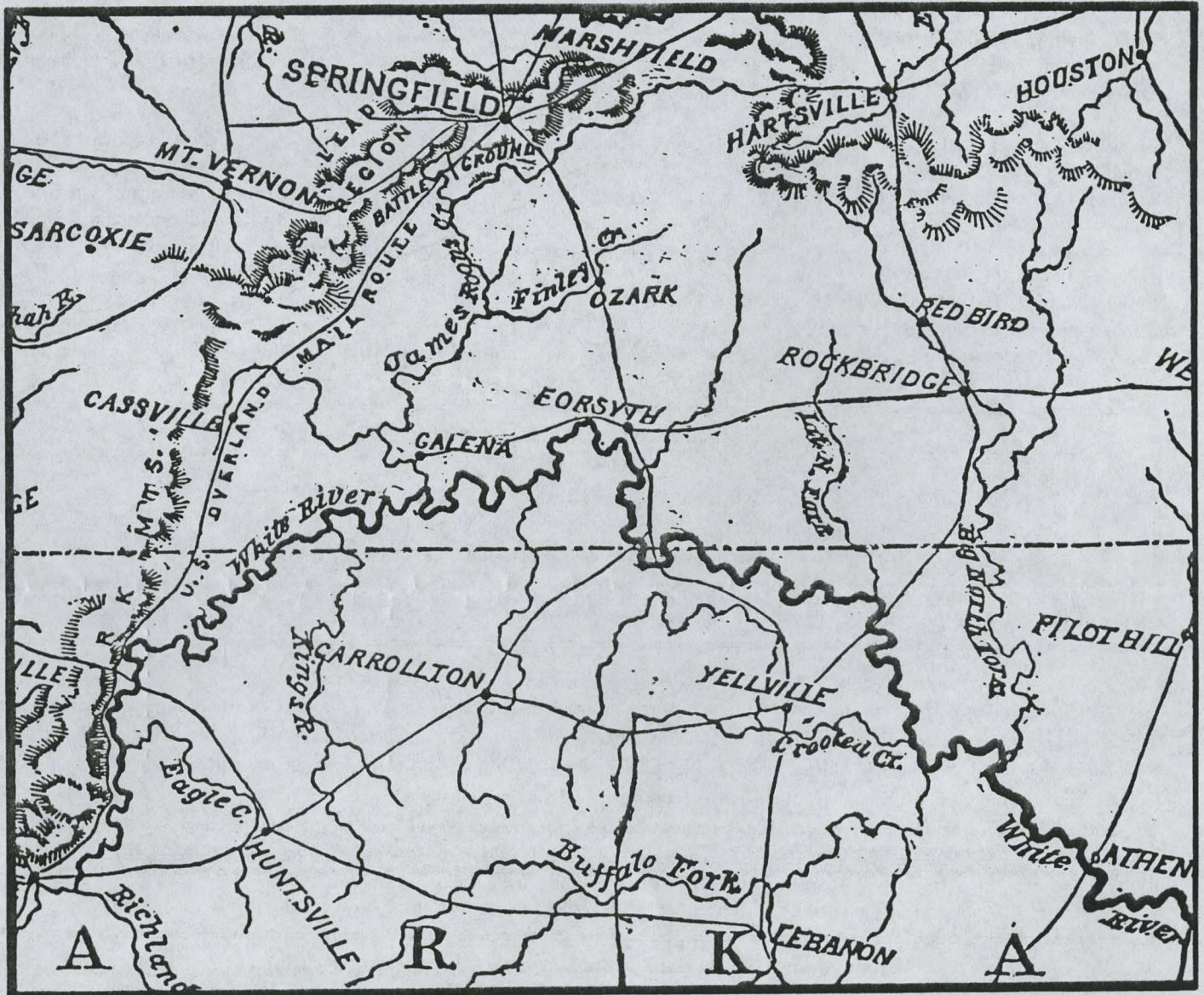


THE  
**WHITE RIVER VALLEY**  
**HISTORICAL**  
**QUARTERLY**

BARRY • STONE • GREENE • CHRISTIAN • TANEY • DOUGLAS • OZARK



MADISON • CARROLL • BOONE • MARION AND BAXTER COUNTIES

# THE WHITE RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY

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Articles pertaining to the White River Valley and surrounding areas are considered for publication when they involve themes, events, and personalities directly related to the regional history. Family histories and genealogical studies will also be considered.

All articles published in the *Quarterly* may not be published elsewhere without permission of the editor. Only in special circumstances will an article previously published in another magazine or journal be accepted for the *Quarterly*. Members of W.R.V.H.S., the editor and/or contributors are not responsible for errors of fact or judgment in material published in the *Quarterly*.

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# The White River Valley Weathermans

by Denise Weatherman Canida

A couple of years ago, my family and I traveled to Arkansas to look at a lake lot given to me by my maternal grandfather. On our return trip, my husband insisted on traveling back through Forsyth, Mo., to follow up on a lead about his family history.

I knew from family stories that my Weatherman ancestors lived in and around Walnut Shade, Mo., because we were so close, we made the short trip and located the town cemetery. Prior to that day, I had been basically uninterested in detailed family history, but spending a few minutes in that cemetery changed me forever. We wrote down every Weatherman name we could make out from the tombstones and we felt determined to find out who they were and what their lives had been like.

Shortly after we got home, my husband suggested buying a computer program to track our families' histories. We subscribed to an internet service provider and started posting queries and making connections with other researchers. We now have approximately 10,000 names in our genealogy database and an internet home page dedicated to our families at <http://home.swbell.net/audiec>. Our research has shown us that the Weathermans have been in Missouri for well over a century and a half and are true Ozark pioneers.

John Weatherman and his family were the first pioneer Weathermans to settle in Missouri. John was born about 1779 in Pennsylvania or North Carolina. According to the North Carolina census, John was single and living on a section of his father's farm in Surry County in 1800. He was still in North Carolina in 1801, because his father Christian, Sr., left him the section of land he was living on in his will, "with the improvements he has already made."

John married Sarah Dobbs about 1805, he left his farm in Surry County, N.C., between 1801 and 1806, and moved to Tennessee. His daughter Sarah and sons William T., John Calvin and James S., according to census records, claim to be born in Tennessee.

Sometime between 1814 and 1818, John moved his family to Illinois. About 1818, John had a daughter that probably died an infant. In 1820, John and family are living in Madison County, Ill., where his son Samuel T. was born. In 1830, John and family are living in Morgan County, Ill., and his daughter Sarah is married to John A. Mathews, Sr. Also, on the same page of the census are James Mathews, probably John Mathews' brother and Andrew Mathews, probably his

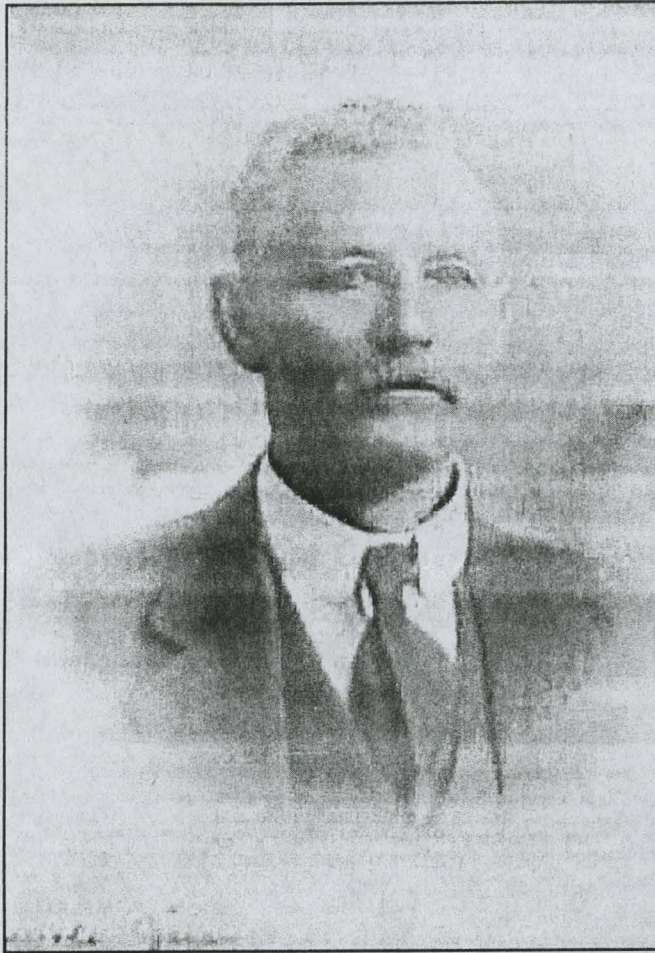
father.

Sometime between 1830 and 1836, John moved his family to Polk County, Mo. We found an 1836 Polk County document where Daniel Prine was indebted to John Weatherman for a loan of thirty dollars. Sometime before 1835, John's wife Sarah Dobbs died. Shortly afterwards he married Delilah L. John, his wife and youngest son Samuel T. are listed in the 1840 Polk County, Mo., census along with his daughter, Sarah and her husband John A. Mathews, Sr., and their children. John's three oldest boys, William T., John Calvin and James S., are in the 1840 Taney County census and are believed to have settled in Taney County along Bull Creek in the mid 1830s. Sometime between 1840 and 1850, John moved and obtained a 200-acre farm in Taney County, Mo., close to where his children were carving a living out of the wilderness.

In the 1850 Taney County census, John and his second wife Delilah L. are living in Jasper Township, son James and second wife Malina Stockstill are living in Swan Township, and sons William T. and wife Lucinda Moreland, John Calvin and wife, Samuel T. and wife Luvica Jones and his daughter Sarah and husband John A. Mathews, Sr., are living in Linn Township. In the 1860 Taney County, Mo., census, John's second wife, Delilah L., is the head of household and John is not listed. It is believed that John died and was buried about 1855 in Taney County, Mo., possibly in the Walnut Shade Cemetery. John lived in the Missouri Ozarks and the White River Valley region 20 to 25 years before his death. His children continued to live in the region for the remainder of their lives.

Sarah, John's first child, was born about 1806 in Tennessee. Her family lived in Taney County until sometime before the beginning of the Civil War. In 1860, we found Sarah and family in the Barry County, Mo. Census. After 1860, we believe they moved to Arkansas until the end of the conflict and returned to Christian County before the 1880 census. Sarah's youngest son, John A. Mathews, Jr., joined the Christian County Bald Knobbers, and was hung for his involvement with the murders of Charles Green and William Edens. Sarah died sometime after 1889, probably in Christian County.

William T., John's second child and oldest son, was born about 1809 in Tennessee. Sometime before the 1860 census, he moved from Taney County and eventually settled in



**James A. Weatherman (1859 - 1926), Taney County Sheriff (1892-1896) and state representative (1918-1920).**  
 Courtesy Jerry W. Gideon

Arkansas. He remained there and raised his family of 11 children, and died in Lawrence County, Ark., in July 1867.

John Calvin, John's second son was born July 06, 181, in Tennessee. He moved his family to Wright County and eventually settled in Texas County. We believe John married three times, first to an unknown about 1835, then to Nancy Gann about 1857, and to Mary Jane Chaney about 1866. He fathered approximately 18 children from these wives. On February 22, 1879, John Calvin and his wife Mary Jane, deeded on acre and eight rods of land, for the Weatherman School, to District No. 2 in townships 28 and 29, range 11 in Texas County, Mo. According to the USGS, the school site still carries that name today. John Calvin died October 19, 1884 in Texas County, Mo., and is buried there as well. There is still much to learn about him, his family and his life.

James S., John's third son was born about 1814 in Tennessee. James lived and raised his family in Taney County his entire adult life. James married three times, first



**From left: Alonzo S. Prather, Samuel Weatherman and Mr. Woods.**  
 Courtesy Douglas Mahnkey

to Sarah LaForce about 1834 and they had four children, second in 1850 to Malina Stockstill and they had nine children, and finally in 1871 to Sarah Jane Crink and they had four children. James served in the Black Hawk War and with Captain Jesse Galloway's Company, Greene County, Mo., Home Guards during the Civil War. James' descendents became very involved in the community, from possible Bald Knobber activities to sheriffs and judges. James died June 13, 1885, in Walnut Shade, Taney County, Mo., and is buried in the Walnut Shade Cemetery.

Samuel T., John's fourth son and youngest child, was born on August 10, 1820, in Fort Prairie, Madison County, Ill. Samuel also lived his entire adult life in Taney County except during approximately 1845-1849 in Arkansas and for a short period during the war in Franklin County, Mo. Samuel married Luvica Jones in 1842, and they raised 11 children. Samuel founded the Walnut Shade Post Office on June 4, 1860, and some of his descendents have also been

Taney County postmasters. Samuel held the office of Taney County Associate Judge, 1866-1868, and served with Jesse Galloway's Company, Greene county, Mo., Home Guards and Capt. B.E. Anderson's Company C., Gail's 54th Regiment, Enlisted Missouri Militia during the Civil War. Samuel died November 252, in Walnut Shade, Taney County, Mo., and is buried in the Walnut Shade Cemetery. In September of last year, my family made a second trip to Taney County. I watched my father, uncle and cousins and

our spouses discover the wonder and beauty that held our ancestors to this land for so long. We look forward to our next visit and hope to continue our discovery of the Weathermans of the White River Valley region.

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## It's Heav'n in Old Missouri

Song composed by Carrie E. Koch, Webster Groves, Mo.  
Arrangement by Alfred Lee Booth, 1917

Missouri's on the map, boys;  
You know it by the breeze  
That comes all scented, 'cross the hills,  
As fresh as from the seas.

The Ozarks cast their shadow  
For kine, and bird, and bee;  
And fish, in Gasconade, boys,  
Wait 'round for you and me.

Missouri's corn and wheat, boys,  
Enormous crops will yield;  
In stock and poultry, grain and fruit,  
We clearly hold the field.

Our Maiden Blush enchanting,  
You scarce can wait to greet  
A fair one nam'd Elbert a'  
None other half so sweet.

Missouri's fame for aye, boys:  
A landscape soft and rare;  
Deep jewel'd valley, knoll and grove;  
Springs bubbling every where.

The old White River trailer  
Its charm may know full well,  
But ne'er in all his lifetime  
Its beauty can he tell.

Missouri's "got the goods" boys;  
Missouri got the "chink;"  
With marble, granite, iron and coal  
And copper, lead and zinc.

She's got the richest clay, boys,  
And brass and all the rest;  
And we've got old Missouri,  
And bet your life! We're bless'd.

Chorus:

Ah . . . . . Ah . . . . .  
Ah . . . . . Whippoorwill  
Ah . . . . . Ah . . . . .  
Out there in old Missouri!  
Where it's heav'n on earth today.

It's heaven in old Missouri!  
The skies are always blue;  
The whippoorwill is calling;  
Each flow'r is kiss'd with dew.

There's love, and peace, and plenty,  
And sunshine all way,  
Out there in old Missouri  
Where it's heav'n on earth today.

It's heaven in old Missouri!  
The skies are always blue;  
The whippoorwill is calling;  
Each flow'r is kiss'd with dew.

There love, and peace, and plenty,  
And sunshine all the way,  
Out there in old Missouri  
Where it's heaven on earth today.

It's heav'n in old Missouri!  
The skies are always blue;  
The whippoorwill is calling;  
Each flow'r is kiss'd with dew, with dew.

There's love, and peace, and plenty,  
And sunshine all the way,  
Out there in old Missouri . . .  
Heav'n on earth today.