



John, Weedman
WEST TP.

Source: "History of De Witt Co., Illinois", W. R. Brink & Co.,
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John Weedman, Jr.

John Weedman, farmer, stock-dealer and banker; P.O. Farmer City; residence Weedman Station; one of the early pioneers of McLean Co.; born in Perry Co., Ohio February 3, 1828.

His father, John Weedman, was born in Pennsylvania in the year 1797; he emigrated to Ohio, and, in the fall of 1830, removed to McLean Co., IL and was in Bloomington when there was but one log house in the place; after living in McLean Co. seven years, he removed to De Witt Co., near Farmer City, and entered land upon which he lived many years, then emigrated to Iowa until his decease which occurred at his home in Webster City, March 2, 1867. Mrs. Weedman was born in Maryland and died in De Witt Co., IL in 1853. Her maiden name was Rachael Wilson. Their children were seven sons and three daughters of which all save one lived to grow up.

The subject of this sketch made his home with his father until 1850 when he, with four of his brothers, went overland to California, going by the old Oregon route crossing the Rock Mountains at South Pass and arriving at Placerville upon the 26th of July, having been four months on the trip. He then for nine months engaged in mining and trading and on April 1, 1851 left San Francisco on a sailing vessel via Panama which they crossed with mules, foot and by boat. From there he went by steamer to New York having been six weeks on the trip. He then returned to Illinois and for two years engaged in farming in De Witt County where he located his present place and has lived there twenty-nine years. He has on his home farm 660 acres upon which he has fine buildings and has an additional 234 acres in De Witt County with good buildings there also. In addition, he has 52 acres within the corporation limits of Farmer City, a large portion of said city being laid out by Mr. Weedman, his brother and a Mr. McCord. He is largely engaged in the buying, feeding and shipping of stock to Chicago and Eastern markets. In 1870, he associated in the banking business at Farmer City, under the firm name of Thomas & Weedman and, in 1876, he purchased his partner's interest since which time he has continued the banking business under his own name.

Mr. Weedman related to the writer many incidents characteristic of frontier life that this brief space will not admit. In 1847, he went with Issac Funk with a drove of cattle to Chicago and, finding a dull market, he for many days assisted in herding them on land upon which a part of the city of Chicago now stands. He also assisted in driving hogs to Pekin and to Eugene upon the Wabash at one time driving 1,200 head. About 1843, he and his father took a load of apples and peaches to Chicago and they found that dealers would not purchase such a large load and he was obliged to peddle them out from house to house in lots of from peck to a full bushel. He also made many trips to Chicago with grain selling the same at 50 cents per bushel freighting goods at Springfield to Chicago at \$1 per hundred.

His marriage with Mary A. McDonald was celebrated March 31, 1853. She was born in Madison County, Ohio on September 22, 1834. Six children were the fruit of this union, of which four are now living – Harriet J., born December 21 1847; Cassius M., August 12, 1860; Rachael, March 4, 1862; and John S., December 15, 1865. The oldest daughter, after attending the Wesleyan University, entered the Female College at Jacksonville, where she is now attending, and from which she expects to graduate the coming season. Of the other children, the oldest son is attending the high school at Farmer City and the younger children are at home. Mrs. Weedman is the daughter of Thomas McDonald who was born in Tennessee in 1802 and emigrated with his parents to Ohio at an early day. Mr. McDonald located at Farmer City in 1851 where he now lives with his wife, to whom he was married in Ohio, where she was born and raised. Her maiden name was Rebecca J. Erwin.