

Gone Fish'n

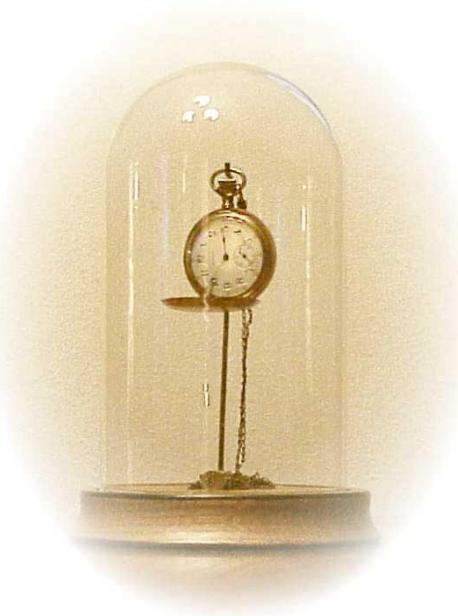
A Genealogical Detective Story

by
Jeffrey T. Dickerman
November 2000

This story begins with a ago while I was still in high the time when my and his wife Fran² sold their Owosso to move into an into my parents home and I with it. I guess I should fascination. The watch is a with a long chain and sliding to whom the watch had curiosity was immediately

It was made by the Massachusetts watch reputation producing turn of the century. the serial number on the manufactured sometime in

The watch was in good closer examination revealed an engraving compartment with the following inscription:



watch given to me many years school. I believe it was about grandfather, Ed Dickerman¹, home on Curwood Drive in apartment. The watch came was immediately fascinated describe the source of my fine woman's pendant watch clasp. We didn't really know originally belonged so my piqued.

Waltham Watch Company, a manufacturer of good timepieces from before the According to Oldwatch.com, watch indicates it was 1908.

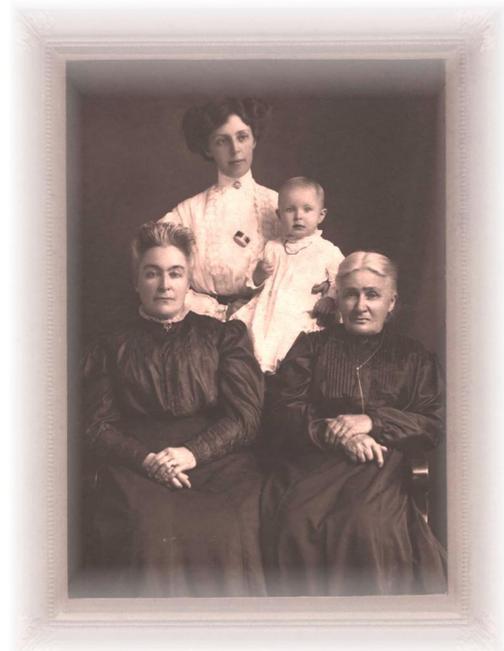
working condition and upon



Ida E. Fish
from Frank
1911

Now this was an interesting clue! It immediately asks the question: Who are Ida and Frank? My Dad³ said that Frank must be Frank Fish⁴, his great-grandfather. His brother, my Uncle Jim⁵, is the official family genealogist and historian so we checked with him about Frank and Ida. Sure enough, Frank W. Fish had married Ida E. Fuller⁶ on December 22nd in 1878 and they were his great-grandparents on his maternal grandmother's side. In 1911 Frank and Ida would have celebrated their 33rd wedding anniversary. Perhaps this watch was presented as an anniversary gift. What was the story behind this beautiful watch? I decided to look into it a bit more...

Interestingly, the watch seems to appear in a photograph taken not long after my Grandmother's birth in 1908. In this photograph are four women, the baby Vivian Brown (my Grandmother), her mother Maud (Fish) Brown⁸, and two seated women. Looking closely at the woman on the right, it appears she is wearing the very same pendant. Could this be Ida Fish wearing the watch Frank had given to her? What about the other woman? Is it possible that this was Maud's mother-in-law, Helen Brown⁹? It certainly seems likely but some corroborating photos would help us to be certain. But what about the timing? Vivian was born in June of 1908 and the pendant is clearly engraved "1911". Is it possible that Vivian was three years old in the photograph? She appears younger. Well, we know the watch was made in 1908. Could it be that Frank had the watch engraved some time after he first presented it to his wife, Ida? It's hard to know for sure.



The same pendant appears to show up in a photograph of Maud some years later. I believe this watch has been passed down through the family. Vivian undoubtedly possessed it at one time though I have yet to find any photographs of her



wearing the pendant. Since Ed and Vivian had no daughters it's likely the watch stayed with Ed after Vivian passed away in 1973. Ed's second wife and Vivian's best friend of over fifty years, "Grandma" Fran², may remember the watch. I'll have to check with her over the holidays. Eventually, this family keepsake will pass on to my own daughter, Jenna¹⁰, and hopefully on to her daughter, granddaughter or great-granddaughter.

In 1980, I began my own humble contribution to the family genealogy by documenting the background of the watch and the descendant's of Ida and Frank (as well as I knew them at the time). Over the years my interest in our family history has never waned. When my Grandfather passed away in 1992, Uncle Jim was in Owosso from California. As I recall, Jim and I visited a cousin from the Brown side of the family. I believe it was at that time we discussed Frank Fish. Talking with Jim, I learned that we didn't know much about Frank's background. Evidently his death certificate listed his parent's as "Unknown".

Both he and Ida are buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Owosso with Ida's parents, Ezra¹¹ and Jane¹² Fuller, but we have no idea where Frank's family originally came from.

This was to remain a family mystery for years.

I'm not sure why, but I was surprised to learn that Frank lived with Jim and my Dad when they were boys. Frank lived nearly 93 years. He died in 1943 when Dad was 11. I don't know exactly how many years Frank lived with Ed and Vivian's family, but I did learn that it was Ed Dickerman¹ who



reported the death information to the County Clerk and local newspaper. Evidently he did not know who Frank's parents were.

Frank's obituary from the June 7, 1943 issue of the *Owosso Argus Press* was of some help. A trip to the Owosso Public Library in 1992 provided the copy:

Frank Fish, 93, Taken by Death

**Resident Here for 40
Years Expires**

Frank Fish, aged 93, of 727 Bradley street, died Saturday afternoon at 3:30 at his home. He had been ill for two days and old age was given as the cause of his death.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. at the Knapp & Smith Funeral Home with Rev. W.D. Davis officiating. Burial will be in Oak Hill Cemetery.

Mr. Fish was born in Hume, N.Y., October 14, 1850. He was Married to Miss Ida E. Fuller, December 22, 1878. He had resided in Owosso for the last 40 years and previous to that he lived on a farm southwest of town.

He is survived by a son, George, of Lakewood, Ohio. A daughter, Mrs. Maude Brown, died 13 years ago. He leaves several nieces and nephews and two grand children and two great grandchildren.

The obituary supplied a place of birth and a direction to begin my search. I visited the Grand Rapids branch of the LDS Church's Family History Center. Though I wasn't able to find any direct references to this Frank Fish, I was able to obtain a contact number for the clerk's office in Allegany County, New York. Hume is a small village of perhaps 300 souls situated in the north central part of Allegany County. The county clerk told me they had marriage records from 1908 and land records from 1807. Perhaps the land records would show a Fish.

Unfortunately I never had a chance to visit New York. I suppose I could have hired a professional genealogist in that state to perform the research. But this is just a hobby for me. And I prefer to do the detective work myself. Over the years I busied myself with work and the raising of two children. I was able to locate other ancestors buried in Michigan and set up a simple web site for others to share what family information I had gathered.

As the Internet grew, so did my ability to access remote databases. I have a degree in computer science so I learned my way around the old bulletin boards early on. I checked often for anyone with the surname Fish from anywhere near Hume, New York. I remember getting very excited when I discovered an Emma Fish who showed up as a resident of Wiscoy Village, Allegany County in the 1860 census of New York. In 1850 she was a resident of Hume. Could this be Frank's mother?

I searched the published genealogies for any Fish descendents hoping to stumble onto a Frank W. Fish. Earlier this year I found the following excerpt while on a trip to the Library of Michigan in

Lansing. From page 308 of the *History of Allegany County, New York* published in 1879 there is a bit of information on the early history of Hume. The discussion is regarding the earliest residents of the village in 1831:

"...Samuel Brown, Isaac Gibbs and Joe Cooper were early settlers east of the river. Sanford, Fish and Hammond located on the west side..."

This brief reference was about all the information I had found up to that time. Any supposed link between Frank and this unknown "Fish" was tenuous at best. Still, it kept my interest alive. I decided to check the information I already had on file for Frank.

Nothing new in Frank's file, but I had overlooked a marriage announcement for Maud Fish and George Brown¹³. Frank's daughter, Maud, was married in September of 1905. The last paragraph from the

* Northeast Road Atlas, Rand McNally & Company, Chicago, Illinois - 1984.

newspaper clipping from the *Owosso Argus Press* mentions the out of town guests. Maud's brother, George¹⁴, came in from Lansing. But there was one other guest I had overlooked years earlier.

"The out of town guests were Mrs. Joseph Fuller, of Webberville; Mrs. and Mrs. Henry Appleton and Mrs. Bert Appleton, of Brighton; Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Van Horn, of Plukney; Miss Jessie Edgar, of Lakeview; Miss Ivah Carl, of Davison; Mrs. G. W. Fish of Belding; George Fish, of Lansing."

Mrs. G. W. Fish certainly sounds like a relative of Frank's. Since Belding is just a few miles north of my home in Lowell we decided to go for a drive. With my fiancé, Tina¹⁵ and her daughter Kelsea¹⁶, Jenna and I headed to Belding. The main cemetery in Belding is on the way into town from the south. I had seen it before but had never stopped. It's now called River Ridge Cemetery and, after walking around for a bit, we found the headstone we were looking for. Here was the burial place of a George W. Fish¹⁷ and his wife, Fannie¹⁸. The inscription on the stone read:

GEORGE W. FISH
1842 - 1916

FANNIE A. HIS WIFE
1847 - 1938



Could George W. Fish be the brother of Frank W. Fish? The timeframe was right. George would have been Frank's senior by about eight years. That certainly was possible. Perhaps George's death certificate would name his parents. Belding is located in Ionia County so the county records would be in Ionia, just about 15 minutes due east of Lowell. Since it was a Sunday we'd have to wait until the office opened the next day. On Monday, November 6th, I took a long lunch and drove to the county courthouse in Ionia.

The women working the clerk's desk were very helpful and handed me the death index books. Searching the 1916 records I found the reference to Geo. W. Fish. Record No. 4744 indicated that he died on December 30, 1916. Cause of death: Chronic Bronchitis. Birthplace: New York. Most importantly:

Name of Father: *William Fish*¹⁹

Name of Mother: *Sylvia Alton*²⁰

Does this prove the William and Sylvia (Alton) Fish are the parents of Frank W. Fish? Certainly not. Further research would be necessary. George's obituary might list his survivors including any younger brothers. The next step was a trip to the Belding library to look up the local newspaper for the end of the year in 1916.

Unfortunately, that wouldn't be so easy. In 1916 there were two Belding newspapers - The *Belding Banner* and the *Belding News*. At the library in Belding I scrolled through the microfiche of the *Belding Banner* looking for an obituary immediately after December 30th. The *Banner* was a weekly paper so this really shouldn't have been too difficult. As I scrolled through the December 27th issue expecting to find the obituary, I found the following entry instead:

MISSING

Volume 28, No. 32 & 33
January 3 & 10, 1917

No problem, I thought. I'll just check the *Belding News*. As luck would have it, the same pages were missing from the *Belding News* too. It seems the two papers merged some years later to become the *Belding Banner-News* and the first edition of the year disappeared before they could be filmed as microfiche. I was able to find the obituary for Fannie Fish in the June 18th, 1936 issue of the *Banner-News*. Unfortunately there was only a brief mention that she was the "... widow of the late George Fish..."

I decided to look again at the 1916/1917 *Belding Banner* microfiche. Searching backward from George's date of death I came across the following mention under "Local Items" in the December 20, 1916 issue:

So we can place Ida in Belding near the time of George's death. It only seems reasonable that George and Frank were closely related. Were they brothers, or perhaps only cousins? We needed to find a clue that put them in the same household as children. For that, the best opportunity was the 1870 census.

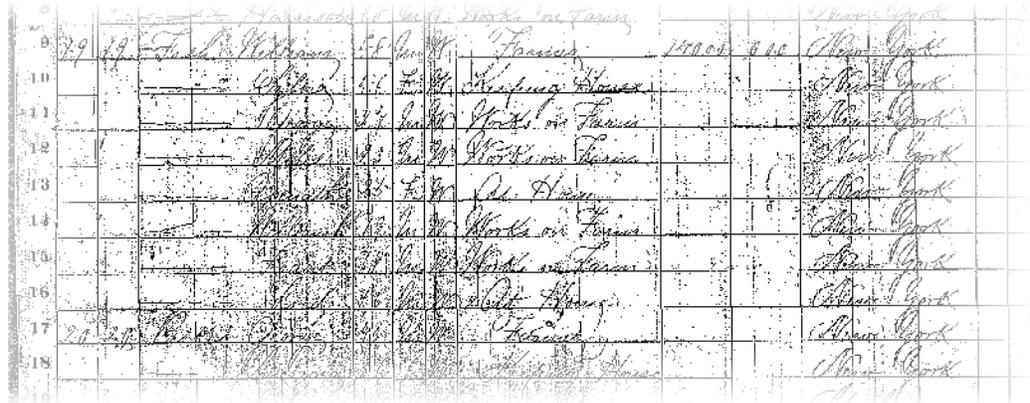
The Library of Michigan has been working for some time to put the images of the census rolls on the Internet. I had just recently discovered the website which has a very effective search engine. Back home I keyed-in the web address and started a search for William Fish. The results showed 9 entries from the 1870 Michigan Census. I hoped that the family had moved to Michigan from New York by this time.

The first William Fish from Bay City was a resident of the local jail when the census counter came to call. Yikes! Hope that wasn't great-great-grandpa. The next entry was for a William Fish living in Marshall Township in Calhoun County. Marshall is a historic town, east of Battle Creek, along the present day interstate I-94. Marshall is the Calhoun County seat. It certainly seems reasonable that a family from back east could have settled in Calhoun County and then had children grow up to immigrate to Ionia and Shiawassee counties. I waited patiently for the census image to load and display.

Local Items:

Mrs. Frank Fish of Owosso, who has been here assisting Mrs. George W. Fish, returned home Friday. Mr. is still very sick and no hopes are entertained for his recovery.

Bingo!
The census
image,
though
hard to
read,
showed
William
Fish, Sylvia,
George,
Miles,



Acunath (?), William P., Frank, and Fred (or Ford). Frank was listed as 18 years old. By June 30th of 1870 (the “official” date of the census), the Frank W. Fish of my ancestry should have been 19 years old. I’m not sure how the census was taken back in 1870 but it would not surprise me at all if much of the data were taken in advance. My understanding is that the local county clerks were responsible for the census count at the time.

So here was the family of William and Sylvia Fish with brothers George and Frank. At the time the family members living with William and Sylvia were:

9	19	19	Fish, William	58	M	W	Farmer	14000	600	New York
10			— Sylvia	56	F	W	Keeping House			New York
11			— George	27	M	W	Works on Farm			New York
12			— Miles	23	M	W	Works on Farm			New York
13			— Acunath	25	F	W	At House			New York
14			— William P	19	M	W	Works on Farm			New York
15			— Frank	15	M	W	Works on Farm			New York
16			— Ford *	16	M	W	At House			New York

* or Fred

Here were the facts: In 1870 William and Sylvia (Alton) Fish had a family of five boys and one girl living in Marshall Township, Calhoun County, Michigan. According to the Census, William Fish owned real estate valued at \$14,000 at the time. Everyone in the family is listed as having been born in New York.

A trip to Marshall was the next obvious step. Marshall is about ninety minutes southeast of Lowell so I planned to be away from work for about half a day. I left early and took the back roads through Lake Odessa, south on M-66 into Battle Creek, then east on I-94 to Marshall. Marshall has an historic downtown area and a central square with the City Hall on the south corner. Finding the county building wasn’t difficult. I knew that William and Sylvia Fish were probably buried in the area, but I wasn’t sure where exactly. My Internet research indicated two cemeteries in town, Hotchkiss and Oakridge. I suspected William and Sylvia might be buried at Oakridge. But first I had to determine if they were, in fact, the right Fish’s.

The county records are kept in large bound books in the Clerk's office. There were about six genealogists looking through the various volumes - one was looking at a microfiche. I think there were about six or seven death record books, each about four to five inches thick. Fortunately they're indexed and arranged in date order so I started with the earliest. After some time I found a reference to a Sylvia Fish in Book 2, page 311. Pulling out the large volume I leafed through to page 311. Record No. 1022 provided the following information:

<i>Mar. 24, 1898</i>	<i>Fish, Sylvia F</i>	<i>W^o. (widowed)</i>	<i>Age: 84</i>
	<i>Place of Death: Marshall City</i>	<i>Cause of Death: Pneumonia</i>	
	<i>Birthplace: New York</i>	<i>Occupation: Housewife</i>	
	<i>Father: Elliot Alton</i>	<i>New York</i>	
	<i>Mother: Hannah Wheelock</i>	<i>New York</i>	

I realized that since Sylvia was listed as a widow, William must have died before 1898. Checking back through the records I could find no mention at all of William's death. Looking forward, I found the death of Miles Fish, son of William and Sylvia and brother of Frank and George. Miles died in Marshall City on February 23, 1912. He was a farmer, married and he died at the age of 65 years, 10 months, and 26 days.

Checking back through the older records one more time I found the death of the younger brother of Frank, George, and Miles. Record No. 239 from Jun 15, 1871 listed Frederick Fish, male, single, 17 years old, the son of William Fish and Soplva [sic] Fish. Frederick died just one year after the Census as a young man. The cause of his death was listed as "Dropsy of Heart."

After completing the search through the death records, I turned to a happier topic - marriages. The County Clerk's office listed all the marriages in Calhoun County so I thought I'd try to find George and Fannie's record. I knew that Frank had married in Owosso so he wouldn't be listed, but a confirmation of George's bride's name would tell me I've found the right family. I still hadn't confirmed that George and Frank were brothers but my confidence was high.

Just a bit of searching the indexes lead me to Record No. 1336, the marriage of George and Fannie:

<u>Record</u>	<u>Date of Marriage</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Birthplace</u>
<i>No. 1336</i>	<i>Oct. 18, 1871</i>	<i>Marshall</i>			
	<i>Geo Washington Fish</i>		<i>Marshall, Mich</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>Homer, NY</i>
	<i>Fannie Adelia McCumbre</i>		<i>Homer, NY</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>Homer, NY</i>

And to the marriage of Miles and Mary Waltz, Record No. 2196:

<i>No. 2196</i>	<i>June 14, 1874</i>	<i>Marshall</i>			
	<i>Miles Fish</i>		<i>Marshall, Mich</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>Allegheny, NY</i>
	<i>Mary Waltz</i>		<i>Lee, Michigan</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>Ann Arbor, Mich</i>

I also found the marriage record of their sister Acunath to Steven Taylor. Interestingly, this wedding was witnessed by Miles and Mary Fish.

<i>No. 2279</i>	<i>Nov. 10, 1874</i>	<i>Marshall, Mi</i>		
<i>Steven Taylor</i>		<i>Marshall, Mich.</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>England</i>
<i>Acunath E. Fish</i>		<i>"</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>State of New York</i>

In all, it had been a pretty successful “fishing” expedition. I found records tying George W. (Washington, I now knew) Fish of Belding to the Fish’s of Calhoun County. I also found records of Miles and Acunath, but no concrete evidence showing the relationship between my great, great, great Grandfather Frank to these Fish’s. I decided to keep looking.

Just east of the Calhoun County Courthouse is the Marshall District Library, a fairly modern small town library. Inside there were a number of Internet terminals but I was more interested in the local records. I had already found all I could on the Internet. At the library there was a single microfiche machine so I checked out the local paper starting around Sylvia’s death. An obituary might list her survivors - hopefully, including Frank. In *The Marshall Chronicle* dated March 25, 1898 there was just a brief mention under the title:

ADDITIONAL LOCAL.

Mrs. Sylvia Fish died last night at the home of her son Miles Fish in this city. The funeral will be held Saturday morning at 10 o'clock at the house. Burial at the Porter cemetery.

So it appears that Sylvia was living with Miles when she died. Since she was to be buried at Porter cemetery I thought there might be a chance that William would be buried there too.

I checked a cemetery map and decided that I could stop at the cemetery on the way home since it was at the north end of Calhoun County, several miles north of Marshall. Since Sylvia was probably living with Miles in Marshall, it seemed probable that she was to be buried where her husband had been buried some years earlier. I was discouraged that I hadn’t found

mention of Frank but I could at least stop by the cemetery to see if William was buried there.

Before leaving the library I checked at the desk for any copies of a local history book. Around the turn of the last century there were a number of publishers who sent representatives from town to town to document the local histories. I’ve always assumed that to have a biography or profile included in one of these books one would have to pay the publisher a fee of some sort. I’ve never found any proof of this, but that’s always been my assumption. Regardless of that, the local history books can be a valuable source of information for present day genealogists.

The librarian knew exactly what I was talking about and directed me to an old volume entitled, *Portrait and Biographical Album of Calhoun County, Michigan* published in Chicago by Chapman Bros. The book was copyrighted 1891. Leafing through the index I hoped to find information on a David C. Fish, reported to be the first white settler in Calhoun County. Could he have been a brother to William Fish?

Instead, I found a reference on page 678 to Miles Fish. This had to be the same Miles Fish listed in the census and married to Mary Waltz. This had to be the same Miles Fish who was a brother of George and Frank Fish. I quickly found the page.



M

ILES FISH. The present home of this gentleman is a valuable farm of one hundred and seventy-six acres on section 19, Lee Township. It was purchased by him in the spring of 1890, at which time he left Marshall, which had been his home for some years and where he still owns a residence. The farm is all improved except forty acres, which is left to forest growths, is well fenced and has among its adornments a large apple orchard and other fruit. The location is a good one and the land is fertilized by living springs and Indian Creek. A full line of farm buildings may be seen here, and the latest machinery is in operation at the proper time, while all the stock is of good grade.

So much has heredity and early association to do with a man's success in life that it will not be amiss to refer to the progenitors of Mr. Fish ere proceeding to outline his own history. His grandfather and father bore the same given name, William, and both were natives of the Empire State and engaged in farming. Each lived for some years in Wyoming County, the home of the father of our subject being near Portage. Thence he removed to this county in 1856, taking up his residence in Convis Township, where for a few years he operated rented land. He then bought ninety acres in Marshall Township, and there spent the remainder of his life, dying in September, 1873, at the age of sixty-two years. He belonged to the Republican party and to the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The mother of our subject bore the maiden name of Sylvia Alton and is a native of Black River County, near Sacketts Harbor, N.Y. Her father, Elliot Alton, was born in Connecticut and was an early settler in Genesee County, N.Y., where the daughter grew to maturity and married. He removed to Illinois to live with one of his children in Hancock County, and was killed by lightning while hoeing corn. He was a patriot soldier in the War of 1812. Since the death of her husband Mrs. Fish as [sic] spent most of her time in Marshall and is now living with her son Miles. Eight of the eleven children born to her grew beyond the years of childhood and six still survive. These are Mrs. Hannah Templeton, living in Junction City, Kan.; George, whose home is in Marshall; Miles, of whom we write; Mrs. Aseneth Taylor, now of Kansas; Page, a farmer in Kansas; and **Frank, who resides in Owosso, this State** .[emphasis added]

The natal day of Miles Fish was March 29, 1846, and his birthplace Allegany County, N.Y., not far from Rushford. A part of his boyhood was spent in Hume, on the Genesee River. He attended the district school, making quite a start on the road of learning before the family came to this State, and after the new home was established he continued to prosecute his studies as thoroughly as possible. He was a lad of ten years when he came hither and vividly remembers the fourteen days' journey with a wagon. He remained an inmate of his father's home until he was of age, then began to work by the month and after a time took up the operation of the farm he now owns. After working it five years he removed to Marshall, where he lived about a decade, during the most of that time running a city delivery. He then bought and came to the farm and resumed his former occupation.

In Marshall, June 14, 1874, Mr. Fish and Miss Mary Walz were united in the bonds of matrimony. The bride was born in Ann Arbor May 25, 1854, and is a daughter of George and Mary Walz, natives of Wurtemberg, Germany. Mr. Walz was orphaned when quite small and worked at farming until he came to America. After his marriage he located at Ann Arbor and near that city continued his former work. About 1850 he came to this county, and locating in the woods, built a log house and set about the improvement of land that was covered with forest. Beginning at the bottom of the ladder, he, by hard work and wise economy, succeeded in making a most comfortable home. He died January 30, 1890, at the age of sixty-four years. He was bereft of his faithful companion in 1865. They were the parents of seven children, four of whom survive, namely: Mary, wife of our subject; Mrs. Elvina Brown, who lives near Freeport; Caroline, residing in Marshall; and Mrs. Elizabeth Woods, who lives in Lee Township. Mr. Walz was a member of the Lutheran Church.

The pleasant home of Mr. and Mrs. Fish has been brightened by the presence of a son and three daughters, named respectively: George F., Mildred M., Maud E. and Mary S. George is now attending the High School in Marshall. All are encouraged in the pursuit of knowledge, both in and out of school, and are being taught to make a practical use of it. Mr. Fish is School Director in his district. Politically speaking he is a true Republican. He belongs to the Baptist Church in Marshall, and he and his wife command the respect of their acquaintances by the worth of their moral characters, their intelligence and their kindness toward their fellow-beings.



So there it was. Proof that Frank Fish was a brother of Miles Fish, son of William Fish and Sylvia Alton. The biography of Miles Fish included more details than I had been able to find anywhere else. Sylvia's father, Elliot Alton, (we now know) was a veteran of the War of 1812 and had been struck down by lightning. We now know that William Fish was, in fact, the father of Frank W. Fish and that his father was named William Fish, too. We know that there were other children beside the six listed in the Census of 1870. We know that Frank's older brother Miles remembered his boyhood days in Hume, New York, where Frank was born. Finally, we know the history that has so long eluded us.



On my drive home I did stop at the Porter cemetery. Unfortunately there were no headstones there to mark the graves of William or Sylvia (Alton) Fish. I have since been in contact with members of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society who have documented the burials in Porter cemetery. Though no William Fish is listed, Sylvia Fish is listed among the original burial permits. Regrettably, it appears no headstone was ever placed or at least could not be found as recently as 1995. Evidently there was also no marker number attached to the original record from 1898, so locating the exact burial location is difficult, perhaps impossible.

There are a number of Walz and Waltz family members buried at Porter who may have been related to Miles' wife, Mary Walz/Waltz. It is conceivable that Sylvia's burial location is near this group in row 3.

Perhaps even more promising, Willard Elliot Allton and his wife Eliza buried at Porter. Eliza's headstone has fallen and is now flush with the ground. Could Willard Elliot Allton be a brother of Sylvia and son of Elliot Alton? It certainly seems plausible - perhaps even probable. For now we do not know. Perhaps some future genealogist will solve that mystery.

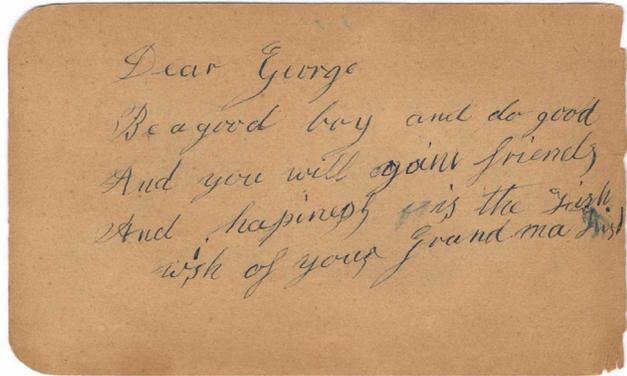


Epilogue:

After finishing this paper I realized that I had in my possession the autograph book of George Fish¹⁴, brother of my great-grandmother Maud (Fish) Brown. Uncle George lived until 1971 but, regrettably, I do not remember him. My Granddad¹ spoke fondly of him and my older sisters remember him.

As a young man, George owned an autograph book, which his friends and relatives signed. The entry on the first page was from his Grandma Fish who we now know was Sylvia (Alton) Fish. Though she didn't date the entry, the earliest signatures in the book are dated February 9th, 1890. Perhaps the book was a gift from Grandma Fish. In her own handwriting, Sylvia Fish wrote to her grandson George:

*Dear George
Be a good boy and do good
And you will gain friends
And happiness. It is the
wish of your Grandma Fish.*



There are many other entries in George's autograph book, clues to other ancestors and relatives. Bert and Frank Appleton each signed the book. They were undoubtedly related to Jane (Appleton) Fuller²¹, George's maternal grandmother. We don't have any information on Jane's parents. Perhaps I'll do a little digging on that side of the family. . .

(But that's another story)



*George W. Fish¹⁴
photographed in January 1964*

*Jeffrey T. Dickerman
December 3 2000
Lowell, Michigan*



¹ Edward Henry Dickerman, b. 6 Nov 1904 in Fenton Michigan, m. 1 Jun 1929 to Vivian S Brown, m. 28 Sep 1973 to Francis Jane Cook, d. 12 Oct 1992 in Owosso, Michigan, son of Samuel James Dickerman and Elizabeth “Bessie” (Disbrow) Dickerman.

² Francis Jane Cook, b. 15 Mar 1907 in Owosso, Michigan, m. 28 Sep 1973 to Edward Henry Dickerman, living in Alma, Michigan.

³ Wilford “Bill” Gene Dickerman, b. 15 Mar 1932 in Owosso, Michigan, m. 21 Jun 1953 to Jo Anne Underwood, living at Houghton Lake (Prudenville), Michigan, son of Edward Henry Dickerman and Vivian S (Brown) Dickerman.

⁴ Frank W. Fish, b. 14 Oct 1850 in Hume, New York, m. 22 Dec 1878 to Ida E. Fuller, d. 5 Jun 1943 in Owosso, Michigan, son of William Fish and Sylvia (Alton) Fish.

⁵ James Samuel Dickerman, b. 30 Apr 1930 in Owosso, Michigan, m. 25 Feb 1950 to Cara Mae Mudd, living in Shingle Springs, California, son of Edward Henry Dickerman and Vivian S (Brown) Dickerman.

⁶ Ida E. Fuller, b. 1860, m. 22 Dec 1878 to Frank W. Fish, d. 1921 in Owosso, Michigan, dau. of Ezra D. Fuller and Matilda Jane (Appleton) Fuller.

⁷ Vivian S Brown, b. 3 Jun 1908 in Owosso, Michigan, m. 1 Jun 1929 to Edward Henry Dickerman, d. 3 Mar 1973 in Owosso, Michigan, dau. of George Stewart Brown and Maud Sylvia (Fish) Brown.

⁸ Maud Sylvia Brown, b. 22 Aug 1881 in Owosso, Michigan, m. 14 Sep 1905 to George Stewart Brown, d. 18 Mar 1931 in Owosso, Michigan, dau. of Frank W. Fish and Ida E. (Fuller) Fish.

⁹ Helen Loretta VanderHoof, b. 30 Apr 1858, m. 27 Apr 1881 to Carroll Cyrus Brown, d. 26 Nov 1921 in Brant, Michigan, dau. of Cornelius VanderHoof and Sarah VanderHoof.

¹⁰ Jennifer Lynn Dickerman, b. 28 July 1987 in San Clemente, California, dau. of Jeffrey T. Dickerman and Jane Ann Sedlacek.

¹¹ Ezra D. Fuller, b. 22 Sep 1831 in Somerset, New York, m. to Matilda Jane Appleton, d. 21 Apr 1899 in Owosso, Michigan.

¹² Matilda Jane Appleton, b. 1837, m. to Ezra D. Fuller, d. 1922 in Owosso, Michigan.

¹³ George Stewart Brown, b. 2 Sep 1883 in Brant, Michigan, m. 14 Sep 1905 to Maud Sylvia Fish, d. 1 Jul 1934 in Detroit, Michigan, son of Carroll Cyrus Brown and Helen Loretta (VanderHoof) Brown.

¹⁴ George W. Fish, b. 1879 in Owosso, Michigan, d. 1971 in Owosso, Michigan, son of Frank W. Fish and Ida E. (Fuller) Fish.

¹⁵ Tina Marie Csolkovits, b. 22 Aug. 1966 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, dau. of Charles and Dorothy (Feutz) Csolkovits.

¹⁶ Kelsea Raye Phillips, b. 24 July 1990 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, dau. of Dan Emerson Phillips and Tina Marie Csolkovits.

¹⁷ George W. Fish, b. abt. 8 Mar 1838 in New York, m. to Francis "Fannie" MayComber/McCumber, d. 30 Dec 1916 in Belding, Michigan, son of William Fish and Sylvia (Alton) Fish

¹⁸ Francis A. Fish, b. abt. 18 Sept 1847 in Homer, New York, m. to George W. Fish, d. 11 June 1936 in Belding, Michigan, dau. of John and Mary (Smith) McCumbre (or Maycomber).

¹⁹ William Fish, b. abt. 1811 in New York, m. Sylvia Alton, d. Sept 1873 prob. in Convis Township, Calhoun County, Michigan, son of William Fish. Prob. buried in Porter Cemetery, Calhoun County, Michigan.

²⁰ Sylvia Alton or Allton, b. New York, m. William Fish, d. 24 Mar 1898 in Marshall, Michigan, dau. of Elliot Alton and Hannah (Wheelock) Alton. Buried in Porter Cemetery, Calhoun County, Michigan.