

Milton Marion Fenner

Birth: Jul. 28, 1837, Stockton, Chautauqua County, New York, USA

Death: Mar. 14, 1905, Fredonia, Chautauqua County, New York, USA

Dr. Milton Marion Fenner was the son of Christopher Crandall and Mrs. Lucinda (Fross) Fenner of Stockton, Chautauqua Co., New York, and was the seventh child of a family of nine.

He was born July 28, 1837 in the South Stockton homestead and died at Fredonia March 14, 1905.

His grandfather, Resolved W. Fenner, was a native of Rhode Island and descendant of Captain Arthur Fenner from whom came Arthur and his son James both of whom became Governor of the State of Rhode Island between 1790 and 1845.

Resolved W. Fenner came to Madison County, New York, in 1800 and to Ellery in Chautauqua Co NY, in 1819 where he remained until his death in 1847.

Two years later the family came and took up a tract of land on Cassadaga Creek.

He was united in marriage with Lucinda Fross in 1826 and conducted his farm until his death in 1850.

Rufus Fross, Mrs. Lucinda Fenner's father, was a native of Kinderhook, Columbia, New York, where he married and then came to Chautauqua in 1810, locating on the farm on which he lived until his death in 1846. He served in the War of 1812 and was present at the burning of Buffalo.

Dr. Milton M. Fenner inherited the seemingly untiring energy of his mother and the ambition and sterling integrity of both parents. He was only thirteen years old when his father died and he was thrown on his own resources. Being thus obliged to toil for subsistence, he early acquired habits of industry and economy, which continued to be potential, factors in his life's success.

For the five years following his father's death, he was either employed in working on his mother's farm or as a farm hand by the neighbors. From the age of eighteen to twenty years, he, in partnership with his brother, carried on his mother's farm and acquired an interest in the personal property. They cleared some new ground and followed dairying and stock raising.

He had early dreams of acquiring an extended education and entered Allegheny College at Meadville, Pennsylvania. Between attending sessions he spent his vacations earning money to defray his college expenses. Before he reached the age of twenty-five he had

taught seven terms of public and select school in New York and Michigan and found time to read a preliminary course in medicine.

He then entered a medical college at Cincinnati, Ohio, and obtained the degree of Doctor of Medicine on May 22, 1860.

He began the practice of medicine in Flint, Michigan, immediately after receiving his degree, but on July 12, 1861, he gave up his newly established practice to enlist as a private in Company A, Eighth Michigan Regiment, that was recruited by Col. William M. Fenton, former Lieutenant Governor of that state.

He was appointed Hospital Steward for the regiment and war correspondent for two of the leading state papers. Soon after entering active service he was promoted to Second Lieutenant for valorous conduct and was assigned to duty in Company 1 of the same regiment.

He was under fire at the Battle of Coosaw River, South Carolina, January, 1862, and in April of the same year, the Captain and First Lieutenant have resigned, he commanded his company in the siege that resulted in the fall of Fort Pulaski.

In the later part of May, 1862, he was appointed to service in the Signal Corps and assigned to General Hunter's staff at Hilton Head.

He commanded the outpost station at Spanish Wells, on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, during the night attack and the attempted burning of that place by the Confederates March 12, 1863.

For meritorious conduct, he was commissioned First Lieutenant in the fall of Fort Wagner, Charleston Harbor, in July 1863. In April, 1863, he came to Brooklyn in response to an invitation extended by the Secretary of Navy, passed an examination and received a commission as Assistant Surgeon in the United States Navy, from Secretary Welles, in May, 1863.

Owing to the active operations about Charleston and the prospect of a fight, he decided to remain for a time with the Army, and did so until after the fall of Fort Wagner. Dr. Fenner was a member of Admiral Dahlgren's staff, and was on board the flagship in the naval night attack upon Fort Sumter.

In the spring of 1864 Dr. Fenner came north on a leave of absence. Upon seeing a good opening in the medical practice at Jamestown, so near his early home, he resigned his commission and began the practice of his profession, in which he was eminently successful.

In 1866 he was appointed City Physician and held the position until he left Jamestown.

In July, 1869, he came to Fredonia, where he established his "People's Dispensary of Medicine and Surgery" and resumed the publication of "The Medical Progress," which he had started in Jamesown; and soon secured a larger practice than that he had left in Jamestown.

In 1870 the United States Government appointed him the US Examining Surgeon and in 1872 the Eclectic Medical Society of the State of New York elected him its President.

He was a prominent lecturer before medical societies and won a national reputation by his contributions to medical journals.

He was one of the earliest promoters of the Dunkirk and Fredonia Electric Railroad, of which he was President, Secretary and Treasurer.

He was prominent in the erection of Hotel Columbia in Fredonia and owned a one-fourth interest in it.

He was President at the time of his death, of the Fredonia Local Board of Managers of the State Normal School.

Dr. Fenner married upon June 5, 1866 Miss Georgia Grandin, daughter of Daniel H. Grandin, an extensive woolen manufacturer of Jamestown. She died September 5, 1881.

In April, 1883, he married Miss Florence E. Bondeson of Jamestown, who survived him with their one son, Milton M. Fenner, Jr.

Politically, he was a Republican and displayed an acute interest in the affairs of the party.

His popularity was shown by the fact that when first a candidate for office, that of Supervisor of the Town of Pomfret, he was elected by a majority of one hundred sixteen, although the district had for several years given majorities for candidates of the opposite party.

The next year he was re-elected by a majority of two hundred eighty-two, and the following year when running for the Assembly, the Assembly District made his total majority over his opponent twenty-five hundred ninety-five, a larger majority than ever before given to a candidate in that district.

After Cleveland's administration, Dr. Fenner was appointed Deputy Collector of the Port of New York, which position he held with credit and honor from January 1890 until August 1891, when he resigned on account of pressure of private business.

Dr. Fenner was courteous, straightforward and cordial in his dealings with warm friends. He was industrious and painstaking in his business, always discharging the "most minute" details of his work with the same care that characterized his transactions of greater magnitude. The utmost system was always observed in his office and his large

business interests were so thoroughly under his control that he seemed to handle it with slight effort. Among his business associates his word was as good as his bond. In his varied career he won the confidence and praise of those with whom he was associated and from a farmer lad made his way to positions of trust in Army, Navy and political life, and reached financial opulence. He was a bright example of the possibilities of an American youth, possessed of sound sense and a determined and unconquerable will.

Family:

Parents:

Christopher Crandall Fenner (1801 - 1850)

Lucinda Fross Fenner (1807 - 1894)

Children:

Milton Marion Fenner (1887 - 1980)

Spouse:

Florence B Bondeson Fenner (1860 - 1922)

Burial:

Forest Hill Cemetery, Fredonia, Chautauqua County, New York, USA, Plot: Z