

With the permission of Violet's son, Mike Noble, I am posting there here to share.

**Life Stories of Henry Fisher Adkins and Arabella Bias
Written by their granddaughter, Violet (Adkins) Noble**

Henry Fisher Adkins was born, 22 Feb. 1842, on Beech Fork, Wayne County, West Virginia. He was the seventh child of the twenty-one children born to Sherod Adkins, Jr. and Abigail Johnson.

In his youth, Fisher (as he was called) worked on his father's farm, along with his brothers and sisters. Because of such a big family large crops had to be planted and cultivated. They also had a number of animals to take care of. This included horses, cows, hogs, sheep, and fowl: Chickens, ducks, geese, and turkeys. Although farm work was hard, Fisher learned the process of farming and became a well-prepared farmer after his marriage.

One day while Fisher, and one of his brothers, were working in the cornfield, a group of Confederate Soldiers (Civil War had begun) came marching through. They forced the two brothers to go with them. According to the family, Fisher was only thirteen years old. Because of his age, he was assigned to the Calvary, with the task of feeding and grooming the horses. His brother was assigned to entertain the troops, as a musician. Two older brothers, who had been taken by the Union soldiers, when they marched by in the countryside, were assigned as musicians also. Several of Sherod's and Abigail's children were gifted in music. They had no formal training and played by ear. The sons played banjo, guitar, and fiddle. The girls played the organ, and some of them picked the banjo.

At the age of twenty-nine, Fisher married Arabella Bias, a daughter of Roland Bias and Sarah Ann Turner, who lived in the adjoining County of Lincoln, West Virginia. They were married 29 June 1871, in the home of one of Arabella's relatives, who lived in Proctorville, Lawrence County, Ohio. Arabella was fifteen years old. She would be sixteen in four more months. She was a beautiful young lady, small of stature- only five feet tall. She had bright hazel eyes and long, dark, waving hair. She was friendly and outgoing, but easily upset at times. Fisher was mild-tempered, always pleasant and in a good mood. He loved children, especially his own children and grandchildren. His happiest times were when he had them around him. Fisher had a beautiful blond, curly hair with a reddish glint. He was six feet tall, and was a very good-looking man.

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a long, wide home-made table, made by grandpa. It looked like a banquet to us children. The best part was, we could choose our favorite meat, vegetable, and dessert.

Arabella and Fisher were prosperous, happy farmers. They owned a buggy and often traveled around the countryside visiting friends and relatives. They loved to have people visit them.

When someone arrived at their house, the first question was, "Will you stay and eat with us?" The answer was almost always, "Yes"; then grandmother would leave for the kitchen to prepare the meal. This was a tradition in all southern homes, one that my mother, Gertrude the daughter of Arabella, followed in our home. This was a way of welcoming all of your guests and making them "feel at home".

Fisher died from acute bronchitis 28 Dec. 1922, at the ages o eighty. He was buried in Franklin Cemetery, Branchland, West Virginia, along with other members of his family.

After Fisher's death, Arabella went to live with her youngest daughter, Fannie, and her children. Fannie's husband had died, and left her with nine children to raise. Fannie and her older children worked in the fields, while Arabella, who was always blessed with good health, kept the younger children, did all the cooking and housekeeping chores, along with planting and working in the vegetable garden. Arabella died 17 Jul 1944, from food poisoning. She was eighty-nine years old. Arabella is buried beside her husband, Fisher, in Franklin Cemetery, Branchland, West Virginia.