
❖ Weedman Newsletter ❖

Volume 41 Issue 2

Fall 2008

2008 Reunion Issue

Belatedly, we are going to press with the 2008 Reunion Issue. Because the Reunion was held in June and we have slipped on time, there will be only three issues of the *Weedman Newsletter* this year. The article on the Reunion begins on page 12.

Widman (n) Connections

We received an interesting e-mail from **Robert Widmann** of New York City recently and publish it here. Robert is a serious Widman(n) genealogical researcher. Here is his note:

Dear Nick and Weedman relations -

*Congratulations to **Shawn Wiley** for some excellent scholarship regarding family origins. I have in the past contributed some ideas re these origins and may have included information about a piece published in Germany on the mid-1950's having to do with the origin of my family line and that of many if not most present-day Widmann's. (The double n is often dropped by English speaking record makers who in general tended to Anglicize German names and who were also unfamiliar with the German custom of writing the name with one n, but indicating a double n by an underline of the last n.)*

*My 1st translation of the above article: **Two Doctors Named Johann Widmann** may be found on www.worldroots.com/brigitte/widm.htm (I did not place the copyright marks, Brigitte did.)*

The timing of the 2008 Reunion conflicted with the scheduled publication of the Summer Newsletter. Due to this, there will only be three issues of the Weedman Newsletter in 2008

*Also, my notes show immigration of **Johannes Widmann** on Oct.7, 1743 via the ship *St. Andrew* sailing from Rotterdam. My notes indicate there seems to have been also a Wittman (sp.?) aboard.*

*The following books may prove helpful: **Pennsylvania Pioneers** by Strassberger & Hinke and also the **Volumes of The Pennsylvania German Society**. (As of a few years ago, this Society was still very active.)*

Best wishes to all Weedmans and hoping the above will be of help,

Robert Widmann

Web Site Update

Since the inception of the Weedman Family web site (www.weedman.org), it has graciously been hosted by Affiniscap based in Austin, TX. The founder of this firm which specializes in providing web services to various Associations is **Adam Weedman**. When he learned we were going to have a web site, he offered to host it for us. Recently, as the firm shifted its focus, we felt it was best to change hosting services and, with Adam's understanding,

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E-mail forwarding to a limited number of family members is being offered.

recently moved the site to GoDaddy.com.

We are highly appreciative of the support shown by Adam and Affiniscape over the years.

The move will be transparent to subscribers and although we lost e-mail service for 48 hours in the transition, we are now stable. One thing we found was that many links were inoperative and thus made a number of changes to update or remove those links.

We will be making more changes in the near future to put a report of this Reunion on the site and to better document the San Diego reunion. In addition, we will be listing helpful sites that family genealogical researchers have discovered.

E-Mail Forwarding Through Weedman.org

With the move to a new hosting service, we are able to offer a limited number of

e-mail forwarding accounts. Initially, if you have attended any Reunion and are a current subscriber to the **Weedman Newsletter**, we will offer the service at no cost.

Essentially, what this does is to provide an e-mail address which is forwarded to your current e-mail service. For example, nick@weedman.org is the address that I use. My actual e-mail address is weedman54@mchsi.com. When an e-mail is addressed to nick@weedman.org, it goes to that address at GoDaddy.com and is immediately forwarded to weedman54@mchsi.com.

The advantages are several. First, if your surname is Weedman and you advise someone that your email address is yourname@weedman.org it is easy to remember. Second, your actual e-mail address does not change so no action is really needed on your part. Third, if you do change your e-mail provider, no action is needed by people who send you e-mail since the administrator simply 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 1125.

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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the address where the e-mail is forwarded. This is probably the most significant advantage.

So, if **Paul Weedman** or **Cliff Weedman**, for instance wanted to establish a new e-mail address of paul@weedman.org or cliff@weedman.org, all they have to do is let **Nick Weedman** know and confirm their current e-mail address. Establishing the account can be accomplished in minutes. No other action is needed. Once set, you can advise people to send e-mail to the Weedman.org address and it will work.

One e-mail that will be established will be reunion@weedman.org and any messages received will be forwarded to the hosts of the next Reunion.

Obituaries

Joseph F. Anderson

Joseph F. Anderson, 81, died on April 19, 2008 a Meadow View Nursing Home in Louisville, KY.

He was retired from Southern Standard Cartons in the Printing Department where he had worked for 25 years. He was a member of the Moose Lodge, WOW, and the American Legion. He had also worked for J.C. Penney Company. He was a member of the Beargrass Christian Church.

He was preceded in death by his wife, **Doris Bruner Anderson**, and a brother, **John Anderson**. He is survived by his son, **Daniel J. Anderson**, and daughter **Kimberly Dye**.

Services were held on April 22, 2008.

His lineage: Joseph F. Anderson⁷, Pearl Weedman Anderson⁶, John Franklin Weedman⁵, Willis Green Weedman, Sr.⁴, John Weedman II³, Christian Weedman, Jr.², and Christian Weedman, Sr.¹

Melvina Sanders Weedman

Melvina Weedman, 92, of Portland died on May 6, 2008 at Jewish Hospital in Louisville, KY. She was a homemaker and member of West End General Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by her husband, **David Henry Weedman**; a son, **David Clifton Weedman**; two granddaughters, **Paula Fagan** and **Della Phillips**; four sisters, **Bridget Bargee**, **Zelma Heston**, **Stella Young**, and **Ethel Boling**; and one brother, **Herman Sanders**.

Greta W. Weedman

Greta W. Weedman, age 77, died May 29, 2008, at Akron City Hospital after a brief illness.

Born and raised in western Kentucky, Greta lived most of her adult life in the Akron area. She was a retired buyer from the M. O'Neil's Company. Her husband of 45 years, **Rodney Weedman**, preceded Greta in death in 1992. Greta is survived by a daughter, **Roslyn Zane Weedman (Martin Tyckoski)** of Frankenmuth, Michigan; granddaughter, **Cristin Crawford** of Flint, Michigan; grandson, **James Crawford** of Doha, Qatar; sister, **Betty Zane Sparks** of Jeffersontown, Kentucky; brother, **Philip Morrison** of Greer, South Carolina; many nieces and nephews; dear friend, **Mark VanSweringen**; and best friend, **Barky**.

In the Next Issue

Brent Weedman, a boxer in the family? Excerpts from an article in the Louisville, KY newspaper.

Sidney Weedman is serving on a Committee to design a celebration for the 100th anniversary of the Indianapolis Speedway.

We have other obituaries to publish in the next Newsletter. Assistance is needed to identify some of these family members.

2008 Weedman National Family Gathering

The 13th biennial Weedman Family Reunion was held June 19-21 in Uniontown and Masontown, PA. There were 58 participants at the event.

The event was based at the Uniontown Holiday Inn and hosted by **Billie Lou Weedman Bruce** and **Nick Weedman**.

Participants arrived on Friday afternoon and were greeted by a meeting room filled with Weedman memorabilia and posters. An evening session was held to discuss plans for the Reunion and why it was being held in Uniontown.

The theme was a "Visit to New Holland" to recognize the name of the homestead that **Christian** and **Elizabeth Weedman, Sr.** gave to the land they received by grant from the Pennsylvania government. It appears they first settled the land between 1765 and 1769 and remained there until it was sold in 1799.

Using land maps, GIS systems and help from the Fayette County government, we have been able to confirm the location of the land with certainty. So, the event was to take interested ancestors back to the original homestead.

There are no original buildings left from the homestead but it is still relatively undeveloped. The northern boundary of the 400+ acre tract is common with the City of Masontown city limits. It was felt that many would be interested in seeing how the land appeared and nobody was disappointed in the beautiful site.

There were a number of displays, some of which had been used at previous reunions but there were many new ones as well. Following the Friday evening structured session, quite a few stayed to visit and socialize.

Jacobs Lutheran Church Visit



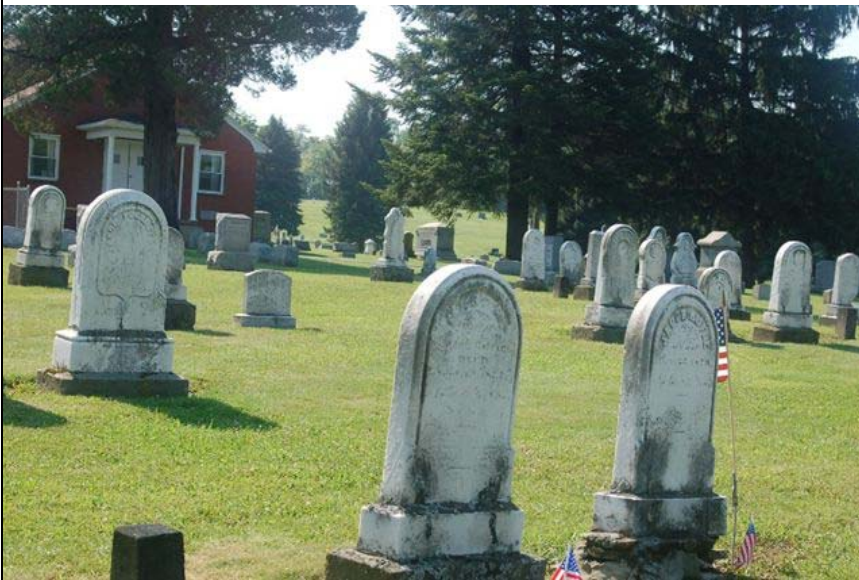
Viewing related family tombstones at Jacobs Lutheran Church Cemetery

On Saturday morning, a cavalcade of vehicles headed toward the **Jacob's Lutheran Church** located near McClellandtown. This is where at least one of the children of **Christian** and **Elizabeth Weedman** were married (**Catherine**, the youngest daughter married **John Huhn, Jr.** here) and where many of the grandchildren were christened. Interestingly, while we find repeated reference to the children and grandchildren, we cannot find a single instance of Christian and/or Elizabeth sponsoring a grandchild at the christening ceremony.

We toured the old part of the cemetery and found the grave of **Nicholas Riffle** who was the husband of **Barbara Weedman**. In addition, a number of Huhn and Riffle burial sites were viewed. Of particular interest were the graves of **John** and **Dorady (Dorothy ?) Huhn, Sr.** who are progenitors of everyone in the **George Weedman** line. Two of the Huhn offspring married children of **Christian** and **Elizabeth Weedman**, so several of the participants had the opportunity of seeing graves of their direct ancestors.

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A view of the old section of the Jacob's Lutheran Church Cemetery

The Jacobs Lutheran Church cemetery is well kept and has a number of Revolutionary War Veterans buried here.

In the old part of the Jacobs Lutheran Church cemetery is a marker that shows the names of people known to have been buried there. There is a story that when the road passing in front of the Church was constructed, a number of graves were simply built over and stones were simply discarded. Whether this is actually true is not known. The stone is shown above right and while the names are unreadable here the idea has great merit. We have seen this one other time and that was in the old cemetery in Jasper, IN in which **Jonathan Weedman** is buried.

New Holland and Fairview Brethern Church

Christian Weedman's homestead was named "New Holland" for reasons unknown to us. In Fayette County, homesteads were usually named with many having an obvious origin. Whether he was naming this for his native county or whether he had lived in New Holland, PA prior to the move to Hampshire County, VA where his first child was born is unknown.

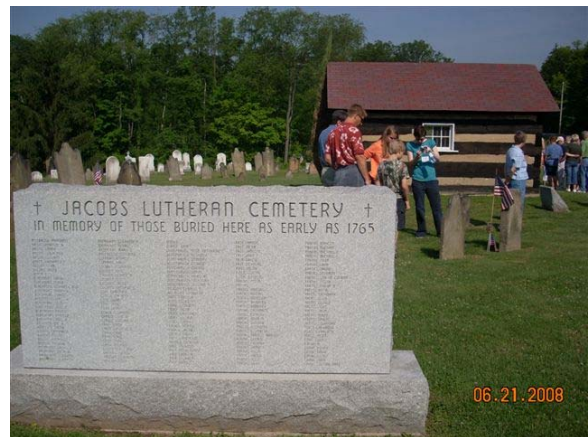
Maps of the area showing the original land grants abound. A book known as Horn's Papers is well known although many scholars feel that some of the work was fabricated. But, we have copies of the original land maps from the Pennsylvania Archives and have located the land on Fayette County records. It is known that there were some 302 1/2 acres in the grant.

Because the land was in a disputed area that was claimed by both Pennsylvania

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There is a marker in the cemetery that the first burial was that of a child of **A. M. Riffle**. The marker, a bronze plaque mounted on a granite stone, states that the child's burial was handled by **Barbara Brandenburg** who, from other records, was active in the church and was a talented singer. The relationship of this Riffle family with that of **Nicholas Riffle** is unproven at this point.

Subsequent to the Reunion, we contacted the cemetery sexton to ask if our family could install a similar plaque or something similar. The Cemetery Committee has asked for specifics for their consideration.



A marker listing all who are known to be buried in the Jacobs Lutheran Church Cemetery



*Connie Honsaker at Fairview Church
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Reunion participants at the Fairview Brethren Church

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and Virginia, it was only when the Mason-Dixon line was accepted as the boundary between the states did settlers bother to record their grants.

It was known that the Fairview Brethren Church was on land of the original homestead. This was confirmed with a court house search in which land was donated by **Ephraim Walters, Jr.** to the church board for a church site. So, by going to this Church, we know we were on "New Holland". We were able to find the deed in which it states that the land originally belonged to **Christian Weedman** who sold it to **Ephraim Walters, Sr.** who in turn sold it to his son, **Ephraim Walters, Jr.**

Connie Honsaker, a descendent of the **DeBolt** family (**Ephraim Walters** married **Mary DeBolt**), met us at the Church and let us use the facility to brief the family. Connie is a member of the Church. While there, we discussed the history of the Weedman and Walters families in this area. Connie's picture is on the preceding page.

Outside, we took the view that our ancestors had. Clearly, they selected the highest elevation in the area and had an excellent view to the north toward Masontown. In an article that **Dr. Jefferson Walters** had written for a Fayette County newspaper, the *Genius of Liberty*, in 1879, he told of the land being conveyed from **Christian Weedman** to **Ephraim Walters, Sr.** to Ephraim Walters Jr. and finally to the German Baptist Church of George's Creek. He stated that the log home built by Weedman was "across the road" from the Church. Numerous pictures were taken on the visit.

The 300+ acre site goes from the location of the Fairview Church to the southern border of Masontown. On the advice of the mapping office at the Fayette County Courthouse, we believe that some of the hedgerows running north and south delineate the east and west borders of the property. It is in deed a beautiful site that only be appreciated with a personal visit.

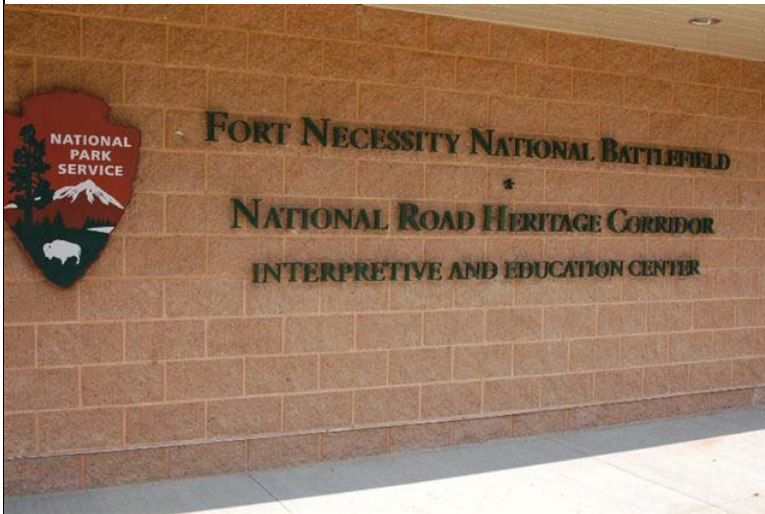


A panoramic view looking north from the Fairview Church. New Holland was located on one of the highest elevations in the immediate area.

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Fort Necessity



Following the visit to New Holland, the group traveled to the eastern side of Fayette County to visit the site of Fort Necessity. This was a site of a battle in the French and Indian War (also called the Seven Years War) in 1754 in which General George Washington participated and was the only battle in which he surrendered to an enemy.

There are displays and demonstrations at this site that shows what living conditions were like in the late 1750s which is about the time our ancestors came to the area. Clearly, they were pioneers and this visit enabled us to see what they faced.

Lunch was served and the group participated in tours of the newly built visitor center and the surrounding displays.

Many went to an historic home on the Fort Necessity Battlefield National Park called the Mount Washington Tavern. This was built as a stage coach stop on what became the National Road. The value of this visit was the excellent displays to provide a flavor for living conditions in the second half of the 1700s.

Another point of historical significance relates to what became the National Road. The Colonial Government hired Indians to cut a road through the wilderness going from the Potomac River in Virginia (now West Virginia) to a point on the Ohio River which was in Fayette County. This was called Nema-colin's Path or Braddock's Road. It is likely that our ancestors travelled this road when they left Hampshire County, VA to settle in Fayette County.



Our Reunion Group entering Mount Washington Tavern on the grounds of Fort Necessity.

A number of participants visited the Frank Lloyd Wright designed home named Falling Water.

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Reunion Dinner

The Reunion Dinner was held at the Uniontown Country Club and provided an opportunity for more visitations as well as a brief business meeting.

A brief business meeting was conducted to determine if there was interest in a Reunion in 2010 and, if there was, who would be willing to host the event. **Cliff** and **Shirley Weedman** volunteered or, almost volunteered. See below.

Following dinner and the business meeting, photographs were taken of the various family groups that participated. Some of these are shown on the web site. Space limitations do not permit showing those here.



Reunion participants enjoying dinner at the Uniontown Country Club

Hall of Fame

After the meal, inductions into the Weedman Family Hall of Fame were announced. There were three nominations and a selection committee of **Betty Myers Yahn** and **Bill Weedman** made the review and announcements. Inducted at this meeting were:

Colonel Freeman James (Jim) Weedman, USAF (retired) selected because of his distinguished military career and his success as a businessman following his retirement.

Carl Oran, another family member who had a distinguished military career and a successful business following that career. Carl is a Weedman descendent.

Edward Ellsworth Smith, a Reunion participant, who had a successful career as a journalist and cartoonist. Many of his cartoons appeared in the Wall Street Journal under a title of Pepper and Salt.

2010 Reunion

We think we have someone to host the 2010 Reunion. **Cliff** and **Shirley Weedman** of Eighty-Eight, Kentucky are about 98% certain they will host an event probably in Grayson or Meade County, Kentucky.

Photos of participants were taken and appear on the Weedman Family web-site (www.weedman.org).

There were many compliments for the event and despite high gas prices, we were pleased participation.

(Photographs in this Newsletter were furnished by Megan Smith. Her work is also used on the 2008 Reunion page of the Weedman web site (www.weedman.org).