
❖ Weedman Newsletter ❖

Volume 43 Issue 3

Autumn 2010

Greetings and Happy Autumn!

This has been an especially difficult time since the last issue. As you will see from the Obituary section, we have lost five family members including two of our Weedman Hall of Fame members – **Gena Lee Theiss** and **Edward Smith**.

Our condolences go out to family and friends of those who passed away and we have you in our thoughts and prayers.

We have had a fairly large number of family inquiries and there seems to be a lot of interest in the Weedman family history and genealogy. An especially well done family history was done by **Randall McCoach** on the descendants of **George Thomas Weedman** from Farmer City, IL who was a Civil War veteran. We will print an excerpt of this in this issue. Randall's work includes pictures of many of the descendants as well as excellent information. Interestingly, he has found one of the descendants who he has not been able to trace which is normal for most genealogists.

There were two Weedman family reunions held this past summer. One was for the descendants of **Henry Linas Weedman** and was held in Minnesota. Another was held in Grayson County, Kentucky. We don't have any details to report but if some of the participants would provide information, we will advise more in the Winter issue.

In the Summer issue, we reported on the death of **Duane Weedman** in Juneau, Alaska. We then heard from his mother, **Jeanetta Weedman**, who now lives in

Blair, Washington with her husband, **Walter Weedman**. She advised that Duane had two siblings; a brother, **Raymond G. Weedman** of Costa Mesa, CA, and a sister, **Dorothy Baz** of Bend, OR. In addition, she furnished a lot of information on the immediate family which descends from the **George Weedman** line of Farmer City, IL through his descendants **Asa Weedman**, **Henry Linas Weedman**, **Carey Sylvester Weedman** and **Wilfred Wilbert Weedman**. Her information filled voids we had on this line.

Subscriptions

In the last issue, we called for subscription renewals and gave subscribers the option of getting access to the electronic version at no cost. Otherwise, we sought renewals from those who wanted to continue to receive paper versions. While the response was generally good, we still need responses from those who were silent. So, a yellow slip is included in this issue but only for those who either need to make a monetary contribution for the paper copy or to advise they want to be added to the electronic version.

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We are encouraging subscribers to switch to the electronic version of the Newsletter if they are interested. The print version will still be published and made available to any who desire it.

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For electronic version subscribers, an e-mail is sent once the Newsletter is uploaded to the family web site (www.weedman.org). A list of articles is shown in the e-mail along with a link on which one can click and be taken to the web site to view the Newsletter. It can be printed from there if desired.

With postage on a seemingly endless upward spiral, we need to pare the subscriber list to those willing to contribute the \$5 annual subscription rate (which has been unchanged since the Newsletter began!).

Newsletter on CD

The Weedman Newsletter has been digitalized and all issues since the beginning are now available on the web site (www.weedman.org). If anyone is interested in getting all copies on a CD (compact disk) in Adobe Acrobat format, we are making that available for \$10 to

cover material and postage costs. The full CD is indexed and searchable using Adobe Acrobat reader which is a piece of free software. However, some of the earlier versions were done in cursive type and others are a bit difficult to read so the searching mechanism is not 100% reliable.

If you want to order one of these, send a request to Nick Weedman whose address is shown on page 18 of this issue.

Obituary

Elmer Earl Weedman

Elmer Earl Weedman was born May 28, 1917 to **Earl** and **Margaret (Jones) Weedman** on a farm north of Revere, MN, Redwood County. He attended country school and began farming with his father at a very young age. In the late 1930's his family moved to a farm south of Amiret, MN.

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All past **Weedman Newsletters** with two possible exceptions are now available on a CD in Adobe Acrobat format.

About the Weedman Newsletter

The *Weedman Newsletter* is a quarterly family publication with emphasis on the genealogy of the Weedman and allied families. It is distributed to interested family members, selected genealogical societies and libraries. Print circulation is 120 with another 30 by electronic means.

The *Newsletter* is edited, published and distributed by **Nick Weedman**. All address changes, new subscriptions, etc. should be sent to him.

Articles for publication in the Newsletter are highly welcomed. They must have some relevance to the family and those with a genealogical flavor are of particular interest.

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Visit the Weedman Web-page at: <http://www.weedman.org>.

Queries regarding the Weedman family or allied lines are welcomed. Attention will be given to each and for those which cannot be answered by family genealogists, publication in the *Newsletter* will be made.

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It was while living on this farm that Elmer met his future bride and worked for her father as a farm hand for a couple years. On December 14, 1940 Elmer married **Donna Wreath** in Walnut Grove, MN and they made their home on a farm south of Milroy, MN. For the next eight years Elmer worked for **Tom Hicks**, before starting out on his own farm, west of Tracy. He moved back south of Milroy in 1958 until 1972, and then finished up his farming south of Amiret next to the farm he lived on when he met his wife. In 1983 Elmer retired from farming and he and his wife moved into Tracy.

Elmer worked hard and enjoyed farming all these years, often marveling at the change in farming that he had seen in his lifetime, from horses to the large equipment of today. He was a member of the Tracy United Methodist Church in Tracy. In June of 2008 Elmer became a resident of the Prairie View Health Care Center in Tracy, where he died Monday, August 9, 2010, surrounded by his loving family, at the age of 93.

Elmer is survived by his two daughters, **Pat Marks** of Marshall, MN and **Peg Stock** of Montevideo, MN; four sons, **Richard (Carolyn King) Weedman** of Lamberton, MN, **David (Joanne Corbett) Weedman** of Waltham, VT, **Earl Weedman** of Tracy and **Todd (Sandy Bonomo) Weedman** of Salisbury, VT; ten grandchildren; six great grandchildren; nieces, nephews and many friends. His wife, **Donna**, daughter, **Dianne**, three brothers, **Donald**, **Glen** and **LuVerne**, and three sisters, **Thelma Picht**, **Ruth Gremmert** and **Opal Schultz** preceded him in death. Services were held at the Tracy United Methodist Church with burial in the Walnut Grove Cemetery in Walnut Grove, MN.

Elmer's lineage: Elmer Earl Weedman⁷, Earl El-

more Weedman⁶, Henry Linas Weedman⁵, Asa Weedman⁴, John Huhn Weedman, Sr.³, George Weedman², and Christian Weedman, Sr.¹.

Obituary

Gena Lee Johnson Theiss

Gena Lee Johnson Theiss, 85, of Okolona, Kentucky passed away Thursday, September 16, 2010.



Gena Theiss recently suffered a stroke from which she never fully recovered. She was an institution in the Weedman family.

She was born in Caneyville, KY on May 16, 1925 to **Clarence H. Johnson** and **Grace Higdon**.

Gena was a member of Parkland Baptist Church, also Southern Star Chapter OES-Eastern Star, Filson Club and a Kentucky Colonel. She was retired from First National Bank. She enjoyed being the family genealogist, author, quilter, seamstress, photographer and computer expert.

She was preceded in death by her husband, **George W. Theiss**; daughter, **Nancy J. Hill**; son, **George W. Theiss III**; and sister, **Edith Rhea Johnson**.

Survivors include her daughters, **Patricia S. Theiss Wright**, **Donna Theiss Hosse** and **Martha Theiss Cadarette**; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on September

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21, 2010 with burial in Layman Memorial Gardens in Millwood, Kentucky.

(Editor's Note: Gena was special to the Weedman family. She compiled two Weedman genealogical studies which were published and are widely held by family members and libraries throughout the country. She also did extensive work on the Higdon family.

She and her husband, George, hosted the first Weedman family reunion in 1984 in Louisville, KY and repeated that responsibility in 1992 which was held at the Barren River State Park in Kentucky..

Her interest in computers and genealogy came early in the era of the electronic world and she had the vision to see how new tools could help further family research. Her first Weedman book was published in 1986 with the second edition coming out in 1989. The works were rich with photographs and historical documentation. Both were produced on her home computer and professionally published.

She maintained a web site which had an emphasis on genealogy. In addition, long before any others, she transcribed early Grayson County, Kentucky census records which facilitated research by so many people. She was an early Facebook participant.

Gena was inducted into the Weedman Hall of Fame in the original ceremony conducted in June 2000 at the Weedman National Family Gathering in Farmer City, Illinois.

We will all miss Gena and her numerous contributions to our family. Our condolences are extended to her family.)

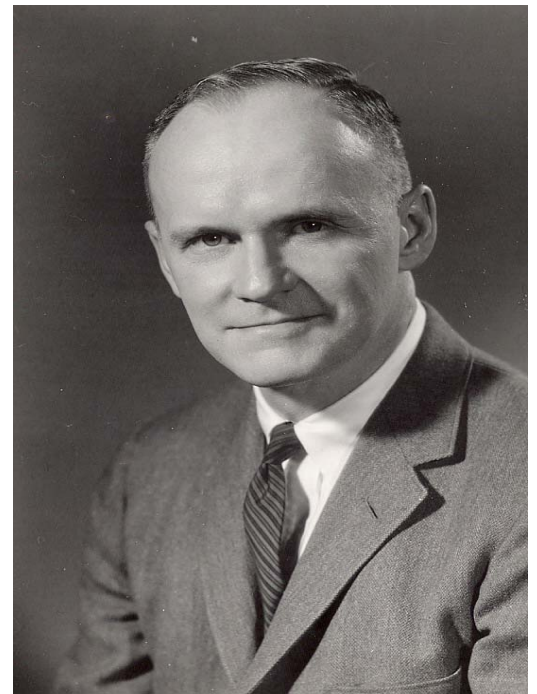
Gena's lineage: Gena Theiss⁷, Gracie Higdon⁶, Barbara Ellen Weedman⁵, Willis Green Weedman,

Sr.⁴, John Weedman³, Christian Weedman, Jr.², and Christian Weedman, Sr.¹.

Obituary

Edward Ellsworth Smith

Family and friends mourn the passing of **Edward Ellsworth "Jerz" Smith**, beloved father and husband, WWII veteran, LSU alumni, AT&T executive, journalist and cartoonist, whose extraordinary life-long sense of humor brought joy to all who knew him. After a long and valiant battle against Alzheimer's disease, he died peacefully in his sleep at home on August 22, 2010 surrounded by the loving care of his wife and daughter.



Jerz's devotion to his extended family as well as his many friends and colleagues was chronicled in his prolific ebullient cartoons, humorously illustrating his life from an early age through his last years. In addition to independent comic books such as "Eddie Extra," "L'il Partner" and "Illustrated Classics," his work

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Both Gena Theiss and Ed Smith were members of the Weedman Hall of Fame.

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appeared in *The Daily Reveille*, LSU publications, *Life Magazine*, *The Wall Street Journal* and the Plainfield NJ *Courier News* as well as many Bell System publications.

He served his country in the Second World War in the First Marine Division, Battle of Okinawa and in Tiensin, China, later entering the Louisiana State University School of Journalism, where he met and married his wife **Anne Weedman Smith**. His business career spanned many decades in the Bell System, where he was an Executive in Corporate Relations until retiring in 1985.

He is survived by his wife **Anne**, sister **Margaret Stephenson-Dahl**, daughter **Megan Smith**, son **Christopher Smith** and grand-daughter **Mica Smith**. Ed was inducted into the Weedman Hall of Fame at the Uniontown, PA Weedman National Family Gathering in 2008. His business success and fame as a cartoonist were the basis for his nomination.

Obituary

John Weldon (Jack) Weedman Jr.

John Weldon (Jack) Weedman Jr. passed into everlasting glory on August 4, 2010 in Kennewick, WA. He is survived by his wife of 46 years **Marilyn** and their children; **James (Paula)**, **David (Susan)**, and **Brenda (Richard Patton)**; **grandchildren Michael, Danielle, Andrew, Steven, and Rebecca**; sisters **Rosanna (Nick Stamat)** and **Anita Darrel Rice**. Jack was preceded in death by his parents, **John** and **Sylvia Weed-**



man and sister, **Alice**.

He was born in 1944 in Illinois. After serving 8 years in the USAF, he spent his 25 year career in the computer industry working for Sperry/Unisys in Arizona. Jack retired in Kennewick working at Home Depot. Over the years, he shared his many hobbies, fishing, camping, bowling, and woodworking with his friends and family. A memorial was held in Arizona.

Source: Tri-City Herald August 11, 2010

Jack Weldon Weedman, Jr.'s lineage: John Weldon Weedman, Jr.⁵, John Weldon Weedman, Sr.⁴, William Walter Weedman³, Edward Weedman², and Olaf Weedman¹. This is commonly referred to as the Swedish Weedman line.

Obituary

Jesse Earl Weedman

We learned through the Social Security Death Index that **Jesse Earl Weedman** of Joshua Tree, CA passed away on August 23, 2010. An obituary has not been found and we have been unsuccessful in making contact with the family.

Jesse and his wife, **Jerry**, were solid supporters of the Weedman family efforts to uncover our roots. They participated in the 2004 Weedman National Family Gathering which was held in San Diego.

Jerry died in 2007 and we learned that Jesse had developed Alzheimer's disease. If we get further details we will publish more in the Winter edition.

Jesse's lineage: Jesse Earl Weedman⁶, James Monroe Weedman⁵, Jesse Hamilton Stewart Weedman⁴, David Weedman³, Jacob Weedman³, and Christian Weedman, Sr.¹.

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Jack Weedman, Jr. was descended from Olaf Weedman in a line commonly referred to as the Swedish Weedman group.

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Family Names in the News

Sherry Dodson Weedman Candidate for Grayson Co., KY County Clerk

Sherry Dodson Weedman is a candidate for County Clerk of Grayson County, Kentucky in the November 2, 2010 general election. She is a daughter of the **Rev. William** and **Mrs. Hazel Dodson** and the wife of **Myron G. Weedman**.

Sherry has worked for 19 years in the office of the County Clerk and is running as a Democrat.

Grayson County is where **Christian** and **Mary (Marshall) Weedman, Jr.** as early as 1800. Myron bought the Weedman family farm in 1999 and operates it with Sherry working at the County Clerk's office.

In Kentucky, the County Clerk is the keeper of records. In that office, you will find deeds, marriage and death records, wills and probate records as well as other records.

We wish Sherry well in the election and hope we have a Weedman as County Clerk in what many consider the county of their origin!

Her husband's line is: **Myron Glenn**⁷, **Sherman**⁶, **James Henry**⁵, **Willis Green Sr.**⁴, **John**³, **Christian, Jr.**², and **Christian, Sr.**¹.

Jonathan Weedman Appointed to Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Commission

August 23, 2010 – Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa today announced

the appointment of **Jonathan Weedman**, senior vice president of the Wells Fargo Foundation in greater Los Angeles, to the Cultural Affairs Commission (CAC).

“I know that **Jonathan Weedman** will work hard everyday to ensure that Los Angeles artists and architects have their voices heard and their art seen,” Mayor Villaraigosa said. “He will be a great addition to a team committed to preserving the beauty of Los Angeles while promoting art around the distinct neighborhoods of our diverse and culturally rich city.”

Mr. Weedman has worked in banking for more than 20 years in various leadership positions and brings extensive experience in business and budget management for non-profit organizations.

Currently, Weedman serves as senior vice president of Wells Fargo, overseeing the bank's charitable contributions budget of \$15 million for the Los Angeles region. In this role, he has been successful in building public-private partnerships, driving employee participation in philanthropic organizations, and implementing corporate community responsibility to volunteer for non-profits.

The Mayor-appointed commission is an advisory board to the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) responsible for the review and approval of all construction and artwork on or over City property. The Commission recently upgraded its design review process and guidelines, and reinstated the Mayor's Design Advisory Panel to better assist the City in achieving great design and public art.

Jonathan Weedman's Biography

Weedman is currently responsible for managing the charitable contributions of Wells Fargo's largest market, which in-

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We like the possibility of having a family member become the Grayson Co., KY County Clerk. The Weedman family has been there since before the county was formed.

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cludes an annual budget in excess of \$15 million dollars for Los Angeles, Ventura, and west San Bernardino counties. Under his management, Wells Fargo has grown to become the largest corporate donor to charities in these regions.

Weedman began his career with Wells Fargo in 1989 as a business banking officer at the Los Angeles Main office, where he was responsible for the development and management of new and existing business banking client account relationships.

Later, he joined the Premier Banking Division, where he developed business for numerous non-profit organizations in the Southern California market. At the height of his banking career, his portfolio included management of more than 500 local non-profit charitable institutions.

He currently serves on the board of the Young Musicians Foundation as Chairman, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the Getty House Foundation. He also is a member of the United Way of Los Angeles Community Investment Cabinet, served as chair of the 2008 UW Home Walk Committee, and is a member of the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles Foundation Giving Committee. Weedman served on the boards of Project Angel Food in Los Angeles as vice chairman, the West Angeles Community Development Corporation, the American Heart Association, and the LA Parks Foundation.

Weedman is the recipient of numerous awards for his community service from organizations such as the American Heart Association, Gay and Lesbian Elder Housing, Shakespeare Festival LA, Para Los Niños, AIDS Service Center, Aid for AIDS, Project New Hope, Bilingual Foundation of the Arts, and Opera-

tion Hope. He and his partner are Chairs of the Los Angeles Philharmonic 2010 Hollywood Bowl Opening to raise funds for music education.

Weedman attended the University of Southern California and the University of California at Los Angeles, where he was awarded his bachelor's degree in History in 1983.

Jonathan Weedman is the son on Weedman Hall of Fame member, **Charles Vern Weedman**, and his late wife, **Carolyn Knight Weedman**. Carolyn was the daughter of the late California **Governor Goodwin Knight**.

His lineage: **Jonathan Curtis Weedman**⁷, **Charles Vern Weedman**⁶, **Charles Shelby Weedman**⁵, **William Simpson Weedman**⁴, **Willis Weedman**³, **Christian Weedman, Jr.**², and **Christian Weedman, Sr.**¹.

George Thomas Weedman

Research by Randall McCoach

*(Randall McCoach is a journalist living in Albuquerque, NM. He made contact within the past year seeking information on his ancestor, **George Thomas Weedman**, and we were unaware of his intent to produce a highly professional and thorough study of descendants of this man. Here are excerpts.)*

George Thomas Weedman was born in May 1838 in Illinois. He lived in DeWitt County, IL for most of his early life and married **Mary E. Carew** there in 1860. He enlisted in Company G, 107th Illinois Infantry in 1862 and served for the duration of the war.

Following the war, he returned to DeWitt County and soon a family was begun. He and Mary had six children but only one,

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Family names in the News is from articles found on the internet. These are two of the more pertinent found recently.

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Phillip Sheridan Weedman lived to adulthood.

Phill Weedman had a single daughter and moved from Hamilton County, IA to Shelby Co., MO and ultimately to south-east Kansas. This family cannot be located after being found in the 1830 Neosho Co., Kansas census.

The couple divorced with his wife complaining of excessive drinking by George. As a number of other family members did, he moved to Miami County, Kansas. There he married **Mary Adeline Tarrant** about 1877 but she lived only a few years dying on 21 February 1881. There were no children born to this couple.

On 15 April 1882, **George T. Weedman** and **Melinda Darner** married in Paola, Miami Co., Kansas. A single daughter was born to the couple, **Myrtle Mae Weedman**. She was born in 1883 in Hillsdale, Miami County, Kansas. By 1895, the family moved to Hamilton County, Iowa another location where a large number of Weedmans lived. But by 1905, they returned to Kansas and in 1906, **Myrtle Mae Weedman** married **Luther Roberts**.

At the age of 36, **Myrtle Mae Roberts** died giving birth to her seventh child, **Veda Roberts**. The child also died.

The family history goes on to provide details of all of the surviving members of the **Roberts** family and their descendants, with **Randall McCoach** being one. The work is well documented and Randall has been successful in finding family photographs which he uses very well.

The work is an excellent example of

what can be done to document the hard work of collecting family information and photographs. If anyone who might be related to this family would like a copy of the work, contact **Nick Weedman** and he will put you in touch with **Randall McCoach**.

Recent Contacts by Family Members Seeking Information

Terrell Weedman wrote to advise the death of his wife, Mary Ann, in 2008 and his relocation back to his home city of Louisville, KY.

Vicki Kimberlin of Sandusky, OH has written several times reporting new sources of genealogical material.

Robin Cooper has provided information on the family of her ancestor, **Alton Weedman** of Grayson County, KY.

Christopher Anson Weedman sought information on his line which goes back through the **Stephen Weedman** line of Meade County, KY.

Kirk Weedman wrote to correct a couple of mistakes in our records for his family. His grandmother was **Celeste Rebman Weedman** of Little Rock who had a high level of interest in the family descended from **Elisah Spurrier Weedman**.

Next Issue

A report on a second family lawsuit which revealed significant family information. The children from the marriage of **Catherine Weedman** to **John Huhn, Jr.** appeared after her death to claim a portion of her estate. Her second marriage was to **Jacob Kefover**.

There have been a significant number of family inquiries of late. A few of these are listed here.