
❖ Weedman Newsletter ❖

Volume 42 Issue 3

Fall 2009

Don Weedman asked for help to locate his state-side family. Read of the successful effort in this article .

Don Weedman is Located!

In the summer 2009 issue of the *Weedman Newsletter* we stated that family members were searching for **Don Weedman** who was the son of **Robert Raphael Weedman**. With a lot of work, he has been located and is alive, well and living in Montpelier, France!

He has been introduced to the other family of his late father and reports are that they are in frequent contact and are exchanging communications.

That is the abbreviated version of the story and for those interested here is how Don was located.

In a 2005 Newsletter, a small article appeared stating that **Don Weedman** was the son of the late **Robert Raphael Gorde Weedman**. He stated all of his uncles were dead as well but he wanted to contact anyone in his immediate family. But, until earlier this year, nothing happened.

Then, this spring, **Jamie Weedman Jones** made contact with the Editor stating that she had found the Newsletter on our web site and that she thought she was a step-sister of **Don Weedman**. She advised that **Robert Raphael Weedman** had married her mother and had adopted Jamie. A son was born to that marriage and **Robert Lee Weedman** was a half brother of Don. **Robert R. Weedman** had apparently been in the military stationed in Germany and had married there. A son was born (**Don Weedman**) but when it came time for Robert to re-

turn to the U. S., the marriage was dissolved. **Robert R. Weedman** was killed in an automobile accident on June 29, 1986 and there was apparently no communications for the next 23 years.

Jamie asked if we could find Don and that is when the detective work began. There are several **Donald Weedmans** and they can be located in the white pages on the internet. Our data base which has several thousand Weedmans listed allowed us to identify all of the **Don Weedmans** in the phone book. There are services available on the internet to look further for people beyond a phone number.

We found a **Don Weedman** whose address was Williamstown, NJ and who did not seem to fit any of the others with the same name. We also found several addresses around Philadelphia in both New Jersey and Pennsylvania which seemed to indicate he must work in a suburb of that city. We wrote to him at that address but the letter was returned. We found a phone number which was called but the residents that never returned the call.

In our search, we found there was another

(Continued on page 18)

Inside This Issue

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Don Weedman Located | 17 |
| DNA Project Update | 19 |
| Newsletter Archive | 20 |
| Obituaries | 21 |
| Subscriptions | 24 |

The internet has proven to be a powerful tool to help locate people regardless of where they might be. Privacy issues are of some concern to some.

(Continued from page 17)

person at that address whose names varied from **Metrice Harris** to **Metrice Harris-Weedman** to **Metrice Weedman**. And, we learned the age of this person was about the same as that of **Don Weedman**.

We “goggled” both **Don Weedman** and **Metrice Weedman** and found that she had written a letter that was published in the ***Boston Globe*** in May 2009. In it, she revealed that the family was living in Montpelier, France. A further “hit” revealed she had written several articles for an English language magazine, ***Langue-doc Sun***. We “goggled” that and found the e-mail for the editor who was contacted. Overnight, we got a response and the editor advised she would send our e-mail to **Metrice Weedman** who, if she desired, would make contact. She did and shortly thereafter, we heard from **Don Weedman** who stated that he was the person who made the 2005 inquiry and he still wanted to make contact with his lost family.

So, e-mail introductions were made and we are advised that there has been a good exchange of information. Both parties are pleased that the detective work succeeded!

It happens that the Editor and his wife are going to France in October and by coincidence will be staying in the Provence area for about a week. Where we are staying is about 45 minutes from Montpelier and we have asked if we could meet Don and his family (they have a son). He has agreed and, assuming we can arrange for a convenient time, we will make contact. Don advises that he has never met another person with the Weedman surname and we hope he is not disappointed!

We advised him that we would be asking his assistance to help locate our European roots which we strongly believe to be in Germany.

So, this story continues and we will re-

(Continued on page 19)

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.

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(Continued from page 18)

port further in the winter issue if we succeed in making contact!

This is a good news story and we are pleased to have participated in its success.

Weedman/Widmann DNA Project Update

We have continued to make progress on our DNA project and feel there is a possibility that we have sufficient clues to point to a German connection.

There have been five participants in the testing so far. These include **Bill Weedman** of San Diego, CA (the **Christian Weedman, Jr.** line through his son, **Stephen Weedman**); **Freeman J. (Jim) Weedman** of Omaha, NB (the **Jacob Weedman** line), **Nick Weedman** of Flat Rock, NC (**Christian Weedman, Jr.** line through his son, **William Weedman**); **Earl Joseph Weedman** of St. Augustine, FL (the Florida line that originated with **Charles Weedman** or Wiedeman of Mainz, Germany); and **Rob Widmann** of New York City (his lineage is from Germany).

Here is a summary of the results so far. **Bill Weedman** tested for 12 markers as did **Earl Joseph Weedman**. **Nick, Rob,** and **Jim** tested for 37 markers. Each of the three descendents of **Christian Weedman, Sr. (Bill, Jim and Nick)** had a perfect match on the first 12 markers. Unfortunately, there were a number of differences in the markers for **Earl Joseph Weedman** to allow the conclusion that there is not a common relative within a fairly large number of generations.

A comparison of the test results between **Jim Weedman** and **Nick Weedman** showed there were 4 markers that were each off by a factor of one. The experts

advise that all of the markers where there were differences were those subject to mutation over the years and thus some variation could be expected.

The most recent results were those for **Rob Widmann**. In the first twelve markers, two differed slightly and one of those markers was one that is subject to mutation. But comparing all 37 marker values with those in our project who tested for all 37 reveals there were some differences but most of those were subject to mutation. **More importantly, the similarity was striking!**

This is not to claim, necessarily, that there is a relationship between the **Weedman** and the **Widmann** lines but there is sufficient similarity to cause more investigation. We will seek some expert advice on comparing the results if we can secure permission from those who have been tested. And, we will certainly attempt to get more samples from both the **Weedman** and **Widmann** family members.

The results were sufficient to cause us to rename our project to the **Weedman/Widmann Family DNA Project** and to attempt to secure more volunteers particularly from Germany if we can.

Many family members have been told our ancestry is German, others were told that we are of Dutch ancestry while others say we are of English stock. The great preponderance of at least anecdotal evidence leans toward German ancestry.

At one time, research revealed that a **Christian Widmann** was born in Gniebel, Germany about 1735. But, it was later learned that this family had several children named **Christian** but they died before reaching adulthood. More research has revealed a concentration of **Wid-**

(Continued on page 20)

The family DNA project has been renamed to aid in attracting more of the Widmann family to participate. Do we have German roots? This tool may provide the answer.

All of the Weedman Newsletters will be on line by November. Many of the early years have indices.

(Continued from page 19)

mann families in the Wuerttemberg area of Germany. **Rob Widmann's** lineage is traced back to Aidlingen Germany (about 20 miles from Gniebel) while others working on the Widmann line trace their lines back to Ehningen or Tubingen, Germany. These municipalities are in the Baden-Wuerttemberg German federal state near Stuttgart.

While much more work is required and conclusions at this stage are premature, for the first time there appears to be some clues on a geographical location where our search efforts should be directed.

Weedman Newsletter Archive

Virtually every issue of the *Weedman Newsletter* from its inception in March 1968 until the last issue is being placed on a new page on the Weedman web site (www.weedman.org). The page is simply called **Newsletter Archive**. This project should be totally functioning by November 1st.

Each issue has been converted to Adobe Acrobat format (a .pdf file) and made fully searchable. As a result, you can read every issue (with a couple of exceptions at this point) and see if your line has had articles posted on it. What we will be striving for in the future is a massive index to all 42 years of publication to allow researchers to narrow their search efforts. But, that will come in the future. A caveat – some of the early issues were done using cursive type and that is difficult for OCR (optical character recognition) software to handle and some of the early issues have very light type. Most early issues have an index that can be consulted and are well done. The manual index is probably a much better index to use when available.

We are missing one and possibly two

issues of the Newsletter. Issue 1 in 1996 appears to be missing. Three issues have been located and converted to digital format including: Issue 2, Spring 1996; Issue 3, Summer; and Issue 4, Winter. It is possible that there was not an Issue 1 but, if anyone has files back to 1996 and can check to see if there were four issues, please let the Editor know.

Including in all of these files are a number of indexes that cover most of the early issues through about Volume 29. These were done manually and are extremely helpful.

The quality of the issues is generally good and this has allowed all to be converted to optical character reader format which allows searching using Adobe Acrobat (free software).

It is interesting to read early issues and to follow the progress of individual's searching for their Weedman family roots. Feedback on this effort would be appreciated and if problems are encountered, it would be helpful to know so that efforts can be made to improve the Weedman Newsletter Archive.

Weedman – Balaran Marriage

Amy Elizabeth Weedman and **Alan Lee Balaran** both of Washington D.C. were married on September 12th in the District of Columbia.

The ceremony was held outdoors at Tudor Gardens presided over by two Federal judges who had worked with Mr. Balaran. A dinner reception was held at the Palms restaurant.

Both the bride and groom are attorneys with a practice in Washington. Amy is the youngest daughter of **Nick** and **Mer-**

(Continued on page 21)

(Continued from page 20)

rie Carol Weedman. Alan is the son of **Miriam Balaran** of Washington, D. C. and the late **Charles Balaran**.

Weedman Character in "Coyote Heart"

Editor's Note: We subscribe to Google Alerts and Yahoo Alerts to keep up with items in the news related to anything about the Weedman family. Recently, a curious item appeared and it was about a character in a new book entitled, "Coyote Heart" written by Paula Margulies of San Diego, CA. Thinking there might be some type of family connection, I contacted the author and her reply appears below. While there are no family connections, I found her reply interesting.

Hi Nick:

Thanks for the good wishes for *Coyote Heart*.

It's been a while since I wrote the book (I started it back in 2003 and finished it a year and a half later). But, I was selective on the names I chose for the characters, especially the first names. The main character, Carolyn, is the only one whose first name was not entirely deliberate -- I chose her name because of the way it sounded. I picked the last name "Weedman," because I wanted something connected to the earth (at least the "weed" part). I also wanted a last name that began with the letter "w," since the Native American man she falls in love with in the story is Roy Washburn, and I wanted the two last names to both begin with the same letter. (I got the idea for the name Washburn after reading about the Cherokee poet, Ron Welburn.)

The first names for most of the other ma-

ior characters have to do with their relationships with each other. I chose the Western-sounding first names of Roy and Everett for Carolyn's husband and Pala Indian lover, since they were foils for each other in the story. Likewise, I chose Biblical first names for Ben Miller and Luke Washburn, because they are function in similar ways in the story (one is Roy's son and the other, Ben, is a surrogate son for the Weedmans). Also, they both end up sacrificed by the events that take place in the novel.

The other characters' names, including Dolores and Carolyn, are more typical of their respective cultures.

Naming characters is sometimes a hard thing when you're writing a book. The right names carry a lot of weight in the story, so you have to choose carefully. I hope I chose well for the characters in *Coyote Heart* (you'll have to read the book and let me know what you think!).

Thanks for asking about the names. Paula Margulies

Obituary

Dennis Donald Weedman

Dennis Donald Weedman, lifetime resident of Sanborn MN was called home July 20, 2009 at the age of 64. Funeral services were in Sanborn July 25, 2009. Interment was at Sanborn City Cemetery.

Dennis Donald Weedman was born January 22, 1945 in Springfield Hospital to **Clifford** and **Noreen Weedman**. He attended Sanborn Public School and graduated in 1963.

He married **Marilyn Knakmuhs** October 3, 1981. Dennis worked for Wells Tiling and L&S Construction for 27

(Continued on page 22)

The name of a character in a book, "Coyote Heart" is Weedman but apparently has no connection to a real person.

Subscribers are asked to notify the Editor when family events such as births, marriages and deaths occur for inclusion in the Newsletter.

(Continued from page 21)

years. Denny enjoyed spending time watching his grandchildren play ball and shoot pool and also watching sports on TV with them. Dennis also enjoyed playing football, basketball, baseball and enjoyed watching softball on Thursday nights in town. He enjoyed riding his scooter around town and also mowing the lawn.

He is survived by his wife **Marilyn Weedman**; mother – **Noreen Weedman** of Sanborn; children – **Kenneth Arndtson, Jr.** of Lambertton, **Shelby Arndtson (Kurt Roiger)** of Sanborn, **Lisa Rohlik** of Seaforth; **Shannon (Mike) Landkammer** of Sleepy Eye, 13 grandchildren, sister – **Janice (Stuart) Juhnke** of Sanborn; sister-in-law **Judy Weedman** of Springfield, father and mother-in-law – **Robert and Verona Knakmuhs**, brothers-in-law – **Darold Knakmuhs** and **Loren (Kathy) Knakmuhs** and eight nieces and nephews.

Dennis is preceded in death by his father **Clifford Weedman** in 1991 and brother – **Gary Weedman** in 2008.

His lineage: Dennis Donald Weedman⁸, Clifford Donald Weedman⁷, Loran Bruff Weedman⁶, Henry Linas Weedman⁵, Asa Weedman⁴, John Huhn Weedman, Sr.³, George Weedman², and Christian Weedman, Sr.¹.

Mervin B. Weedman

Mervin B. Weedman, 76, of Melbourne, FL, passed away Friday, July 17, 2009.

He was a retired Truck Driver with 38 years on the road.

He was preceded in death by his parents, **David H.** and **Melvina Weedman**; infant brother, **David Clifton Weedman**; and two daughters, **Paula Fagan** and **Della Phillips**.

He leaves to cherish his memories daughters, **Denise Stice** of Indiana, **Gale Weedman** of Florida, **Tamela Price** of Florida and **Angela Bartley** of Florida; son, **Mervin David** of Ohio; sister, **Jean Weedman Litherland** of Louisville, very special friend **Elizabeth Jeans** of Florida; 15 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were on July 18, 2009 interment in Evergreen Cemetery in Melbourne.

His lineage: Mervin B. Weedman⁸, David Henry Weedman⁷, William Herbert Weedman⁶, James David Weedman⁵, William Weedman⁴, John Weedman³, Christian Weedman, Jr.², and Christian Weedman, Sr.¹.

Bonnie Lou Weedman

Bonnie Lou Weedman, 64, of St. Augustine, died on Aug. 3, 2009, at Flagler Hospital in St. Augustine. Funeral services were August 7, 2009 with interment at St. Augustine Memorial Park.

She was born in St. Joseph, Mich., grew up in Ocoee, Fla., and had resided in St. Augustine since 1975. Barbara worked for Anastasia Baptist Childcare Ministry for over 30 years.



For most of that time she served as a teacher with the 3-year-old class, but she had also served as the director of the program and most recently as a resource manager.

Known as "Miss Barbara" to generations of the childcare's families, she loved her worked because she loved the children.

She was a longtime member of Anastasia Baptist Church, where she served as so-

(Continued on page 23)

(Continued from page 22)

cial coordinator in her Sunday School Class, a member of the Dianthus Circle of the St. Augustine Garden Club, and a member and past president of the Ancient City Red Hatters.

She is survived by her husband, **John L. "Jack" Weedman**; a daughter, **Cindy Craig**; a stepdaughter, **Cindy Strickland**; stepsons, **Tommy** and **Lynn Weedman**, all of St. Augustine; sisters, **Kathy Wade** of Williston, Fla., **Paulette Dillard** of Citra, Fla., **Irene Judd** of Summerville, Fla., **Dianne Wade** of Citra, **Lynn Hopkins** of Cheyenne, Wyo.; brothers, **Ronnie Wade**, **Ray Wade**, **Jerry Wade**, **Randy Wade**, all of Citra, and **Bobby Wade** of Astor, Fla.; brother-in-law, **Rick Weedman** of St. Augustine; 13 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren.

The lineage of Bonnie Wade Weedman's husband, Jack are: John Lawrence (Jack) Weedman⁸, John Marion Weedman⁷, George Wilbur Weedman⁶, John Daniel Weedman⁵, George Glasscock Weedman⁴, Daniel Weedman³, Christian Weedman, Jr.², and Christian Weedman, Sr.¹.

Obituary

Edna May Weedman Rounthwaite

Edna May Weedman Rounthwaite, the youngest of eight children born to **Claude** and **Mary Weedman** Feb. 9, 1920, in a log and sod house on a ranch by the Moreau River 10 miles east of Bixby, Perkins County, S.D. ended her earth life's journey August 26, 2009.

Shortly after she was born the Weedman family moved a few miles away to Faith, S.D. When she was 16, she and her mother went to visit Edna's brother **Mearl** in Wharton, TX. There she met and married **Fritz Holland**. That union produced three children, **Claudia**, **Lawrence** and **Gerald**. When their marriage

ended Edna later moved with her children to Glendale, Ca. While working as a waitress she met and married **Bob Rounthwaite**, a hero to the whole family and Edna's greatest protector and admirer.

The Rounthwaite family moved to Ventura, CA in 1963 where they lived until Bob retired in 1991. He and Edna moved to their retirement dream home in the Kern River Valley. After Bob died March 1, 2008, Edna stayed at the home they shared in Wofford Heights CA for 10 months, attended by her daughter, **Claudia Urfer**. She later went to Indiana to stay with her grandson, **Bill Floyd** and his wife **Brenda** and their children and grandchildren. Edna spent many happy hours laughing and loving and being loved by her many grandchildren and great grandchildren and great, great grandchildren. Edna was known as "Great, Great."

Edna was proud of her heritage. She was a life long Republican who dearly loved a good argument. She also was an honored member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and enjoyed attending the local events. In addition, Edna was proud of her work in Washington D.C. during World War Two. She would say "there is nothing more beautiful than Washington D.C. in the spring." Her other many accomplishments included helping raise her grandchildren, **Bill** and **Bob Floyd** and **Rudy Berti**.

Edna had an amazing memory and retained a myriad of historical facts and figures in her head which she happily supplied to all who would listen. She loved giving a vivid verbal picture of events past and present.

Edna loved family and children, baseball, the Dodgers, collected hundreds of bells brought to her by family and friends from

(Continued on page 24)

We extend our condolences in the loss of family members.

Hannah Weedman of Knoxville, IL appears to be a promising college basketball athlete.

(Continued from page 23)

all over the globe, favorite song, Silver Bells, Tennessee Ernie Ford Hymns, Poetry, Lavender Roses, Gladiolas, Amaryllis, Birds, favorite, Hummingbirds and Chocolate Licorice. Her family of 3 children, 3 grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren and 9 great, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews and all her many, many friends will miss her forever. *She was preceded in death by her 3 brothers, Marion, (Dee), Mearl, and George D. Weedman; her 4 sisters, Merna Thomas; Adelaide Donaldson; Elizabeth Fitzgerald, and Susan Cameron; and her parents, Claude H. and Mary Weedman.*

Edna and her sister accompanied by a number of other family members attended the San Diego Reunion in August 2004. She had many stories about early life on the South Dakota prairie and so many other tales of great interest. She loved family history!

Edna's lineage: Edna Weedman Rounthwaite⁷, Claude Henry Weedman⁶, William Martin Weedman⁵, Jeremiah Weedman⁴, Jacob Weedman³, George Weedman², and Christian Weedman, Sr.¹.

Hannah Weedman Commits to the University of Evansville

Knoxville (IL) High School's **Hannah Weedman**, a member of The Galesburg (IL) *Register-Mail's* All-Area team last season, has made a verbal commitment to attend the University of Evansville.

Weedman said she made her college choice after visiting two of Evansville's Missouri Valley Conference rivals — Bradley University and Illinois State.

"I knew after I visited Evansville, that's where I wanted to go," said Weedman.

"They have only 2,500 students and the campus is really compact so you can get

to classes easy. The professors know you by name and they work with you on a personal level."

After missing the first third of last season with a knee injury, Weedman averaged 13.5 points and 10 rebounds for the 26-6 Blue Bullets, who won the regional tournament in Matt Gibson's first season as coach. The 6-3 Weedman earned all-Olympic Conference honors and all-state honorable mention.

She will officially sign with Evansville on Nov. 11. "She's been starting since her freshman year and she's improved considerably," he added.

"There's a lot of potential there."

Weedman is eager to concentrate on her senior season at Knoxville.

"We're playing in a new conference (the Prairieland) and hopefully we can win a championship and another regional title," she said.

2009 Subscriptions

In the Summer 2009 issue, we put yellow reminder slips in the envelopes of those whose subscriptions were due. The response to that reminder was excellent and we appreciate the support received.

There are still a handful of subscribers who have yet to renew. Again, we will place a reminder slip in your envelope if you are due for renewal.

We ask a contribution of \$5.00 per year and if you want to pay more than one year, that saves us the time required to remind you in the next year or so to contribute.

Nick Weedman