

IV. 74. EDWIN HENRY FITLER, son of William Fitler (9) and Elizabeth Wonderly, b. in Phila., Dec. 2, 1825; m. Josephine R. Baker, Dec. 11, 1850; d. May 31, 1896; bur. in Laurel Hill Cemetery. His wife was b. July 23, 1831.

The prominence achieved by Edwin Henry Fitler by reason of his selection as the first mayor under the operations of the Act of Assembly of June 1, 1885, commonly known as the Bullitt Charter, only emphasized his excellent standing as a citizen and the high position which he occupied in the community. Born in this city December 2, 1825, he received an academic education, and, proposing to devote himself to the practice of law, he began the study of the rudiments of that profession in the office of Charles E. Lex, and also studied conveyancing with his brother, Alfred Fitler. His father, William Fitler, was a prominent and successful tanner and leather dealer at Second and Walnut Streets, where the old Fitler mansion still stands, although it is no longer occupied or used by the family.

The bent of Edwin's mind was in the direction of mechanics, and after four years' study of legal lore he decided to abandon the profession and follow his natural inclination. The knowledge of law acquired in his early youth proved, however, of great advantage, and contributed largely to his success. During his nearly fifty years' career as a manufacturer and business man he never was involved in litigation of any kind. After laying aside his text-books he entered the cordage house of George J. Weaver, at Germantown Avenue and Tenth Street, and in two years he had mastered the details of the trade and was admitted to partnership, the firm being thereafter known as George J. Weaver & Co.

Under Mr. Fitler's management labor-saving machinery was introduced, many of the improvements being of his own conception. These inventions he never patented, but gave them freely to the public. In 1859 he purchased the interest of his partner, and the firm-name became Edwin H. Fitler & Co. At the time of his death the firm consisted of himself and his two sons, Edwin H. Fitler, Jr., and W.