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# ❖ Weedman Newsletter ❖

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Volume 40 Issue 2

Summer 2007

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## 2008 Weedman National Family Gathering Plans

We recently made a trip to Fayette Co., PA to begin the process of planning for the planned 2008 Weedman Family Reunion. The trip was partially successful and we still have much more work to do.

It appears that we will attempt to hold the event in June and try to steer clear of late school events as well as holidays such as Father's Day (June 15th). June 20-22, 2008 appears to be a reasonable weekend. It also appears that the Holiday Inn is the only facility capable of handling our needs. Both the date and venue will be selected very shortly. But, your inputs on these are open and highly welcomed.

We will headquarter in Uniontown and hope to have events there as well as on the original family homestead near Maysontown.

There are many attractions in the area. From a genealogical perspective, this is where the family of **Christian and Elizabeth Weedman, Sr.** lived from 1765 until 1799 and where most of their children were born. We have located the original homestead location and know the church in which they worshiped.

Jacob's Lutheran Church is where many of the grandchildren of Christian Weedman, Sr. were christened and where the family attended church. The original building is gone but the cemetery has a number of descendants buried there as well as others such as **Nicholas Riffle,**

the husband of **Barbara Weedman.** In addition, **John and Dorothy Huhn** are buried there — they are the parents of **John Huhn, Jr.** (first husband of **Catherine Weedman**) and **Charlotte Huhn,** wife of **George Weedman.**

Unfortunately, the church has so far denied any use of the church facilities to us at this point. We are working on this and had hoped to have at least one meal there during the event.

Nearby locations of interest to genealogists include Morgantown, WV where early records of the area are kept at the University of West Virginia.

In addition, we might offer an alternate side trip to Perry County, OH where the family moved after Fayette County, PA and where many family members died. Grave locations are not known there, however, with the exception of that for **Catherine Weedman Huhn Keefover.**

Other attractions in the immediate area are Fort Necessity, a great historical treasure and one which demonstrates lifestyles of

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*The 2008 Weedman National Family Gathering will be held in historic Fayette County, Pennsylvania next June.*

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*If we have missed any obituaries, please let furnish details to the editor and we will publish the information in the next Newsletter.*

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the time when our family lived there. Frank Lloyd Wright designed the famous structure called Fallingwaters which a recent Wall Street Journal called a site well worth visiting.

More details to come and all inputs are sought as we continue the planning process for this event.

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#### **Obituaries**

### **Mary Edith Weidman**

**Mary Edith Henshaw Weidman**, 91, of Blytheville, AR died on March 28, 2007 in Osceola AR. She was born on October 26, 1915 in Memphis, TN and married the late **Robert Simmons Weidman** on May 26, 1934. They were parents of **James R. Weidman** of Paragould, AR; **Charles P. Weidman** of Blytheville; and the late **Jon Stephen Weidman**, of Fayetteville. Services were held on March 30, 2007 with burial in Elmwood Cemetery in Blytheville. The lineage of Robert Simmons Weidman was: **Christian**

**Weedman, Sr.<sup>1</sup>, Christian Weedman, Jr.<sup>2</sup>, William Weedman<sup>3</sup>, Green Berry Weedman<sup>4</sup>, Charles Green Weedman<sup>5</sup>, Charles Floyd Weidman<sup>6</sup>, and Robert Simmons Weidman<sup>7</sup>.**

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### **Hilda Grace Ward Weedman**

**Hilda Grace Ward Weedman**, 88, widow of **William G. Weedman**, formerly of Louisville, KY, died Sunday, May 27, 2007. A memorial service was held on May 31 at the Carter Funeral Home in Louisville.

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### **Elmina Weedman Smith**

**Elmina Weedman Smith**, 91, of Louisville, died Thursday June 7, 2007 at Spring View Health & Rehab in Leitchfield, KY. She was a Breckinridge Co. native and a homemaker. She was faithful to her church and was truly a saint of God. She prayed many prayers for everyone. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and an inspiration to all who knew her. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, **Elmer Smith**; parents,

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## **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.

Editor and Publisher: **Nick Weedman**  
130 Berry Creek Drive  
Flat Rock NC 28731-8531  
E-mail address: [nick@weedman.org](mailto:nick@weedman.org)

**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.

The **Weedman Newsletter** is a registered publication (ISSN 0883-7791).

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**Herbert and Nancy Elizabeth "Betty" (Smith) Weedman**; son, **Alford Smith**; two daughters, **Cora Elizabeth** and **Patsy Ann Smith**; two sons-in-law, **Herbert Hay** and **Joseph Martin**; four brothers; and six sisters. She is survived by three daughters, **Mildred Martin**, of Louisville, **Sudie Hay**, of Big Clifty and **Linda Sutton (Rev. Jimmie)**, of Big Clifty; daughter-in-law, **Hazel Smith**, of Louisville; granddaughters, **Sharon Crosier (Louis)**, of Cecilia, **Kim Lindsey (Mark)**, of Louisville, **Lisa Mullins (Tom)**, of Greenville, IN, **Sheri Sullivan (Dusty)**, of Eastview and **Michelle Gore (Stephen)**, of Big Clifty; grandsons, **Steve Martin (Susan)**, of Louisville, **Richard Martin (Robin)**, of Louisville and **Mark Smith (Kim)**, of Irvington; 22 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held on May 12 in Elizabethtown with **Rev. Jimmie Sutton** officiating. Burial was at the Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church Cemetery. Her line: **Christian Weedman, Sr.**<sup>1</sup>, **Christian Weedman, Jr.**<sup>2</sup>, **John Weedman**<sup>3</sup>, **William Weedman**<sup>4</sup>, **James David Weedman**<sup>5</sup>, **Herbert Weedman**<sup>6</sup>, and **Elmina Weedman**<sup>7</sup>

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### **Richard H. Weedman**

**Richard Weedman** was born on November 17, 1932 in North Hero Township, Lamber-ton, MN to **Jesse** and **Bertha (Enger) Weedman**.

He enlisted in the armed forces and served for two years in the army.

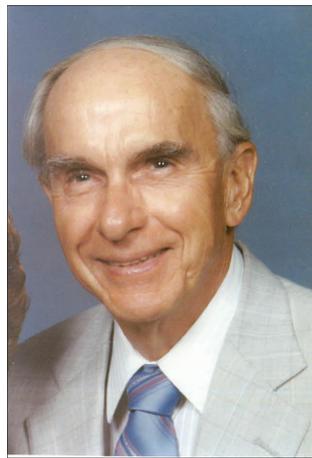
On June 12, 1955, he married **Marilyn Svensson** in Comfrey, MN where their three children, Brenda, Steven and Brian were born.

In 1964, he moved his family to Flagstaff. He worked for the Arizona Department of Transportation, Highway Department, and Coconino County Road Department. After he retired he drove a gasoline truck, and helped his son Steve with his construction company and his son Brian in his business.

He is survived by his wife, **Marilyn**; his chil-

dren; **Brenda** and **Sam Whitted** of Flagstaff; **Steve** and **Vicki Weedman** of Flagstaff and **Brian** and **Julie Weedman** of Glendale; and grandchildren **Amanda (Josh) Christy**, **Bonnie (John) McBride**, **Suzanne**, **Jesse**, **Paige** and **Mikaela**; great grandchildren, **Jace**, **Jude**, and **Mckenzie**. He is also survived by his three sisters **Vi Sparks** of Mankato, Minn., **Nadine Wilmas** of Jamesville, Minn., and **Dee Moots** of Aurora, Colo. He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother **Roy** and sisters **Lola Weedman** and **Anita Christian**.

His line: **Christian Weedman, Sr.**<sup>1</sup>, **George Weedman**<sup>2</sup>, **John Huhn Weedman Sr.**<sup>3</sup>, **Asa Weedman**<sup>4</sup>, **Henry Linas Weedman**<sup>5</sup>, **Jesse B. Weedman**<sup>6</sup>, and **Richard Howard Weedman**<sup>7</sup>.



### **Gail H. Weedman**

**Gail H. Weedman**, 86, Loveland, Colo., and formerly of Kokomo, passed away on Sunday, July 1, 2007, at Loveland Good Samaritan Health Care Center. Gail was born July 23, 1920, in Sulphur Springs, Ark., to **Ona** and **Lela (Evans) Weedman**. He married **Beatrice Cherimpes** on April 29, 1950 in Chicago. They moved to Fort Collins, Colo., in November 2003 from Kokomo.

Gail was a captain in the U.S. Air Force during World War II and was honorably discharged on Nov. 12, 1945. Gail was executive secretary for the YMCA in Kokomo.

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*The obituaries in this issue were taken from local newspapers and reported by various family members.*

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*Shawn Wiley  
has provided  
some interesting  
thoughts on the  
immigration of  
Christian  
Weedman, Sr.*

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After his retirement, he invented the Act/React program to help teens solve problems without violence. He was a member of the Kokomo Rotary Club, Elks Club, YMCA and Grace United Methodist Church. He enjoyed traveling, the mountains, and spending time with his friends and family.

He is survived by his wife, **Beatrice Weedman**, Loveland, Colo.; daughter, **Karen Weedman** and husband **Mike Culbertson**, Fort Collins, Colo.; son, **Keith Weedman** and wife **Marcia**, Columbus; grandchildren, **Cathy, Mary, Leanne** and **Daniel**; and brother, **Charles Weedman**, Lenexa, Kan.

He was preceded in death by siblings, **Pauline Weedman, Arlene Shillingburg** and **Myron Weedman**.

Interment was at Grandview Cemetery, Fort Collins, Colo.

His line: **Christian Weedman, Sr.**<sup>1</sup>, **George Weedman**<sup>2</sup>, **Jacob Weedman**<sup>3</sup>, **Jeremiah Weedman**<sup>4</sup>, **William Martin Weedman**<sup>5</sup>, **Ona Harrison Weedman**<sup>6</sup>, and **Gail H. Weedman**<sup>7</sup>.

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### Other Deaths

A search of the Social Security Death Index for 2007 has revealed two other Weedman deaths. We will attempt to get information for publication in the next Newsletter. **John Robert Weedman**, born February 28, 1939 died in Harrison, Clare Co., MI on April 21, 2007. **Oletta Geraldine (Jerri) Weedman**, born June 20, 1931 died in Joshua Tree, CA on April 23, 2007. Jerry had recently written that her husband, **Jesse Weedman**, has an advanced stage of Alzheimer's disease and no longer recognized her. We seek information to publish from family members who are subscribers to the Newsletter.

Our condolences to the family and friends of those who have passed away.

## Christian Weedman, Sr. Immigration Possibilities

*By Shawn Wiley*

We corresponded a few months back regarding **Minnie D. Weedman** the mother of my step-father is **Fred D. Weedman**. We trace his roots back to **Christian Weedman, Sr.** through the following line: **Christian Weedman, Sr.**<sup>1</sup>; **George Weedman**<sup>2</sup>; **John Huhn Weedman, Sr.**<sup>3</sup>; **Thomas S. Weedman**<sup>4</sup>; **Fred John Weedman**<sup>5</sup>; **Dale Fred Weedman**<sup>6</sup>. Because of this (and because history in general just fascinates me), I have some interest in **Christian Weedman, Sr.** and his origins and would like to propose a few theories regarding his arrival since you appear to be the resident expert on the subject.

I have been intrigued by a comment that I've found in one of the *Weedman Newsletters* and have been doing a bit of research. I had already noted that Christian had come to America in 1750 on the "Anderson" and that he was the only "Widman" on the ship. I had found the Anderson documentation in some of my own research. What I didn't know was that he was 15 years old (as referenced in the *Weedman Newsletter*, Spring '05, pg 3). I haven't been able to find any source that actually gave me his age. Assuming that this reference was more or less correct, I was fascinated by how a 15-year old boy would come to the states alone - even in the mid-1700's that sounded odd to me.

From my reading of the *Weedman Newsletter*, it appears you are currently working on a theory that he came over with friends or family members that didn't share the "Widman" name. I assume you're doing this by researching each of

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the individuals on the list to see if any of them have a Weedman history or future travels similar to where we know Christian went. I agree that this is the most likely situation and that he is likely from Germany or Holland. But I have a couple other ideas for why Christian may have been alone - you may have considered these already but since I haven't come upon any such reference in the newsletter, I'm just not sure and want to see what you think. Again - I think the first theory is the least far fetched, though the third is also intriguing. The second is not very likely given a recent finding in the Weedman newsletter, but I listed it anyhow.

**1. Christian's parents/other family members could have perished on the voyage.** From my research, the voyage could take anywhere from 8-12 weeks to get from England to Philadelphia. Conditions on board the ships were sometimes known to be less than perfect. I read accounts on hot meals as little as 3 times a week, heavily salted meats, bad water, etc. causing a high mortality rate in passengers. If both of Christian's parents (or family members) perished while on board, they would not have been listed as taking the oath when arriving at Philadelphia. Also - Christian, if indeed 15 years old, would have been at a very strong age to survive the journey. This would explain why he had no family/friends on board ship with him or here in America (that we've found so far). I have been trying to find some record of the Anderson when it arrived in England or some record from when it left Rotterdam to prove or disprove this theory, but to no avail.

**2. Could Christian have been sold into indentured servitude when he arrived?** Every article I've been able to find about indentured servitude in Pennsylvania describes the voyage as starting

in Rotterdam, through Cowles (or Cowes in some sources) England, to Philadelphia. I realize this is likely a very common route for a variety of Europeans coming to the new world in the 1750s (and in fact I found the same route referenced by those fleeing Holland around this time), but I can't explain why none of us have been able to find any reference to him until much later (1762?). If he was indeed 15, indentured servitude would explain why we couldn't find anything for at least 6 years since it was common for those underage to serve until they were 21. Also, if his family did, indeed, perish on the trip, he may have found it difficult to pay for his own voyage. I have found some sources stating that payment was made after the voyage and those who could not make payment had to sell themselves (or their family members) into indentured servitude to pay for their voyage (other sources indicated that some sailed, knowing their voyage was to be paid by parties for their services as indentured servants). I realize this one is shaky - I have no proof - just expressing a possible theory, though I'm not sure how I would even research this one short of finding reference to Christian somewhere in the first couple years after he arrived or an article that indicates what he did once he arrived. I saw in a later Weedman Newsletter that a reference to **Christian Weedman** in a 1750 Philadelphia tax list was found. If this is the case and this is the same "**Christian Widman**", I believe the theory would be disproved as I don't think servants paid taxes.

**3. I note that every name on the "Anderson list" is a male name.** There were women (and children) on board as indicated in the total number of passengers, but women were just apparently not listed. So it is possible that Christian could have traveled to America with a

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*The project to analyze all of the passengers on the Ship Anderson that arrived in 1750 still provides the most likely source of clues regarding the origin of Christian Weedman, Sr.*

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*The letter shown in this issue is the only known signature for John Weedman, Sr. We will be watching for more family artifacts on e-Bay.*

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*(Continued from page 13)*

Mother or with a sister (or to combine with a previous theory, he traveled with both parents, but the father passed away on the journey). As the only male Widman to have arrived, it is possible (not sure how likely - probably not very) that he alone would show up in a tax register in 1750 while mother may not. Certainly if a sister were with him, she would likely not show up on the tax register. Though with this theory I cannot explain why we see no reference to a mother or sister later in life unless they had passed away or simply stayed in Philadelphia. This one is also difficult to prove and almost impossible to disprove (short of a document found that says he came alone). I suppose reference to a woman 20-30 years older than Christian with a Widman last name in the Philadelphia area would be good, but not definite - and what if she remarried or moved? Sometimes I really hate genealogy.

Thank you very much for your time and any thought you can put into these theories. I'm really just looking for feedback on any research you are aware of that would disprove these or if you feel they merit further research. If I'm on a road that you've already traveled to a dead end, I'd like to get off the road long before I reach the same end.

## **Family Business Specializes in Old Photograph Restoration**

**Katherine Weedman-Cox** recently sent a package of material that describes the business she and her husband operate in Rancho Cordova, CA. Cox B & W Lab, Inc. offers archival printing and photographic restoration. They use digital technology along with experience and excellent photo products to make old photos look as good as new.

We know from conversations at our Weedman Reunions in the past that the need for this type of service from a known and trusted firm is of great value.

The customer list for Cox B&W Lab includes the National Archives, several State of California historical agencies as well as numerous private clients.

Cox B&W Lab is at 2933 Gold Pan Court, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. Their telephone is (916) 631-7275. Their web site is: [www.coxblackandwhitelab.com](http://www.coxblackandwhitelab.com).

**Katherine** is the great-niece of the late Gail Weedman whose obituary is on page 11 of this issue.

We hope to hear more from Katherine.

## **John Huhn Weedman, Sr. Letter Written in 1851**

We recently were able to purchase the letter written on August 22, 1851 that appears on the next two pages in a recent e-Bay auction. John Weedman, Sr. wrote the letter to a Mr. Rae in Madison County, Ohio. In it, he largely describes farming conditions in DeWitt County, IL and seems to attempt to open business relations with the gentleman. While the letter contains no genealogical information, it the oldest original family document we have been able to find (so far!). The fine handwriting of John who was likely home schooled is remarkable.. Don't we wish that we our children or grandchildren could have such fine writing skills?

Mount Pleasant <sup>Mo</sup> Dec 16<sup>th</sup>  
August 22. 1851.

Mr Doe  
Sir

By request I write you  
a few lines - we are all in moderate  
health at the present time Mr Dye  
and family left here for Ohio at 5<sup>th</sup>  
of July they were all well at that time &  
I have not heard from any of them since  
they left. Corn is a pretty fair crop in  
our section of Country I think there will  
be any amount for sale ranging about from  
12 to 15 Cents per Bush the prospect for  
buying Young Cattle I think is pretty good  
there is some talk of men bringing in Cattle  
from Missouri to Winter here.

Mealy Hedge was out here last spring  
from your country to buy Cattle but could  
not stand it he went on to Missouri  
and bought about Two Hundred and  
Twenty five good sized Cattle I should  
suppose that he bought them about right  
as he is well acquainted with the business

I would like you to let me know on receipt  
of this whether you are coming out to the  
country this fall to buy out money ~~and~~  
or to have any laid out for young cattle  
now is the best time to buy cows  
& cattle out here  
Don't forget to write

Yours respectfully

John Weedman

Santa Anna, Tex.

Curtis Co.

Illinois

We have attempted in this issue to use photographs since our printer uses digital equipment to make our Newsletter. We will see if the quality is adequate to continue the practice in future issues. If it is, we will try to increase use of photos.

A final note. **Sharon Bryden** has asked that we put a page on our web site ([www.weedman.org](http://www.weedman.org)) where family researchers can list the various families on which they are currently working. We will attempt to get this running within the next couple of weeks. Until Fall, keep in touch.

*Nick Weedman*