

Taken from The Business Educator, March 1924

Fielding Schofield

"When slow Disease, with all her host of pains,
Chills the warm tide which flows along the veins;
When Health, affrighted, spreads her rosy wing,
And flies with every changing gale Of spring;
Not to the aching frame along confined,
Unyielding pangs assail the drooping mind."

It was said of Alexander von Humboldt that he passed into history while he yet remained an active worker in the broad field of general science. This thought instinctively occurs as one recounts in memory the wonderful achievements of the pioneers of our profession, so many of whom had their earthly lives prolonged until they too could live once more in retrospect the days of their prime. While advancing age usually brings its cares and bodily afflictions, there are always compensations for the spiritual body which none but the aged can know. These thoughts thrust themselves into the consciousness as one considers even for a moment the career of any one of our great leaders. Made sad by the thought of the unfortunate physical suffering which so many of them underwent, all this was over-shadowed by the effulgence of spiritual sunshine which constantly surrounded them. I remember many years ago receiving a letter from the saintly A. P. Root, saying "I am still confined to my chair, where I have lived day and night for the past eight years; but I do not see how I could be any happier in spite of the constant pain which I endure."

The past years have meant much the same to one of our really great pen artists-Fielding Schofield-who says of himself: "It seems as if I have at once been the most fortunate and unfortunate penman in the profession." Also, "The heart can be broken and still live on." Here is a man who would have won worldwide fame with the brush or chisel. Nature quickly endowed him with great artistic talent. Had his lot been cast in a different environment or in a different age, he would, without doubt, have stamped his genius on material of far more permanent texture than Bristol board, or with instruments more generally appreciated or understood than is the steel pen. It is sad to think that the brilliant products of the skill and brain of a "Spencer", a "Williams", a "Flickinger", a "Schofield", a "Madarasz", must be limited to his generation, to be seen and admired by relatively few.

However, this is not the place to complain of the 'harsh decrees of Fate, but to narrate briefly some interesting chapters from the life story of this talented man. No doubt the best way to do this is to follow the customary chronological order.

Mr. Schofield was born at Poughkeepsie, New York, January 17, 1845, the son of Abraham Schofield, a native of Leeds, England. The elder Schofield died before the son was three years of age. The mother was Elizabeth Cramer, born and raised in Poughkeepsie. She survived her husband's death but a few years. From his father, Fielding inherited his artistic talent. The elder Schofield was by profession a designer of patterns for carpets and tapestries. To assist in maintaining the home for his widowed mother and infant sister it was necessary for Fielding to secure employment at the earliest possible age. The days of his youth were therefore spent as newsboy, errand-boy, worker in planing mill and chair factory. The door of opportunity to his life career opened to him when he entered Eastman College, first as janitor, then boy of all work. His promotion was rapid, and by the time he was twenty years of age he had acted as advertising agent, assistant secretary, correspondent, and instructor in penmanship.

When he was twenty-one he went to Chicago, to remain two years with H. B. Bryant, former president of the Bryant & Stratton organization. He returned east in 1867 to remain ten years with Warner's Polytechnic Institute, Providence, Rhode Island. It was while here in 1869 that he married his first wife, Emrina C. Smith, an unusually talented lady of Boston. During her lifetime Mrs. Schofield published many beautiful songs and poems. In 1877 Mr. Schofield joined the Coleman School in Newark, New Jersey; here he remained for five years. In 1883 he married his second wife, Sara C. Smith of Chatham, Mass. During that year he joined his former schoolmate, Mr. D. L. Musselman, at Quincy, Ill. Here he was to remain for eight

years. Without doubt it was while Mr. Schofield was at Quincy, that he reached the apex of his artistic powers. Surely all penmen of the period are agreed that from 1883 to 1890 no one surpassed him in skill or in ability to produce original designs. In 1891 he joined E. P. Heald in San Francisco. Here his wife suffered a nervous breakdown, making it necessary to bring her East, to be confined in a sanitarium the remainder of her life. Thus ended the earthly paradise in which Mr. Schofield had lived for thirty years. From this time on, sorrow and trouble have been his constant companions. He did some teaching, first at Utica, N. Y., for three years and then in some of the evening schools in Boston. Some fifteen years ago he was informed by the physicians at the Massachusetts General Hospital that he had an incurable cancer. During all these years he has scarcely known an hour's relief from pain. Surely such days must be "dark and dreary". Nevertheless Mr. Schofield maintains an optimistic outlook on life, no word of complaint escapes him. In a letter received not long ago he quotes with the fullest possible realization of their meaning those comforting words of Cowper's:

"Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning Providence
He hides a smiling face."

----- Original Message -----

From: [Jeanne Garde](#)

To: [Arcangel](#)

Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2003 8:33 AM

Subject: Re: Fielding Schofield's biography

Hi Joe,

Thank you for the response and so quickly too! I really don't have much on Fielding Schofield relating to his work but do have his birth/baptism info:

Child: Schofield, Abraham Fielding Reference ID: 3214

Gender: male

Birth Date: 17 Jan 1845

Bapt. Date: 16 May 1847

Parents: Abraham F.; Catharine Eliza Schofield

Source: Register of Baptisms, 1766-1916: The Records of Christ Church

Christ Church: 1766-1916

Location: *City of Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County* --- **Denomination:** *Episcopal*

On the 1850 NY census Elizabeth Schofield is living with her two children, Mary and Fielding, and the father is not with them.

When doing genealogy it seems that most times all there is to find is a name or date which is why it was so exciting to me to find the biography that you have posted. I had not known about Fielding's life and had seen a reference to him on another web site but was not sure if it was the same person I was looking for.

I don't believe that I'm related to Daniel T. Ames but it's always a possibility. Thank you for sending his info. My Ames line is back to 1796 in NY but that's where it ends and I have looked at Vermont records before since similar family names can be found there.

Happy Holidays and thanks again,
Jeanne