

Box 162, Worthington, Ohio, 43085,
April 23, 1978.

Mr. T. T. Chamberlain,
607 Fort Worth Club Building,
Fort Worth, Texas, 76102.

Dear Cousin:

Your letter of April 19, 1978, followed within a day or two with your form has been a delight and I await the forms from your children with real anticipation. It is a great pleasure and feeling of satisfaction to get a family all completed on the records.

Your statement saying you would like to get a copy of the work done on the family leaves me in a position difficult to fulfill. In the first place I have already a lot of papers and the data on several thousand of the family which to duplicate would be difficult and not very rewarding for any one to receive them. Also I have only begun this work again after having left it for several decades, except for slight flurries now and then.

For the time being let me write a few items. Samuel Fisher was born in the North of Ireland, perhaps Londonderry, July 29, 1722. His father was a weaver and he was apprenticed as a weaver and probably became a regular weaver in 1740 when he was 18. In 1740 he came to New England on a sailing vessel which was becalmed in the North Atlantic. The ship ran out of food, people died, and some ate the flesh of those who had died and became very ill. It was decided to kill and eat one of the passengers so the rest could survive. The lot fell on Samuel Fisher but being Christian people they gave him two days to prepare; in the meantime a ship hove in sight, saw the distress signals, and sent a boat and gave them provisions. When the ship landed, he was sold to a man in Roxbury as an indentured servant for two years to pay for the passage. Then in ~~1742~~ 1742 he made his way to Londonderry, N. H. where he had friends. He had an older brother William, born in 1716, who came also in 1740 but perhaps on a different ship. Samael made his home with Matthew and Janet Taylor, perhaps related. Samuel worked at farming. In 1745 he married Agnes Taylor, a daughter in the above household. She had one daughter, Nancy and then she died. Samael married on July 29, 1747, Agnes Wilson, the daughter of James and Gennet Wilson. There were four children from this marriage; Gennet who married Matthew Archibald, moved to Nova Scotia in 1767, and lived to have 12 children there and she died in 1843, aged 93. James, perhaps her twin, married and had a large family and lived in Francestown, N. H. Sarah married Samuel Taylor, a son of Matthew and Janet and had one son, Matthew Taylor (who is mentioned in the will), and then she died. Matthew Taylor graduated from Dartmouth in 1801~~4~~, came to this part of Ohio in 1803 and preached here and died in 1835. Jane, married James Humphrey, and many children, lived in Londonderry, N. H., and died at age of 93. Then second wife Agnes died March 12, 1755, and he married for a third wife on Feb. 15, 1756 Sarah Barber. They had seven children: Mary who married John Carson and had 10 children. Eldest daughter married Robert Steele and they came to Oberlin in the earliest days, some were on the faculty and knew and mingled with your ancestors there. Samuel went to Nova Scotia when he was a lad with his older sister, grew up there married and had a large family. Margaret, married David McQuesten and had a large family. William died in 1775 at age of 12 or 13. Ebenezer (my ancestor) was born in 1764, married Polly Dean and had 8 children and died at age of 84 in 1848-9. Martha, never married, reportedly because the man she loved

There is some debate on some of this but this is what I consider the facts show.

They had a remarkable talent in family, more or less your father.

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married somebody else. John, the youngest was born in 1769. He was the executor of the will, the one who took over his father's farm and perhaps the most capable of the whole lot. He married October 24, 1798 to Betsey Dean (Polly's sister). She was born June 24, 1776, the daughter of Nathaniel Dean and Abigail Ellis who lived in Londonderry. Sometime in the 1820s he moved to Warsaw, N. Y. where three of his sons had moved. He died in Warsaw October 13, 1838 and Betsey died November 20, 1858. They had nine remarkable children--a most unusual family. Lucy never married but was the strongest character of the family. Betsey, born in 1801 and died Nov. 21, 1869, never married. John, born March 13, 1806, moved to Warsaw, then had an iron foundry in Canada, moved to Batavia, N. Y., elected to Congress. Samuel, born May 18, 1808, moved to Warsaw, had a fine farm there and was an important man in the town. Had three important sons whose grandchildren are in communication with me. Phineas Dean, born Dec. 6, 1810, became a minister, and died in the south. He had two sons who died as young men. (Sorry) (between Betsey and John) Nathaniel Dean, born March 15, 1804, moved to Warsaw, engaged in business there and in Canada and retired after the Civil War a wealthy man. Had two children but neither ever married. James P. born Jan. 1, 1813, married was a minister and I have been in touch with his descendants. Caleb Ellis, born May 13, 1815, married and had children and I know his descendant Ray Fisher who is a retired professor of history at UCLA. Caleb was a prominent minister, graduated from Oberlin and in letters I read that he was greatly indebted to Henry Cowles, a brother of your great-grandmother who loaned him money and gave him money so he could continue on at Oberlin. And the youngest Mary, born May 14, 1817 at Londonderry, N. H. She, of course, was the pet of the family and evidently was a very sweet and gentle person. She married March 8, 1848, to John Sears Peck. Your grandmother was the oldest of their four children.

If you ever go traveling you should go to Warsaw, N. Y. where they lived (I grew up there as you can see from the entry in Who's Who) and go to the cemetery there. John and Betsey are buried in the old part on the east side of Main street. Others are buried in a big Fisher lot in the old part of the west side of Main street. Driving along South Main street you could notice a side street to the west called Oatka Street or court. There stood the house where Samuel Fisher lived and his father lived with him. Nathaniel Dean had a big house on the North Side of West Buffalo st.

In Londonderry, N. H. the stone still stands at the grave of Samuel Fisher who died in 1806. It is in what is called the Hill cemetery and is not used today. His second wife, his son William, and his third wife are buried alongside him.

I am trying to find out where he came from in Ireland. I have heard that Taylors and Archibalds came from the Parish of Templemore and the Parish of Maghra in Londonderry and I have written there and hope to hear if there is any Fishers. Samuel's brother William went to Nova Scotia, too, even before Gennet did and was a prominent man in Truro, N. S. He had a large family, his wife being Eleanor Archibald.

Hope I haven't bored you too much.

Best wishes,

Cousin Sydney
Sydney N. Fisher

P.S. I would like a paragraph about your father + his many talents & accomplishments. I read the announcement of your parents marriage in an Indiana newspaper. To Erwin Jeswald a cousin of yours? I have known him for six years.