

The James And Deborah Cole Weethee Family

Prepared by Jane Osborne Jones, great-great-great granddaughter of James and Deborah, January 2004 update;
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James Weethee was born May 9, 1784, in Mason, New Hampshire. His parents were James and Anna/Nancy Brown Withee,¹ and his paternal grandparents were James and Sarah Parker Withee.² It is believed the family name originated in Scotland as *Mackerwethe* or *MacWeathey*, and that when some of the clan came to this country, the “Mac” was dropped. The spelling of the name *Weethee* has varied over the years: *MacWithey*, *Wethe*, *Withee*, *Withey*, and *Withie* are just a few of the many variations.

James came to Coolville in Athens County, Ohio, in 1808 and lived near his uncle, Daniel Weethee, who had settled in the same area some ten years before.

Deborah Cole, the woman who would become James’ wife, was born July 26, 1791, in New York. Her parents were Nathan Cole, who was born in Rhode Island in 1765, and Mary Daufet.³ Her paternal grandparents were John and Mercy Wood Cole.⁴ The Coles moved to New York (Deborah’s birthplace) about 1788, then to Ohio in 1804, setting the stage for James and Deborah to meet. The two were married May 15, 1811, at Marietta in Washington County, Ohio. Philip Cole, probably Deborah’s uncle, performed the ceremony.

In 1812, war with England erupted. Near the end of the war (in February 1814), James was drafted into service in Franklinton (present-day Columbus) and served until June of that year as a private in Captain Luther Shepard’s company, where he rose to the rank of sergeant. His company served as prison guards and helped march British prisoners, which included many Indians, to Chillicothe.⁵ When the prisoners were transferred to Canada, James was discharged.

¹ In addition to James, James and Anna/Nancy Brown Wethee had at least five other children: David, John, Nancy (Gary), Mary (Woodberry), and Daniel.

² In addition to James (who married Anna/Nancy Brown), James and Sarah Parker Weethee had at least seven other children: Daniel I (who died young), Nathaniel, John, William Parker, Sarah (), John, and Daniel (the uncle who preceded the subject of this narrative to Athens County).

³ Nothing is yet known about the family of Mary Daufet, except that the name is French. Perhaps she was a French Huguenot. In addition to Deborah, Nathan and Mary Daufet Cole, who were married in 1787, had at least nine other children: Sampson, John R., Levi, Mary (Jett), George, Nathan Jr., Clarissa (Hardy), Diane (Bryan), and Roxanna (Lonas).

⁴ Mercy Wood Cole was the daughter of Noah and Elizabeth Mason Wood. John (1742-1826), a Revolutionary War veteran, was the twelfth child of John and Abigail Butts Cole. Besides Nathan, the couple were the parents of three other children: Asa, Noah, and Sarah. When Mercy died, John married two more times and had at least five other children.

⁵ The Indians fought on the side of the British, who had enlisted their aid, during the War.

The former soldier returned home and in payment for his services was later awarded a government pension and eighty acres of bounty land in Troy Township, Athens County, Ohio, near the town of Miami, where he and Deborah established a farm. Their land was valued at \$2,200 in 1850. The couple had fifteen children: George C., William, Mary D. (Paulk), Clarissa (Paulk), Charles (who died young), Lucinda (Paulk), Sally (who died young), Sylvester (who died young), James S., Susan, Daniel, Lorian (Weatherby), Ann M. (Green), Caroline (Johnson), and Wallace.⁶

James died June 8, 1876, one month past his ninety-second birthday. Deborah survived him by only eleven months, passing away on May 28, 1877, at the age of 86. The couple are buried in the Fairview (Weatherby) Cemetery on County Road 56 about three miles outside of Coolville, Ohio, in Troy Township, Athens County, Ohio.

⁶ Much of this information comes from the 1850 U.S. Census for Troy Township, Athens County, Ohio. The family of James Wethe is listed. On page 29, James (age 66) is listed as a farmer born in New Hampshire. His wife Deborah (age 57) was born in New York. The children still living at home were Lorian (age 19), Anna (age 17), Caroline (age 15), and Wallace (age 13). The Wethe farm was valued at \$2,200. Weethees and Wethes are also listed on pages 5, 133, 292, and 394 of the Census.

The Children Of James And Deborah Cole Withee

George Cole Weethee ⁷	Born: 09-23-1811, Coolville, Troy Twp., Athens County, OH Died: 11-10-1889, Coolville, Troy Twp, Athens County, OH Buried: Weatherby Cemetery, Athens County, OH Married: Margaret Ann Lee, ⁸ 07-18-1841, Athens County, OH
Children	Martha (Ayers) Angeline (Hess) Henrietta (Steinmetz-Ayers-Weatherby) Margaret (Bobbitt-Weatherby) Mary Jane (Weatherby-Condon-Steinmetz-Bobbitt) George Stanley (died age 1½) Jefferson Oliver Marcella (Davis) Deborah M. (died young) Elmer Ellsworth
William Weethee	Born: 04-06-1813, Coolville, Troy Twp, Athens County, OH Died: 11-10-1889, Coolville, Troy Twp, Athens Co, OH Buried: Married: Sarah/Sally Sophia McAfee, ⁹ 08-23-1837, Athens County, OH
Children	Lucinda (White) ¹⁰ Lavina R. (Henry) Sarah R. Eusebius Russell ¹¹ James D.

⁷ George, a Civil War veteran, was a farmer, mechanic, and blacksmith, who lived all his life in Coolville, the place of his birth. Kurt Ayers, a descendant of George, is researching this line. His e-mail address is NHMarks@aol.com.

⁸ Margaret Ann Lee was born in Virginia on August 8, 1821, and died in Ohio on November 7, 1899. Her mother, Elizabeth (1778-1860), was also reportedly born in Virginia.

⁹ Sally, who was born in 1819, was the daughter of Mark and Margaret Weatherby McAfee.

¹⁰ Joseph C. White, Lucinda's husband, was supposedly half Indian. According to White family tradition, as recounted by Rob Stonerock, one of their descendants, Joseph's father "was native American, and his mother was an English woman. . . . It has been passed down that the White name was shortened from an Indian name meaning 'White Cloud.'" Rob is looking for a way to confirm the family legend. Lucinda was reportedly born in 1838.

¹¹ Born February 5, 1854, Eusebius married Hannah Van Sickle. They were the parents of eight children: James, George Douglas, Della Lesta (died as an infant), Minnie Elmira (Garrison), William, Frank, Grace (Schulz), and Ora Belle (who died as an infant). Eusebius died in Columbus, Ohio, on May 2, 1914.

Mary Weethee	Born: 04-18-1815, Athens County, OH Died: 12-27-1836, Athens County, OH Buried:
Children	Married: Chauncey E. PAULK, 12-27-1836, Athens County, OH Sardine Sally Alfred
Clarissa Weethee ¹²	Born: 04-17-1817, Athens County, OH Died: 04-26-1839, Athens County, OH Buried:
Children	Married: Noah PAULK, 11-24-1836, Miami, Athens County, OH Salina William Deborah (twin of William, died three months after birth)
Charles Weethee	Born: 04-02-1819, Athens County, OH Died: 04-15-1819, OH Buried:
Lucinda Weethee	Born: 05-20-1820, OH Died: 09-13-1898, Cato, Crawford County, KS Buried: KS
Children	Married: Noah PAULK, 09-14-1839, Miami, Athens County, OH (after her sister Clarissa's death) Joseph Triplet Nancy Triplet Mary Jane Lucretia Seldon Clarissa George Saul Rebecca Lucinda William Cephas Christopher James Lucy Ann

¹² Clarissa apparently died in childbirth, seven days after giving birth to twins. William survived, but his sister Deborah died three months later.

Sally Weethee Born: 07-08-1823, Athens County, OH
Died: 08-26-1823, Athens County,
Buried:

Sylvester Weethee Born: 10-31-1824, Athens County, OH
Died: 08-26-1826, Athens County, OH
Buried:

James S. Weethee Born: 06-22-1827, Athens Co, OH
Died:
Buried:
Married:

Children

Daniel F. Weethee¹³ Born: 01-18-1830, Athens County, OH
Buried: _____ Cemetery, Tuppens Plains, OH
Married: Melissa Spicer, - -1852, Pomeroy, OH
 Lavina Rhodes,* - - , _____
Died: 04-11-1882, Tuppens Plains, OH
Children Madison L.*
 Daniel A.*
 Pearl Alonzo/Lon*¹⁴

Susan Weethee¹⁵ Born: - -1831, Troy Township, Athens County, OH
Died:
Buried:
Married:

Children

¹³ Daniel Weethee, who was named for his Uncle Daniel, James' brother, reportedly was killed in a sawmill accident.

¹⁴ "Lon" Weethee was married twice: to Mary McDaniels in 1904 and to Josephine E. Dunlap in 1907. He had one child with Mary, Elizabeth May, and three with Josephine: James Grant, Margaret Jane (who died at age six), and Helen Elizabeth/Betty.

¹⁵ Susan is only mentioned in the Mormon baptismal records (see "Sources"). Perhaps she died young, or perhaps the record is in error.

Lorania Weethee	Born: 12-28-1831, Coolville, Athens County, OH Died: 01-14-1929 (age 97), Chauncey, Athens County, OH Buried: Weatherby Cemetery, Athens County, OH Married: William WEATHERBY, 16 01-20-1852, Athens County, OH
Children	Aramintha Marie (Spencer) Walter Freemont Emma A. (Smith) Elza Elwood (died shortly after birth)
Ann M. Weethee	Born: 12-27-1833, Troy Township, Athens County, OH Died: 04-05-1907, Athens County, OH Buried: Fairview Cemetery, Athens County, OH Married: Benjamin F. GREEN, 1856
Children	Elizabeth (Dixon)
Caroline A. E. Weethee 17	Born: 12-31-1835, Athens Co, OH Died: - -1925, Meigs County, OH Buried: Lickskillet Cemetery, Meigs County, OH Married: William Zenn JOHNSON, 08-29-1858, Meigs County, OH
Children	Juliette/Julie (Osborne) Charles Sylvester Abbie June
Wallace C. Weethee	Born: 06-01-1838, Athens Co, OH Died: Buried: Married:
Children	Etta (Smith)

¹⁶ Lorania was William Weatherby's second wife. His first was Elizabeth Coe, by whom he had four children: Eliza Coe, Salina, John Wesley, and George Armitage. William, who was born in 1819 in Washington County, Ohio, was a son of Isaac and Elizabeth Kennedy Weatherby.

¹⁷ An 1863 letter reportedly to Caroline from her brother "Bryan" discusses Morgan's troops passing through Meigs County and events in the lives of various family members. A note in with the letter lists the birth of Juliette and Charley Johnson and Charley's subsequent death. It is unclear who Bryan is. Perhaps "Bryan" was the nickname or middle name of one of Caroline's brothers. Also, one of her mother, Deborah Cole's sisters, Diane, was married to Byrd Bryan (see "Footnote 3"). The letter is only addressed "Dear Sister." Perhaps, it was for Deborah, and not for Caroline, as Kathleen Milhoan (see "Sources"), the owner of the letter, thought. Byrd Bryan might indeed have addressed his sister-in-law as "Sister." More research needs to be done.

Sources

Ancestor Surname File, Athens County, Ohio. Compiled by Mary L. Bowman and Beverly Schumacher, 1986 (copy located at the DAR Library in Washington, DC).

Bounty Land Grant Records for James Weethee. Sur. Orig. 17973 and Ctf. 11490, National Archives, Washington, DC, for the War of 1812.

Census of the United States, 1850, James Weethee and family, Troy Township, Athens County, Ohio. National Archives, Washington, DC.

Chase, Ada R. "The MacWithey Family of Preston, Connecticut," *The New Haven Genealogical Magazine and American Genealogist*, Vol. 19, pp. 141-150 (copy located at the DAR Library in Washington, DC).

Correspondence with Kathleen Osborne Milhoan (now deceased), Don Levan, Karen Osborn Searle, and Inez Osborn Boring (descendants of James and Deborah through their daughter, Caroline Johnson); Shirley Welsh (whose husband, Dennis, is a descendant of James and Deborah through their daughter Ann Green); Robert A. Stonerock (a descendant of James and Deborah through their son, William); Eugene Weatherby (a descendant of James and Deborah through their daughter Loriania Weatherby); and Barbara J. Snow, another Weethee researcher (line of descent yet unknown).

Hill, John B. *History of the Town of Mason, New Hampshire (1794-1858)*. Boston: Lucius A. Elliott and Company.

Johnson Family *Bible*. In the possession of the Buckley family. Weethee family information copied by Don Levan, grandson of Rose Osborne Buckley.

Letter to Caroline Withee Johnson from her brother, Bryan. Transcribed by the late Kathleen Osborne Milhoan from the original in her possession. Dated August 5, 1863 (during the Civil War).

Marriage Records, 1805-1866, Athens County, Ohio. Compiled by Fletcher and Schumacher, 4 Volumes, p. 59 (copy located at the DAR Library in Washington, DC).

Military Pension Record for James Weethee, War of 1812. Microcopy 313, Roll 97, National Archives, Washington, DC.

The Mormon Genealogical Library. Microfilms numbered 538940 and 1260619 list the marriage date and place of the Withees as well as the birth dates of their children. Baptismal records for James and Deborah dated April 1965 (per the record of Alberta Weethee Sandburg) provided by Karen Osborn Searle.

Ohio Marriages, compiled by Marjorie Smith (copy located at the DAR Library in Washington, DC).

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