
❖ Weedman Newsletter ❖

Volume 43 Issue 4

Winter 2010

The Winter 2010 edition of the Weedman Newsletter is a bit late due to seasonal factors.

2010 Election

Sherry Weedman Elected County Clerk in Historic Grayson County, Kentucky

In the last issue of the *Weedman Newsletter*, we reported that **Sherry Weedman** of Caneyville, KY was a candidate for the position of County Clerk in Grayson County, Kentucky. With pleasure, we announce that Sherry prevailed in that election. According to official results, Sherry received 5,228 votes (58%) to her opponent's 3,767 (42%). She ran as a Democrat in what is traditionally a Republican area.

Sherry stated that her victory is due in a large part to her experience in the County Clerk's office where she worked for twenty years but more importantly due to the manner in which she treated those whom she served in that position. Her opponent in the election was a daughter of the retiring County Clerk!

Grayson County is where the ancestor for a large number of the Weedman family settled even before the County was formed. **Christian Weedman, Jr.** married **Mary Marshall** in Mercer County, KY in 1789. This area was still part of Virginia! Christian and Mary settled in Grayson County about 1800. Grayson County was formed in 1810.

In Kentucky, the County Clerk maintains deeds, marriage and death records as well as wills and probate records.

Sherry's husband is **Myron Weedman**. Details of their family lineage can be found in the previous issue. It is great to have a Weedman in charge of historical records in a County where so many can say their ancestor lived. Congratulations and best wishes for success in your new office, Sherry!

Obituary

Verna Ruth Weedman

Mrs. Verna Ruth Burns Weedman, age 84 of West Palm Beach, Florida and formerly Fyffe, AL passed away Friday, October 15, 2010 in West Palm Beach.

Funeral services were on October 19, 2010 with burial in Glenwood Cemetery in Fort Payne, Alabama.

Survivors include her son, **Randy Weedman**, of Lakeworth, Fla.; sister, **Mae James**, of Fort Payne, AL; brother, **Arvil** and **Nancy Burns**, of Geraldine; granddaughter, **Kristi** and **Greg Stoner**; grandson, **Andrew** and **Brandee Weedman**; great-grandson, **Andrew Weedman Jr.**; and several nieces and nephews.

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Mrs. Weedman was preceded in death by her husband, **Griff Weedman**; son, **Danny Weedman**; parents, **Martin** and **Alma Burns**; and several brothers and sisters.

Verna Ruth Burns Weedman was the widow of **Lyle Griffin Weedman**. His line was: **Lyle Griffin Weedman**⁶, **James Taylor Weedman**⁵, **Miram Weedman**⁴, **Stephen Weedman**³, **Christian Weedman, Jr.**² and **Christian Weedman, Sr.**¹.

Obituary

Jack Bay Weedman

Longtime Longview WA area resident and business owner **Jack B. Weedman**, 88, passed away Nov. 16, 2010, at the Longview Hospice Care Center.

He was born Dec. 3, 1921, in Deer Park, Wash., to **Leslie** and **Maude (Sprague) Weedman**. He was Future Farmers of

America president while attending Kelso High School and graduated in 1939.

Jack served as an airplane mechanic in the Air Force, stationed in England and Scotland during World War II. After the war the family founded Weedman Lumber and he later co-owned Longview Lumber and Cowlitz Manufacturing.

Jack was a longtime member of the Kelso-Longview Elks and Lions Club. He was an avid fish-



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Obituaries posted are obtained through Google searches and from family notifications. Please advise of any family status changes.

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. Circulation is 120.

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.

The *Weedman Newsletter* is a registered publication (ISSN 0883-7791).

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erman and hunter. He and his wife, Bonnie, enjoyed snow birding in Phoenix near their daughter.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Bonnie, in 2009; a son, **Rodney**; and four brothers, **Ray, Max, Leon** and **Harold**.

Jack is survived by a son, **Stephen Weedman** of Longview; two daughters, **Sheila Hart** of Burlington, Wash., and **Sheri Bade** of Phoenix; a brother, **William Weedman** of Kelso, WA; eight grandchildren; many great- grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held on November 21, 2010 with entombment at Longview Memorial Park.

Mr. Weedman's lineage was: Jack Bay Weedman⁶, Leslie Raphael Weedman⁵, Elisha Spurrier Weedman⁴, Daniel Weedman³, Christian Weedman, Jr.², and Christian Weedman, Sr.¹.

Find-A-Grave A Very Useful Genealogical Web Site

We have been able to make some significant genealogical discoveries of late through the use of a web site that gives burial information often accompanied with photos of tombstones. The web site is Find-A-Grave (www.findagrave.com) and currently have over 55 million grave sites listed. Included in this total are currently 374 graves of Weedman family members.

Over the years, we have collected numerous photographs of tombstones and cemeteries but have not found a useful way of displaying those. Using Find-A-Grave as a repository for those photo-

graphs appears to have a lot of merit.

If your photographs are in a digital format such as a jpg file, it is quite easy to upload those to the Find-A-Grave web site. In addition to photographs, one has the ability to put obituaries and family information on the page with the photograph of the tombstones. If you don't have a photograph of a tombstone, you can still list the grave in the cemetery in which the burial site is located.

We were recently in contact with Scott Parish who lives in Weldon, Illinois which is located in DeWitt County, IL just southwest of Farmer City. We found that Mr. Parish had established a "virtual cemetery" for Weedmans and had about 75 of the family in his collection. Contact with Mr. Parish revealed his wife was related to Rachael Wilson Weedman, the wife of John Huhn Weedman, Sr. That contact stimulated our interest and we have subsequently created a Weedman Virtual Cemetery and well as one for the Brodix family.

In 2011, we will undertake a project of listing as many Weedman burial sites as we can with birth and death dates as well as photographs of tombstones if they are available. Where possible, we will show family relationships and show obituaries if those are available. This will make Weedman family information more widely available for those interested. Further, those additions will be included in the Weedman Virtual Cemetery on the Find-A-Grave site.

If you have an interest in participating, you can upload your information and photos or you can send them to the editor, Nick Weedman (nick@weedman.org) and we will upload for you.

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We hope to have several hundred photos and other information posted on Find-A-Grave in 2011.

*Our appreciation to those who continue to support the publication of the **Weedman Newsletter**.*

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Hopefully, we can get several hundred new additions to this very useful web site in 2011.

Major Rusty Weedman Deployed to Iraq

The purpose of this email to advise you that our son, **Major William L. Weedman, Jr. (Rusty)**, a member of the Texas National Guard has been posted to Iraq. He was posted to Fort Lewis, Washington in early September in preparation for the deployment. They departed on Thanksgiving Day going down range. We have received a brief email from him that they have landed in the middle east and will be transported to his Iraq base soon. I image that he is already at his station, however, we have not yet received confirmation. We solicit your prayers for his safe return from the Middle East.

Rusty is the son of **Bill and Pat Weedman** of Wilson, NC.

Donations

Response to our annual push for subscribers to make donations to cover the cost of printing and mailing the **Weedman Newsletter** was generally good in 2010.

There were a number of individuals who made significant contributions that we acknowledge with our gratitude. We would like to recognize several who made extremely nice donations.

Richard Weedman sent probably the largest contribution we have ever received and it is fitting that his generosity be recognized. He recently moved from Naples, FL to Charleston, SC. He is the son of George and Polly Weedman for-

merly of Rapid City, SD. Polly is one of the members of the Weedman Hall of Fame. Many thanks, Richard!

Others who have been particularly generous include: **Lola Vance, Neva Weedman, Marianne Montgomery, Elizabeth Luevand, Sidney H. Weedman, Paul Weedman** and **Dr. Gary Weedman**. We extend our appreciation for your support.

Weedman Reunion

By Robin Weedman Cooper

The Annual Weedman Family Reunion was held on August 21, 2010 at the home of **Myron and Sherry Weedman** in Caneyville, KY. The weather was sunny and the wind was blowing which made for a very pleasant day. We had lots of good food, conversation and games. Several of the kids went for a dip in the pool. Later on in the afternoon we all loaded up on a wagon and rode down to the home of Dorman and Brenda Weedman. We all enjoyed being together once again and look so forward to next year.



Myron Weedman, host of the 2010 Grayson Co., KY Reunion

DNA Project Update

Since our last report on the Weedman Family DNA project, there has been some progress to report.

The DNA project uses the latest in technology to use sophisticated DNA testing to show family relationships between those who have participated in the test. The test which involves having individual saliva samples analyzed by a professional DNA testing firm has been shown to be a reliable predictor of relationships between individuals.

So far, participating in the program are: **Earl Joseph Weedman** who is from the Florida Weedman line; **William Bruce Weedman** and Nick Weedman who descend from **Christian Weedman, Jr.** of Grayson Co., KY; **Freeman Jesse (Jim) Weedman** who descends from **Jacob Weedman** of Southern Indiana, and **Robert Harold Widmann** who has roots back to **Lienhard Widmann** born 1606 in Aidlingen, Germany.

William B. Weedman recently had his sample

tested for 25 sites up from the original 12 sites and the results are no surprise. It shows a close match to the test results to both **Jim Weedman** and **Nick Weedman** with only a single marker that differed from each other.

We reported earlier that the tests show that **Earl Joseph Weedman's** ancestral line differs from those who descend from Christian Weedman, Sr. It is of interest that there is a remarkable similarity in the DNA tests between the three other Weedmans and that of **Robert Widmann**.

Our objective is to ultimately show with some certainty where **Christian Weedman, Sr.** originated and to possibly make connections with descendants of his siblings and/or parents.

Update on Chelsea Weedman Penn State Swim Team Member

We continue to follow the achievements of **Chelsea Weedman** a freshman swim team member at Penn State University. At a recent event in Naples, FL she won first place in the 200 yard butterfly and second in the 200 yard individual medley. Keep up the good work, Chelsea

*Lost and Found
Swedish Weedman Corner*

Betsey Weedman Daughter of Olaf Weedman

*(Editor's Note: **Olaf Weedman** was the first of three brothers who immigrated to the U. S. from Ockelbo, Gävleborg Lan (County), Sweden. Olaf arrived in the U.S. in 1855. Most of those researching this line of the family show that he had a daughter, **Betsey Weedman**, who was born in 1845 in Sweden. Attempts to prove there was such a daughter have not been successful until now.*

*The Church of Latter Day Saints (LDS) has a new site in test mode on which there are records presented in a much more detailed form and which provide exceptional information. Use of this site has been instrumental in making progress on the puzzle regarding **Betsey Weedman**. Information contained in an Iowa state death certificate on-line revealed the relationship between **Olaf Weedman** and **Betsey Anderson**.)*

Olaf Weedman arrived in the U. S. in 1855 and settled in Galesburg, Knox County, IL which was the home of a large number of Swedish immigrants. He probably arrived with a number of others from his same home area.

Apparently single and perhaps widowed in Sweden, our records show that he married **Brita Andersdotter** on 30 May 1856 in Knox County. Clearly, **Betsey Weedman** could not have been a daughter of this couple.

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Peter Anderson married **Betsy Wesman** (sic) (**Weedman**) on 18 July 1863 according to Illinois marriage records.

In the 1870 Federal census, the family was shown living in Wataga, Knox Co., IL with **Peter Anderson** (age: 24), **Betsie** (age: 24), **Joseph** (age: 7), and **Mary** (age: 5) in the household. Peter was a farmer.

In the 1880 Federal census, the family was living in the Walnut Grove area of Knox County. **Peter** (36), **Betsy** (35), **Joseph** (15), **Mary** (13), and **Emma** (2) are in the household. There is a gap of 11 years between Mary and Emma and a later census record shows that Betsy lost all but one of her children.

In the 1900 Federal census for Stromsburg, Polk County, NE **Peter A. Anderson** (born in June 1844 in Sweden) and his wife, **Betsey** (born June 1845 in Sweden) are listed. The record shows she gave birth to eight children but only one was living in June 1900.

The new LDS site however revealed information that would have been unlikely to have been found through normal methods. Iowa death records are on-line and we found where **Betsey Anderson** died on 1 November 1911 in Newell, Buena Vista Co., Iowa and was buried on 5 November 1911 in the Stromsburg Cemetery, Stromsburg, NE. In that on-line record, it names her father as **Olof Weedman** but her mother's name is unknown. This tie is beneficial. Betsey's birth date was shown as 25 July 1845 in Sweden.

No record could be found for Betsey Weedman Anderson in the 1910 census for either Nebraska or Iowa.

A search of another extremely helpful web site, Find-A-Grave, has a picture of the tombstone for **Peter** and **Betsey Anderson** to the right of this paragraph.

Equally revealing is the history of the town of Stromsburg, Nebraska. The town was founded by a group of Swedish immigrants from Ocklebo, Sweden who arrived in 1856. Here is what is stated on the town's web site:

In 1856, 155 people from [Ockelbo, Sweden](#), sailed aboard the vessel 'Carolina' to a new life in America. After several years in Illinois, some of the people decided to move on to the state of Nebraska, with Swedish real estate agent Lewis Headstrom as their leader. Delighted that the landscape resembled their homeland, they chose to name their new town after Stromsburg, a section of [Ockelbo, Sweden](#).



It appears that **Peter** and **Betsey (Weedman) Anderson** left Knox County, Illinois after 1880 and joined some of their prior neighbors and probably relatives in Nebraska!

Betsey Weedman was apparently the daughter of **Olof Weedman** by a marriage in Sweden. The first wife must have died (or possibly they divorced) and **Olof** immigrated to the U.S. with his daughter, **Betsey**. Clearly, the death record proves the relationship between **Betsey Weedman Anderson** and her father **Olof Weedman**.

This article is printed because it helps to clear questions that have lingered about **Betsey Weedman** and it also points to the fact that there are new bits of information being added constantly to aid in genealogical research. The "find" of the Iowa death record for **Betsey Anderson**, daughter of **Olof Weedman** was the missing piece to help finish a genealogical puzzle on this family.

Lost and Found

William Melvin Weedman (1860 – 1935) **Son of John Huhn and Minerva Gamble Weedman, Senior**

(Editor's Notes: The recent discovery of an excellent tool for genealogical research was a site called Find-A-Grave (www.findagrave.com). The site allows users to enter information on graves, tombstone inscriptions, and the ability to publish information such as obituaries. The site allows one to search for all of a surname nationwide, in a single state or a specific location.

We were recently trying to discover listed graves of Weedman family members in Oklahoma and found the graves of a family that we had simply been unable to find.

***John Huhn Weedman, Sr.** was born in 1796 to **George and Charlotte (Huhn) Weedman** in Fayette Co., Pennsylvania. The family moved to Perry County, Ohio between 1799 and the early 1800s. John married **Rachael Wilson** in Perry County in 1816 and that is where six of their ten or eleven children were born. In 1830, the family moved to McLean Co., Illinois and finally to Farmer City, DeWitt Co., Illinois. Rachael died in 1854 and is buried in Campground Cemetery near Farmer City.*

*John married **Mrs. Minerva (Yazel) Gamble** in McLean County on 3 June 1855. **Minerva Yazel**, born about 1825, married **Jefferson F. Gamble** on July 13, 1845 in McLean County. The couple had one child, **James J. Gamble** born in 1846. Apparently Jefferson Gamble died prior to 1850.*

*John and Minerva had a son, **William Melvin Weedman**, who was born in February 1860 probably in DeWitt County, Illinois. They soon moved along with a number of other Weedman family members to Webster City, Hamilton County, Iowa. John died there in 1868 and the body was returned to Farmer City for burial.*

***Minerva and William Melvin Weedman** returned to live in Farmer City. On September 15, 1870, Minerva Yazel Gamble Weedman married **Major John B. Hicks** in DeWitt County and they lived in Monticello, Piatt County, Illinois. There were no children born to this couple. It is unknown when **John B. Hicks** died but in the 1900 census, Minerva was shown living with her first son and his wife in Piatt County. Minerva apparently died between 1900 and 1910. It is unknown where she is buried.)*

From late 1800 census records, it had been established that **William Melvin Weedman** had survived and was living with relatives in DeWitt County. In 1880, he was living with his half brother, **Zadoc Casey Weedman** and his wife **Rebecca (Wolfe) Weedman**. William was listed as a 23 year old whose occupation was farming.

A marriage record was found in which a **William M. Weedman** married **Kit-tie M. Markett** in DeWitt County in 1887. Whether this is our man or not is unclear.

For years, the ultimate destiny of **William Melvin Weedman** was unknown.

The use of the Find-A-Grave site while browsing Oklahoma burial records for Weedman family members revealed that a **Mel Weedman** was buried in Square Cedar Cemetery near the small town of Cleo Springs, Major Co., Oklahoma. Also buried there were **Sophia Weedman** (1855 – 1915) as well as **Eva Weedman** (1893-1948) and **Pearl Weedman** (1896-1967). Sophia's name was on the same stone as that of **Mel Weedman** with stones



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for Eva and Pearl being separate.

Census research was undertaken and it was found that the family was living in Major County, Oklahoma when the 1900 and 1910 census counts were made. In the 1910 census, the head of the family was **William M. Weedman** age 52 born in Illinois. That clue led to the conclusion that this was our **William Melvin Weedman** who had been "lost" for years of researching.

In the Kansas State census taken in 1895, a listing is found for **Melvin Weedman**, age 36, **Sophia Weedman**, age 38, and **Eva Weedman**, age 2, living in Morton Township, Sedgwick County. This is the county where Wichita, Kansas is located. Morton Township is southwest of Wichita an on the Kansas - Oklahoma border.

In the 1900 census, the oldest daughter, Eva, was listed as being born in March 1893 in Kansas while the youngest daughter, Pearl, was shown as being born in August 1896 in Oklahoma. That record revealed the marriage of **William Melvin Weedman** and **Sophia** had occurred in 1889. It is likely that the couple had married in Kansas or less likely in Illinois. By this time, there were a number of Weedman families who had moved from Illinois and Iowa to several locations in Kansas.

It appears that neither daughter married although one record seems to indicate the youngest did marry although this cannot be confirmed.

This line ends with the death of **Pearl D. Weedman** in January 1967.

The mystery of what happened to **William Melvin Weedman** was solved but work remains to determine his wife's maiden name.

Apparently, **William Melvin Weedman** made his way from Illinois to Kansas and may well have joined some of the other Weedman families in that State. Whether he married in Illinois or Kansas isn't clear but his wife in 1900 had the name Sophia but no marriage record can be found in either state at this time. We note that in 1895 the family was living in Sedgwick County, KS quite close to Sumner County where **Abraham Lincoln (Linc) Weedman** had settled. It is possible that he participated in the fourth Oklahoma land run (September 16, 1893) but his name is not shown on a list of participants that we have been able to locate. It is unclear if that list was exhaustive or partial. In 1910, **William M. Weedman** received title to 80 acres of land from the Federal Government which indicates the possibility of land run participation. Most of those "Boomers" received 160 acres.

We have located the widow of a man whose obituary stated that the couple cared for Pearl Weedman for 18 or more years. We are attempting to make contact to determine if more history can be learned and to find if pictures might be available.

One final note --- **William Melvin Weedman** had a half brother, **James. J. Gamble** who remained in Illinois. James' wife was **Eva Gamble** and it appears that the oldest daughter, **Eva T. Weedman**, was named in her honor. James and Eva Gamble had no children.

The internet and availability of more and more genealogical records will allow more family mysteries to be solved. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, called the Mormon Church, has just opened a new internet site which has excellent information some of which has never been available on line. More discoveries are possible with additional research.