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THE WEAVER FAMILY

The earliest that I have been able to trace back the Weaver family is to Craven Weaver in the late 1700s in Halifax County, North Carolina. Halifax County lies in the northeastern portion of North Carolina and was an area that was settled fairly early in our country's history. This was an area populated by people coming down from both the eastern Pennsylvania area and from the tidewater area of Virginia. The Weaver family, probably like the Neece family, was German in its origin.

Craven Weaver married, and his daughter, Penninah, married Robert Neece in Lincoln County, Tennessee and they moved to Greene County in Illinois and their daughter Elizabeth married Josiah Jones and thus these lines became part of my Jones Family heritage.

I have no proof as to the parents of Craven Weaver, but I think his father was James Weaver. The earliest record of any Weaver in Halifax County is a mention in the Will of Thomas Hill dated July 14, 1768. This will makes mention of '*the swamp where James Weaver now lives.*' There was another mention in 1766 of an Elinor Weaver, the wife of Stephen Weaver, deceased.

The State Census of North Carolina in 1786 showed four Weaver families living in Halifax County. One of these, Shadrack, Frances, James or Mary must have been Craven's family. In the 1800 census there were the following Weaver families in Halifax County; Craven, James and Elizabeth all along side each other and also a Henry and Benjamin Weaver some distance away but in the same district. By 1810, only James and a Jarrett Weaver remained in Halifax County.

I'll have to begin here with our first proven ancestor, Craven Weaver.

CRAVEN WEAVER

Craven Weaver was born in 1775, but I cannot say where. If we assume that James Weaver was his father, then he was born in Halifax County. But it could have been in North Carolina or almost anywhere. There was a lot of free movement right after the Revolutionary War as families struck out in their new land to find homes and bright futures.

I do, however, know that he had a sister Elizabeth and a brother William. From the obituary of Elizabeth, who married Daniel Harrison and died in Conway County, Arkansas, We see she was born in Halifax County on February 17, 1792. She moved, while young and single to Claiborne County, Tennessee where she was married about 1810 or 1811. Craven was therefore in Halifax County by at least 1792 and most likely earlier.

Craven Weaver must have been married shortly before 1800 probably around 1798 or 1799, as he appears in the 1800 census of Halifax County, North Carolina with his wife Winnifred Elizabeth and a young daughter. I still do not know Winnifred's maiden name. From the records I have, this daughter would have been Penninah as she was born on January 8, 1800.

Craven and Winnifred moved to Tennessee sometime in the very early 1800s as they appear on the 1811 Tax records of Davidson County, Tennessee and then were in Lincoln County,

Tennessee by 1820.

No sooner had they moved to Tennessee, than the War of 1812 broke out. Craven served two separate terms in the Tennessee Volunteers. The state of Tennessee is nicknamed the Volunteer state due to the enthusiasm in joining and fighting displayed by the pioneers of Middle Tennessee where the Weavers lived.

He first served in late 1813 and early 1814 under General Andrew Jackson and fought the Creek Indians at the Battle of Talladega in Alabama. He was discharged and then called again to Nashville to join the Tennessee Mounted Gunmen under General Williamson. On this tour he served from September 28, 1814 to April 27, 1815. His pay records indicate that he received eight dollars a month. This works out to twenty-six cents a day pay. He was also given a forty cent per day allowance for his horse. Seems in those days a good horse was worth about twice what a man was worth. Oh well.

Based on property descriptions in the old deeds, Craven Weaver's property was in the northeastern portion of the county near the towns of Bellville and Booneville.

By 1820 they had in addition to Penninah who was 20, William and a sister Matilda in their early teens, 1 son (John) and 3 daughters (Elizabeth, Sarah and another) under 10 years of age. The last child, Noah, was not born until 1826. In the 1820 census the farm of John and Hulda Neece was one farm away. Sometime around 1821 Penninah Weaver married their son, Robert Neece, in Lincoln County.

In late 1829 or early 1830 Robert and Penninah Neece moved to Greene County, Illinois. The eldest son, William Weaver, married his wife, Ester, around this time and began to raise a family.

Craven's son, John, married a woman named Malinda in Lincoln County about 1825. They appear in the area through the 1850 census. This John sold the last of his lands in 1853 and moved out of the county. John Weaver was a preacher at the Concord Primitive Baptist Church in what is now Bellville, Tennessee.

During the 1830s his daughters, Matilda, Elizabeth, Sarah and another grew up and married.

By the 1840 census, Robert and Penninah Neece were living in Illinois. Craven and Winnie were still living in Lincoln County and their two eldest sons, John and William and their families were living nearby. Their youngest son Noah was still at home.

It would seem that Penninah wrote home and told her parents how wonderful Illinois was and invited them to head west. On the 4th Sunday in September of 1846 Craven and Winnie were given their dismissal papers (I have the original penned note in my files) in order to move from the area. The Church was the Concord Primitive Baptist Church of Jesus Christ located at Norris Creek. The town is now called Belleville, Tennessee. Their son John Weaver was a preacher at this church.

Shortly afterwards in October of 1846, Craven, Winnie and their son Noah left for Illinois. Their son William, his wife Ester and their six children went to Greene County as well.

According to an obituary of Noah M. Weaver in 1910, the overland wagon trip began on October 19th and they arrived in Illinois on November 24th. They went to Robert and Penninah's home where they stayed until the following Spring.

The families settled once again near the Neeces in Northwestern Greene County in Apple Creek Township near the present town of White Hall, Illinois. They all were farmers in this rich fertile land.

Craven Weaver died of old age within the first year after arriving in Illinois. He died on August 1, 1847 and was buried in White Hall. His tombstone is still standing and reads: *C. Weaver died Aug. 1, 1847 Aged 72 years.*

The 1850 Illinois census shows Winnie and Noah Weaver living together on the family farm north of Apple Creek. Winnie was 75 and showed her birthplace as North Carolina. Noah was shown as 25. They remained on this farm until 1853 when they moved just east of Athensville in Greene County.

Also in 1850 William Weaver was living on his farm between Apple Creek and Macoupin. He was 48, Ester was 38, John 20, Martha 18, James 16, Lunsford 14, William 12, Mary 10, Stephen J. 2 and Fonetta 2 months old. The youngest two were born in Illinois, the rest in Tennessee.

Winnifred Weaver died in Athensville on December 24, 1861.

The following is what I know about the children of Craven and Winnie Weaver.

Penninah Weaver

Penninah was the eldest child. She was born in Halifax County, North Carolina on January 8, 1800. She married Robert Neece in about 1821 while living in Lincoln County, Tennessee. Her life is detailed in the NEECE FAMILY HISTORY.

Penninah Weaver Neece lived on until 1881 when she died on March 22. She was buried alongside her father in White Hall. Her stone remains and reads: *Penninah Neece wife of Robert Neece died March 22, 1881 aged 80 yrs. 3 mos. 14 days.*

Robert and Penninah Neece's daughter Elizabeth married Josiah Jones and my line continued as detailed in the main portion of this family history.

William Weaver

William was the eldest son. He was born in 1802 probably while the family was still in Halifax County, North Carolina, but in 1850 he lists Tennessee as his birthplace so that may be correct. He married in the 1820s to a woman named Ester born in Tennessee in 1812. By the 1840 census they had one son between 10 and 15, a son and a daughter between 5 and 10 and two sons under 5 years. In the 1850 Greene County Illinois census we get the names as **John** 20 TN, **Martha** 18 TN, **James** 16 TN, **Lunsford** 14 TN, **William** 12 TN, **Mary** 10 TN, **Sarah** 6 IL, **Stephen J.** 2 IL and **Finetta E.** 2 months old born in Illinois. At that time William was 48 and Ester 38. I don't find the family in 1860 or 1870 anywhere.

John Weaver

John seems to be the second son. The 1850 census places his birth about 1811, which would have been in Davidson County, Tennessee. His wife was named Malinda. He seems to have married early (about 1825) as by the 1840 census he had a son between 15 and 20, a son and a daughter 10 to 15, a son and a daughter 5 to 10 and two sons under 5.

By the 1850 census we have the following names and ages. **John 38, Malinda 36, Samuel 18, Dottie 16, Nancy 14 and Letty 10.** Living next door was an **Ephraim Weaver** age 29, Sarah 26, with children John 6, Catherine 3, Milly 2. Ephraim must be the eldest son as shown in the 1840 census. Based on the kids ages, he was probably married around 1843 or thereabouts.

John sold the last of his lands in the area in 1853 and moved West to follow the Gold Rush into California. The family later moved to Oregon and then into Montana before it became a state.

Matilda Weaver

Matilda was born about 1804 or 1805 in Tennessee. She married Micajah Stone in Lincoln County and had some 7 children, five sons and two daughters: Craven, William, Noah, Joseph, James, Elizabeth, and Ann Stone. All the children were born in Lincoln County, Tennessee.

I found a listing in the *'Petitions to the General Assembly of Tennessee'* in 1809 that refers to a Benjamin Weaver, Justice of the Peace and also to a Micajah Stone. As Micajah was not that common a name, I wonder who the Benjamin was and how he ties into this whole thing. I assume that this Micajah was the same one that married Matilda. Benjamin may have been another son or may have been Craven's brother if he was the one mentioned in the 1800 Halifax County Census. Who knows?

Matilda and her family traveled to Illinois in 1844. They moved to near Wilmington in Greene County where her sister Penninah lived with her family.

After Micajah died she remained in Greene County until 1893 when she moved to Missouri with her son Joseph and his family. She died on February 15, 1893 in Sarcoxie, Missouri.

Elizabeth Weaver

Elizabeth was born about 1807 in Tennessee. On July 15, 1824 she married Josiah Armstrong in Lincoln County. Josiah was the son of John Armstrong and Sarah King. The Armstrongs went to Greene County, Illinois and remained there the rest of their lives.

Josiah was born November 10, 1799 in South Carolina and he died in Greene County September 5, 1870. Elizabeth died there January 19, 1889. They are both buried in the Jones Cemetery in White Hall, Greene County, Illinois.

They had the following children: **James Craven, Nancy Ann, Margaret Evaline, Finis Owen, Emily Catherine, Sarah Ruth, Winnie Elizabeth, Mary Catherine, Amaziah, George Jefferson and Andrew H. Armstrong.**

Sarah Weaver

Sarah was born about 1812. She married William Neece and went with him and the Robert Neece Family to Greene County, Illinois in 1830 where they remained.

They had the following children: **John B., Craven Weaver, Julia, Ellis C., James W., Alfred N., Sarah C., William Francis, Robert** and **Mary Neece**. Alfred, James and Ellis all served in the Illinois Volunteers in the Civil War.

Noah M. Weaver

Noah was the youngest, born on October 14, 1826 in Lincoln County, Tennessee. He lived with and took care of his mother until her death in 1861. In August of 1862 he enlisted in the Union Army and served for the next three years and took part in a great many battles.

On November 15, 1868 he married Frances Jane (Van Bebber) Dicker, a widow from Scottville, Illinois. They remained in Athensville until 1893 when they retired and moved to Scottville. Noah died on January 10, 1910 at the age of 83 years. Jane died on September 10, 1914. They had four children: **G. M. Weaver, Winnie Jane, Tennessee Birdie** and **Benjamin E. Weaver**.