a highly trained and talented pianist and musician, who studied for many years in hopes of achieving success on the concert stage. She never realized this ambition but remained throughout her life a fine and dedicated pianist.²⁰² Ed Woodward graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1911 as a mechanical engineer and worked for the Simmons-Boardman Publishing Company all his life as associate editor of two of their publications, *Railway Age* and *Railway Locomotives and Cars*.²⁰³ Children: Donald, Natalie, Betty Lou, and Doris Woodward.

CONCLUSION

Thus the story of Matthew Fletcher comes to an end, but only momentarily. Research continues. Too many unanswered questions and too much speculation remain to let this story close. The family legends, though frayed and twisted here and there, promised an intriguing search. Treated with skepticism as well as respect, the traditions led to an even more fascinating saga. One wonders: how much of this Fletcher history would ever have been found without them?

197. Personal details have been furnished by Herbert S. Johnson of Sunny Isles Beach, Florida (whose first wife was Peggy Fletcher, Herbert Fletcher's daughter), and Carolyn Fletcher Woodward (Herbert Fletcher's sister).

198. Information supplied by Carolyn Fletcher Woodward. The 1900 U.S. census, Kings County (see n. 2), agrees with her data.

199. Personal knowledge of the writer, her daughter.

200. Marriage record no. 14478 (1919), New York Municipal Archives.

201. Personal knowledge of the writer, his daughter. Edgar's academic transcript from MIT is the only known contemporary document giving his birth date; see also *Who's Who In Railroadng* (New York: Simmons-Boardman Publishing Co., 1930), 572.

202. Personal knowledge of the author.

203. Edgar L. Woodward obituary, *Railway Age* (weekly journal), 11 February 1980, p. 49, col. 1.

Thomas Edison on Englishmen

The tart wit of this American inventor is well known; but it is likely that Matthew Fletcher and his sons would not agree with one of Edison's observations: "Englishmen are not an inventive people. They do not eat enough pie."—*Webster's New World Dictionary of Quotable Definitions*, 2d ed. (New York: Webster's New World, 1988), 172.

Violet Anderson, who had been born 23 October 1890 to William and Marie (Tiner) Anderson¹⁸⁷ and died in July 1951. Both Matthew and Violet are buried at Lutheran Cemetery on Long Island.¹⁸⁸

Matthew's formal education ended with grade school in 1891. He was thirteen. His entry into the workforce, as the family's eldest son, was possibly propelled by the 1890 recession. His first job was handling shingles at three dollars a week in Manhattan, where he walked to work across the Brooklyn Bridge.¹⁸⁹ Times would worsen after the Panic of 1893. Yet somehow he received training to match the technical bent that was likely his genetic heritage; his 1911 marriage certificate calls him a mechanical engineer. Eventually, Matthew worked for the Brooklyn Navy Yard as a naval architect.¹⁹⁰ He was an accomplished violinist and the patriarch of the family in Brooklyn after the death of his father. By Violet, he left two daughters: Lucille and Iris Fletcher.¹⁹¹

23. Howard Crosby³ Fletcher (John², Matthew¹ Punshon alias Fletcher, Luke^A Punshon, Luke^B, George^C), born 4 February 1880 in Manhattan; died 11 January 1938 in Brooklyn.¹⁹² He married 17 May 1911, in Brooklyn, **Ada Van Deusen**, daughter of Martin and Amelia (Kittell) Van Deusen.¹⁹³

Howard was a naval architect at the Brooklyn Navy Yard for many years, although he, like his brother Matt, had no formal education in that field. Howard assisted in designing the U.S. battleships *Arizona*, *Florida*, *Indiana*, *New Mexico*, *New York*, *North Dakota*, and *Tennessee*, plus several destroyers and gunboats. At the time of his death, the *New York Times* hailed him as the "principal naval architect of the construction and repair department of the planning division."¹⁹⁴ Children: Dorothy and Virginia Fletcher.

26. Herbert Spencer³ Fletcher (John², Matthew¹ Punshon alias Fletcher, Luke^A Punshon, Luke^B, George^C), born June 1890 in Brooklyn, New York; died there 16 November 1932 at the Bay Ridge Sanitarium.¹⁹⁵ He married **Margaret Pender**, probably in Brooklyn, but the date is unknown. Margaret was born about 1894 and died in October 1929, leaving her young daughter motherless.¹⁹⁶

Herbert, a manufacturer of chemical machinery, was gassed during service in World War I. He never fully regained his health. When he died, three years after

187. Marriage certificate no 4392? [number unclear] (1911), New York City Municipal Archives, names parents of both bride and groom. Violet's birth date has been provided by her daughter, Lucille Fletcher Wallop.

188. Lutheran Cemetery, Middle Village, Long Island.

189. Information provided by his daughter, Lucille Fletcher Wallop.

190. In his marriage certificate, Matthew is called a mechanical engineer. His death certificate, for which his wife was informant, gives his occupation as "naval architect."

191. Information provided by his daughter, Lucille Fletcher Wallop.

192. Howard C. Fletcher death certificate no. 1007 (1938), New York City Bureau of Vital Records.

193. Marriage certificate no. 4386 (1911), New York City Municipal Archives.

194. Howard C. Fletcher obituary, *New York Times*, 13 January 1938, p. 21, col. 3.

195. Herbert S. Fletcher death certificate 22155 (1932), New York City Bureau of Vital Records.

196. Tombstone inscription, sect. N, lot 2528, Mount Olivet Cemetery, Brooklyn.

1984, Santa Monica, California.¹⁷² Carolyn married 16 September 1919 in Brooklyn, Edgar Lucien Woodward.¹⁷³

8. Ellenor² "Nelly" Fletcher (Matthew¹ Punshon alias Fletcher, Luke^A Punshon, Luke^B, George^C), born 25 December 1845 in Austria (probably Vienna); died 22 April 1917 in Louisville, Kentucky.¹⁷⁴ She married 5 May 1869 in Louisville, Jesse Wyatt,¹⁷⁵ who had been born 16 May 1834 and died 7 March 1912.¹⁷⁶

Nelly is the only child of Matthew and Leocadia known to bear the name of someone in Matthew's family—that of his mother, Eleanor (Fletcher) Punshon. Both women were called by the same nickname. Nelly's husband Jesse served with the Louisville police department all his life and made lieutenant by 1876.¹⁷⁷

Children of Jesse and Eleanor (Fletcher) Wyatt were as follows:¹⁷⁸

- 28 i. LIZZIE³ WYATT, born about 1873 in Louisville. She married there in 1900, Jake Cornell, and apparently had a second husband of the surname Bell.¹⁷⁹ The 1968 probate of Mary Fusting's estate leaves "1/10 interest to the children of Lizzie Wyatt," who are named as Eleanor L. Cornell Southwell, Bess Cornell Clawson, Charles Edgar Cornell, and John Gates Bell.¹⁸⁰
- 29 ii. GEORGE F. WYATT, born about 1875; married Mabel L. [—?—].¹⁸¹ No further information.
- 30 iii. GRACE WYATT, born in November 1877; married about 1905 in Louisville, Gilbert Coder.¹⁸² Known children: Nellie Mae and Elizabeth B. Coder.¹⁸³
- 31 iv. JESSIE B. WYATT JR., born June 1883;¹⁸⁴ died 1938 in Louisville.¹⁸⁵

THIRD GENERATION

22. Matthew Emerson³ Fletcher (John², Matthew¹ Punshon alias Fletcher, Luke^A Punshon, Luke^B, George^C), born 10 April 1878 in Manhattan, New York; died 18 January 1950 in Brooklyn, New York.¹⁸⁶ He married there on 24 May 1911,

172. Personal knowledge of the writer, her daughter.

173. Marriage certificate no. 14478-19 (1919), Office of the City Clerk, Brooklyn.

174. Nellie Wyatt death certificate no. 11103, State Office of Vital Statistics, Frankfort; obituary in *Louisville Courier-Journal*, 24 April 1917, p. 5, col. 3; and tombstone inscription, lot 89 (Wyatt), Cave Hill.

175. Jefferson County Marriage Book 10, 1868-1872: 85.

176. Tombstone inscription, lot 89 (Wyatt), Cave Hill; Jesse Wyatt obituary, *Louisville Courier-Journal*, 10 March 1912, sect. 2, p. 5, col. 1.

177. *Caron's Annual Directory of the City of Louisville for 1876* (Louisville: Bradley and Gilbert, 1876), 626.

178. For birth years of children, see 1880 U.S. census, Jefferson County, population schedule, Louisville, 10th ward, ED 146, SD 2, sheet 56, dwelling 413, family 521; NARA microfilm T9, roll 424.

179. 1900 U.S. Census, Jefferson County, population schedule, Louisville, 5th dist., ED 1, SD 5, sheet 12, dwelling 250, family 263; NARA microfilm T623, roll 528.

180. Mary Fusting Probate File (see n. 123).

181. *Ibid.*

182. 1920 U.S. census, Jefferson County, population schedule, Louisville, 12th ward, ED 218, SD 5, sheet 6, dwelling 115, family 148; NARA microfilm T625, roll 582.

183. *Ibid.*; Mary Fusting Probate File.

184. 1900 U.S. Census, Jefferson County, Louisville, 8th ward, ED 136, SD 5, sheet 10, dwelling 213, family 232; NARA microfilm T623, roll 533.

185. Tombstone inscription, lot 89 (Wyatt), Cave Hill, gives only his year of death.

186. Matthew E. Fletcher death certificate, no. 156-50-301214, New York City Bureau of Vital Records.

A machinist and patternmaker, John went to New York City before 1873—perhaps because he was offered a job by Thomas Edison, who had worked near the Fletcher machine shop in Louisville.¹⁵⁰ In 1880 John, Louise, and their two children shared their Manhattan household with Louise's sister (Emily Ecker) and grandmother (Margaret Engel).¹⁵¹ By 1900, the Fletchers were in Brooklyn,¹⁵² where John had his own machine shop until his death in 1914.¹⁵³

Children of John Punshon² and Louise (Ecker) Fletcher were as follows:

- + 22 i. MATTHEW EMERSON³ FLETCHER, born 10 April 1878 in Manhattan; died 18 January 1950, Brooklyn.¹⁵⁴ He married there on 24 May 1911, Violet Anderson.¹⁵⁵
- + 23 ii. HOWARD CROSBY FLETCHER, born 4 February 1880 in Manhattan; died 11 January 1938, Brooklyn.¹⁵⁶ He married there on 17 May 1911, Ada Van Deusen.¹⁵⁷
- 24 iii. JOHN FRANKLIN FLETCHER, born September 1883 in Manhattan;¹⁵⁸ died 9 January 1907 in Brooklyn, of pneumonia.¹⁵⁹ John married there on 31 January 1905, Albertina Prutzmann, daughter of William and "Kath." Prutzmann.¹⁶⁰ A patternmaker, John left no children.¹⁶¹
- 25 iv. GEORGE FUSTING FLETCHER was born June 1887 in Brooklyn; died 1 January 1943 in Massena, Lawrence County, New York.¹⁶² George married (1) 1 May 1913 in Brooklyn, Esta M. Mintz;¹⁶³ and (2) after 1935, place unknown, Loretta Buoy.¹⁶⁴ Esta bore a stillborn baby in December 1920 at Brooklyn's Harbor Heights Hospital.¹⁶⁵ They adopted his niece, Peggy Fletcher, after her father Herbert died in 1932.¹⁶⁶ George was superintendent of Massena Mica Company.¹⁶⁷
- + 26 v. HERBERT SPENCER FLETCHER was born June 1890 in Brooklyn;¹⁶⁸ died 16 November 1932.¹⁶⁹ He married Margaret Pender, date unknown, probably in Brooklyn.¹⁷⁰
- + 27 vi. CAROLYN LOUISE FLETCHER was born 28 July 1894 in Brooklyn;¹⁷¹ died 24 June

150. *Trow's New York City Directory for the Year Ending May 1, 1874*, 424. For an evaluation of the Edison story and evidence found to date, see p. 288.

151. 1880 U.S. census, New York County, population schedule, New York City, 22d ward, ED 454, SD 1, sheet 46, dwelling 432, family 393; NARA microfilm T9, roll 889.

152. 1900 U.S. census, Kings County (see n. 2).

153. Information supplied by Carolyn Fletcher Woodward, their daughter.

154. Matthew E. Fletcher death certificate no. 156-50-301214, New York City Bureau of Vital Records.

155. Marriage certificate no. 4392? [number unclear] (1911), Office of the City Clerk, New York City.

156. Howard C. Fletcher death certificate no. 1007 (1938), New York City Bureau of Vital Records.

157. Marriage certificate no. 4386 (1911), Office of the City Clerk, New York City.

158. 1900 U.S. census, Kings County (see n. 2).

159. John F. Fletcher, death certificate no. 865 (1907), New York City Bureau of Vital Records.

160. Marriage certificate no. 893 (1905), Office of the City Clerk, New York City.

161. Information provided by his sister, Carolyn Fletcher Woodward.

162. George F. Fletcher death certificate no. 3055 (1943), New York State Division of Vital Statistics.

163. Marriage certificate no. 5334 (1913), Office of the City Clerk, New York City.

164. Information provided by George's niece, Lucille Fletcher Wallop of Oxford, Maryland, daughter of Matthew E. Fletcher.

165. Records of Lutheran Cemetery Office, Middle Village, Long Island.

166. Personal knowledge of the author.

167. George F. Fletcher death certificate no. 3055 (1943), New York State Division of Vital Statistics.

168. 1900 U.S. Census, Kings County (see n. 2)

169. Herbert S. Fletcher death certificate no. 22155 (1932), New York City Bureau of Vital Records.

170. Information supplied by Caroline Fletcher Woodward, his sister.

171. *Ibid.*

a member of Lorraine Lodge no. 4, International Order of Odd Fellows of Kentucky, from 1897 to his death and served in several capacities.¹³⁷

Known or presumed children of Herman L. and Eliza A. (Beeler) Fletcher were¹³⁸

- 19 i. (?) ROY^f FLETCHER, birth date unknown, presumably in Louisville; died 26 May 1883; buried in the family plot at Cave Hill Cemetery.¹³⁹
- 20 ii. WARREN COURTLAND FLETCHER, born September 1885 in Kentucky;¹⁴⁰ died before 1963.¹⁴¹ Warren married, but his wife's name is not known. They had two children living in 1968: Herman Thomas and Warren Courtland Jr., who received a share of the estate of their father's cousin, Mary Gertrude Fusting.¹⁴²
- 21 iii. (?) MAUD ALYS FLETCHER, birth date unknown; died 28 September 1920, buried in the family plot at Cave Hill Cemetery.¹⁴³ (She may be a child of Warren.)

7. John Punshon² Fletcher (Matthew^f Punshon alias Fletcher, Luke^A Punshon, Luke^B, George^C) was born 24 June 1844, in Vienna, Austria; died 19 June 1914 in Brooklyn, Kings County, New York.¹⁴⁴ He wed 1 May 1877 in Manhattan, Louise Ecker,¹⁴⁵ who had been born there on 23 March 1856 to Frederick and Barbara (Engel) Ecker. Louise died 16 March 1943 in Massena, Lawrence County, New York,¹⁴⁶ where she had been living with their son George.¹⁴⁷ Both she and John are buried at Lutheran Cemetery on Long Island.¹⁴⁸

John, who immigrated with his family at the age of twelve, is the source of the family legends that prompted this study. Yet records remain silent about the one account most central to him: his attitude toward the Catholic Church. His parents both came from staunch Catholic families. Yet once they left Austria, no evidence connects them to the Catholic Church. In later years, John told his family that the priests who taught him had hit him over the head with a Bible as punishment, but one is tempted to speculate that whatever happened to him was surely of a more serious nature. In old age, when very ill, John warned his family that if—while dying and delirious—he might ask for a priest, they should not comply.¹⁴⁹

137. Herman Fletcher obituary (see n. 131).

138. The children Roy and Maud Alys do not appear in the family household on any census. The only records found for them are their tombstones in the Herman Fletcher lot, which cite their dates of death.

139. Tombstone inscription, lot 305 (Fletcher), Cave Hill.

140. 1900 U.S. census, Jefferson County, population schedule, Louisville, 8th ward, ED 135, SD 5, sheet 8, dwelling 145, family 163; NARA microfilm T623, roll 532. Warren's middle name comes from Mary Fusting Probate File (see n. 123). Eliza's mother, Sarah, was living with them at that time.

141. Mary Fusting Probate File.

142. *Ibid.*

143. Tombstone inscription, lot 305 (Fletcher), Cave Hill.

144. John Punshon Fletcher death certificate (see n. 2), gives birth and death dates but cites birthplace only as Austria. He is presumed born in Vienna, given his father's employment there at the time.

145. Marriage registration 2186-77, Office of the City Clerk, New York.

146. Louise Fletcher death certificate 19318 (1943), New York State Division of Vital Statistics.

147. Personal knowledge of the author.

148. Cemetery Office Records, Lutheran Cemetery; 67-29 Metropolitan Avenue; Middle Village (Long Island), NY 11379. The author transcribed and photographed the family stones there in 1996.

149. Information supplied by Caroline Fletcher Woodward, daughter of John.

Mary, a bookkeeper,¹²² was the last of the Fusting-Fletcher line to die. She left her modest estate to her various cousins and/or their children—and gave equal portions to a couple of neighbors and a policeman who she felt had protected her in her last years.¹²³ By the time of her death, the Fusting home was no longer in a fashionable neighborhood, and Mary apparently had felt threatened.

- 17 vi. WILHEMINA "MINNIE" FUSTING, born June 1880; buried June 1963;¹²⁴ Minnie married 6 December 1906 in Louisville, Charles E. Haehl Jr. She was an artist, did exquisite needlework, and for several years illustrated and wrote a sewing column for the Louisville newspaper under the pen name "Patsy Dean."¹²⁵ Her husband Charles, a salesman for the D. G. Stewart Company during part of his career,¹²⁶ was buried 25 April 1963.¹²⁷
- 18 vii. WILLIAM FLETCHER FUSTING, born May 1883; buried March 1959.¹²⁸ He married (date unknown) Hettie Eccles, sister of Dr. Lewis W. Eccles; she died 8 August 1936, at their home in Anchorage, Kentucky.¹²⁹

6. Herman L[uke?]² Fletcher (Matthew¹ Punshon alias Fletcher, Luke^A Punshon, Luke^B, George^C), born 29 December 1842 in Rossau Parish, Vienna, Austria;¹³⁰ died 13 December 1912 in Louisville, Kentucky.¹³¹ Herman married 30 August 1870 in Louisville, Eliza B. Beeler,¹³² who had been born 29 April 1844 in Kentucky to Jordan and Sarah [—?—] Beeler and died 27 June 1931 in Louisville.¹³³ Both are buried at Cave Hill Cemetery.

Herman appears on no known record, as an adult, until after the Civil War. His first city-directory appearance, 1866–67, cites him as a civil engineer;¹³⁴ perhaps that strategic occupation earned him a military exemption. In following years, the directories and censuses call him a machinist and a builder of woodworking machinery and steam engines; some directories identify various machinery companies that employed him.¹³⁵ By 1891 he had his own machine shop.¹³⁶ Herman was

122. For example, see Caron's *Annual Directory of the City of Louisville for 1908*, 535.

123. Mary Fusting Probate File, no. 110187, Jefferson County Clerk's Office, Louisville. Mary's will and estate settlement papers reveal much about the family of Caroline and George Fusting. Her belongings were auctioned at an estate sale after her death.

124. Minnie Haehl tombstone, lot 18 (Fusting), Cave Hill.

125. Personal information supplied by her grandniece, Sue Kunz Logan of Shelbyville, Kentucky.

126. Caron's *Annual Directory of the City of Louisville for 1946–47* (Louisville: Bradley and Gilbert, 1946), 412.

127. Tombstone inscription, lot 18 (Fusting), Cave Hill.

128. *Ibid.*

129. *Ibid.*; *Louisville Courier Journal*, 9 August 1936, sect. 1, p. 7, col. 6, and sect. 5, p. 6, col. 2.

130. Herrmann Fletscher baptism, 1842: 158, Rossau Parish.

131. Herman L. Fletcher death certificate (see n. 94); Herman Fletcher obituary, *Louisville Courier-Journal*, 15 December 1912, sect. 1, p. 11, col. 2.

132. Jefferson County Marriage Book 10, 1868–1872: 176.

133. Eliza B. Fletcher tombstone inscription, lot 305 (Fletcher), Cave Hill, cites her dates of birth and death. She is listed (with a Kentucky birthplace) in the family of Jordan and Sarah Beeler, living in the Matthew Leach household, on the 1850 U.S. Census, Jefferson County, population schedule, Louisville, 2d district, p. 151, dwelling 143, family 183; NARA microfilm M432, roll 206.

134. *Edward's Annual Directory, City of Louisville for 1866–67*, 206.

135. For example, see Caron's *Annual Directory of the City of Louisville for 1871* (Louisville: Bradley and Gilbert, 1871), 189; and Caron's *Annual Directory of the City of Louisville for 1872* (Louisville: C. K. Caron, 1872), 199.

136. Caron's *Annual Directory of the City of Louisville for 1891* (Louisville: Bradley and Gilbert, 1891), 393.

SECOND GENERATION

4. **Caroline² "Carrie" Theresia Sophia Fletcher** (Matthew¹ Punshon alias Fletcher, Luke^A Fletcher, Luke^B, George^C), born 4 August 1840 in Rossau Parish, Vienna, Austria; baptized the following day;¹⁰⁷ died 13 September 1927, in Louisville, Kentucky.¹⁰⁸ She married in Louisville, 25 September 1867, **George Henry Fusting**,¹⁰⁹ who had been born at Hanover, Germany,¹¹⁰ on 6 December 1842 and died on 9 November 1905, Louisville.¹¹¹ Caroline and George are both buried at Cave Hill, as are all their children.

George, a hardware dealer (stoves and tinware) and a prominent parishioner of the Protestant Episcopal Church, was the only member of this family in Louisville to leave trace of a religious affiliation.¹¹² After his death, Carrie and the children moved to Cypress Street, where they lived for the rest of their lives. The one daughter who married, Wilhemina, settled in the house next-door.¹¹³

Children of George Henry and Caroline² (Fletcher) Fusting—all of whom were born in Kentucky and (except Wilhemina) died in the family home—were¹¹⁴

- 12 i. **JOHNNIE¹ FUSTING**, birth date uncertain; buried 10 June 1876.¹¹⁵
- 13 ii. **MATTHEW FLETCHER FUSTING**, born in August 1872; buried in November 1925.¹¹⁶ Matthew, who followed his father into the hardware business, never wed.¹¹⁷
- 14 iii. **ANNE "ANNIE" MARIE FUSTING**, born in January 1875; buried in March 1955.¹¹⁸ Annie probably kept house for the rest of the family, as she is not listed with an occupation in any of the city directories.
- 15 iv. **LEOCADIA "GARDIE" A. FUSTING**, born in November 1877; buried in November 1942.¹¹⁹ Gardie was a stenographer.¹²⁰
- 16 v. **MARY GERTRUDE FUSTING**, born in December 1879; buried in July 1966.¹²¹

107. Baptismal entry 1840: 376, Rossau Parish. John's children always called her "Aunt Carrie."

108. Caroline Fusting death certificate 20735, Office of Vital Statistics, Frankfurt; tombstone inscription, lot 18 (Fusting), Cave Hill.

109. Jefferson County Marriage Book 9: 560-61.

110. 1850 U.S. census, Jefferson County, population schedule, Louisville, ward 1, p.185; NARA microfilm M432, roll 206. This record lists George Fusting, age 7, with Minnie Fusting (59) and Herman Fusting (21); all were born in Hanover, Germany, as were the members of the two other Fusting families in Louisville.

111. Tombstone inscription, lot 18 (Fusting), Cave Hill. George was first interred in the Fletcher lot (376) but was moved on 27 September 1927 to the Fusting site; see also Jefferson County Settlement Book 98: 293-95, County Clerk's Office, Louisville.

112. George Fusting obituary, *Louisville Courier-Journal*, 10 November 1905, p. 4, col. 6.

113. *Caron's Annual Directory of the City of Louisville for 1908* (Louisville: Bradley and Gilbert, 1908): 534-35; also personal knowledge of the author, who visited the Fusting family in June 1948.

114. For birth data, see 1900 U.S. Census, Jefferson County, population schedule, Louisville, 8th ward, ED 113, SD 5, sheet 8, dwelling 144, family 171; NARA microfilm T623, roll 532.

115. Tombstone inscription, lot 376 (Fletcher), Cave Hill.

116. Tombstone inscription, lot 18 (Fusting), Cave Hill.

117. Information provided by Carolyn Fletcher Woodward, Matthew's first cousin and mother of the present writer.

118. Tombstone inscription, lot 18 (Fusting), Cave Hill.

119. *Ibid.* The nickname is the one by which the present writer has always heard the family call her.

120. For example, see *Caron's Annual Directory of the City of Louisville for 1908*, 535.

121. Tombstone inscription, lot 18 (Fusting), Cave Hill.

lost son: he was "moral, industrious and had no particular attachment to any female."⁸⁵

- 3 ii. LEOPOLDINA FLETCHER, baptized 18 October 1838 in Vienna; died the next day amid a pox epidemic that would claim her mother. Subsequently, a church clerk would note beside her baptismal entry that her father had legitimized her posthumously in 1841.⁸⁶

Known children of Matthew¹ and Leocadia (Dědek) Fletcher were as follows:

- + 4 i. CAROLINE²"CARRIE" THERESIA SOPHIA FLETCHER, born 4 August 1840, Vienna, Austria;⁸⁷ died 13 September 1927, Louisville, Kentucky.⁸⁸ Caroline married in Louisville, 25 September 1867, George H. Fusting.⁸⁹
- 5 ii. LEOCADIA HERMIONE ERNESTINE FLETCHER, born 4 August 1841, Vienna;⁹⁰ buried 29 February 1908, Louisville.⁹¹ She never married but contributed to the family income by doing needlework.⁹²
- + 6 iii. HERMANL[UKE] FLETCHER, born 29 December 1842, Vienna;⁹³ died 13 December 1912, Louisville.⁹⁴ Herman married there, 30 August 1870, Eliza B. Beeler.⁹⁵
- + 7 iv. JOHN PUNSHON FLETCHER, born 26 June 1844 in Austria; died 19 June 1914, Brooklyn, New York.⁹⁶ He wed in New York City, 1 May 1877, Louise Ecker.⁹⁷
- + 8 v. ELLENOR "NELLIE" FLETCHER, born 25 December 1845 in Austria; died 22 April 1917, Louisville.⁹⁸ She married in Louisville, 5 May 1869, Jesse Wyatt.⁹⁹
- 9 vi. THERESA FLETCHER, born about 1849, Austria.¹⁰⁰ (The 1856 ship roll places her birth about 1851; the 1860 census, about 1849.¹⁰¹ The 1870 census garbles her name as *Grace* and places her birth about 1853;¹⁰² the 1880 census has *Theresa*, born about 1855.¹⁰³) No further records found.
- 10 vii. LEO FLETCHER, born about 1852, perhaps in Bohemia; died 1856–60, U.S.¹⁰⁴
- 11 viii. ANN "ANNIE" FLETCHER, born about 1855 in Bohemia;¹⁰⁵ buried 20 November 1865 in Louisville.¹⁰⁶

85. *Ibid.*, letter of 3 September 1875.

86. Baptismal entry 1838: 193 and burial entry 1838: 96, Rossau Parish.

87. Baptismal entry 1840: 376, Rossau Parish.

88. Caroline Fusting death certificate no. 20735, State Office of Vital Statistics, Frankfort, incorrectly reports her year of birth as 1841; and her tombstone in Cave Hill Cemetery incorrectly cites it as 1842.

89. Jefferson County Marriage Book 9, 1864–1868: 560–61; FHL microfilm 0,482,710.

90. Baptismal entry 1841: [no number], Rossau Parish.

91. Tombstone inscription, lot 376 (Fletcher), Cave Hill. No death certificate has been found.

92. Fletcher Pension Application (see n. 35), letter of 12 June 1876 from Fusting to Bureau of Pensions.

93. Herrmann Fletscher baptismal entry 1842: 158, Rossau Parish.

94. Herman L. Fletcher death certificate no. 30832, State Office of Vital Statistics, Frankfort, gives year of birth incorrectly as 1841; the year on his tombstone at Cave Hill agrees with that of baptismal record: 1842.

95. Jefferson County Marriage Book 10, 1868–1872: 176; FHL microfilm 0,482,711.

96. John Punshon Fletcher death certificate (see n. 2).

97. Marriage registration 2186-77, Office of the City Clerk, New York.

98. Nellie Wyatt death certificate no. 11103, Kentucky Office of Vital Statistics, Frankfort.

99. Jefferson County Marriage Book 10, 1868–1872: 85.

100. 1860 U.S. census, Jefferson County (see n. 3).

101. *Ibid.*; *City of Baltimore Passenger Manifest* (see n. 36).

102. 1870 U.S. census, Jefferson County, population schedule, Louisville, 10th ward, p. 152, dwelling 792, family 1266; NARA microfilm M593, roll 475.

103. 1880 U.S. census, Jefferson County, population schedule, Louisville, 10th ward, ED 148, SD 2, sheet 63, dwelling 526, family 627, NARA microfilm T9, roll 424.

104. 1860 U.S. census, Jefferson County (see n. 3).

105. *Ibid.* gives her age as 5; she appears as 1 on *City of Baltimore Passenger Manifest* (see n. 45).

106. Annie Fletcher tombstone, lot 376 (Fletcher), Cave Hill Cemetery.

died 24 October 1838 and is buried in Vienna's Hernold Cemetery.⁷¹ Matthew wed 22 September 1839 in Stepney District, London, England,⁷² Leocadia Dědek [variously Dedek, Didek, Did],⁷³ who had been born 20 September 1815 in Mnichově Hradiště (aka Münchengrätz), Bohemia, to Johann Dědek and his wife, Theresa Czech.⁷⁴ Leocadia died in Louisville, Kentucky, on 1 September 1884.⁷⁵

Known children of Matthew¹ Fletcher and Theresa Strafinger were

- 2 i. WILLIAM¹ FLETCHER, baptized in Vienna, Austria, 17 October 1836;⁷⁶ died (probably) 20 September 1863 at Chickamauga, Georgia.⁷⁷ After the death of his mother, William was legitimized by his father⁷⁸ and reared by his stepmother. He immigrated to America with the rest of his family in June 1856⁷⁹ and filed his declaration of intention to become a United States citizen on 7 November 1857, at New Albany (Floyd County), Indiana.⁸⁰ Working in his father's machine shop until war erupted,⁸¹ William enlisted in the Union Army on 9 September 1861, choosing Company F, Fifth Regiment, Kentucky Infantry.⁸² The "Louisville Legion," as it was known, is found throughout many Civil War campaigns, including the Battles of Shiloh, Stone's River, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, and Atlanta—ultimately joining forces with General William Tecumseh Sherman in North Carolina for the surrender of Confederate General Joseph Johnston.⁸³

William's final days are described in a poignant letter that his commanding officer wrote Matthew. Reporting that William was not seen on Sunday the 20th after a charge made by the regiment, Lt. William H. Powell added: "I have a great interest, on account of his steady, soldierly bearing; he was a man always fit for duty, sober and industrious . . . and when under fire none were cooler or could behave better. . . . He was one that stood by me on the memorable night of the 19th of September; only 4 out of the 27 that went into action that [sic] came out with this regiment; he was one of those."⁸⁴ Relaying this letter to the Pension Office in support of his application, Matthew added his own assessment of the

71. Wilhelm Fletscher baptism, 1836: 373; Leopoldina Fletscher baptism, 1838: 193; Leopoldina Fletscher burial, 1838: 96; and Theresia Strafinger burial, 1838: 97, all in Rossau Parish. Theresia's birth date, her place of birth, and the names of her parents are given in the baptismal entry for her daughter Leopoldina. Matthew's letter to Bureau of Pensions on 3 September 1875 gives the burial place of his son's mother.

72. Fletcher-Dedek marriage certificate (see n. 21).

73. The name is spelled *Dědek* in the Bohemian records relating to this family—both the previously cited ones from Mnichově Hradiště Parish and the 1784–94 registers of Loukovec Parish (particularly see i.č.3: 15 and i.č.4: 33–36). In the Austrian and English records cited in this paper, the name is *Didek* and *Dedek*. On the ship manifest and the 1860 Kentucky census, it is rendered *Did*.

74. Leocadia Dědek baptism entry, Catholic Parish Registers, vol. i.č.5: 91, Mnichově Hradiště.

75. Tombstone inscription, lot 376 (Fletcher), Cave Hill Cemetery.

76. Wilhelm Fletscher baptism, 1836: 373, Rossau Parish.

77. Fletcher Pension Application (see n. 35), letter of 12 July 1875 from Adjutant General's Office to Commissioner of Pensions.

78. A marginal note appended to William's baptismal record (see n. 71) states that he had been legitimized "according to decree no. 9725/920 dated 26 March 1841 from the High Court."

79. *City of Baltimore Passenger Manifest* (see n. 45).

80. Floyd County Naturalization Book 1: 255.

81. Fletcher Pension Application, letter of 3 September 1875 to Pension Office.

82. William Fletcher, Compiled Military Service Record (see n. 55).

83. Frederick H. Dyer, *A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion*, 3 vols. (Des Moines: Dyer Publishing Co., 1908), 2: 1199–1200.

84. Fletcher Pension Application, letter of 11 November 1863, Powell to Matthew Fletcher.

Fletcher
Fam

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

home from the war. Penned in German and very damaged, it seems to contain a reference to "Mateus Fletscher" in a context that should not be a reference to the father he was addressing.⁶⁴ (Playing devil's advocate with this evidence, however, one might also ask why William would write to his parents about a brother and refer to him by surname as well as given name.)

The Edison legend might be true, but it is equally difficult to prove or disprove. Three years younger than John Fletcher, Thomas Alva Edison was a wanderer in his youth. Leaving his home in Port Huron, Michigan, he was in Memphis by 1864. From there he moved to Nashville and finally to Louisville, where he took a job as a telegrapher and worked for Western Union for a couple of years. That Western Union office was at 213 Main Street, not far from Matthew's shop.⁶⁵ Matthew's inventive mind should have been an attraction to the young Edison, and the machining and patternmaking that the Fletchers did there were among the skills Edison needed later to produce his inventions.

By 1870 Edison was in New York, an "inventor" living at 80 Broadway but operating his business in New Jersey.⁶⁶ According to a recent biographer, he opened his mechanical shop in Newark and, later, his laboratory at Menlo Park.⁶⁷ Meanwhile, John Fletcher, machinist, makes his first appearance in the New York directory of 1873.⁶⁸ No known New York or New Jersey record connects him to Edison.⁶⁹ Nor does any explain why he left Louisville for America's largest city, in which he had no known kin. The only clue is the statement of his children: Edison offered him a job, but he decided not to take it. If true, John was correct in labeling Edison a dreamer. Geniuses often are. But genius is much harder to recognize; and gambling on the genius of another is a risky way to support a family.

GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY

FIRST GENERATION

1. **Matthew¹ Punshon alias Fletcher** (Luke^A Punshon, Luke^B, George^C), born 5 December 1801 in Stourbridge, Worcestershire, England; died 11 March 1891, Louisville, Kentucky.⁷⁰ Matthew's first union, not formalized, occurred in Vienna, 1836-38, with **Theresia Strafinger**, who had been baptized 5 April 1807 in Aschau, Austria, as daughter of Franz and Theresia (Wetzel) Strafinger; Theresia

64. Fletcher Pension Application (see n. 35), letter of 29th [no month or year] from William Fletcher, Camp Stanton, to parents. Roger Minert translated this torn and barely legible document.

65. Yater, *Two Hundred Years at the Falls of the Ohio*, 119. Edison has not been found in any Louisville city directories of the 1860s (the period Yater places him there).

66. *Trow's New York City Directory for the Year Ending May 1, 1871* (New York: Trow City Directory Co., 1870), 347. This is the only incidence of Edison found in the New York City directories.

67. Neil Baldwin, *Edison: Inventing the Century* (New York: Hyperion, 1996), 40-41.

68. *Trow's New York City Directory for the Year Ending May 1, 1874* (New York: John F. Trow, 1873), 424.

69. This search has not included the Thomas Edison Papers at Rutgers University, which include some 5 million pages and no master index.

70. Tombstone inscription, lot 376 (Fletcher), Cave Hill.



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