

# **Weedman Family Hall of Fame**

**Induction: June 17, 2000  
Weedman National Family Gathering  
Farmer City, Illinois**

**Second Induction: July 21, 2002  
Weedman National Family Gathering  
Jasper, Indiana**

## Purpose and Objective

The purpose of the Who's Who in the Weedman Family is to recognize some of those family members who have made a distinctive positive contribution that brings honor to the family.

Those eligible are direct descendents or those married to direct descendents of **Christian, Sr.** and **Elizabeth Weedman, Olaf** and **Brita (Andersdotter) Weedman** (the Swedish line), or **Philip (Felipe) William** and **Mary Barbara Antonia (Hainsman) Weedman**. This program will initially be for Weedman family members in the United States. As we learn more about those with roots in Australia, Canada, and England it may be expanded to include those family members.

Selection is taken from a list of nominations and then screened by a committee of family members.

I recall my first trip to Farmer City to meet **Mrs. Frances Weedman Miles**. She had a wealth of knowledge about the family particularly those descended from **George** and **Charlotte (Huhn) Weedman**. She also had very strong (and sometimes erroneous) feelings about the family beginnings!

One statement made by Mrs. Miles was "...the family is basically made up of yeoman farmers..." which is essentially true. Clearly, there is nothing wrong with being a farmer and some in the Weedman family have been quite successful in agriculture. However, there are those who have excelled in their chosen life endeavor or made some notable claim to fame. The Hall of Fame is intended to highlight those who have made names for themselves and the family by making a particular success in life or through an event that is historically noteworthy.

So, we begin what is hoped will be an on-going project to recognize achievements in the Weedman Family.

**Nick Weedman**

June, 2000

# 2000 Inductees

## *Posthumous Awards*

<b>Mary Weedman Myers</b>	First Native Born Woman to Cross the Ohio River to settle in the Ohio Territory
<b>John Jesse Weedman, Jr.</b>	Farmer and businessman
<b>Freeman Weedman Burford</b>	Oilman
<b>Catherine Bishop Weedman</b>	Maternal Head of Family of Medical Professionals
<b>Dr. James C. Munch</b>	Pharmacologist
<b>George Perry Weedman</b>	Educator

## *Living Person Awards*

<b>Dee Brown</b>	Author and Historian
<b>Gena Theiss</b>	Author
<b>Marianne J. Montgomery</b>	Editor, Weedman Newsletter
<b>Dr. Daniel W. Weedman</b>	Astronomer

## 2002 Inductees

### *Posthumous Award*

<b>Christian Weedman, Senior</b>	Initial immigrant, line founder
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### *Living Person Award*

<b>Harry N. (Nick) Weedman</b>	Businessman
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# Mary Weedman Myers

**Mary Weedman Myers**, the first child of **Christian, Sr.** and **Elizabeth Weedman**, was born on 1 January 1762 in South Branch, Hampshire Co., VA. South Branch appears to be a locality rather than a village or town and is the South Branch of the Potomac River located in what is now West Virginia.

According to an article, *Just Like Old Times*, Book VI, 1987-1989, which was basically a series of articles, published in the Norwalk, Huron Co., OH Reflector, **Mary Weedman Myers was the first American woman to ever cross the Ohio River from Virginia (now West Virginia) to settle the Ohio County.** Reference to the Ohio country is presumed to mean Western Pennsylvania in an area around the Ohio River.

The birth date of **Mary Weedman** has been taken from the request for a pension made by her husband, **Adam Myers**, who was a veteran of the Revolutionary War. In that application, the date of birth is given for all of the family. Importantly, it locates the family of Christian Weedman prior to their move to Fayette Co., Pennsylvania.

What is meant by “...*the first American woman to ever cross the Ohio River from Virginia (now West Virginia) to settle the Ohio County...*”?

We believe this means that she was the first American born female of European ancestry to make the crossing. If so, does this mean that her mother, who presumably crossed at the same time, was not American born? Probably so – Mary’s father was not born in America and it is possible that the mother was not either.

From information on allied lines, it is known that a group of people living in Hampshire Co., VA did move to Fayette Co., PA including the Myers, the Walters, and likely many others along with Christian Weedman in 1769 or earlier.

It is clear that this was truly a pioneer family moving into Western Pennsylvania as the initial settlers of land in that area.

**Mary Weedman** married **Adam Myers**, son of **Henry Myers, Sr.** on 2 August 1779 probably in Fayette Co., PA. Ten children were born to the couple. They moved to the Perry and Licking Co., OH area in the early 1800s and in 1814 moved to Huron Co., OH where they both died. They are buried on a farm in Huron Co.

**Mary Weedman Myers is recognized for being the first American woman to ever cross the Ohio River from Virginia (now West Virginia) to settle the Ohio County.**

## John J. Weedman, Jr.

John J. Weedman, Jr. is recognized as a successful farmer, stock dealer, and banker. He was born in Perry Co., OH on February 3, 1828 to John and Rachael (Wilson) Weedman, Sr.

Perhaps the best description of John Weedman, Jr. is from a biographical sketch published in the 1880s for DeWitt Co., IL. A partial quote follows:



“...Among the influential and leading businessmen, as well as old settlers of DeWitt County, is the subject of the following sketch.

Although not a resident of the county, yet he has been for many years identified with its history and progress, and has contributed much to its material prosperity. He was born in Perry County, Ohio, February 3, 1828, and is the son of John and Rachel Weedman, whose histories are to be found on another page of this work. He was, in his infancy, when his parents removed from Ohio to Illinois and settled in Randolph's Grove. His education in his youth was of a limited character, and was confined to the log school-house of nearly a half century ago, wherein he learned to read, write and cipher, which embraced the entire educational course. But Mr. Weedman did not rely so much upon the

schools as he did upon self-culture. As a man and boy he contracted habits of close observation and cultivated a taste for reading, which improved the mind, and, in time, rendered him well informed upon the current literature and topics of the day. He was raised to habits of industry upon his father's farm, and remained at home until 1850, when he and other members of the family were seized with the gold fever, which was produced by the discovery of gold in California. In company with four of his brothers, he started for California by the overland route, and landed in Sacramento July 24, 1850. They engaged in mining and hauling provisions. John remained in California for eighteen months, by which time he was convinced that by the exercise of the same industry at home as there he would succeed equally well. In the fall of 1851 he returned home by way of New York. Here he engaged in farming and stock raising, in which he has been more or less engaged ever since. In 1871 he, in connection with Thomas Brothers, established the first bank in Farmer City. The partnership continued until 1876, when Mr. Weedman purchased the Thomas Brothers interest, and from that time to the present has carried on the business of banking in his own name. From the first opening of the bank to the present, it has borne the reputation of being solid, and of conducting its business upon sound business principles. As a banker, Mr. Weedman is well known throughout central

Illinois, and his reputation and that of his bank has an enviable and honorable standing among businessmen. On the 31st of March 1853, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary A. McDonald, a native of Madison County, Ohio. She is the daughter of Thomas and Rebecca McDonald. By that union there are four children living. Their names, in the order of their births, are: Harriet Josephine, who is the wife of C. R. Brodix, a resident and publisher of Philadelphia; Cassius M., clerk in his father's bank; Rachel Rosella, and John Sherman Weedman. Both Mr. and Mrs. Weedman are active members of the M. E. Church. He is a respected member of the Ancient and Honorable Order of A. F. and A. M. Politically, Mr. W. is a sound and thorough Republican, and has always voted that ticket since casting his first vote. He has been elected to several offices of local trust, and has represented his township in the Board of Supervisors for several terms. He was a member of the board when the present magnificent courthouse, which adorns the public square in Bloomington, was built. By a series of circumstances he held the casting vote in that public enterprise. In every office he has held he has earned the reputation of a faithful, capable, and honest servant of the people. Mr. Weedman in personal appearance is an erect, well-formed man. His fifty and odd years hang lightly upon him, and he would readily pass for one who had not reached more than the meridian of life. His hardy constitution and temperate habits have done much to preserve and keep about him the evidences and appearances of youth, which seem loath to leave and in their stead place the stamp of declining years. In his manners he is a social and pleasant gentleman, of frank and unassuming manners, whose acquaintance and friendship it is a pleasure to make, and, when once made, rarely forgotten. This is the opinion and evidence of the writer of this sketch, who has known Mr. Weedman for many years..."

Source: *The People in History 1882*

John Weedman died in 1885 not long after this article was written. As stated in the article above, the Weedman farm consisted of 660 acres in McLean County with another 284 in DeWitt County. A pen and ink drawing of his home on the farm is at the McLean County Genealogical Society in Bloomington and shows a palatial estate. Unfortunately, the drawing is too large to copy. Suffice it to say, it depicts a very successful agricultural operation.

Following his death, the bank which he owned in Farmer City was renamed the John Weedman National Bank and it survived until the depression and failed as so many others did. The original bank building burned and a new building built which was an asset to Farmer City. However, that building was torn down a number of years ago.

John Weedman, Jr. was undoubtedly the most successful farmer and businessman in the Weedman family up until the time of his death in 1885. We recognize that success.

John Weedman's line: Christian, Sr.<sup>1</sup>, George<sup>2</sup>, John Jesse, Sr.<sup>3</sup>, and John Jesse, Jr.<sup>4</sup>.

# Freeman Weedman Burford

**Freeman Weedman Burford** was the son of **Guy and Harriet (Weedman) Burford**. He was a successful oilman.



**Freeman Weedman Burford** was born 8 August 1900 in Farmer City, IL to **Guy Ernest and Harriet (Weedman) Burford**. The family moved in 1905 to Muskogee, OK where **Guy Burford** entered the oil business. Ultimately, the family moved to Dallas, TX. **Freeman Burford** died 7 January 1967 aboard the steamship, Mariposa, as he and his wife were returning from Australia where they had been visiting the U.S Ambassador to that country.

Mr. Burford was a prominent public figure for four decades and once considered running for Governor of Texas. He was a distinguished veteran of World War II in which he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Legion of Merit, Croix de Guerre and the French Legion of Honor.

**Freeman Burford** attended public schools in Muskogee and was a graduate of Shattuck Military School in Fairbault, MN. He attended the University of Oklahoma School of Law.

He entered the oil business in Oklahoma in 1921 and in 1926 moved to Shreveport, LA where he was Vice President and General Manager of Crystal Oil Refining Corp. He was the organizer and General Manager of Burford Oil Company in Pecos, TX in 1929 and of the East Texas Refining Company in 1931.

He was a pioneer producer and the first refiner in the East Texas oil fields, selling his producing properties to Magnolia Petroleum Company in 1935 to become an independent producer and natural gasoline manufacturer in Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas.

He entered the Second World War and was a graduate of the Command and General Staff School in Fort Leavenworth, KS. He was a full Colonel and oversaw the operation of 3,500 miles of gasoline pipelines, which supported the Allied war efforts. He was awarded medals to commemorate his performance in those roles.

After the War, he became President of the Sid Richardson Refining Company (1947-1960); owner and President, Harbor Terminal Company (1959-1962) and was an independent oil operator at the time of his death.

He married **Carolyn Skelly**, daughter of **William G. Skelly** who founded Skelly Oil Company in May 1927. They had three children: **William S. Burford**, **Ann Burford**, and **Carolyn Burford**.

The couple was divorced after 1935 and Mr. Burford later married **Jacqueline Faison** of Greenville, AL. There were no children of this marriage.

Mr. Burford was a colorful and strong personality. He was a strong proponent of Texas industrialization and was in great demand as a speaker in the 1930s when he proposed a program to make credit available to tenant farmers to buy their own farms. He considered running for Governor of Texas but declined.

He was a key figure as a custodian of the Cotton Bowl in Dallas during which time the enterprise prospered.

In 1935, Freeman Burford bought a large home in the Dallas area that was destined to become what is now the Mansion at Turtle Creek Hotel. After the divorce, Carolyn Skelly Burford retained the house for many years and reverted to the use of her maiden name. Articles have been written about the house and featured in the Dallas Morning News.

The first **Mrs. Freeman W. Burford (Carolyn Skelly)** was a colorful figure in her own right having suffered more than one jewel robbery and theft. She died in 1996 in her home in Newport, R.I. An article in the December 1999 issue of *Vanity Fair* gave an account of Carolyn Skelly.

**Freeman Weedman Burford** achieved considerable success both in business and in the Dallas community at large. He was arguably one of the most successful business people in the Weedman family.

**Freeman Weedman Burford's** line was: *Christian Sr.<sup>1</sup>, George<sup>2</sup>, John Jesse, Sr.<sup>3</sup>, Amos<sup>4</sup>, Smith Y.<sup>5</sup>, Harriet Weedman Burford<sup>6</sup>, and Freeman Weedman Burford<sup>7</sup>.*

# Catherine Bishop Weedman

Maternal Head of Family of Medical Professionals

**Catherine Bishop** married **Jacob Weedman**, son of **George** and **Charlotte (Huhn) Weedman** on 11 February 1819 in Licking Co., Ohio. The family had six children prior to the death of Jacob in 1829. Descendents of the couple became early medical professionals and are remarkable in the number who entered the profession.

**Catherine** was born about 1796 in Pennsylvania, the daughter of John and Hannah (Cooper) Bishop.

The couple had the following children all of whom were born in Perry Co., OH:

1. **Mary Ann.**, born Feb 1820
2. **Elizabeth**, born 10 April 1821
3. **Jeremiah**, born 25 October 1823
4. **John B.**, born 20 July 1825
5. **George W.**, born 2 July 1827
6. **Jacob**, born 24 Feb 1829 and died 10 Mar 1850 in Ashland Co., OH

Following the death of **Jacob**, **Catherine** and the children moved to Ashland Co., OH in 1829 apparently to be near her family. A brother had moved to Ashland County and apparently she chose to join him rather than move with the Weedman family to Illinois. About the same time (July, 1830), **George** and **Charlotte Weedman** sold their homestead in Perry Co., OH and moved to McLean Co., OH.

It is remarkable that a young woman with six children all of whom were under ten years of age would move to a new place in the 1820s. And it is even more remarkable that the some of the children turned to a professional career rather than the traditional agricultural pursuits.

**Mary Ann Weedman** married **Andrew S. Norris** (8 September 1822 – 12 May 1889) on 15 December 1844 in Richland Co., OH. **Andrew Norris** was a physician or was studying medicine when the marriage took place. It is possible that he became the influence to have others follow in his footsteps. **Dr. Norris** practiced in Ohio before moving to Farmer City, IL along with **Catherine Bishop Weedman** in 1854. He served in the Civil War and was a Surgeon in that conflict. He was the first medical professional in the family.

**George W. Weedman** was only 17 when his sister married **Andrew Norris**. It was apparently the influence of **Dr. Andrew Norris** that caused George to also get into medicine. George began his practice in the area of Troy in Ashland County, Ohio in 1853 and continued it until his death 5 September 1890. George was the second physician in the family.

**Dr. George W. Weedman** married **Sophronia Richards** in 1854 and they had two children, **Charles Benton**, and **Eliza Mary**.

**Charles** was born 26 January 1858 in Troy, OH and attended medical school at the Western Reserve University in Cleveland graduating there in 1880. He set up practice with his father in Nova, OH and continued to practice there until 1904 when he moved to New London in Huron Co., OH. In 1921, he opened a practice in Wellington in Lorain Co., OH where he practiced until 1936. He died in 1939.

**Dr. Charles B. Weedman** married (1) **Lucy Iona Dubois** in 1880 and (2) **Nellie McFadden** about 1936. By his first marriage, there were two children: **Donald Vincent** and **Elizabeth S.**

**Donald V. Weedman** also attended Western Reserve University and graduated in 1905 with a degree in dentistry. He practiced in Toledo where he died 28 July 1969. He married twice but apparently had no children.

**Elizabeth S. Weedman** married **Ezra Kelley** and lived in New London, Huron Co., OH. The couple had one child, a son named **Charles**. In the obituary of Dr. Charles B. Weedman, mention is made of his grandson, **Dr. Charles Kelley**, and we assume that he was also a physician although this needs to be confirmed.

So, in this line alone are the following medical practitioners:

1. **Dr. George W. Weedman**
2. **Dr. Charles Benton Weedman**
3. **Dr. Donald Vincent Weedman**
4. **Dr. Charles Kelley**

This line alone would be remarkable. But, there are more!

Until recently, it was believed that there were no children born to **Dr. Andrew S. and Mary Ann (Weedman) Norris**. It has been revealed there were three children: **Iris J. Norris, Amos L. Norris** and **Ida M. Norris**.

**Iris J. Norris** married **Joseph H. Staley** in 1866 and one of their children was **Amos Clyde Staley** who was a physician in Chicago. **Dr. Staley** was born in 1869, died in 1913 and is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery in Farmer City. We have no further information on Dr. Staley.

**Amos L. Norris** was born 1 March 1847 in Richland Co., OH and moved with his family to Farmer City in 1854. He, too, became a physician and practiced first in DeWitt, IL (a small town near Farmer City) prior to entering practice with his father in Farmer City. He died in 1909.

So, in this line of the family are:

1. **Dr. Andrew S. Norris**
2. **Dr. Amos Clyde Staley, a nephew of Dr. Norris**
3. **Dr. Amos L. Norris, son of Dr. Andrew S. Norris**

Finally, **Jeremiah Weedman** was the fourth child of **Jacob** and **Catherine (Bishop) Weedman** and their daughter, **Martha J.**, married **James Jackson** in Farmer City. Mary Ellen (Nellie) Jackson, a daughter of **James** and **Martha J. (Weedman) Jackson** married **Henry Munch** in Farmer City. Their son, **Dr. James Clyde Munch**, became a pharmacologist!

It is remarkable that there were nine known medical professionals from this branch of the family. Of great significance is the line started with a young widowed mother who apparently encouraged the family to enter fields other than farming. This was at a time when few of the family had secondary educations. The family is worthy of recognition

Unfortunately, there are no Weedman descendents from the line of **Dr. George W. Weedman**, his son or his grandson. Nor are there any Norris descendents from the line of **Dr. Andrew S. Norris** or his son, **Dr. Amos L. Norris**. We have been unable to contact any descendents of this line. **Dr. Munch** is recognized separately for his professional achievements.

## James Clyde Munch

**James Clyde Munch** was an internationally recognized pharmacologist and toxicologist. He was born Feb. 20, 1896 in Farmer City, IL and died Feb. 25, 1981 at the age of 85. He was married twice and had three sons, one daughter, 8 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.



Dr. James Clyde Munch

In his more than 60-year career, Dr. Munch served as a consultant pharmacologist to the U.S. Bureau of Narcotics, the State of Pennsylvania Secretary of Health and Welfare and numerous pharmacological research firms.

He was the author of "*Bioassays, A Handbook of Quantitative Pharmacology*" (1931); "*Manual of Biological Assaying*" (1937); "*Elementary Pharmacology*" (1945); and nearly 300 technical papers and articles published in the journals and literature of the pharmacology field in Great Britain, Peru, U.S., Cuba and Germany.

A native of Farmer City, III, Dr. Munch was the youngest recorded graduate of Bloomington High School (16 yrs) in 1912; received his bachelor of science (1915) and Master of Science degrees with

honors (1916) at age 20 from Illinois Wesleyan University and his doctor of philosophy degree in pharmacology from George Washington University in 1924.

He was Instructor of Toxicology at University of Louisville (1916-1917), and then joined the Army Medical Corps as a commissioned officer in the newly formed Mobile Laboratory Unit of the Army Sanitation Corps in France during World War I (1918-19). He received the Lys-Schildt decoration for chemical and bacteriological investigations that helped protect the troops at the front lines.

From 1917 to 1928 he was Pharmacologist of the U.S. Bureau of Chemistry, now called the Food and Drug Administration. In 1931 he developed an antidote to thallium poisoning, and several methods of bioassay. In 1932, he was awarded the Kiwanis Club's Medal of Honor for saving the lives of "two score persons dying from rat poison eaten by mistake." He flew to California to administer the antidotes. He later studied the stability of various drug preparations and preparation of sustained-action materials.

He next moved into simultaneous positions of Director of Research at Sharp and Dohme (1926-36), consultant pharmacologist to the US Bureau of Biological Survey (1928-44)

and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (1928-44) as well as into academia as Professor of Pharmacology and Director of Research and later Department Head at Temple University (1932-54) and lecturer at Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital (1940-1965) in Philadelphia as well as at the University of Maryland Medical School (1945-46). His ability to capably handle so many assignments at the same time won the admiration of his students, associates and recipients of consultant services alike. He was a recognized leader in pharmacological research in commercial applications, such as the detection of drug use in racehorses (featured in a *Saturday Evening Post* article). He consulted with the War Food Administration in 1943-1944 and later worked on development of an antidote to nerve gas poisoning.

Together with other pharmacologists, he owned and managed the Munch Research Laboratories in Upper Darby, PA for many years. He was medical director of John Wyeth & Brother for two years (1936-1937). Then, until 1972, he became medical director and director of pharmacological research at Strong Cobb & Co. in Cleveland and Vaponefrin Co. in New York City. He moved to Miami, Florida in the late 1960's where he served as medical director of Key Pharmaceuticals in Miami, Fla. and senior member of the department of pharmacology at the University of Miami from 1965 to 1972. He traveled widely and assisted in numerous international medical and pharmacological activities. Among these were his efforts to stem the narcotics trade and use throughout the world. He was a consultant to the Sec'y of Health & Welfare for the Commonwealth of Penna., and a long-time consultant to the US Attorney General's Committee Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, numerous US Pharmacology and Toxicology committees, and the US Federal Bureau of Narcotics, as well as to similar agencies in Central American and European governments.

He spent his final days near his children in the Washington, DC area, and remained amazing alert and a popular speaker until his death in 1981.

Of all of his assignments, he perhaps got the greatest satisfaction in serving as professional expert at court trials. To refute the prosecutor's arguments in one trial, he swallowed a large dose of arsenic in front of the judge and jury which he could not retain in his stomach (as predicted) and vomited it up. [How's that for confidence in one's own beliefs?]. The judge ruled in his client's favor and the case was closed.

*Memberships:* Dr. Munch was a member of: American College of Allergists (Fellow); International Narcotics Enforcement Officers Assoc.; American Pharmaceutical Assn. (Life member and former Vice-President); American Association for the Advancement of Science (Life member); Assn. of Military Surgeons of U.S. (Life member); American College of Cardiology (Fellow); American Statistical Association; and an academician with the Academies of Science in Maryland, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

He was a member of the Cosmos Club; the Chemist's Club in New York; the College of Physicians in Philadelphia, the American Chemical Society and the American Medical Association (Life member); the Biometric Society; the British Association for the Advancement of Science; the European Society for the Study of Drug Toxicity; the

International Association of Forensic Toxicologists; and the International Physiological Society. He was a member of the Pan-American Congress of Pharmacology and Biochemistry in Lima (1951), Brazil (1954); Secretary, Pharmacology, Pan-American Association (Life member); Society of Toxicologists; Forensic Medicine and Toxicology (London); European Society for Study of Drug Toxicology; Inter-American Conference on Toxicology and Occupational Medicine; National Pest Control Association (hon.); College of Physicians (Phila.); Optimists; Torch (Pres. Phila. Chapter); Quaker City Farmers; Union League (Phila.).

His work is recognized in "Who's Who in America," "American Men of Science," the "International Year. Book" and "Statesman's Who's Who." In 1979, Dr. Munch was made a Paul Harris Fellow of the Rotary Club. [Probably he considered this his greatest honor.] He was a Mason for more than 50 years and the past master of Lebanon Lodge No. 7. He also was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Kappa Psi, Theta Kappa Psi and Sigma Xi.

Dr. Munch's lineage: (Mary Ellen Jackson<sup>6</sup>, Martha Weedman<sup>5</sup>, Jeremiah Weedman<sup>4</sup>, Jacob Weedman<sup>3</sup>, George Weedman<sup>2</sup>, Christian, Sr. Weedman<sup>1</sup>)

## George Perry Weedman

George Perry Weedman is recognized as a pioneer educator in the family.



George Perry Weedman was the fifth child born on June 8, 1861 in Perry County, IN to Green Berry and Susan (Cart) Weedman. He attended grade school in Perry County and later went to school at Marengo Academy. He attended college at Danville Normal, a teacher's college that is now defunct.

On August 18, 1885, he married Mary Lou Hatfield and they lived at Rono in Perry County for a period of time.

Three children were born to the couple: Lloyd, born in 1887, Edith, born in 1890, and Ralph, born in 1893.

George attended the University of Indiana in Bloomington where he graduated in 1898. He continued his career in education following graduation and was known as a public speaker.

In "*Perry County – A History*" by Thomas James de la Hunt published in 1916, George Perry Weedman is given credit for his efforts in bringing the schools up to a new level of excellence. In this, it is stated, "... In September, 1896.... the first regularly commissioned high school in Perry County, that at Cannelton, and the major credit for having brought its work up to the requirements of the State Board of Education is due to the energetic superintendent, George Perry Weedman, himself a native of Perry County and a lifelong educator.."

He later became Superintendent of Schools in North Vernon, Indiana in Jennings County, a post he held for some time.

His wife died in 1912. George died on February 18, 1914 while visiting his sister in Newbern, TN. He is buried in Hillcrest Cemetery, North Vernon, Indiana. George Perry Weedman was a distinguished Indiana country educator who brought honor and pride to his family. He is recognized for those achievements.

# **Living Person Awards**

**2000 Inductions**

**Dee Brown – Author & Historian**

**Gena Theiss – Author**

**Marianne J. Montgomery – Editor, Weedman Newsletter**

**Dr. Daniel Wilson Weedman - Astronomer**

# Dee Brown

Dee Brown is a renowned historian and author whose most well known book is “**Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee**”. Dee is married to Sara Baird “Sally” Stroud and they live in Little Rock, Arkansas. They have two children: James Mitchell Brown and Linda Brown.

Dee Alexander Brown was born in Louisiana on February 28, 1908 but has been a resident of Arkansas for much of his life. In the 1930s, he lived in Washington, D.C. and later was a resident of Champaign, IL when he taught at the University of Illinois. He and Sally have lived in Little Rock since his retirement in 1972.

Brown is one of the most prominent historians of the American West. In addition to being a writer and historian, he appeared in one of Ken Burn’s documentary works on the American West.

His first book, “Wave High the Banner”, a biography of Davy Crockett, was published in 1942. “Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee” has sold over five million copies has been translated into 20 languages. He was a librarian and a full professor of History at the University of Illinois.

A list of Dee Brown’s books include the following:

- **Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee**
- **The American West**
- **The Gentle Tamers – Women of the Old Wild West**
- **Folktales of the Native American Indian**
- **The Galvanized Yankees**
- **The Way to Bright Star**
- **Wave High the Banner**
- **Civil War Anthology**
- **A Conspiracy of Knaves**
- **Wondrous Times on the Frontier**
- **The Fetterman Massacre**
- **Fighting Indians of the West**
- **Trail Driving Days**
- **The Settler’s West**

His Weedman connection is through his wife, Sally Brown. Her lineage is: *Christian Sr.*<sup>1</sup>, *Christian, Jr.*<sup>2</sup>, *William*<sup>3</sup>, *John*<sup>4</sup>, *Sarah Ann Weedman Stroud*<sup>5</sup>, *Sara Baird Stroud*<sup>6</sup>

## Gena Lee Theiss

Gena Lee Theiss is recognized for her contribution to the Weedman Family as the author of “Christian Weedman and his Descendents, 1735-1986”.

Gena’s book provided the definitive work on the Weedman family genealogy and



Gena Lee Theiss

remains the authoritative source for those doing research on the family. As an early use of the personal computer and genealogical programs, she saw an opportunity to provide for all interested parties a synopsis of the collections done by a number of people. As a labor of love, the project to complete the book required numerous hours and a financial investment on her part. The family owes a debt of gratitude to Gena Theiss for her efforts. She has been selected for inclusion in “Who’s Who” which is a rare and highly complimentary achievement.

An article in the 10 October 1996 issue of *Louisville Lifetime*, Gena was featured for her interest in genealogy and the use of computers in genealogy. A portion of the article is quoted:

*“...Gena Lee Theiss of Louisville has been researching her Family tree since 1968. Even though she was in her mid-50s when the computer age started, she wasted no time familiarizing herself with the computer and uses it daily while researching her family tree.*

*Theiss runs a computer bulletin board that carries a Fidonet discussion area, a genealogy conference, and the International Genealogical Association, all of which allows her to send and receive genealogy inquiries around the world.*

*Theiss once received a message from a man in California who was her distant cousin. ‘He had information on the Higdon, Alvey and Burtle family. He is descended from the same family line I am. I had some information he didn’t have, and he had information which helped me fill in some blanks’ ...”*

Gena now has a web site that is as advanced as any on the Internet. Her web site is can be found at: <http://hometown.aol.com/gentheiss>.

Her willingness to tackle new challenges and to take projects such as her book to a completion with a high quality result is worthy of recognition.

**Gena Lee Johnson Theiss was born to Clarence Harbon Johnson and Gracie Higdon in Grayson Co., KY. Her line is: Christian, Sr.<sup>1</sup>, Christian, Jr.<sup>2</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, Willis Green, Sr.<sup>4</sup>, Barbara Ellen Weedman Higdon<sup>5</sup>, Gracie Higdon Johnson<sup>6</sup>, and Gena Lee Johnson Theiss<sup>7</sup>.**

## Marianne Montgomery

**Marianne Montgomery** is recognized for the founding of the *Weedman Newsletter* and for continuously editing the publication for 32 years. She and her late husband, **Paul Kasper Montgomery**, started the Newsletter in March 1968.



Marianne and  
Paul K. Montgomery

The initial lines of the publication were:

“...This is the first of what we hope will be a semi-annual report or Newsletter about WEEDMANS...”

It never became a semi-annual publication! In the first year, the Montgomery's had adequate material to publish four issues and it has been a quarterly since the beginning.

The publication started with seventeen people on the mailing list and has now grown to over 140. It has been a catalyst to bring different branches of the family together and has caused many people to take up genealogy as a hobby with an emphasis on the

Weedman family. Marianne and Paul have been an inspiration to many people in the family and perhaps no others have contributed so much to the furtherance of our family history.

Marianne has encouraged the biennial family reunions starting with the initial one held in August 1984. Indeed, she has attended every Weedman family reunion.

Paul Kasper Montgomery was born in 1908 to Samuel Franklin and Mandana (Huff) Montgomery in Christian Co., IL. He died in August 1988.

Marianne Montgomery would have had every reason to retire at the time of her husband's death but instead chose to continue her efforts to contribute to the Weedman family. Indeed, some 12 years after his death, she continues the same superb job she has done since the beginning.

The whole Weedman family owes a debt of gratitude to Marianne Montgomery for her devoted and tireless efforts on the *Weedman Newsletter*.

**Paul Montgomery's line: *Christian Sr.*<sup>1</sup>, *Christian, Jr.*<sup>2</sup>, *Daniel*<sup>3</sup>, *George Glasscock*<sup>4</sup>, *Nancy Susan Weedman Huff*<sup>5</sup>, *Mandana Huff Montgomery*<sup>6</sup>, and *Paul Kasper Montgomery*<sup>7</sup>.**

## Dr. Daniel Wilson Weedman

Dr. Daniel W. Wilson is recognized for the prominence he has achieved in the field of Astronomy.



Daniel Weedman is Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics. Prior to resuming his faculty position in November 1995, he served two years as Director of the Astrophysics Division, NASA Headquarters, Washington D.C. In that position, he was responsible for overseeing planning, development, and operations for all NASA astrophysics missions, including Hubble Space Telescope, the Advanced X-Ray Astrophysics Facility, the Compton Gamma Ray Observatory, and various infrared missions. In an earlier stay at NASA Headquarters; he was Program Scientist for NASA's Cosmic Background Explorer, Space Very Long

Baseline Interferometry Project, and NASA's role in the European Infrared Space Observatory. He is currently a member of the NASA "Structure and Evolution of the Universe" advisory committee.

Dr. Weedman has published over 80 research papers in various areas of astronomy and astrophysics. Highlights of his research career include the first studies of the gas motions in giant hydrogen nebulae, the initial spectroscopic and photometric observations of the Markarian galaxies, the development of the original classification system for Seyfert galaxies, development of nuclear magnitude measurements of galaxies as a measure of the Hubble flow, extensive surveys for highly redshifted quasars and determination of their luminosity function, initial description of the starburst galaxies, initial suggestion of contribution by starburst galaxies to the extragalactic X-ray background, and discovery of the best candidate quasar pair for gravitational lensing by dark matter. He wrote the book *Quasar Astronomy* (Cambridge University Press), which is a summary of the research techniques and accomplishments in the study of quasars.

He also has extensive experience in the design and use of ground based and space astronomical facilities. He and colleague Lawrence Ramsey were the original designers of the Hobby-Eberly Telescope. He is currently active on the team, which is developing the Infrared Spectrometer for NASA's Space Infrared Telescope Facility, scheduled for launch in 2001, and is a member of the SIRTf Science Center Users Panel. His current research relates primarily to upcoming use of SIRTf. He is studying the dust content of the most luminous and distant galaxies in the universe and is attempting to predict how galaxies discovered in the infrared with SIRTf will relate to the most distant galaxies discovered with other techniques, such as imaging with HST. The objective of this research is to understand the nature of primordial galaxies.

## Discovery Magazine Recognizes Dr. Weedman's Invention

A prototype microwave rocket engine invented by Michael M. Micci, associate professor of aerospace engineering, and the largest optical telescope in the continental United States, invented by Lawrence W. Ramsey and Daniel W. Weedman, professors of astronomy and astrophysics, are among 35 innovations being honored by Discover magazine.



Hobby Eberly Telescope invented by Daniel Weedman and Lawrence W. Ramsey

Ramsey and Weedman invented the concept for the Hobby-Eberly telescope in 1983 at Penn State. Its innovative design resulted in construction costs approximately 20 percent less than those of other telescopes in its class. A number of features allow the 24-ton primary mirror to remain stationary while observing an object, eliminating the need for a highly complex mirror-support system. The mirror, which is 36-feet across and one of the largest of any optical telescope in the world, is made up of 91 identical pieces that were mass-produced -- another cost-saving aspect of the design. The telescope was built by a partnership involving The University of Texas at Austin, Penn State, Stanford University and the German universities of Gottingen and Munich. *Source: Penn State, Intercom on Line, May 1997.*

Daniel Wilson Weedman was born 19 October 1942 and is the son of Roy Lee and Louetta (Lutz) Weedman of Nashville, TN. He married Suzanne Dallas 18 October 1968 and they have two daughters: Dr. Diana Lee Weedman Molavi and Sylvia Dallas Weedman. His line is: *Christian, Sr.<sup>1</sup>, Christian, Jr.<sup>2</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, Willis Green, Sr.<sup>4</sup>, John Franklin<sup>5</sup>, Fonzo<sup>6</sup>, and Roy Lee<sup>7</sup>.*

# **2002 Inductees**

## **Posthumous Award**

**Christian Weedman, Senior – Progenitor Immigrant**

## **Living Award**

**Harry N. (Nick) Weedman – Businessman**

*(The biographical sketches for these two will be added later).*