

## FITCH RESEARCH SUMMARY

### Statement of Purpose:

The following research confirmed generations and migrations that have been published in town histories and earlier GSMD applications. The research draws together a collection of land, probate, cemetery, and family records in order to identify and verify the generations described below and in some cases clarifies any errors or inaccuracies made in texts. The following concerns the Mayflower descent of Zebadiah Fitch (abt. 1750-28 Dec 1831), through the following generations:

Hezekiah Fitch  
James Fitch m. Sarah \_\_\_\_  
Zebadiah Fitch m. Betsey Miner  
Polly Fitch m. Daniel Chase

### Research:

In 2004, the General Society of Mayflower Descendants accepted that Zebadiah<sup>7</sup> Fitch was the son of James<sup>6</sup> Fitch, and therefore a descendant of Mayflower passenger William Brewster (GSMD#74001). The records of the Fitch family and of Cornish, New Hampshire suggest that this lineage is correct, despite the lack of vital records.

According to *History of Cornish, New Hampshire with Genealogical Record, 1763-1910*, James<sup>6</sup> Fitch removed to Cornish from Connecticut with four children: Hezekiah, Lydia, James, and Samuel;<sup>1</sup> Zebadiah Fitch is not listed as a member of the family. No probate record can be found for James<sup>6</sup> Fitch in Cheshire County.<sup>2</sup> No birth record exists for Zebadiah in Connecticut.

Land Records for Cheshire County, New Hampshire suggest a connection to Hezekiah and Samuel Fitch, who are listed as children of James<sup>6</sup> Fitch in *History of Cornish, New Hampshire*. On 1 June 1771, Hezekiah Fitch purchased 100 acres of land in Cornish from Joseph Chase, though the deed was not recorded until 2 April 1799.<sup>3</sup> The deed states that Hezekiah purchased a “one Hundred acre Lot of Lan lying and being in the town Cornish and is known by being No. 14 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> range and first division.”<sup>4</sup> Hezekiah sold the western 50 acres of Lot 14 to Zebadiah in 1773, and in 1799, sold the eastern 50 acres to Samuel

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<sup>1</sup> “Fitch:” *History of Cornish, New Hampshire with Genealogical Record, 1763-1910*, 2 Vols. (Concord, NH: The Rumford Press, 1911), 2:154.

<sup>2</sup> Cornish currently lies in Sullivan County, which was established in 1827. Prior to 1827, Cornish was a part of Cheshire County.

<sup>3</sup> Joseph Chase-Hezekiah Fitch (1799) Deed, *Cheshire County, New Hampshire Deeds*, 31:242.

<sup>4</sup> Joseph Chase-Hezekiah Fitch (1799) Deed, *Cheshire County, New Hampshire Deeds*, 31:242.

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Fitch.<sup>5</sup> The deeds involving Hezekiah Fitch, Zebediah Fitch, and Samuel Fitch were all recorded on 2 April 1799.

Though the land record involving Hezekiah Fitch and Zebediah Fitch does not state that they are brothers, the deed does suggest that they are related. Hezekiah sells the 50 acres of land to Zebediah for only 7 pounds 10 shillings;<sup>6</sup> in comparison, Zebediah purchased 2 acres and 16 rods of land from Jabesh Spicer for 6 pounds 6 shillings in 1792,<sup>7</sup> and 51 acres and 1056 rods of land from Moody Chase for \$330 in 1798.<sup>8</sup> The low rate in which the land was sold could be indicative of a familial relationship; often when land was sold for a low price, it was being passed to family members.

The family record of Zebediah Fitch, located in the Cornish Town Records, does not list all of his children. However, the births of the three oldest children of Zebediah and Betsey (Miner) Fitch, Billa, Zebediah, and Hezekiah, are recorded.<sup>9</sup>

The birth record for Billa Fitch, the eldest child of Zebediah and Betsey (Miner) Fitch, states that he was born at Norwich, Connecticut on 20 September 1772.<sup>10</sup> The Fitch genealogy states that James Fitch likely removed to Cornish, New Hampshire after 1765, when he sold land in Norwich, New London County, Connecticut.<sup>11</sup> This indicates that both men were in New London, Connecticut around the same time, and then both removed to Cornish New Hampshire around the same time.

The names of the children of Zebediah and Betsey (Miner) Fitch also support the connection between Zebediah and James Fitch. Billa (or Bela) is the name of a brother of James<sup>6</sup> Fitch.<sup>12,13</sup> According to the Fitch genealogy, the first Billa/Bela that appears in the Fitch family is the brother of James, and the name appears largely among the descendants of Hezekiah<sup>5</sup> Fitch. Similarly, Zebediah names another son Hezekiah, which is another name that is found almost exclusively among descendants of Hezekiah<sup>5</sup> Fitch, the first

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<sup>5</sup> Hezekiah Fitch-Samuel Fitch (1799) Deed, *Cheshire County, New Hampshire Deeds*, 31:242-243.

<sup>6</sup> Hezekiah Fitch-Zebediah Fitch (1799) Deed, *Cheshire County, New Hampshire Deeds*, 31:243.

<sup>7</sup> Jabesh Spicer-Zebediah Fitch (1801) Deed, *Cheshire County, New Hampshire Deeds*, 37:449.

<sup>8</sup> Moody Chase-Zebediah Fitch (1798) Deed, *Cheshire County, New Hampshire Deeds*, 28:650-651.

<sup>9</sup> Zebediah Fitch Family Record, Cornish Town Records 1769-1809, Vol. 1, *New Hampshire, Town Clerk, Vital and Town Records, 1636-1947*; town clerk offices, New Hampshire.

<sup>10</sup> Zebediah Fitch Family Record, Cornish Town Records 1769-1809, Vol. 1, *New Hampshire, Town Clerk, Vital and Town Records, 1636-1947*; town clerk offices, New Hampshire.

<sup>11</sup> John T Fitch, *Descendants of the Reverend James Fitch, 1622-1702*, 3 Vols. (Rockport, ME: Picton Press, 2003), 1:120-121.

<sup>12</sup> John T Fitch, *Descendants of the Reverend James Fitch, 1622-1702*, 3 Vols. (Rockport, ME: Picton Press, 2003), 1:46.

<sup>13</sup> Hezekiah Fitch: *Mayflower Families in Progress William Brewster of the Mayflower and the Fifth Generation of his son Jonathan*<sup>2</sup> (Plymouth, MA: General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 1999), Number 191.

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member of the Fitch family with the name. As Zebediah Fitch named two of his children names that largely only appear among the descendants of Hezekiah<sup>5</sup> Fitch, the father of James<sup>6</sup> Fitch of Cornish, it is likely that Zebediah is a son of James<sup>6</sup> Fitch.

### Conclusion:

An analysis of Cornish, NH and Connecticut records produced no negative evidence contradicting *Descendants of the Reverend James Fitch, 1622-1702*. Land records and family records suggest that the Fitches of Cornish, New Hampshire are related, upholding the assertion that Zebediah<sup>7</sup> Fitch is the son of James<sup>6</sup> Fitch. Therefore, the lineage verified in GSMD#74001 can still be accepted as correct.

## GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY

1. JAMES FITCH<sup>6</sup>, baptized at Preston, Connecticut 23 November 1718, son of Hezekiah<sup>5</sup> (*Mary Brewster*<sup>4</sup>, *Benjamin*<sup>3</sup>, *Jonathan*<sup>2</sup>, *William*<sup>1</sup>) and Anna (\_\_\_\_\_) Fitch.<sup>14</sup> He died at Cornish, New Hampshire 25 October 1805.<sup>15,16</sup> He married SARAH \_\_\_\_\_.<sup>17</sup> She was born 1717.<sup>18</sup> She died at Cornish, 3 January 1811, ae 94.<sup>19</sup>

*Descendants of the Reverend James Fitch*, 121, states that James removed to Cornish between 1765, when he sold land in Norwich, New London County, Connecticut, and 1777, when Sarah (\_\_\_\_\_) Fitch was admitted to the Church in Cornish. No probate for James Fitch has been found and no land records identifying heirs.

Children of James and Sarah (Fitch) Mudge, born probably at Connecticut:<sup>20</sup>

- i. HEZEKIAH FITCH<sup>7</sup>, b. 1746.
- 2 ii. ZEBEDIAH FITCH, b. abt. 1750; d. Thetford, VT, 28 Dec. 1831 ae 81; m. Betsey Miner.<sup>21</sup>
- iii. LYDIA FITCH, b. 1751
- iv. JAMES FITCH, m. CHARITY CHASE, rem. to Thetford or Bradford, VT.

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<sup>14</sup> Preston First Congregational Church Records, 68 Connecticut State Library, as cited in Barbara Lambert Merrick, *Mayflower Families in Progress William Brewster of the Mayflower and the Fifth Generation of his son Jonathan*<sup>2</sup> (Plymouth, MA: General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 1999), Number 191.

<sup>15</sup> John T Fitch, *Descendants of the Reverend James Fitch, 1622-1702*, 3 Vols. (Rockport, ME: Picton Press, 2003), 1:121.

<sup>16</sup> Death Record, Cornish, NH

<sup>17</sup> John T Fitch, *Descendants of the Reverend James Fitch, 1622-1702*, 3 Vols. (Rockport, ME: Picton Press, 2003), 1:120-121.

<sup>18</sup> *History of Cornish, New Hampshire with Genealogical Record, 1763-1910*, 2 Vols. (Concord, NH: The Rumford Press, 1911), 2:154.

<sup>19</sup> G.s. Cornish Cem., Sullivan County, New Hampshire, as cited in John T Fitch, *Descendants of the Reverend James Fitch, 1622-1702*, 3 Vols. (Rockport, ME: Picton Press, 2003), 1: 121.

<sup>20</sup> John T Fitch, *Descendants of the Reverend James Fitch, 1622-1702*, 3 Vols. (Rockport, ME: Picton Press, 2003), 1:120-121.

<sup>21</sup> John T Fitch, *Descendants of the Reverend James Fitch, 1622-1702*, 3 Vols. (Rockport, ME: Picton Press, 2003), 1:314.

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v. SAMUEL FITCH, b. 15 Oct. 1757.

2. **ZEBEDIAH FITCH**<sup>7</sup>, born probably at Connecticut about 1750.<sup>22</sup> He died at Thetford, Orange County, Vermont, 28 December 1831.<sup>23</sup> He married **BETSEY MINER**, born about 1749, daughter of Simeon and Hannah (Wheeler) Miner.<sup>24</sup> She died at Thetford 4 November 1827.<sup>25</sup>

Zebediah was a member of the Cornish Foot Militia Co., under Capt. Solomon Chase, 25 May 1776. In 1792, he purchased land from Jabish Spicer.<sup>26</sup> In 1799, he purchased 50 acres of land in Cornish from Hezekiah Fitch, which he sold to Joseph Chase on 16 May 1801.<sup>27</sup> Between 1800 and 1803, Zebediah began purchasing land in Thetford, VT, indicating his removal to Thetford.<sup>28</sup> His will was written 22 March 1821, and probated 27 February 1832.<sup>29</sup>

Children of Zebediah and Betsey (Miner) Fitch:<sup>30, 31</sup>

- i. BILLA FITCH<sup>8</sup>, b. Norwich, CT 20 Sep. 1772.
- ii. ZEBEDIAH FITCH, b. Cornish 1 Dec. 1774.
- iii. HEZEKIAH FITCH, b. Cornish 20 Apr. 1776.
- iv. POLLY FITCH<sup>7</sup>, d. bef. 9 Sep. 1804;<sup>32</sup> m. at Cornish, 28 Feb. 1796, DANIEL CHASE.<sup>33</sup>
- vi. BETSEY FITCH, m. \_\_\_\_\_ WOOD.
- vii. LYMAN FITCH.

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<sup>22</sup> John T Fitch, *Descendants of the Reverend James Fitch, 1622-1702*, 3 Vols. (Rockport, ME: Picton Press, 2003), 1:121, 314.

<sup>23</sup> *Vermont Vital Records, 1871-1908*. New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, Massachusetts.

<sup>24</sup> John T Fitch, *Descendants of the Reverend James Fitch, 1622-1702*, 3 Vols. (Rockport, ME: Picton Press, 2003), 1:314.

<sup>25</sup> General Index to VT Vital Records, LDS Film No. 27,548 as cited in John T Fitch, *Descendants of the Reverend James Fitch, 1622-1702*, 3 Vols. (Rockport, ME: Picton Press, 2003), 1:314.

<sup>26</sup> Jabesh Spicer-Zebediah Fitch (1801) Deed, *Cheshire County, New Hampshire Deeds*, 37:449.

<sup>27</sup> Hezekiah Fitch-Zebediah Fitch (1799) Deed, *Cheshire County, New Hampshire Deeds*, 31:243.

<sup>28</sup> John T Fitch, *Descendants of the Reverend James Fitch, 1622-1702*, 3 Vols. (Rockport, ME: Picton Press, 2003), 1:314.

<sup>29</sup> Zebediah Fitch (1832) Estate Bradford District, Orange County, Vermont Probate Files, New England Historic Genealogical Society.

<sup>30</sup> Zebediah Fitch Family Record, Cornish Town Records 1769-1809, Vol. 1, *New Hampshire, Town Clerk, Vital and Town Records, 1636-1947*; town clerk offices, New Hampshire.

<sup>31</sup> Zebediah Fitch (1832) Estate, Bradford District, Orange County, Vermont Probate Files, New England Historic Genealogical Society.

<sup>32</sup> Husband's second marriage, Daniel Chase-Mehitable Woodbury (1804) Marriage, *New Hampshire Vital Records to 1901*, New England Historic Genealogical Society.

<sup>33</sup> Daniel Chase-Polly Fitch (1796) Marriage, *New Hampshire Vital Records to 1901*, New England Historic Genealogical Society.