
❖ Weedman Newsletter ❖

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Final Issue

Baring unforeseen developments, this will be the final issue of the *Weedman Newsletter* as a periodic publication.

The Newsletter was started in 1968 by **Paul** and **Marianne Montgomery** and had the effect of putting efforts of a number of people who were interested in the history and genealogy of the Weedman family all together. Marianne was the de facto editor and Paul did much of the compilation and organization of data. Paul died in 1988 and Marianne continued to produce the Newsletter as a labor of love. In December 2005, Marianne retired and for a period of time **Chantal Weedman** was the editor.

The reasons for making this the final issue are several. First, frankly is burn out. We have been editing or publishing for more years than I care to recall. While there is still significant support, there are fewer and fewer sources of articles for publication. As a result, there is a significant amount of effort and time required to assemble each issue. Health is another reason. While my recovery from open heart surgery in November 2011 is complete, the lack of stamina, energy and ability to give needed concentration to the on-going efforts is simply not present.

We continue to get inquiries about family origins and how individuals fit into the family and the web site gets interest from those seeking family information. But it appears that there are few doing what old timers would call basic or fundamental research on the family. It

seems if information is not on the internet and readily available, there is an assumption that facts regarding the family doesn't exist. This isn't true but you don't hear of court house or archival research being conducted very much.

If a volunteer steps forward and is willing to assume the position of Editor, then it is possible that publication could continue. Wouldn't it be nice to see Volume 50 in print!

And, it is likely that if significant discoveries are made, then the occasional Special Edition can appear.

Failing these, however, this will be it.

We still have an objective of attempting to find our European roots and despite the finality of this publication, efforts to discover those will continue. Let us take a bit of space and discuss special projects we now have or have had in the past and comment on whether they are worth continuing.

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Ship Anderson Passengers Project

For those whose lineage goes back to **Christian Weedman, Senior** the attempts to learn where passengers on the vessel on which he arrived originated and ultimately settled in the United States was the purpose of this project.

We believe **Christian Weedman, Senior** was about 15 years old when he arrived in Philadelphia in August 1750 on the ship Anderson. The voyage began in Rotterdam and had an intermediate stop in Cowes, England. From the ship's manifest, we have a complete list of passengers and we note and he was the only person with that surname on the voyage. One publication shows the signatures of the passengers as they signed an oath of allegiance to the King of England upon disembarking. The spelling of the surname appears to be **Widman** or **Widmann**.

We have speculated that it was unlikely that he traveled alone. It is thought that he came from the Palatine area of southwestern Germany because the ship Anderson like so many others during that period brought immigrants from that area. Indeed, there has been reference to the vessel being part of a Palatine immigration effort.

It is unclear if he traveled alone or possibly with other family members with a different surname such as a married sister or aunt or uncle. Or, perhaps he was a member of a group that traveled together to the new world? Or, perhaps family or church members had preceded his journey and he was joining them in America? Or, was he an indentured servant who had to work on his arrival to pay for his passage to his country?

We believed if we could identify the origin of the passengers on the ship Anderson, we could get an idea of where

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Christian Weedman, Senior was a passenger on the ship Anderson which landed in Philadelphia in August, 1750.

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 Winter 2012 issue is intended to be the final one.

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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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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Christian Weedman, Sr. originated. And, with more work, we could learn where the passengers settled once they disembarked.

A special page on the web site was established which lists all of the passengers and research was done to determine origins and where the families ultimately settled.

While some progress was made, we learned it was difficult to find origins or destinations of the passengers. There is the occasional inquiry by genealogical researchers whose ancestors traveled on the Anderson but no definitive pattern has been able to be detected.

The hypothesis seems valid and we will continue to work to better understand any relationships of families on the Anderson. The web site page will be maintained and we will continue to research passengers over time.

Weedman Family DNA Testing

If we are ever able to find our European roots, it is very likely this will be done through DNA testing.

This is an entirely new area for genealogical research and as increasing test results become known, there will be a time in the future when we will be able to state with a high degree of certainty where our European roots originated.

And this is potentially a highly effective tool for all of the various branches of the Weedman family.

We have been able to get several to participate in this early project and have been able to make several definitive conclusions.

Participating so far are: **Freeman James (Jim) Weedman** who descends from **Christian Weedman, Sr.** through his son, **Jacob Weedman**; **William Bruce (Bill) Weedman** who also descends from **Christian Weedman, Sr.** through his son **Christian, Jr.** and grandson, **Stephen Weedman**; **Harry N. (Nick) Weedman** who similarly descends from **Christian, Jr.** and his son, **William Weedman**. Also participating is **Earl Joseph Weedman** who descends from **Philip Weedman** whose origins are from Mainz, Germany and whose line is frequently referred to as the Florida Weedman line. Finally, another participant is **Richard Widmann** whose family roots are traced back to Germany.

One of the first findings was that the three participants who descend from **Christian Weedman, Sr.** do not have exact DNA matches! We learned early that some of the sites on DNA samples tend to mutate over succeeding generations and we proved that with our testing!

We also found that **Earl Joseph Weedman's** DNA results prove there is not a recent relationship between the Florida Weedman families and those descended from **Christian Weedman, Sr.** We had hoped that if there was a proven relationship, we could pursue more intensive research of family origins in the Mainz Germany area. It was known however, that there appeared to be two brothers who emigrated from Germany simultaneously and those were **Philip Weedman** and **Bernard Wiedeman**. Bernard settled in what is now the panhandle of West Virginia while Philip started his line based in St. John County near St. Augustine, Florida. The spelling of the surname for Bernard's family has a number of variations. And, interestingly, one branch was and possibly remains in Fay-

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The use of DNA technology in genealogy is predicted to be the tool which will help reveal our European roots.

It is important to obtain DNA samples while direct male descendants from each line are still alive! Once the line has been depleted, no testing is possible.

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ette County, PA where Christian Weedman, Sr. lived in the late 1700s.

Here is where added testing would be highly beneficial. Contact has been made with one family member who descends from **Bernard Wiedeman**. It is highly desirable for a participant from that line be tested to help prove the relationship between **Philip** and **Bernard Weedman** or **Wiedeman**. Those test results would be of extraordinary value if we are ultimately able to find potential descendants from family members who remained in Germany. And, this may be the only tool which could essentially prove those relationships.

This portion of the DNA project should be continued and expanded.

Swedish Weedman DNA Project

There are currently no participants in the Weedman DNA project from the Swedish Weedman family.

The original progenitor of this line in the U.S. was for many years to have believed to be **Olaf Weedman**. Olaf and his wife Brita immigrated to the U. S. from Ockelbo, Sweden in the 1840s and settled in Knox County near Galesburg, IL. But further research indicated that there were in fact three brothers who ultimately came to the U.S. from Sweden with Olaf being the first.

It appears that Olaf was the oldest brother and he was the first to immigrate. But it appears that he had two siblings who also came here and settled originally in Knox County. **William Jonas Weedman** immigrated about 1870 with his wife and two children. Also, **Peter Weedman** and his wife also immigrated.

It is believed these were three brothers.

Since family members have visited the original home in Sweden and made contact with Swedish relatives, participation in the DNA project is perhaps of lesser importance than for other branches. However, if it is desirable to produce definite proof of relationship between the three brothers and their Swedish relatives, it is important to collect DNA samples for this purpose. It appears there were no children from **Peter Weedman**'s line and there appears to be a single male descendant from the **Jonas Weedman** family.

Let us point out that the most common DNA testing involves the Y chromosome which is passed from father to son and is thus confined to the direct male lines. There is similar testing that is passed from mother to daughter but that is not as commonly used as the male line testing. The point is that it is essential to obtain DNA samples from family members while there are still male descendants living.

This portion of the DNA project should be continued and expanded.

Christian Weedman, Senior DNA Project

One of the puzzles of this line of the family genealogically speaking has always been, where did we originate? Are we German, English, Dutch, Swiss, or maybe Austrian. Most speculate that we have German roots while some think we are Dutch. **If we are ever going to make a definitive finding, the most likely answer will most likely come from DNA testing.**

As mentioned earlier, we have several

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participants whose ancestry can be traced to Christian Weedman, Senior. And, in the process of working our way through the DNA test results, we found there is some (hopefully minor) variation in the results. It appears that some of the sites on the Y chromosome are prone to mutation while others remain intact while being passed from generation to generation.

The results of the DNA test on **Robert Widmann** whose roots are known to be German have a great deal of similarity to those of the participants that descend from Christian Weedman, Sr. Most of the people who have worked on our genealogy believe our roots are in Germany.

Here are the steps needed to bring this project to fruition. First, we need to have a broader base of DNA tests on which to base our conclusions. More participants in the direct male line from Christian Weedman, Senior would help to give greater confidence in results if we have test results from potential German participants. Second, we need to identify Widmann families in Germany who might be candidates for participation and determine if they have good lineage records going back to the early 1700s. Third, we need to persuade several candidates to participate in DNA testing. The third step is the most difficult but is not unachievable.

It would also be helpful to identify resources with expertise in DNA testing to advise on the results obtained. It is unlikely we will obtain exact matches because as we have seen in our very small base of data, even those known to be related have some variation in the test results.

DNA testing is not cheap and the establishment of a fund to help offset or even totally fund testing is needed. The use of the FamilyDNA firm to handle the test-

ing is highly recommended so that all DNA test results are done in a similar manner with all the results maintained by one firm. In addition, Y-chromosome testing of a minimum of 25 test sites should be our standard.

If there is any interest in the family on a definitive project to find our European roots, the DNA test project is well worthwhile and may represent the only way we can establish with a high degree of probability of where our ancestors lived before 1750.

Weedman Find-A-Grave Project

The Find-A-Grave project is a relatively new but highly popular web site on which graves are listed along with photographs, obituaries, and other information. It is extremely useful and we have been able to locate "lost" family members using this resource.

One success story is that of **William Melvin Weedman** who was the only child of the second marriage of **John Huhn Weedman, Sr.** with **Minerva Yazell**. After the death of his first wife, John married Mrs. Yazell in 1855 and in 1859 a son, **William Melvin**, was born. Soon the family moved to Webster City, Iowa where John died in 1868. The widow and young son returned to DeWitt County, Illinois where she ultimately married for a third time. We found **William Melvin** in the 1870 and 1880 census records but after that he seemed to disappear. It was assumed that he died but no grave or death record could be located.

Using the Find-A-Grave web site, we found a grave in north central Oklahoma for a Mel Weedman and the date of birth

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The Find-A-Grave web site is free and is an excellent place to show family burial sites as well as list obituaries.

Scott Parish of DeWitt County, IL has done an excellent job of photographing Weedman family tombstones in several states!

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seemed to fit that of **William Melvin Weedman**. More research revealed that this was, in fact, the son of **John** and **Mi-nerva Weedman**. We learned he had appeared in southern Kansas, married and moved to Oklahoma where he home-steaded. There were three daughters born to the couple, none of whom had children. But successful contact was made with a person who was friends with the daughters and we were able to learn quite a bit about the family. All of this success had roots in the Find-A-Grave web site.

We have a project to identify and register Weedman and related families grave sites and to list them on the Find-A-Grave web site. An enthusiastic participant, **Scott Parish** of DeWitt Co. IL, has worked diligently to locate and list graves. Over the years, we have taken numerous photos of family member tombstones and will be adding those as time permits.

This is another project in which numerous family members can participate and we encourage you to do that. It will prove helpful for future generations and they attempt to learn about their family history. We encourage you to participate. The web site is: www.findagrave.com. There are almost 600 Weedman graves listed as of December 2012 and more are added frequently.

Obituary

Elton Ray Weedman

Elton Ray Weedman, 72, of Louisville KY, passed away at Hosparus Inpatient Unit on November 15, 2012.

Elton is preceded in death by his parents, **Alton** and **Lena Weedman**; siblings, **Marvin Weedman**, **Loyd A. Weedman**, **Henry Weedman** and **Juanita Weed-**

man.

Elton is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, **Wanda Farmer Weedman**; children, **Teresa Schultz (Steve)** and **Steve Weedman (Jamie)**; granddaughter, **Michelle (Sean)**; and siblings, **Katherine Cook**, **Lillian "Odean" Wheeler (John)**, **Erma Spencer**, **Wilma Whitehead (Curtis)** and **Howard Weedman (Barbara)**; and his dog, Snuggles.

A funeral service was held November 19, 2012 with interment in Evergreen Cemetery in Louisville.

His Weedman lineage: Elton Ray Weedman⁷, Alton Weedman⁶, James Henry Weedman⁵, Willis Green Weedman, Sr.⁴, John Weedman³, Christian Weedman, Jr.², and Christian Weedman, Sr.¹.

So, with this, we bring the *Weedman Newsletter* to a close. It has been enjoyable and has provided an opportunity for us to meet many of our extended family.

So many before us have contributed with their family research including **Gena Lee Theiss** and **Marianne Montgomery**. We intend to continue to investigate family origins and will share those results primarily on the Weedman family web site (www.Weedman.org).

If you have information you want to share, let me know and I will do my best to keep the web site up to date.

And, thanks to so many who contributed financially to help off set the costs of doing this publication for 45 years.

Sincerely

Nick Weedman