

53. FLETCHER

1. **Cotton¹ Fletcher** was born about 1805; reports differ about his place of birth. When he died at Olmsted Township, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, on 12 November 1879, aged 74 years, it was said that he was born in Scotland.^[1] An obituary, datelined at Olmsted Falls, Ohio, 23 November 1879, and printed on 4 December, says: “He was born in Buffalo, in 1805,” and proceeds to give the names and years of his marriage to all three of his wives.^[2]

He was living at Strongsville in Cuyahoga County when he was first married, on 11 February 1830, Miss **Margaret Beebe** of Liverpool, Medina County, Ohio, before Charles Sabin, J. P.^[3] She was born ca. 1800–10 and, like him, was aged 20–29 years when recorded at Strongsville in the 1830 census.^[4] She died before 15 April 1833, when Warner Beebe made application for a marriage license on Cotton’s behalf for his marriage to **Mary Warnock** in Cuyahoga County.^[5] Cotton and Mary were married at Strongsville on 18 April 1833.^[6] Mary was born in Ireland about 1810, and was living in Olmsted Township as of the 1860 census.^[7] On 15 September 1870, Cotton applied for license to marry Mrs. **Julia (House) Porter**,^[8] and they were married in Cuyahoga County on 28 September 1870.^[9] She was born in New York, about 1827, and was living in Olmsted Township as of the 1880 census.^[10]

Julia had first married Charles H. Porter in Cuyahoga County on 3 September 1848.^[11] He apparently died before 1870 census, when she appears as the head of a family in Olmsted Township that included Lavina Porter, age 19; Almira Porter, age 17; Hattie Porter, age 13; and Willie Porter, age 5.^[12] Lavina, Almira, and “Harriet” had all been placed in the household headed by Charles in the 1860 census.^[13] In a newspaper notice announcing her marriage to Cotton, she was called “Mrs. Charles Porter.”^[14] The 1880 census shows Julia Fletcher, a 53-year-

¹ Cuyahoga County, Ohio, Record of Deaths, 2:34, FHL microfilm 879,242.

² Cotton Fletcher obituary, *Berea Advertiser*, Berea, Ohio, 4 Dec. 1879, p. 2, col. 1, newspaper microfilm 46270, Ohio History Connection, Columbus.

³ Medina County, Ohio, Marriages, A:72, FHL microfilm 423,817.

⁴ Cotton Fletcher household, 1830 U. S. census, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, population schedule, town of Strongsville, page 128, line 27, microfilm publication M19, roll 129 (Washington: National Archives).

⁵ Cuyahoga County, Ohio, Applications for Marriage Licenses, 1829–1841, filed by date, FHL microfilm 872,466.

⁶ Cuyahoga County, Ohio, Marriages, 3:8, FHL microfilm 877,912.

⁷ Cotton Fletcher household, 1860 U. S. census, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, population schedule, Olmsted Township, Olmsted post office, page 93, dwelling 1510, family 1555, microfilm publication M653, roll 954 (Washington: National Archives).

⁸ Cuyahoga County, Ohio, Applications for Marriage Licenses, 1868–1871, filed by date, FHL microfilm 872, 472.

⁹ Cuyahoga County, Ohio, Marriage Records, 16:79, FHL microfilm 877,917, item 1.

¹⁰ Julia Fletcher household, 1880 U. S. census, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, population schedule, Olmsted Township, page 278, dwelling 186, family 186, enumerator’s district 70, supervisor’s district 6, microfilm publication T9, roll 1009 (Washington: National Archives).

¹¹ Cuyahoga County, Ohio, Marriage Records, 4:499, FHL microfilm 877,913, item 1.

¹² Julia Porter household, 1870 U. S. census, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, population schedule, Olmsted Township, Coe Ridge post office, page 524, dwelling 211, family 213, microfilm publication M593, roll 1193 (Washington: National Archives).

¹³ Charles H. Porter household, 1860 U. S. census, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, population schedule, Olmsted Township, Olmsted post office, page 196, dwelling 1544, family 1590, microfilm publication M653, roll 954 (Washington: National Archives).

¹⁴ Marriage notice, *Grindstone City Advertiser*, Berea, Ohio, 7 Oct. 1870, p. 2, cols. 5-6, newspaper microfilm 46267, Ohio History Connection, Columbus.

old widow, living with Charles C. Fletcher, age 8, and William Porter, age 15, both described as her sons.^[15]

As noted before, Cotton and his wife appear at Strongsville in the 1830 census, and he also seems to be the C. Fletcher of Strongsville in the 1840 census whose household consisted of himself, aged 30–39 years; his wife, also aged 30–39 years; and a daughter, aged nine years or less.^[16] In 1850, the surname was rendered as *Stetson*, and Cotton was now described as a blacksmith from New York, aged 45 years, with his wife Mary and daughter Louisa, aged 18 years and born in Ohio.^[17] The 1860 census describes him as a 55-year-old mechanic, again from New York.^[18] The 1870 census showed him as a native of Vermont in Olmsted Falls, and “works in Handle fact.” He had a 65-year-old Irish-born housekeeper, Jane Matesone, living with him. He held \$300 in real property.^[19] In the 1880 census, the father of Julia’s younger son was said to come from New York.^[20]

The newspaper report of Cotton’s marriage to Julia, above mentioned, includes this arresting statement: “We understand that Mr. Fletcher is a nephew of the statesman, Daniel Webster.”^[21] The standard genealogy of one Fletcher family shows that Webster had married into this family, but no connection between him and Cotton is known. Mrs. Webster had only one brother, and he is not known to have had a son of the correct name.^[22] His obituary describes him as a man “given to intemperate habits” in early life, but reformed with the help of a Lodge of Good Templars in the village of Olmsted Falls.^[23]

Child of Cotton¹ and Margaret (Beebe) Fletcher is:

- + i. LOUISA JANE² FLETCHER, b. Liverpool 7 Feb. 1832,^[24] or Olmsted 1 Feb. 1832,^[25] d. Spencer Twp., Kent Co., Mich., 28 July 1863,^[26] m. Olmsted Falls, Cuyahoga Co., Ohio, 7 Nov. 1850 SHEPARD BATES COWLES,^[27] b. Amherst, Hampshire Co., Mass., 15 Mar. 1826, son of Sylvester and Sophronia (Mason) Cowles,^[28] d. Spencer Twp. 30 June 1911.^[29]

¹⁵ Julia Fletcher, 1880 census.

¹⁶ C. Fletcher household, 1840 U. S. census, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, population schedule, town of Olmstead, line 5, microfilm publication M704, roll 389 (Washington: National Archives).

¹⁷ Cotton Stetson household, 1850 U. S. census, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, population schedule, Olmstead Township, page 208, dwelling 3622, family 3822, microfilm publication M432, roll 673 (Washington: National Archives).

¹⁸ Cotton Fletcher, 1860 census.

¹⁹ Cotton Fletcher household, 1870 U. S. census, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, population schedule, village of Olmsted Falls in Olmsted Township, Coe Ridge post office, page 528, dwelling 6, family 6, microfilm publication M593, roll 1193 (Washington: National Archives).

²⁰ Julia Fletcher, 1880 census.

²¹ Fletcher–Porter marriage notice, *Grindstone City Advertiser*, 7 Oct. 1870, p. 2, col. 6.

²² Edward H. Fletcher, *Fletcher Family History: The Descendants of Robert Fletcher of Concord, Mass.* (Boston: Rand, Avery, & Co., 1881), 124, 141-2.

²³ Cotton Fletcher obituary, *Berea Advertiser*, 4 Dec. 1879, p. 2, col. 1.

²⁴ *The City of Kent County and Grand Rapids, Mich., Up to Date* (Logansport, Ind.: A. W. Bowen & Co., 1900), 623, names her parents as “Cotton and Sophronia (Mason) Fletcher,” but Sophronia Mason was her mother-in-law.

²⁵ Cowles, Calvin Duvall Cowles, *The Genealogy of the Cowles Families in America*, 2 vols. (New Haven, Conn.: Tuttle, Morehouse, & Taylor Co., 1929), 1:670, names her parents as “Cotton and — (Morey) Fletcher,” on unknown authority.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, 1:670; *Grand Rapids and Kent County*, 623.

²⁷ *Cowles Families in America*, 1:670; *Grand Rapids and Kent County*, 623. His marriage record misnames him as Stephen B. Cowles, but he signed his marriage license application on 26 Oct. 1850 as Shepard B. Cowles (Cuyahoga County, Ohio, Marriages, 5:111, FHL microfilm 877,913; Cuyahoga County, Ohio, Marriage License Applications, 1848–1851, unpagged, online <<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X8PT-H87>>, viewed 10 Mar. 2016).

²⁸ *Cowles Families in America*, 1:353-4, 670; *Grand Rapids and Kent County*, 622.

²⁹ Shepard Bates Cowles, death certificate, Kent County Clerk, Grand Rapids, Mich., from death records, 8:101.

Child of Cotton¹ and Julia (House) (Porter) Fletcher is:

- ii. CHARLES C. FLETCHER, b. Olmsted Falls 13 Aug. 1871,^[30] d. Elyria, Lorain Co., Ohio, 12 May 1935,^[31] m. Lorain Co. 22 Dec. 1898 SARAH M. (ALLEN) ROSS,^[32] b. North Eaton, Lorain Co., 13 June 1865, dau. of Henry and Elizabeth (Chamberlain) Allen, d. Elyria 21 Dec. 1937.^[33]

³⁰ Cuyahoga County, Ohio, Record of Births, 1:203, FHL microfilm 877,901.

³¹ Charles C. Fletcher, death certificate no. 31939 (1935), *Ohio, Deaths, 1908–1953*, online <<http://www.familysearch.org>>, updated 10 Nov. 2011 (father, Cotton Fletcher; mother “not known”).

³² Lorain County, Ohio, Marriage Record, 6:36, FHL microfilm 378,295.

³³ Sarah M. Fletcher, death certificate no. 77121 (1937), *Ohio, Deaths, 1908–1953*.