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William Weir

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William Weir

James Weir and Isabel Provand

James—d. 7 January 1849
Isabel—b. 25 February 1700 Stirling, Renfrew, Scotland; d. 27 March 1760 Stirling, Renfrew, Scotland

Children:
John--b. 9 March 1718
Patrick--b. 13 March 1720
James--b. 16 January 1723
Patrick--b. 28 March 1725
William--b. 2 August 1727
David--b. 25 February 1730
Mary--b. 27 February 1732
Walter—see below Walter Weir and Jean Fulton

Walter Weir and Jean Fulton

Walter—Christened 25 May 1735, Stirling, Renfrew, Scotland; d. 1811. Walter was a merchant in Paisley, Scotland where he married Jean Fulton 19 December 1767. Their ten children were all born in Paisely, although several later emigrated to America.

Jean—Christened April 1743, Paisley, Renfrew, Scotland. Daughter of Robert Fulton and Anne.

Children:
James—b. 8 January 1770; died 1832. Twin of Robert Weir.
Robert—see below, Robert Weir and Mary Brinckley
William—b. 7 March 1771
Anne—b. 8 September 1772
Isabel—b. 27 May 1774
Walter—b. 24 July 1775
John—b. 12 September 1776
Patrick—b. 2 August 1779; died 29 August 1799, Long Island, NY
David—b. 27 June 1782
Fulton—b. 24 December 1787

Robert Weir and Mary Katherine Brinckley

Robert—b. 8 Jan 1770, Paisely, Scotland; d. 5 Feb 1825. Robert emigrated to the United States circa 1795 with his brothers Patrick and Fulton, all of whom settled in New York City, NY. He was married Mary to Brinckley 27 August 1802. Although he made a comfortable fortune as a merchant, the majority of the family money was lost in 1813.

Mary—b. 5 Jan 1782, Philadelphia, PA; d. 12 Nov 1840. Daughter of Thomas Brinckley and Mary Clough.
Children:

Robert Walter Weir—see below, Robert Walter Weir and Louisa Ferguson/Susan Martha Bayard

Mary Catherine Weir—b. 9 May 1805. Married J. Stevens.

James John Weir—b. 21 August 1807

John Brinckley Weir—b. 11 May 1811; d. 30 January 1831

William Henry Weir—b. 8 May 1814, New Rochelle, NY. In 1834 William left the United States and settled in Fola, Esmeralva, Ecuador at which point the Weir family lost all contact with him until 1858. In Ecuador he married Maria del Rosario 18 July 1840, and had 11 children. William was twice elected Lieutenant Governor of the province of Fola. In 1855, he moved to Fumaco, Barbacóas, Columbia. On 28 July 1866, William elected United States Consul of the port of Fumaco but, for reasons unknown, was unable to assume the position.


Joseph Robinson Weir—b. 15 August 1820; d. 22 Nov 1823

Charles Edward Weir—b. 21 March 1823; d. 1845

Robert Walter Weir and Louisa Ferguson

Robert—b. 18 June 1803, New York, NY; d. 1 May 1889, New York, NY. In 1820 Robert began artistic study at the Academy of Design. From 1824 to 1827 he traveled and trained in Italy. After returning he married Louisa Ferguson on 27 June 1829. On 8 May 1834 he was appointed Professor of Drawing at West Point, where he remained for the next 42 years. While there his first wife, Louisa, died from complications of childbirth. He married Susan Martha Bayard on 15 July 1846. Susan had come to the house as a caretaker for Robert’s eight surviving children, and together the couple had seven more.

Louisa—b. 1807; d. 24 January 1845, West Point, New York. In 1815 Louisa’s father, John Ferguson, served briefly as the mayor of New York City before being appointed Surveyor of the Port of New York.

Children by Louisa Ferguson:

Walter—b. 26 July 1831, New York, NY; d. 1886, Hartford, CT. Married Anne Field Andrews, with whom he had two children, daughters Mary and Delia “Irene” (b. 15 January 1863, St. Louis, MO; d. 1944). In 1947 Irene wrote Robert W. Weir, Artist, a biographic memorial of her grandfather, Robert Walter Weir. Irene also published books on a variety of other art topics, as well as creating her own sketches, watercolors, and oil paintings. Her 1920 passport application lists her occupation as artist, and her purpose for visiting Europe as both travel and study.

Louisa—b. 11 November 1832, New York, NY; d. 16 December 1919, Washington, D.C. Louisa married General Truman Seymour August 1852. Seymour was born 24 September 1824; from 1842 to 1846 he attended West Point, studying drawing under Professor Weir. After serving in the Mexican war from 1847 to 1848 he returned to West Point as an assistant Professor of Drawing under his former teacher, and it was at this time that he and Louisa courted and eventually married. Seymour served in the American Civil War from 1860 to 1865. In 1877 he retired from the army and sailed with Louisa to Europe, where they remained sketching and studying art until his death on 30 October 1891. He was interred in Florence in the Cimitero Evangelico degli Allori and Louisa returned to
the United States to live with her sister Emma in Washington, DC. Louisa and Truman had only one child who died in infancy on 27 September 1859.\textsuperscript{19}

**Emma**—b. 2 June 1834, West Point, NY; d. 25 January 1911, Washington, D.C. Emma married the well known architect General Thomas Lincoln Casey, son of Silas Casey. The couple had four sons: Thomas Lincoln (b. 1857, d. 1925), Robert Jerald (b. 1859, d. 1860), Henry Weir (b. 1861, d. 1880)\textsuperscript{20}, and Edward (b. 1864, d. 1940).

**Robert Fulton**—b. 12 January 1836, West Point, NY; d. 17 January 1905, Montclair, New Jersey. Married to Anna C. Weir. Robert seems to have been particularly close to his brother John and wrote him extensively while the latter was in Europe. In spite of his family’s army legacy, Robert served in the United States Navy.

**Captain Gulian Verplanck**—b. 28 December 1836, West Point, NY; d. 18 July 1886, Fort Hamilton, New York, NY. Gulian married Ellen Merrick (b. 1845, Little Rock, AR; d. 22 Jul 1914, Sea Cliff, Long Island, NY) and was father of six children, among them: Robert, Verplanck, Lillian (b. 23 March 1883, d. 14 July 1976), Louise, and Annie. Captain Weir committed suicide in what was declared a fit of momentary derangement; he had served in the Civil War and participated in famous battles such as the Second Battle of Bull Run, Gettysburg, and Fredericksberg.

**Colonel Henry Cary**—b. 28 August 1839, West Point, NY; d. 22 April 1927, Warwick, NJ. Married Josephine Wheaton Henderson (b. 10 Aug 1841, New York, NY; d. 12 Aug 1921) and fathered three children: Henderson (b. 19 April 1867, d. 4 March 1917), Alexander Webb (b. 1870, d. 14 Dec 1897) and Julia Ferguson (b. 12 May 1873). Colonel Henry Cary Weir received a Civil War Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery 18 May 1899.\textsuperscript{21}

**John Ferguson**—see below, **John Ferguson Weir and Mary Hannah French**

**Mary May**—b. 29 May 1843, West Point, NY; died 12 August 1848

**Alice Ferguson**—b. 13 January 1845, West Point, NY; died 19 August 1845

**Robert Walter Weir and Susan Martha Bayard**

*(second marriage)*

**Susan Martha Bayard**—b. 1817, New Jersey; d. 5 Sep 1900, Garrison, NY.\textsuperscript{22} Daughter of Reverend Louis Pintard Bayard of St. Clement’s Episcopal Church, New York and Cornelia Matilda Rhea.\textsuperscript{23} Reverend Bayard died September 1840 near Beirut, Lebanon while on a voyage to Europe and the Holy Land leaving the family destitute.\textsuperscript{24} In spite of her impoverished young adulthood Susan took pride in the fact that she came from a family with a long New England History.\textsuperscript{25} Among her ancestors were: Peter Stuyvesant, the last Dutch governor of New York; Benjamin Rush and Richard Stockton, both signers of the Declaration of Independence; Lewis Bayard, whose influence helped to secure the purchase of the Louisiana Territory; Samuel Bayard, a prominent post-Revolutionary era judge, lawyer, and Supreme Court Clerk; and Colonel John Bayard, friend to Alexander Hamilton and member of the Pennsylvania Continental Congress.\textsuperscript{26} Among her papers are letters and maps detailing the incidents surrounding the death of Alexander Hamilton, who died in the home of New York physician William Bayard.\textsuperscript{27} Although Susan’s relationship to William is unknown it is likely that she was a descendent.
Children by Susan Bayard:

Bayard—b. 2 April 1847, West Point, NY; d. 13 May 1848

Lieutenant William Bayard—b. 25 September 1849, West Point, NY; d. 20 October 1879, near White River, CO. William was schooled at West Point and stationed at various military locations on the East coast before being assigned what was considered a "very desirable" position as commander of the Ordnance Depot in Cheyenne, WY. Little more than a year after his transfer, William was killed by Indians while accompanying his commanding officer, General Merritt, on a mission to avenge the alleged massacre of fellow soldiers.28

Charles Gouverneur—b. 18 April 1851, West Point, NY; d. 12 November 1935

Julian Alden Weir—see below Julian Alden Weir and Anna Dwight Baker/Ella Baker

Anne “Annie” Rhea—b. 3 December 1953, West Point, NY; d. 6 June 1932

Caroline “Carrie” Mansfield—b. 27 October 1855, West Point, NY

Helen “Nell” Rutgers—b. 4 July 1857, West Point, NY; d. 13 September 1939, Richmond Hill, Long Island, NY. Marries Thomas Sturgis (b. 30 April 1846), they have four children: Thomas, Helen, Bayard, and Reginald.

John Ferguson Weir and Mary Hannah French

John Ferguson—b. 28 August 1841, West Point, NY; d. 8 April 1926, Providence, RI. Marries Mary Hannah French, his childhood sweetheart, 17 May 1866 in the Church of the Holy Innocents at West Point. The church had been built by his father, Robert, in honor of his mother, Louisa, who died when John was three years old. John did not study art abroad like his father or brother, but he did make several trips overseas. In order to provide a steady income for his wife and children, he accepted a position as Director of the Yale School of Fine Arts, the first studio arts program at an American university in 1869, where he remained until 1913.

Mary Hannah French—b. 5 Feb 1847, Washington, DC; d. 1927. Daughter of Reverend Dr. John William French, Chaplain of West Point and Professor of Ethics, and Clara Miller (b. September 1818, MA, daughter of Benjamin W. Miller). In addition to being a life long companion and support to her husband, Mary was a prolific writer. Although her writings were never published, they demonstrate Mary’s own intellectualism and deep spirituality.29

Children:

Clara “Louise”—b. 18 Dec 1870; d. April 1959. Married Joseph Denny Sargent (b. 8 August 1861, New Britain, CT; d. 1936) on 8 October 1896. The couple had four children: Weir (b. December 1897), twins Thomas Denny and William (b. 1902), and Louise (b. 7 October 1908).

Edith Dean—b. 17 Aug 1875; d. 1955. Married James DeWolf Perry on 2 Jan 1908. Edith was an accomplished miniaturist, who studied under her father at the Yale School of Fine Arts. Although she eventually gave up her painting career after her marriage to Perry, Edith carried on various artistic projects throughout her life. James DeWolf Perry was an Episcopal priest from one of the most important families in Rhode Island. He served as Bishop of Rhode Island for 30 years, and eventually as Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the United States. Edith wrote Episcopalian texts such as The Altar
Guild Manual and Under Four Tudors and designed the Episcopal Cross worn by U.S. servicemen. The couple had three children James DeWolf Perry, Jr (b. 24 November 1908, New Haven, CT; d. 1989), Beatrice Weir (b. 26 July 1910, New Haven, CT; d. 18 May 1917, Providence, RI), and John Weir (b. 12 March 1914, Providence, RI).

Julian Alden Weir and Anna Dwight Baker

Julian Alden—b. 30 Aug 1852, West Point, NY; d. 8 December 1919, New York, NY. After studying art on the European continent in the 1870s, Julian married Anna Dwight Baker on 24 April 1883 at the Church of the Ascension in New York. Anna had been one of Julian’s pupils and shared her husband’s love for art. After their marriage the two embarked on a long honeymoon in Europe. The couple began their family in 1884 with the birth of their daughter “Caro.” When Anna died in 1892, from complications after the birth of her fourth child, Cora, Julian was disconsolate. Ella Baker, older sister to Anna, came to New York to care for Julian and Anna’s children after their mother’s death. Julian was in Chicago painting murals for the World’s Fair at the time. Upon returning to New York, he courted Ella and the couple married 28 October 1893 in Boston, MA. Ella had no children of her own. Throughout his life Julian was involved in important American Artistic societies such as the Tile Club, “The Ten,” the Society of American Artists, and the National Academy of Design; of the last two he was elected president. In 1882 he traded a painting for a farmhouse in Branchville, CT and for the remainder of his life he and his family split their time between their home in New York City and the farm at Branchville. The farm was the primary setting for Julian’s later impressionist works. After his death the property passed to his daughters Dorothy and Cora and has since become Weir Farm National Historic Site.

Anna Dwight Baker—b. 18 May 1862, Madison, NJ; d. 8 February 1892. Anna was the youngest daughter of Colonel Charles T. Baker and Ann Bartlett Dwight. Her father graduated from West Point, served in Florida and “on the frontier,” and then, from 1845 to 1851, was an instructor of tactics at the Academy. He married Anna Bartlett Dwight in December 1851 and subsequently resigned from military service for reasons of health. Of Anna’s two older sisters, Ella and Cora, Ella would remain a close friend and companion to her sister throughout her life, caring for Anna’s children after her early death. Anna and Ella traced their family history back to the earliest American settlers including, on their mother’s side, Governor Bradford of the Plymouth Massachusetts colony and, on their father’s side, Rev. Nicholas Baker who settled in Massachusetts in 1631.

Children:

Caroline “Caro”—b. 24 March 1884, New York, NY. Married George Page Ely (b. 27 February 1879) with whom she had two children: Anne Weir (b. 20 January 1918) and Caroline Page (b. 14 January 1921).

Julian Alden Weir, Jr.—b. Feb 1888; d. 9 March 1889

Dorothy—see below, Dorothy Weir Young and Mahonri Macintosh Young

Cora—b. 31 January 1892, New York, NY. Cora married William E. Carlin, with whom she had a son, Bill Carlin. After her first marriage ended, Cora married Charles Burlingham with whom she had another son, Charles Burlingham, Jr., now the Director
of Weir Farm National Historic site in Branchville, CT. The site encompasses the former country home, farm, and art studio of Julian Alden Weir.

**Julian Alden Weir and Ella Baker**

*(second marriage)*

_Ella Baker*_—b. 7 September 1852, Newport, RI; d. 1930. Ella was still single when her younger sister married Julian, but she wrote often to the couple, and eventually married Julian after her sister’s early death. Ella had no children.

**Dorothy Weir Young and Mahonri Macintosh Young**

_Dorothy_*—b. 18 June 1890, New York, New York; d. April 1947. Dorothy had her first art lessons from her father and in 1911, with his encouragement, went to study at the National Academy of Design. Following the death of her father, Dorothy took it upon herself to care for her aging stepmother, and manage the family farm at Branchville. She also began researching and writing her father’s biography. Although never finished in her lifetime, the manuscript was published posthumously in 1960 as _The Life and Letters of J. Alden Weir_. Dorothy met Mahonri Macintosh Young at a reception at the Phillips Memorial Gallery in New York in 1921. Mahonri knew Julian and recognized Dorothy as his daughter. The two became friends, but Dorothy refused to marry Mahonri for many years due to her many family obligations. After Ella’s death, Dorothy accepted, and the couple was married 17 February 1931 in the Church of the Ascension in New York, the same church in which Julian and Anna had been married. The couple lived primarily at Branchville, where Mahonri built a studio. They never had children; Dorothy died early of cancer. After her death, Mahonri willed the majority of their joint estate to Brigham Young University, where the Weir-Young collection, acquired in 1959, remains the basis of the Museum’s holdings.

Mahonri—b. 9 August 1877, Salt Lake City, UT; d. 2 November 1957, Norwalk, Fairfield, CT. Young was an accomplished sculptor and painter who received training in both New York and Europe. In 1907 he married Cecelia Sharp with whom he had two children, Cecelia “Agnes” Young (b. 25 April 1908) and Mahonri Sharp “Bill” Young (b. 23 July 1911). In 1910 the family moved to New York. On 29 October 1917, Cecelia died of cancer, leaving Mahonri a widower with two young children. Young spent the next few years working both in New York and abroad, before marrying Dorothy Weir and moving with her to Branchville, CT. The studio he established there would remain his primary work space for the rest of his life.*36*
In her book *Robert W. Weir, Artist*, Irene Weir states, “Robert Weir drew his descent from William Weir, a magistrate of Stirling, Scotland, who fought against the Pretender in 1745.” (3). My research has not uncovered any historical documents which either negate or confirm this statement. However, based on the above, it is likely William was the father of James. Information on William and the Weir family heraldry is available in John Matthews, *Matthew’s American Armory and Blue Book, Vol. 2*, London: The Gorham Company, 1907, 80.

2 Church of Scotland, Stirling Parish burial register, 1749.

3 Church of Scotland, Stirling Parish burial index, 1799.

4 Christening records from the Stirling Parish indicate a christening date of 25 May 1735 but do not give a birth date.

5 Church of Scotland, Low Church, Paisley Parish Registers, 1738-1853.

6 Christening records from the Stirling Parish indicate a christening date of 15 April 1743.

7 All of the children’s birth dates are listed in the Weir family Bible, however, Patrick’s is the only death date listed. Photocopies of the pages containing genealogical information are available: Vault MSS 511; Weir Family Papers; Arts and Communications Archives; L. Tom Perry Special Collections, Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University, box 1, folder 1.

8 Although the exact date of the brother’s departure from Scotland is unknown, a certificate of church membership dated 12 Jan 1795 from the parish in Paisley, Scotland, gives an idea of when their travels may have commenced. The certificate must have been issued before Robert and his brothers set off and was probably a sort of character reference to be shown to future acquaintances in America. The certificate is on file in: Vault MSS 511, LTPSC, box 1, folder 1.

9 A rough genealogy of the Weir family from William Weir through Robert Walter Weir’s children can be found in the Books and Folder Library, Putnam County Historical Society’s Foundry School Museum, Cold Spring New York. Although there are a few errors in this early copy, it may be the most complete record to have been compiled to date.

10 The *Index of marriages and deaths in New York weekly museum: 1788-1817* lists her name as Maria.

11 Although not much is known about Mary’s family, she probably had at least one brother named John. A letter from Robert W. Weir at West Point dated 29 Sept 1839 to his brother John Weir, mentions an uncle John after whom Robert’s brother John Brinckley Weir was named: Vault MSS 511, LTPSC, box 1, folder 2.

12 Death date listed in a letter from James Weir to Robert Walter Weir dated 25 July 1831. John Brinckley left behind a widow and at least one son, also named John. Letter available: Vault MSS 511, LTPSC, box 1, folder 3.

13 Maria del Rosario was born 15 August 1820, only child of Louis Lomilla and Petrona Portucarrero. All dates listed and additional information about William’s children and in-laws available in the letter from William Henry Weir to Robert Walter Weir: Vault MSS 511, LTPSC, box 1, folder 1.


15 This date and all others for this family are from a photocopy of the Weir family Bible, unless otherwise noted. The photocopy is available in the Vault MSS 511, LTPSC, box 1, folder 1.

16 Charles had a brief artistic career before his death from yellow fever. The National Academy of Design Exhibition Record lists seventeen of his works which were shown between 1841 and 1845 (see *The National Academy of Design Exhibition Record*, New York, J. J. Little and Ives, 1943. 189). Vol.? Charles is also referenced in Irene Weir’s *Robert W. Weir, Artist*, New York: Doubleday, 1947. 7.

17 New York Marriage Newspaper Extracts-Barber Collection, 1801-1880.

18 Robert Walter Weir’s death date is recorded in a newspaper clipping found in Susan Martha Bayard Weir’s scrapbook, in the Weir family papers, box 1, folder 13. Other details of Robert’s genealogy, including the names of a few cousins are available in the Vault MSS 511, LTPSC, box 1, folder 3.

19 Letter from Robert W. Weir to John Brinckley Weir concerning the inheritance of William Henry Weir from “Uncle John” that was split between John, Charlotte and James; Truman was in Europe. More information in Vault MSS 511, LTPSC, box 1, folder 2.

20 Henry is born 17 June 1861 at West Point, NY, and drowns 1 September 1880, Narragansett, RI. He had just completed his first year at Yale University. The death is recorded in a newspaper clipping in Susan Martha Bayard Weir’s scrapbook, Vault MSS 511, LTPSC, box 1, folder 13. See also: Historical
21 Information about the life of Henry Cary Weir and images of his gravesite are available at Findagrave.com.

22 Information obtained from a newspaper clipping in Susan Martha Bayard Weir’s scrapbook, Vault MSS 511, LTPSC, box 1, folder 13; according to Susan’s correspondence in box 1, folder 7, she probably had a brother named Rufus L. Baker and a sister named Julia A. Baker, but further information about her siblings is unknown.

23 A “Guide to the Sermons of Lewis Pintard Bayard: Episcopal Minister, 1812-1816” is available from the The New Jersey Historical Society, call number MG 986. See also: Memoir of the Reverend Dr. Bayard, St. Thomas Hall Press, Flushing C.R. Lincoln Printer 1841, New York Public Library.

24 The death of Rev. Bayard was conveyed to his family by a fellow passengers on his voyage through the Mediterranean Sea, see Vault MSS 511, LTPSC, box 1, folder 9, letter to Mrs. Bayard from Mrs. Marshall, 16 October 1860. Rev. Bayard had an audience with King Louis-Phillipe of France to plead for the “Restoration of the Jews” before continuing on his pilgrimage to the Holy Land and dying en route.

25 One branch of the Bayard family, the widow Anna Stuyvesant Bayard and her four children, emigrated to America in 1647, for additional family history, see Vault MSS 511, LTPSC, box 1, folder 11. There are many strong women in Susan’s family tree including Martha Pintard Bayard whose London Journals were published 1794-1797.


27 For more information on the Bayard’s relationship to Alexander Hamilton, see Vault MSS 511, LTPSC, box 1, folder 11, Letter from Dirck Ten Broeck to his Father, 12 July 1804.

28 Vault MSS 511, LTPSC, box 2, folder 4.

29 In addition to the immediate family, the 1880 census information for the John F. Weir household also listed Clara W. French, mother-in-law, and Lillie H. French, sister-in-law.

30 Information about Edith’s accomplishments was provided by James Dewolf Perry in an e-mail message dated 9 August 1999, “RE: Ancestry - John Ferguson Weir.”

31 For more information on Anna’s family, see Dorothy Weir Young, The Life and Letters of J. Alden Weir. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1960. 150. See also “Genealogical record of Rev Nicholas Baker (1610-1678) and his descendants,” available: http://www.archive.org/details/genealogicalreco00bake

32 The engagement was announced in the 2 Apr 1916 New York Times Wedding and Engagement Column.


35 Ella’s birthdate and place are recorded in the 1900 census along with those of Julian and his three surviving children.

36 For more information on the lives of Mahonri Mackintosh and Dorothy Weir Young see Norma S. Davis, A Song of Joys: The Biography of Mahonri Mackintosh Young. Provo, UT: Brigham Young University Press, 1999.