

GEORGE ROUTTE WEEDMAN

George Route Weedman was born January 27, 1886 in Poplar Grove, Arkansas. This was, and still is, a small farming settlement in Phillips County between Helena and Marvell. He was the only son of Martha A. (Hattie) Thompson Connelly and Daniel R. Weedman. His mother had two daughters by a previous marriage to John Connelly. The sisters were Laura T. Connelly born October 8, 1872 and Jonny Connelly born August 20, 1874. There was another sister, Minnie Weedman born February 24, 1880, and died February 16, 1882.

Being the only boy and the baby also, lent much attention to George. During his early childhood he learned to hunt, and this continued to be his loved hobby the rest of his life. Once he was heard to say he had killed every kind of wild animal and fowl in this part of the country, with the exception of a goose. He even killed a bear while hunting not too far from his first home.

The education for George was in a one room school house, and for transportation there and home he rode his spotted pony. He continued going to this school until his sister, who was his teacher, and twelve years his senior, had to paddle him one day. That brought to a close his formal education.

As a young man he went to Earle and worked for a brother-in-law, Mr. Daniel Boone, in his mercantile business. During the time in Earle he also worked for a lumber mill, grading lumber. From Earle he obtained a job also in Crittenden County, keeping books for Mr. Ben Earl on the banks of the Mississippi River at Scanlan, near what is now Hulbert. He continued to work for Mr. Earl until an advertisement in a Memphis newspaper mentioned a job of bookkeeper and plantation store manager for Barton Brothers near Mound City. This was in September, 1907. By letter he made an appointment to meet Mr. Perry Barton on the river wharf in Memphis, and there he was hired, the salary to be fifty dollars a month plus room and board. This business agreement brought about a friendship and admiration that endured through-out their lives. During the ensuing years George, Mr. Barton and Charles Williams, another employee of Mr. Barton, became everlasting friends. They took their meals with Mrs. Williams and George lived in a side room in the plantation store.

On April 27, 1916 George Weedman married Willard Armilda Rieves of Marion. The marriage was performed in the pastor's study of the St. John's Methodist Church on Peabody Avenue in Memphis. After spending several days in Memphis at the Peabody Hotel they came to the new house Mr. Parton had built for them on his plantation. It was a five room wooden structure with bath and electric lights, and enjoyed by them for the next 11 years.

To the union a daughter, Wiona Ruth Weedman, was born November 22, 1918 in the Lucy Brinkley Hospital in Memphis. In 1920 Mr. Henry Banks bought the farming interest from the Barton Brothers and George stayed on in the same capacity until 1927. During the time the Banks family lived on the farm a friendship between families of Banks-Weedman was enjoyed, and has continued between the next generations. My father said many times he was a lucky man to have worked for two such fine southern gentlemen, Perry Barton, and Henry Banks.

Transportation problems, caused by muddy roads, gave headaches to my parents trying to get a child to school. This was a large factor in causing the Weedman family to move into Marion, and my Daddy opening a grocery business with Mr. H. A. McGee in 1927. This business flourished before a nation wide depression caused Dad many anxious moments and distress. It was during these years that a heart condition was detected during a physical checkup. This condition continued to worsen, and his hours were limited at the store each day for his last few years. While living in Marion Weedman was elected Mayor of the town and served in this capacity several years. He was also a member of the Methodist Church.

On June 4, 1942 George Weedman was stricken with a coronary thrombosis and died June 7 at the Gartly-Ramsey Hospital in Memphis. Services were held at the Memphis Funeral Home and internment was in Forrest Hill Cemetery also in Memphis.