

Second Generation

2. EPHRAIM G. WEED, son of Isaac and Sally (Jones) Weed, was born at Topsham, on 25 February 1822 and died at Stannard, Caledonia County, Vermont, on 28 July 1906. He married at Topsham, on 26 March 1843, **ROXANA HOOD**, daughter of William and Sally (Crown) Hood,^[1] who was born at Topsham, calc. 8 April 1821^[2] and died at Stannard, on 13 May 1888.^[3]

Ephraim's birth and marriage occurred in the town of Topsham, but his marriage record indicates he was "of Goshen Gore," a small town about 35 miles north of Topsham. Ephraim and Roxana's first child was born in Topsham, but the remaining two children were born in Goshen Gore/Stannard. (In 1867 the town of Goshen Gore was renamed Stannard in honor of General Stannard, a Vermont officer who served during the Civil War.^[4]) The mid-1800s was a period of emigration from Vermont but Ephraim elected to stay.^[5] It appears he was a moderately successful farmer and lived a quiet, industrious life.

In 1850 Ephraim, Roxana and their two children were living in Goshen Gore.^[6] Another household member was Elijah Weed, twenty-two, probably Ephraim's younger brother. The 1850 agricultural schedule lists Elijah as the "Owner, Agent, or Manager of the Farm." Perhaps Elijah was the one who spoke to the enumerator. This does appear to be Ephraim's farm since the enumeration sequence in the agricultural schedule is very similar to the sequence in the population schedule. The farm consisted of sixty improved acres and sixty unimproved acres. Ephraim was growing a variety of crops and had a mixture of livestock. His "Home-made Manufactures" were limited to one item: butter. Based on data for his neighbors, Ephraim's farm production appears to be average.^[7]

By 1860, his three children were attending school and he had two boarders in his home, Alanson Cole, age thirty-six, and Mary Cole, age twenty-nine.^[8] There is no known relationship between Ephraim and the boarders. Ephraim's occupation was listed as cooper. He had added forty improved acres to his holdings and the cash value of his

¹ See complex evidence case "Using Indirect Evidence to Determine the Parents of Roxana (Hood) Weed (1821-1888)" in author's files.

² Vermont Vital Record Card Index 1871-1908; DBGS microfilm F-30628. This is the index card for Roxana's death. Her date of birth is calculated from the age at death.

³ Ibid.

⁴ William H. Jeffrey, *Successful Vermonters, A Modern Gazetteer of Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans Counties* (1904; reprint, Salem, Massachusetts: Higginson Book Company), 313.

⁵ Crockett, *Vermont, The Green Mountain State*, 3: 136-37.

⁶ 1850 U.S. census, Caledonia County, Vermont, population schedule, Goshen Gore, p. 570 (penned), dwelling 12, family 12, Ephraim G. Weed; digital image by subscription, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 15 December 2007); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 922.

⁷ 1850 U.S. census, Caledonia County, Vermont, agricultural schedule, Goshen Gore, p. 385 (penned), line 12, Elijah Weed; NARA micropublication M1798, roll 1.

⁸ 1860 U.S. census, Caledonia County, Vermont, population schedule, Goshen Gore, p. 131 (penned), dwelling 955, family 946, Eph. Weed; digital image by subscription, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 15 January 2007); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 1317.

farm had increased seventy-five percent; maple sugar was an additional homemade product.^[9]

A tax, needed to fund the Civil War and enacted in 1862 (12 Stat. 432), was assessed on commodities, businesses, products, services, income, and personal property. This tax was modified over time and collected into the twentieth century.^[10] The assessment lists for District Two in Vermont show Ephraim paid a tax of \$1.00 each year for ownership of a “one horse carriage” valued at \$75.00.^[11]

The index to the deed records of Stannard and Wheelock (on the north side of Stannard) shows that Ephraim bought and sold many lots.^[12] He may have been “speculating” or perhaps making improvements and then a quick sale.

Further growth of Ephraim’s holdings was evident in 1870.^[13] The value of his livestock had increased two-and-a-half fold from 1850 while the amount of butter produced had risen almost three-and-a-half fold, but the production of maple sugar had fallen seventy percent. The value of Ephraim’s estate was in the upper twenty percent of his surrounding neighbors.^[14] During the war years there was an increased demand for produce and livestock which may have led to Ephraim’s growth.^[15] His oldest child was living two doors away while his other two children were still at home; the two 1860 boarders were located half a dozen households from Ephraim.

The 1880 enumeration does not list an occupation for Ephraim or for most of the neighborhood.^[16] It is most likely he was still farming; the agricultural schedule has not been viewed to verify this. Ephraim’s married daughter and her two-year-old son were in his household but her husband was not present. On 13 May 1888 Roxana, age sixty-seven, died of “pleura pneumonia.”^[17] Ephraim was living with his son Albion by 1900. At the age of seventy-eight, Ephraim’s occupation was “Salesman (Farm Machines).” He may have been actively working or this might have been his occupation when he

⁹ 1860 U.S. census, Caledonia County, Vermont, agricultural schedule, Goshen Gore, p. 33 (penned), line 22, Ephraim Ward; NARA micropublication M1798, roll 3.

¹⁰ Anne Bruner Eales & Robert M. Kvasnicka, editors, *Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives of the United States*, 3rd ed. (Washington: National Archives and Records Administration, 2000), 334.

¹¹ *Internal Revenue Assessment Lists for Vermont 1862-1866*, District 2, micropublication M792, roll 4, frame 0317 (1862); roll 5, frame 0102 (1863); roll 5, frame 0587 (1864); roll 6, frame 485 (1865).

¹² Stannard General Index to Land Records, 1867-1972; FHL microfilm 889,319. Also, Wheelock Index to Land Records, 1785-1992; FHL microfilm 1,869,749, item 2.

¹³ 1870 U.S. census, Caledonia County, Vermont, population schedule, Stannard, p. 4 (penned), dwelling 29, family 29, Ephraim G. Weed; digital image by subscription, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 15 January 2007); citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 1616.

¹⁴ 1870 U.S. census, Caledonia County, Vermont, agricultural schedule, Stannard, p.4 (penned), line 28, Ephraim G. Weed; NARA micropublication M1798, roll 5.

¹⁵ Duffy, et al., *The Vermont Encyclopedia*, 12.

¹⁶ 1880 U.S. census, Caledonia County, Vermont, population schedule, Stannard, Enumeration District [ED] 53, p. 9A (penned), p. 160A (stamped), dwelling 4, family 4, Eph. G. Weed; digital image by subscription, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 15 January 2007); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1342.

¹⁷ Vermont Vital Record Card Index 1871-1908; DBGS microfilm F-30628.

retired.^[18] This was the same house Albion was born in so Ephraim must have sold or given it to Albion.^[19] After living in Stannard for almost sixty years, Ephraim died on 28 July 1906.^[20] He and Roxana rest together in the Stannard cemetery.^[21]

Children of Ephraim G. and Roxana (Hood) Weed:

- 3 i. EDSON WEED, b. Topsham 20 October 1843;^[22] d. Manchester, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire, 27 November 1906;^[23] m. Greensboro, Orleans County, Vermont, 18 September 1866 VERONA R. MONTGOMERY.^[24]
- ii. ALBION WEED, b. Stannard calc. 6 July 1848;^[25] d. Stannard 22 August 1908;^[26] m. Essex, Chittenden County, Vermont, 24 December 1870 MARY PORTER,^[27] b. Wheelock, Caledonia County, Vermont, 13 March 1849, daughter of Surith and Orpha (Hill) Porter,^[28] d. St. Johnsbury, Caledonia County, Vermont, 13 May 1921.^[29]
- iii. LOVISA W. WEED, b. Stannard 27 April 1853;^[30] d. North Troy, Orleans County, Vermont, 24 January 1925;^[31] m. Glover, Orleans County, Vermont, 12 December 1872 MARTIN F. AYER,^[32] b. New Hampshire calc. 7 January 1839, son of John P. and Philema (Williams) Ayer,^[33] d. Hardwick, Caledonia County, Vermont, 6 January 1914.^[34]

¹⁸ 1900 U.S. census, Caledonia County, Vermont, population schedule, Stannard, Enumeration District [ED] 56, p. 1A (penned), p. 226A (stamped), dwelling 5, family 5, Albion Weed; digital image by subscription, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 15 January 2007); citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 1690.

¹⁹ Albion L. Weed obituary, *The St. Johnsbury (Vermont) Caledonian*, 26 August 1908, p. 6, col. 6. The obituary states Albion died in the same house he was born in.

²⁰ Vermont Vital Record Card Index 1871-1908; DBGS microfilm F-30628.

²¹ Stannard Cemetery (Stannard, Caledonia County, Vermont; Stannard Mountain Road), Ephraim G. Weed and Roxana Hood marker; personally read 2007.

²² Edson Weed Civil War Pension Application File SO 88,218, SC 64,185, WO 861,763, WC 628,087; Case Files of Approved Pension Applications ..., 1861-1934; Civil War and Later Pension Files; Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15; National Archives, Washington.

²³ Edson Weed death record, 1906; N.H. Division of Vital Records Administration, Concord.

²⁴ Edson Weed Civil War pension no. SC 64,185. A marriage record was not found in the Vermont Vital Record Card Index.

²⁵ Albion L. Weed death record, 1908; DBGS. The date of birth is calculated from the age at death.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Wheelock Births, Marriages and Deaths, Book 1, p. 13; FHL microfilm 1,869,749.

²⁸ Vermont Vital Record Card Index 1909-1941; DBGS microfilm F-30902.

²⁹ Vermont Vital Record Card Index 1909-1941; DBGS microfilm F-30902.

³⁰ Vermont Vital Record Card Index 1909-1941; DBGS microfilm F-30647.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Glover Records of births, marriages, and deaths, 1857-1882; FHL microfilm 2,025,052, item 4.

³³ Martin F. Ayer death record, 1914; DBGS. The date of birth is calculated from the age at death. The N.H. Division of Vital Records does not have a birth record for Martin Ayer.

³⁴ Ibid.