**Ancestry of the Weir Family of Saline and Franklin Counties, Illinois**

by John D. Sinks

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**John Weir.** South Carolina encouraged settlement by passing an act on 25 July 1761 to provide a bounty to Protestant immigrants from Europe. Those arriving were issued certificates that they were of good moral character and were Protestants. Two dozen ships have been identified that sailed from Ireland to South Carolina between 1763 and 1774.[[1]](#footnote-1) A John Weir was on a list of Irish Protestants who petitioned for and were granted certificates on 13 January 1764.[[2]](#footnote-2) On 20 June 1765 a 250-acre tract of land on the waters of Rocky Creek between Rocky and Fishing Creek in Craven County was surveyed for John Wier. On 13 September 1772 200 acres in Craven County adjacent to tracts granted to James McCullough and James Paul was surveyed for John Wear. In 1785 225 acres in Camden District on the branches of Rocky Creek was surveyed for John Wear. Craven County was an original county and was extended inland about 1733. What is now Chester County became part of the Camden judicial district in 1769. In 1785 seven counties, including Chester, were established within the Camden District. The Pinkney District was established in 1791 and included Chester County. In 1800 counties in five districts where abolished and the counties within them became districts. Chester was one of those counties. John Wear owned all three of these tracts of land at the time he signed his will in 1801. In addition, he owned 100 acres known as the McCullough tract, but record of this acquisition has not been found.

John Weir signed his will in Chester District, South Carolina on 15 May 1801 and it was proved on 1 February 1805.[[3]](#footnote-3) The signature on the original will spells his surname “Wear.” The will not only names his heirs, but it also identifies land that enables his residence prior to the Revolution to be determined. The heirs, their relationship, and bequest of lands were:

Wife (not named)—use of plantation on which I now live and all personal property;

Son-in-law George Weir & wife Mary (“my daughter”): ½ of 225-acre grant on which they now live adjoining the McCullough Tract, John Kell, John Campbell, & Robert Fullerton;

Son David Weir: 100 acres of a 200 acre grant adjoining Rice Hughs, Robert Laird, & John Kell;

Daughter Isabella Weir: 100 acres known as the McCullough Tract adjoining my own land, William Paul, & John Kell;

Son-in-law William Gaston & wife Sarah my daughter: the other ½ of the tract where George Weir lives to be laid off part on the lines of McCullough, William Paul, Henry Rocks, & Robert Fullerton;

Son Ebenezer Weir: 100 acres from east side of 250-acre tract on which I live and 30 acres from the 200-acre tract along Paul’s line to the Stillhouse Branch down to the mouth of Ebenezer Weir’s Spring Branch;

Son Joseph Weir: plantation on which I now live, 220 acres being the remainder of 250 and 200 acres to be his at his mother’s decease, which he has the right to occupy while she lives and shall give her support;

Daughter Agness Fullerton: £15;

Granddaughter Margret Wier now living with me: £5 at her grandmother’s death;

Grandson John Gaston: one year of schooling and board.

John Weir left his books in common among his children, an indication that he was educated. He named friend John McCreary, son David Weir, and son-in-law William Gaston as executors.

John Weir owned adjacent four tracts of land at the time he signed his will: grants of 250, 225, and 200 acres, and the McCullough tract. John Weir acquired three of the three tracts before the Revolution, one shortly after the Revolution. The planation on which he resided consisted of parts of the first two tracts. John Weir purchased 100 acres of land on a small branch of Rocky Creek for £50 acres from James McCulloch on 6 August 1771.[[4]](#footnote-4) The land was in Craven County, Camden District at the time and according to the deed had been originally granted on 2 May 1760. The 200-acre tract was adjacent to grants to James McCullough and James Paul and was surveyed for John Weir under a precept dated 3 September 1771.[[5]](#footnote-5) The survey of the 225-acre tract of land was certified on 25 March 1785.[[6]](#footnote-6) It was on the branches of Rocky Creek on the southwest side of the Catawba River. The plat shows the tract was adjacent to land owned by Henry Rock, John Campbell, James Paul, and James McCullough. Paul’s Cemetery is located on land that belonged to James Paul. The cemetery, also known as Anderson Cemetery, is located just under 3 miles south of the center of Richburg, South Carolina. During the Revolution this area was the home of many Scotch-Irish Presbyterians who hated the British.

A John Weir purchased 104 acres on the Sandy River in Chester County, Pinckney District, on 1 December 1795 (Deed E, 120). He sold this land just over two years later, on 4 April 1798, with wife Mary “Molly” Wier consenting on 15 April 1798 (Deed F, pp. 195-196). Only one John Wier (any spelling) is found on the 1800 Chester District census (p. 75). Although parts of Sandy River and Rocky Creek are not far apart, the former being to the west of Chester and the latter to the east, the Paul’s Cemetery area is about a dozen miles from the waters of the Sandy River.

About five South Carolina men of the name “John Weir” were in South Carolina, including one who served in the Continental line from Camden District and one Tory. Fortunately John Weir’s residence before, after, and during the Revolution enabled his correct Revolutionary services to be identified.

John Weir is on a list of petit jurors for the Camden District between the Broad and Catawba Rivers for 1778-1779.[[7]](#footnote-7) This is an immense area. The land owned by John Weir is within this area. A second service was serving on a jury to appraise the estate of Josiah Hughes on the Rocky Creek, St. Mark’s Parish, Camden District in 1782.[[8]](#footnote-8) Juries to appraise estates and lay off widows’ dowers were typically selected from men who lived in the vicinity. In this case the decedent lived on waters of the same creek as John Weir.

### The correct military service is resolved in *Accounts Audited of Claims Growing out of the Revolution in South Carolina, 1775-1856*. The original records are in the South Carolina State Archives and organized by the name of the claimant. In some cases, a file will contain records of more than one person of the same name. There was a file for John Weir in which there were claims by two separate men (#8485). The claims of the ancestor of the Saline and Franklin County Weirs were itemized in one key document:

### 1 mare lost at Fishdam Ford;

### 25 days duty [paid at the rate for a private];

### 17 days service for three horses;

### loss of a gray horse in service;

### loss of a saddle in service;

### 2 bushels of wheat.

### Col. Edward Lacey certified the claims, except for the loss of the gray horse about which he said he knew nothing. In 1789 Lacey wrote from Chester County regarding the claim of “John Weir Camden Dist & my Regement [sic.]” regarding loss of the horse, saying he now had better grounds for the claim. A biography of Edward Lacey confirmed that he was a colonel of the militia in the part of the Camden District from which Chester County formed, and before the engagement at Fishdam Ford had recruited on Fishing Creek and Rocky Creek.[[9]](#footnote-9) John Weir lived on the waters of Rocky Creek.

### The Sumter Papers of the Draper Manuscripts provide details about the recruiting and travel of Lacey’s troops to Fishdam Ford (pp. 194, 197-200). Sgt. William Wylie after the war told people that he and Lacey recruited in what became Chester County and enlisted 150 men in a single day! How was Lacey able to arouse the patriotic spirit in so many men in such a short period of time? A Tory named Knight lived a few miles from Chester. Lacey paid him a visit and seized a barrel of whiskey. The recruits, described in the Draper manuscripts as “warm hearted whiskey loving Irish,” sampled the ambrosia and used any vessel that could use to hold the liquid. They set out to join Sumter, continuing to drink on the way. About 7 miles from Fishdam Ford they encountered a British patrol. The patriots, their courage well-fortified, without orders took the initiative and charged. The British fled. Wylie said that when the men arrived at the ford they “tumbled” from their horses.

### The engagement at Fishdam Ford occurred on 9 November 1780 about 1:00 A.M. on the Broad River. General Thomas Sumter’s patriot force of about 500 men was attacked by a force under Major John Wemyss of about half that size—about 210 dragoons and mounted infantry, and about 40 Tories. Although Sumter was not prepared to receive an attack, two of his colonels, Thomas Taylor and Richard Winn, were prepared and opened fire when the British attacked. Maj. Wemyss suffered a broken arm and shattered knee at the outset of the battle. Wemyss did not reveal his plan to his subordinates, so his loss was especially important. The battle none the less remained even until men under Edward Lacey and James Hawthorn opened fire. The patriots suffered about 4 killed and 10 wounded; the British lost about 4 killed, 20 wounded, and about 25 captured, including Maj. Wemyss. The British did succeed in scattering the patriot force.

### Joseph Weir. Joseph Weir, son of John, bought 100 acres of a 200-acre tract of land on the South Fork of Rocky Creek for £500 from George Cherry on 2 January 1791. On 2 March 1797 he sold that tract of land to James Weir (Bk. F, pp. 55-56). Joseph is not listed on the 1800 census in state of South Carolina. He inherited 220 acres in Chester District from his father after the will was proved in 1805. In 1810 he and the eldest female in his household were 26 to 45, with two younger males and two younger females in the household (p. 520). Joseph purchased 118 acres of land on 18 October 1811 from David Weir of Fairfield District that David had inherited from their father, John Weir (Bk. P, 113-114).[[10]](#footnote-10) The same day Joseph sold the 400-acre tract of land in Chester District on which he lived to James Jolly Hughes (Deed R, pp. 219-220). This land was identified as from the two tracts that had been granted to John Weir. Jean Weir, Joseph’s wife, consented to the sale on the same day.

### When Joseph’s son, Turner, remarried in Saline County on 3 May 1885 at age 67, he gave the name of his mother as “L. Casca.” John Caskey resided in what became Chester District, South Carolina in proximity to John Weir and two of John Caskey’s sons resided in Wilson County, Tennessee in proximity to Joseph Weir. The given name of L. Caskey has not been determined. Also undetermined is the location of the marriage; Chester District and Wilson County and both possible. L. Caskey’s parentage will be discussed in a forthcoming paper, “The Weir-Caskey Connection.”

### Joseph Weir is next found in Wilson County, Tennessee. He purchased five tracts of land on Cedar Creek, starting with 100 acres from Jonas Bradley on 18 February 1813 (Bk. E, p. 190). On 15 January 1817 Joseph Wier, as he signed his name, served as bondsman for the marriage of Joseph Caskey to Catherine “Caty” Scoby in Wilson County. He is listed on the 1820 Wilson County census, aged over 45, with five male children under 18 and two females under 16 in the household. He was evidently a widower at the time, with the two eldest females fitting the ages of daughters Elizabeth and Zady. On 10 February 1821 Joseph Weir posted bond to marry Lydia Allen. Lydia headed a household in Wilson County in 1820, aged 16 to 26 (p. 403). (Robert Caskey was on the same page.) The reverse of the license gives the date of the marriage as 14 February. On 5 July 1830 Joseph Weir sold 50 acres of land on Cedar Creek to Robert Pulley (Bk. R, pp. 85-86). This deed is significant because Joseph Weir was a resident of Gallatin County, Illinois when he sold the land.

### Joseph Weir listed on the 1830 Gallatin County, Illinois census, aged 60 to 70 (p. 289). Combining this information with the 1810 census, Joseph was born between 1765 and 1770. The eldest female in the household was 50 to 60. Two male children aged 10 to 15, one aged 5 to 10, and two female children aged 15 to 20 were in the household. Only the youngest male child was of age to be the son of the second wife, Lydia. The only other Weir in Gallatin County on the 1830 census was Robert Weir, who was adjacent to Joseph on the same page. Both Robert and the eldest female aged 20 to 30 and four children, all under 10, in the household. Joseph was last known to be alive on 9 February 1843 when he sold 40 acres of land to Green Berry Weir for $50 (Bk. M, p. 150). The families resided in Saline Township.

### Children of Joseph Wier. Some of Joseph’s children are known from the sale on 3 January 1845 of interest in 40 acres of land in Gallatin County owned by Joseph Weir, decd. (Bk. N, pp. 95-96). Lydia, widow of Joseph, Robert and Deliah Weir, Logan and Elizabeth Lynch, Greenberry and Emily Weir, Turner and Martha Weir, heirs at law of Joseph, sold their interest to Joseph M. Weir, who will be identified below as a son of Robert. The deed does not say that the grantors were the only heirs at law. Not only do the census records show there were more children in the household, but the names of two sons and one daughter can be determined.

### Robert Weir is listed on the 1850 census of Saline County, Illinois, aged 46 and born in South Carolina (p. 36 left-36 right). Delilah, aged 43 and born in North Carolina, was his wife. Children in the household and their ages were Robert G. (15), Harriet (13), James N. (11), Zada A. (10), Tennessee A. (1), and out of order on the next page, Louisa (3). All children were born in Illinois. Robert was listed adjacent to his father Joseph on the 1830 Gallatin County, Illinois census with one male child under 10, one female child 10 to 15, and two female children under 10. He enlisted in Capt. Archilaus Coffee’s Company, 1st Regt. of the 1st Brigade of Illinois Volunteers to serve in the Black Hawk War.[[11]](#footnote-11) All men in the company were listed as residing in Gallatin County. Robert served only about a month. He was one of a half dozen men in the company furloughed on a surgeon’s certificate dated 15 July 1832. Robert died on 4 December 1851, leaving children Joseph M. Weir, Lydia M. Hale, Harriet D. Pugh, Robert J. [sic, G] Weir, James N. Weir, Zadia A. Weir, and E.M. Weir, with Delia Weir the administrator (Box 27, File 11). Delilah Weir received warrant #98,072 for 40 acres of land in Saline County for Robert’s service in the Black Hawk War. This was assigned to Joseph M. Weir. Delilah soon died and property was set aside to support the minor heirs of Deliley Wier in Saline County on 10 February 1856 (Box 26, File 14). Joseph M. Weir was the administrator.

### Joseph M. Weir married Mary O’Neil 15 April 1853 in Williamson County (Bk. A, p. 165). The next year he married Lutecia C. Stewart in Williamson County on 23 November 1854 (license return) and after her death Elizabeth Baskins on 28 January 1866 in Saline County (Bk. A, p. 199). Lutecia is buried at Corinth Zion Methodist Church Cemetery in Franklin County, Illinois. Her tombstone is inconsistent, giving her dates of birth and death as 9 December 1836-26 March 1866, but her age as 28 years, 2 months, and 26 days. The date of the second marriage indicates that error is in the year of death; it was actually 1865. Joseph and Elizabeth are buried at Mt. Zion Cemetery in Franklin County with dates as died 21 August 1888 aged 56 years, 5 months, and 5 days and 8 November 1844-3 August 1914. Joseph enlisted as a private in Co. C, 15th Illinois Cavalry, and was promoted to 2nd lieutenant, 1st lieutenant, and finally captain. At the Battle of Ft. Donelson he sustained a gunshot wound in the leg. He became sick near Corinth, Mississippi in December 1862, suffering for about five or six weeks from pain in his head and lungs and became deaf for about three months. He was pensioned for the leg wound and impaired hearing. Robert G. married Nancy J. Gasaway on 18 January 1857 in Saline County (Bk. A, p. 25). He enlisted in Co. C, 15th Illinois Cavalry on 15 August 1861. On 8 November 1861 while on guard duty at Cairo he was wounded in the right hand by that accidental discharge of a gun, losing his forefinger. Erysipelatous, now understood to be caused by a streptococcus infection, set in and spread up his arm, breast, and neck. He was discharged for the wound on 17 April 1862. He partially recovered and tried to re-enlist in the 31st Illinois Infantry, but was rejected. He died on 18 February 1874. Robert is buried with Jane in the Brushy Cemetery in Saline County. He tombstone gives his year of birth as 1834. Lydia married John Hale on 8 August 1847 in Gallatin County. Harriet married David Pugh in Gallatin County on 14 May 1851. James N. Weir also enlisted in Co. C, 15th Illinois Cavalry. He died at Paducah, Kentucky on 26 April 1862 without wife or children.

### There is strong evidence that Robert had another daughter. Mary Weir married John M. Grable in Gallatin County, Illinois. The license was dated 15 November 1842. The couple is listed on the 1850 Saline census, aged 24 and 22, between Logan Lynch and Robert Weir. Robert had two female children in his household under the age of 5 in 1830 and two aged 15-20 in 1840, the right age to be Mary. No other Weir household in Gallatin County these years included a female child the right age to be Mary. Children Ephraim N. (6) and Robert (3) are also in the household. The family disappears after 1850. But one year later no Grables were listed as heirs of Robert Weir.

### Zady Weir was born on 18 April 1812 and died on 17 December 1839, according to her tombstone in what is now the Pleasant Valley Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery in Saline County. Zady married Albert A. Anderson in Gallatin County 17 September 1833.[[12]](#footnote-12) Albert A. Anderson is buried in the cemetery of the Lebanon Cumberland Presbyterian Church (hereafter Lebanon Cemetery) where many members of the Weir family are buried. He was born on 28 November 1809 and died on 5 November 1882, according to his tombstone. The 1850 census of Saline County includes three children in the Anderson household born between Zady’s marriage and death: Mary J. (16), William (14) and Milly C. (13). No record has been found of Zady’s heirs conveying their interest in the land to Joseph Weir, but Joseph was the only Weir in Gallatin County in 1830 or 1840 old enough to be her father.[[13]](#footnote-13) The 1830 census of Gallatin County shows two females 15 to 20 in Joseph’s household. Zady was the right age to be one and the other has not been identified. In addition, Robert Weir and Turner Weir, sons of Joseph who did convey their interest in this land, both named a child Zady. According to family tradition, Zady’s parents are buried in unmarked graves next to hers.[[14]](#footnote-14)

### Mary J. Anderson, who married James Ritter in Saline County on 8 October 1850 (Bk. 1, p, 47), William G. Anderson, who married Nancy A. Curtis in St. Clair County, Illinois on 29 September 1855, and Millie C. Anderson, who married John R. Woolard in Saline County on 13 September 1856 (Bk. A, p. 20), were as heirs named in the probate file of Albert Alvis Anderson along with children of his subsequent marriages (Box 30, File7). Mary died on 10 May 1903, aged 68 years, 10 months, and 16 days, according to the tombstone she shares with her husband in the Lebanon Cemetery. Millie Caroline Woolard, 13 November 1837-19 April 1932, is buried in Masonic and Oddfellow’s Cemetery in Benton, Franklin County. William G. Anderson, 26 February 1836-31 December 1895, is buried at Lebanon Cemetery. His tombstone identifies him as a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. John R. Woolard and William G. Anderson both served in Co. K, 128th Illinois Infantry and Cos. E & F of the 9th Illinois Infantry.

### Joseph C. Ware, like Zady, was not among the heirs of Joseph Weir who sold his land to Joseph M. Weir in 1845. Joseph is first found on a public record on 22 January 1835 when he purchased land from Joseph and Lydia Weir (Gallatin Deed E, pp. 333-334). He is recorded as “Junr” and the seller as “Senr.” This would indicate that Joseph the grantee was born no later than 1814. Census records are inconsistent about his age. However, he gave his age under oath when applying for a dependent father’s Civil War pension on the services of his son, Albert. He was 64 years old on 5 March 1879 and 71 years old on 6 January 1885 pension applications as a dependent father after the death of his son Albert in the Civil War. Joseph C. Weir died on 24 February 1888, according to the pension application of his step-mother Emily.

### Joseph C. Weir was married four times. There is no record of his marriage to Frances “Fanny,” but Joseph testified they were married about 1833 or 1834 when applying for a dependent father’s pension in 1885. After Fanny’s death Joseph Weir married Aidy Mace on 1 March 1859 (Bk. A, p. 66). Harriet Shaw in Saline County on 30 December 1862 (Bk. A, p. 139). He married a third time in Saline County. His bride was Emeline or Emily Price and they wed on 21 Feb. 1869 in Saline County, Illinois (Bk. A, p. 293).

### Joseph named his living children in pension applications. The children were by his first wife were: Albert (12 August 1834), William T[urner] (December 1841), Green B. (19 July 1843), Ellen Milissa (19 July 1849), and Mary Francis (31 October 1854). Saline County census records name additional children and their ages: Andrew (c 1866, 1870 p. 442 right), Jo J. (c 1870, 1880, p. 73A), and Malinda (c. 1872, 1880, p. 73A).

### Emiline petitioned for letters of administration in Saline County, stating that Joseph C. Weir died on or about 24 February 1888, leaving her as his widow and Jo R. Weir, [William] Turner, Green, Ellen, Mary, and Malinda A. as his children (Box 29, File 25).

### Albert Weir was born on 12 August 1834 and mustered into Co. E, 56th Illinois Inf. on 27 February 1862. He was unmarried and was lost with 199 others from the 56th on 31 March 1865 when the U.S. Transport Steamer “General Lyon” sank in heavy seas off Cape Hatteras after a fire had broken out in the engine room. Only 5 soldiers from the regiment who were aboard the steamer survived the fire. William Turner Weir married Minerva Brooks, according to the marriage record of their daughter Ellen to James Edwards in Franklin County on 29 December 1909 (Register of Marriages, p. 166). They share a tombstone in the Brooks Cemetery in Saline County. William Turner was born on 14 December 1837 and died on 24 September 1920. Greenberry mustered into Co. E, 56th Illinois Inf. on 27 February 1862, the same day as his brother. He was 5’ 7” in height and had fair complexion, black hair, and hazel eyes. He was sick with a fever and chills at Calhoun, Georgia developed a severe cough. About the 1December 1864 at Nashville he developed rheumatism and was hospitalized. His three-year tour of duty ended on 27 February 1865 and he mustered out on 8 April 1865. Greenberry married twice in Saline County, first to Julia A. Mace on 3 January 1867 (Bk. A, p. 236) and second to Julia L. Braden on 25 December 1873 (Bk C, p. 210). He is listed with the correct initial on the Saline 1870 and 1900 censuses (pp. 3, 221A). He is buried in the Bethel Creek Cemetery in Saline County, born on 13 July 1843 and died on 13 March 1914. Mary married Henry W. Yearring in Saline County on 1 January 1874 (Bk. C, p. 212). Malinda married Charles Aaron on 9 February 1897 in Saline County (Bk. p. 367). Malinda A. Aaron (4 March 1873-22 February 1916) is buried in the Bethel Creek Cemetery in Saline County.

### Turner Weir was born on 14 February 1817 and died on 5 February 1902 and his wife Martha A. died on 23 March 1881, aged 60 years and 8 months, according to their tombstone in the Lebanon Cemetery in Saline County. Turner married Martha A. Peeples in Franklin County on 30 August 1840 (Marriage Record 1835-1849, p. 45). On the 1850 census of Saline County three children are listed in his household: Mary E. (9), Joseph G. (7), and Martha J. (1) (p. 39 left). In 1860 Zady (7) was in the household (p. 820). No children are in the household of Turner and Martha Ware on the 1870 Saline County census (p. 406 left) or 1880 (p. 88A). After Martha’s death Turner married Lucinda O. Dean on 3 May 1885 in Saline County (Bk. A-1, p. 98). On the 1900 census of Saline County Lucinda O. is listed as his wife, born April 1860 (p. 4B). Their daughter May, born March 1886, was also in the household. The Saline County probate file for Turner Weir names Lucinda O. Weir as his widow and children and grandchildren Joseph G. Weir, M.J. Jones, Mary E. Galbraith, Maude Brandon, Willie Wilson, Mattie [Martha Ann] Peabody, Ciddie Philips, Thomas C. Phillips, Nelia Philips, and May Williams as surviving him. Maude, Willie, Mattie, Ciddie, and Thomas are named as children of Zady and her husband, Boen Phillips, in *History of Gallatin, Saline, Hamilton, Franklin, and Williamson Counties, Illinois* (1887, p. 647). Nelia is named as a daughter in the household of Boen Phillips on the 1900 Sharp County, Arkansas census (p. 49B).

### Saline County marriage records show that Mary E. married Milton Galbraith on 18 December 1856 (Bk. A, p. 22), Joseph G. married Caroline Jones on 8 September 1864 (Bk. A,. p. 164), Martha J. married Benjamin F. Jones on 4 August 1865 (Bk. A, p. 181), and Zada A. Ware married Boen Phillips on 28 April 1870 (Bk. C, p. 16). May married Frank Williams of Norris City on 30 December 1901 (Bk. Marriage Record Minors D, p. 170). Mary E. (29 May 1841-9 December 1911) and her husband Milton share a tombstone in the Lebanon Cemetery. Joseph G. Ware (20 August 1843-15 February 1920) and his wife Caroline are also buried in the Lebanon Cemetery in Saline County. Zady A. (1853-1898) is buried with husband Boen Phillips in the Hardy Cemetery, Sharp County, Arkansas.

### Elizabeth Weir married Logan Lynch in Wilson County, Tennessee on 21 March 1825. In 1840 Logan Lynch is listed on the census of Gallatin County with the eldest female in the household aged 30 to 40 (p. 289). After Elizabeth’s death Logan married Logan in Saline County on 30 December 1847 (Bk. 1, p. 3). Margaret Burk was his new wife. Logan in Saline County on 30 December 1847 (Bk. 1, p. 3). Logan is listed on the 1850 census of Saline County, aged 46 and born in North Carolina (p. 36 left). Others in the household and their ages were Margaret (22), Newton J. (11), Martha J. (7), and Thomas L. (6). Margaret Burk was born in Tennessee and married Logan in Saline County on 30 December 1847 (Bk. 1, p. 3). The children were born in Illinois. Joseph and Robert Weir were listed on the same page. Probate records for Logan Lynch are in Saline County Box 14, File 27.

### Green B. Weir was born on 16 November 1821 and died on 1 December 1906, according to his tombstone in the Sunset Hill Cemetery in Saline County. His wife Emily E., who shares the tombstone with Green, was born 4 May 1827 and died 17 January 1904. He and Emily married in Franklin County, Illinois on the Old Jones Homestead in 1842, according the Emily’s testimony applying of a Civil War Pension on the services of her deceased son, Joseph A. Wier. The 1850 census of Saline County includes children Joseph A. (7), Robert F. (4), Louisa J., “Jennie” (5/12), and Lydia (73 and born in North Carolina) (p. 36 right). The timing of this birth places him as a child of Lydia by Joseph. In 1870 12-year-old Ann is in the household in addition to Robert F. (p. 515 left).

### Joseph A. Weir was born on 2 December 1843 and served as a corporal in Co., K, 73rd Illinois Infantry. On 20 September 1863 he was wounded in the leg at the Battle of Chickamauga and captured. About four days later his leg was amputated. A week and a half after the Battle he was recaptured. A further amputation was required. He died on 8 October 1863 in the General Hospital at Chattanooga. His parents applied for a pension, testifying that Joseph worked without pay in his father’s tan yard before the war. The claim was rejected because they could have rented their land holding for enough money to support them. Jennie married John Conover on 24 February 1867 (Bk. A, p. 240) and Rachel Ann “Anna” married Baxter Wilmouth on 23 September 1875 (Bk. D, p. 459), both in Saline County. Robert F. Ware died on 25 December 1878 and is buried in the Sunset Hill Cemetery in Saline County. Louisa Jane Conover (18 January-10 December 1898) and her husband John F. are also buried in the Sunset Hill Cemetery. Anna (27 March 1861-5 February 1932) shares a tombstone with her husband Baxter B. Wilmoth in the Sunset Hill Cemetery.

### There is evidence that Joseph Weir had adult children who remained in Tennessee when he moved to Illinois. The 1810 and 1820 censuses show that Joseph did have children in addition to those named above. The 1810 Chester census, when Joseph was 26-44, the household included one male child 10-15, one under 10, and females child 10-15 in his household 26-44 (presumably his wife), 16-25, and 10-15 (p. 520). Robert Weir, born about 1804, fits the male child under 10 on the 1810 census, but the identity of the male child 10 to 16 is unknown from the evidence presented above. Neither the female child 10 to 16 nor the female 16 to 26 on the 1810 census have been identified from the evidence above. Two Wilson County men, one Wilson County woman, and one other Tennessee woman stand out as possible children of Joseph Weir.

### John B. Weir is listed (without his middle initial) adjacent to Joseph on the 1820 census of Wilson County, aged 16 to 26 (p. 405). The only other person in the household is a female aged 16 to 26. The return of their marriage license shows that John B. Weir and Rebecca Rye married on 8 April 1819. The marriage bond was co-signed by James Weir, Jr. John and the eldest female in the household in 1830 are both 20 to 30 (p. 130). John B. Weir married a second time in Wilson County on 2 September 1849 (reverse of marriage license). Polly Wylie was his bride. The 1850 census of Wilson County lists John Weir, age 44 and born in Tennessee, with Polly Weir (29), Mary Weir (25), Eliza Weir (16), and Thomas Wiley (5) in the household (p. 399 left). The presence of a Wiley child in the household indicates that this is the correct John Weir family.

### John B. Weir moved to Saline County, Illinois after 1850 and before the state census of 1855. He is listed on the 1855 census, last in a sequence of beginning with Albert A. Anderson (husband of Zady Weir), James Weir, Turner Weir, and Joseph Weir (p. 72). John died intestate in Saline County. Mary Weir stated that he died on 18 December 1857 in her March 1860 petition for dower land (Box 26 File 12). This was over two years after John’s death and may account for the discrepancy with the date on John’s tombstone. Turner Weir was appointed administrator and filed a petition to sell land. Mary Weir, the widow, asked the court to appoint a guardian for three minor children: Marcellus, Tennessee, and Martha. She identified the other heirs at law as Alexander Perriman and wife Mary, James Weir, Joseph Weir, and Robert Wright and his wife Eliza. The 1860 census of Saline County shows Mary, age 39, heading a household with Thomas W[iley] (15)[[15]](#footnote-15), Marcellus (9), Tennessee (6), and Martha (4) in the household. All but Martha, who was born in Illinois, were born in Tennessee. The petition to sell land in Twp. 7 South Range 5 East, E½ SE¼ in Section 33 and W½ SW¼ of Section 34 was granted. Mary Weir purchased the SW¼ SW¼ in Section 34 from the estate on 27 February 1861 (Bk. I, pp. 586-587); John R. Woolard (son-in-law of Zady (Weir) Anderson) purchased the NE¼ SE¼ in Section 33 from the estate on the same day (pp. 531-532).[[16]](#footnote-16) Joseph Weir, an heir at law of John B. Weir, signed a quit claim to John R. Woolard for the East ½ of the Southeast ¼ of the same section and the SW¼ of the SW¼ in Section 34 on 21 August 1861 (Bk. I, pp. 532-533). Lurana, wife of Joseph Weir, consented to the sale. Mary sold an additional 40 acres of land to John R. Woolard on 25 March 1867 (Deed Q, p. 27). The same day she purchased undivided interest in 80 acres that John R. and Milly C. Woolard had purchased from Joseph, son of John B. Weir.[[17]](#footnote-17) She purchased the undivided interest in the same tract of James and Elizabeth M. Weir of Saline County on 23 September 1868.[[18]](#footnote-18) Mary died on 29 March 1869 according to her probate file (Box 25 File 30). Marcellus, Tennessee, and Martha Weir were her heirs and John R. Woolard was the administrator.

### Three tombstones are flat on the ground adjacent to one another in the Lebanon Cemetery in Saline County. One is for Sophia Wier, born 29 July 1850 and died 28 January 1854, with the inscription identifying her as the daughter of J.B. and M Wier. The second is the tombstone of Mary Wier, born 29 March 1821 and died on 28 March 1870, with the inscription identifying her as the wife of John Wier. The top of the third stone is broken off and could not be found in 2021. It gives dates for birth and death as 29 April 1801 and 18 November 1857. This stone is taken to be the remaining portion of the headstone of John B. Wier. Turner Weir and Joseph Weir (Jr.), sons of Joseph (Sr.) and Albert A. Anderson, son-in-law of Joseph (Sr.) are buried in this cemetery. Taken together, the age of John B. Weir, his proximity to Joseph Weir in 1820, his move to Saline County after 1850 where other children of Joseph resided, the cemetery in which John is reported to be buried with other children of Joseph Weir, and the appointment of Turner Weir as administrator of his estate are indicative of a family connection all support the conclusion that John B. Weir was a son of Joseph Weir of Chester District South Carolina, Wilson County, Tennessee, and Gallatin County, Illinois.

### Mary Weir, daughter of John B. Weir, first married Thornsberry C. Anderson, a widower, in Saline County on 10 February 1856 (Bk. A, p. 13). After Thornsberry’s death she married another widower, Alexander Perryman, in Saline County on 2 January 1857 (Bk. A, p. 72). James Weir is listed on the same page as John B. Weir on the 1855 Saline County state census, aged 30-40, with two male and one female children in the household under 10 (p. 72). A.A. Anderson, widower of Zady Weir, is listed immediately above him and Turner Weir, Joseph Weir, and John B. Weir are immediately below him. James Weir, aged 50 and born in Tennessee, was living in Franklin County at the time of the 1870 census (p. 280 left). Wife Elizabeth and all children, the eldest of whom was 17, were born in Illinois. James and Elizabeth sold their undivided interest in land of John B. Weir to the widow Mary Weir in 1869 (Deed Bk. S, p. 98).

### Joseph Weir, son of John B. Weir, is on the same page of the 1855 state census with James and adjacent to John B. Weir (p. 72). He and Lurania are on the 1860 Saline County census, both born in Tennessee and aged 31 and 28 (p. 820).[[19]](#footnote-19) James Weir, his brother, is on the same page. Joseph is also on the same page as James on the 1870 Franklin County census (p. 280 left). He married Lurany Bundy in Wilson County, Tennessee on 12 October 1851 (Bk. 1838-1854, p. 330). The sale of land by Joseph and wife Lurany, “heirs of law of John B. Weir, deceased” (Saline Deed I, pp. 532-533) along with the 1860 census and their marriage record enables one to identify which Joseph Weir was the son of John B. Weir. After Lurany’s death, Joseph married Winney Wolford [sic., Woodard] in Franklin County, Illinois on 27 February 1867 (Mar. Rec. 1867-1872, p. 137). Winney was a widow whose maiden name was White. She had married Robert W. Woodford in Franklin County on 28 November 1863 (Mar. Rec. 1856-1865). After Joseph Weir’s death she married George Ellis on 29 September 1883 in Franklin County (Mar. Rec 1, p. 83). Joseph Weir (23 December 1822-14 February 1882) is buried in the Lebanon Cemetery. The date of birth on the tombstone at Lebanon does not match the 1860 census by almost a decade and is five years earlier than his age on the 1870 census indicates. However, it is closer to his age of 56 on the1880 Franklin County census (p. 583A) and Winney’s remarriage in 1883 fits well with the 1882 year of death on the tombstone. Mary’s petition for letters of administration for John’s estate identifies Eliza as the wife of Robert S. Wright, but their family has not been located. Martha married William Parker Pemberton in Saline County on 25 December 1873 (Bk. C, p. 210). Like her parents, she is buried in the Lebanon Cemetery. Her birth and death dates are 21 December 1856-21 April 1905.

### James C. Weir was born in 1799 and died in 1879 according to his tombstone in the Ware Cemetery in Wilson County, Tennessee. Bond was posted on 21 March 1823 in Wilson County by James C. Weir and James Weir, Jr. for James C. Weir to marry Mary Weir. Mary B. Weir was born in 1801 and died in 1886 according to the tombstone in the Weir Cemetery that she shares with James C. Weir. Based on the 1810 and 1820 censuses of Chester and Wilson Counties (p. 520; p. 405) James and Mary were each the right age to be a child of Joseph Weir, although as husband and wife they would not have both been his children. James Weir signed his will on 29 September 1877 and it was proved in the January Term 1880 in Wilson County. He made bequests to Lucy Hobbs[[20]](#footnote-20) (the land on which she lived), granddaughter Alminey Sheets, to his brothers (unnamed), niece Lucinda Weir. Joseph D. Weir was named executor. Strangely no provision was made for Mary, his wife. No legatees were named as children.

### James C. Weir had interactions with Joseph Weir family. Joseph Weir sold James C. Weir 75 acres of land on Cedar Creek for $800 on 10 October 1823 (Bk. L, p. 65), the year that James C. Weir and Mary B. Weir married. Robert Weir of Gallatin County sold James C. Weir of Tennessee 7731/100 acres of land in Gallatin County, Illinois on 24 May 1841 for $1,800 (Bk. L, pp. 228-229). Robert and James C. would have been contemporaries in Wilson County. This transaction was about a dozen years after Robert moved to Illinois. The two land transactions, and especially the one between James and Robert over a decade after Robert had left Wilson County, suggest that the connections were more than the usual grantor-grantee relationships.

### Jerusha [Paralee] Weir was born on 18 December 1833 and died on 6 April 1891 according to her tombstone in the Hebron Cemetery, Hamilton County, Illinois. J.P Ware married Harris J.W. Proctor in Pontotoc County, Mississippi on 29 August 1848, according to their marriage license and return. By 1850 census the couple resided in Saline County, Illinois (p. 39 left). They were on the same page of the census as Turner Weir. Jerusha was born in Tennessee. Harris J.M. Proctor served in Company J, 1st Mississippi Infantry, Mexican War and on 10 January 1851 was granted the entire SW¼ of Section 33, Twp. 7S Range 5E for his service. The eastern half of this land was in the hands of John B. Weir at the time of his death in 1857. On 4 January 1863 Mrs. Jerutia P. Proctor married Hiram G. Johnson in Saline County (Bk. A. p. 141A).

### Although census records show that most of the Pontotoc County Weirs were not in Tennessee during the time period when Jerusha was born, the 1850 census places two Weirs in that state: Elam Weir, aged 33 (p. 57 left) and James C. Weir, aged 20 (p. 68 right). At this point evidence has not been found to place Jerusha, Elam, or James C. in a particular county of Tennessee. Evidence currently available is not sufficient to claim a close relationship between Joseph Weir’s family and Jerusha.

### Summary.

### John Weir obtained 250 acres of colonial land in 1765 in what became Chester County and held this land in 1801 when he signed his will. In all likelihood he was the same man who was on a list of Irish protestants in 1764 who petitioned for land. He settled on the waters of Rocky Creek in an area where other Protestant Irish immigrants settled. During the Revolution he was on the list for petit jury service, provided supplies, and during a 25-day tour of militia duty was in the Battle of Fishdam Ford. He bought land on Sandy River in what became Chester District in 1795 and sold it in 1798 with the consent of his wife Mary “Molly” Weir. John signed his will on 15 May 1801 and it was proved in Chester District on 1 February 1805. He made a bequest to his wife, but did not name her. His children were Mary (wife of George Ware), David Weir, Isabella Weir, Sarah (wife of William P. Gaston), Ebenezer Weir, Joseph Weir, and Agness Fullerton. David moved to Fairfield District, South Carolina but appears to have returned to Chester.

### Joseph Weir moved to Wilson County, Tennessee by 1813 when he purchased land there. Jean, his first wife, died before the before the 1820 census and Joseph married Lydia Allen in 1821. By 1830 he moved to the part of Gallatin County, Illinois that became Saline County in 1847. Children Robert, Zady (married Albert A. Anderson), Turner, Elizabeth (married Logan Lynch), Green B., and Joseph accompanied him or moved a about the same time. John B. Weir was also a son who moved from Wilson County to Saline County after 1850. There is reason to believe that either James C. or his wife Mary B. (Weir) Weir was also child of Joseph. There are indications that Jerusha Paralee Ware (married Harris Proctor, then Hiram Johnson) was related, but the evidence available at this time in is weak.

1. See Victoria Proctor’s “South Carolina Ship Lists” at <https://sciway3.net/proctor/ships/SC_ships2.html> for a list of ships. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Revill, Janie: ***A Compilation of the Original Lists of Protestant Immigrants to South Carolina 1763-1773,*** 1939, pp. 7-8. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The original will is in Chester Probate File 70, Pkg. 1143. John signed his name in a firm hand using the spelling “Wear.” The recorded copy of the will spells the surname as “Wear” and “Ware” (Chester County, South Carolina Will Bk. C, pp. 154-155). Other records use spellings such as “Weir,” “Wier,” “Weer,” “Were,” and even “Wire.” Checking numerous variations was essential in conducting this research. “Weir,” the most commons spelling, will be used in this paper except where the spelling in an original document is being followed. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Charleston Mense Conveyance Bk. M4, pp. 130-133. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Colonial Plat Bk. 21, p. 360. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. State Plat Bk. (Charleston Series) Vol. 9, p. 262. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Hendrix, Ge Lee Corley & Morn McCoy Lindsay: ***The Jury Lists of South Carolina 1778-1779,*** 1975, pp. 50, 52. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Holcomb, Brent H. & Elmer O. Parker: ***Camden District, S.C. Wills and Administrations 1781-1787,*** 1978, p. 37. Josiah Hughes served 30 days in Col. Edward Lacey’s Regiment of Horsemen in 1780 (Audited Account #3858). [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Moore, M.A.: ***The Life of Gen. Edward Lacey,*** (1859), pp. 3-4, 19-22. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. The size of the tract was determined by a resurvey and does not match the amount in John’s will. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Elliot, Isaac H.: ***Record of the Services of the Illinois Soldiers in the Black Hawk War 1831-32 and in the Mexican War, 1846-48,*** 1882, pp. 8-9, reprinted in the Report of the Adjutant General of Illinois, Vol. 9 (1902), <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uiuo.ark:/13960/t75t3x65z&view=1up&seq=7&skin=2021> . [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. County officials explained to me that the marriage license and returns for this time period are not recognized as official county records because they had been out of county custody at one point. My understanding is that the original document is in the Illinois Regional Archives Depository in Carbondale, Illinois, where I copied it from microfilm. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. James Weir of Muhlenburg County, Kentucky was evidently a land speculator active in Gallatin County land transactions from before 1820 until after 1840. His executors, also of Kentucky, sold land in 1848 that had belonged to him (Bk. O, pp. 37-38) as well as in later transactions. He is not on Gallatin census records. There are no known connections to the Joseph Weir family. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. The tradition was related to me by my maternal grandmother, D. Hilda M. (VanCleve) Doley (1897-1983). She was married to G. Clyde Doley, a great grandson of Albert Alvis and Zady (Weir) Anderson. She did not know the names of the parents and was unaware the Joseph’s wife Lydia would have been Zady’s step-mother rather than mother. It is doubtful that the church was originally a Baptist Church. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Thomas W. is Thomas Wiley not Weir. He is listed on the 1850 Wilson County census as Thomas Wiley and is apparently a son of Mary by her earlier marriage. Thomas died on 9 January 1863 of measles, smallpox, and possibly bronchitis in Co. K, 128th Illinois Infantry, in which John R. Woolard served as a sergeant. John R. and Millie Caroline (Anderson) Woolard testified in support of a pension for Mary Ware, widow of John and mother of Thomas Wiley. As noted above, Millie was the daughter of Zady (Ware) Anderson, making her a niece of John B. Weir. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. The authority to sell land was summarized in the deeds to John R. and Milly C. Woolard and to Mary Weir. The summary erroneously identified the tract in Section 33 as E½ SW¼ instead of E½ SW¼. It was correctly identified in the portion of the deed conveying the land to the Woolards and other deeds mentioning this tract. How John B. Weir acquired this tract has not been discovered. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. As noted above, Millie Caroline (Anderson) Woolard was the daughter of Zady Weir, making her a first cousin of Joseph Weir. John R. Woolard was the son of Lawson Brock and Ama (Bundy) Woolard. Ama and Lurana were daughters of Nathan and Absilla (Jones) Bundy, making Lurana an aunt of John R. Woolard. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Both John B. Weir and Robert Weir, son of Joseph, had sons named “James.” Presumably the Joseph Weir who sold is undivided interest to John R. Woolard was the son of John B. Weir. No record has been found that would explain how Joseph, son of Robert, could have obtained interest in this tract of land.   
    <https://glorecords.blm.gov/details/patent/default.aspx?accession=1033-051&docClass=MW&sid=sdb3qvsu.tkd#patentDetailsTabIndex=1> . [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Some trees have been posted identifying Joseph as the 23-year-old man in the household of Cary Weir on the 1850 Wilson County, Tennessee census (p. 398 right). Cary was the widow of James J. Weir, whose bequests in his 1841 will included wife Cary and son Joseph D. Weir. Joseph D. Weir can be found on Wilson County censuses in 1860, 1870, and 180 (pp. 302 right, 428 left, 400A). His family is does at all not match the family of Joseph Weir on Illinois censuses. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Lucretia Weir married William Hobbs in Wilson County on 6 October 1836. Lucretia Hobbs is on the same page of the census with Joseph C. Weir in 1850 as well as 1860 (p. 321 right). Her age places her year of birth about 1817 or 1818, five or six years before the marriage of James C. and Mary B. Weir. This suggests she was a sister rather than a daughter of the couple. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)