

## Third Generation

**3. EDSON WEED**, son of Ephraim G. and Roxana (Hood) Weed, was born at Topsham, on 20 October 1843 and died at Manchester, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire, on 27 November 1906. He married at Greensboro, Orleans County, Vermont, 18 September 1866, **VERONA R. MONTGOMERY**, daughter of Ira and Abigail (Winslow) Montgomery, who was born at Wolcott, Lamoille County, Vermont, on 23 August 1849<sup>[1]</sup> and died at Andover, Merrimack County, New Hampshire, on 5 December 1926.<sup>[2]</sup>

Edson's year of birth, 1843, made him a prime candidate for serving in the U.S. Civil War. He enlisted for a three year term on 16 August 1862 at Walden, Vermont.<sup>[3]</sup> His father, Ephraim, declared that Edson was of age:

I Ephraim G. Weed do certify that I am the father of Edson Weed; that the said Edson Weed is 18 years of age; and I do hereby freely give my consent to his enlisting as a soldier in a Regiment of Volunteers to be raised in Vermont to serve in the Army of the United States.

Edson signed his enlistment papers with a strong, legible signature. He mustered in as a Private in Company C of the Third Vermont Regiment on 22 September in Burlington, Vermont.<sup>[4]</sup> In January of 1864 Edson advanced to the rank of Corporal. Later that year, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June, he fought in the battle at Cold Harbor, Virginia, during which a gunshot wound injured him in the right hand, the wound causing the loss of the third and fourth fingers of that hand. Edson spent time recovering in hospitals in York, Pennsylvania, and New Haven, Connecticut, before transferring to the U.S.A. General Hospital in Brattleboro, Vermont, on 4 July. He then transferred to the 246 Company First Battalion of the Veteran Reserve Corps on 21 February 1865 located in St. Albans, Vermont. During his recovery, Edson developed "caries of the jaw" which caused the loss of five of his left teeth and a portion of the jaw bone. Caries during this time period referred to the decay of teeth or bones.<sup>[5]</sup> Today, caries refers mainly to tooth decay (cavities). This left him with a somewhat disfigured face. The caries persisted after his discharge on 8 July 1865 and eventually caused the loss of all of the left teeth.<sup>[6]</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Verona R. Weed death record, 1926; N.H. Division of Vital Records.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Edson Weed Civil War Enlistment, Public Records Accession, Military Records Project, 01/01/1862-12/31/1864; DBGS microfilm F-26018.

<sup>4</sup> Compiled service record, Edson Weed, Pvt., Co. C, Third Regiment, Vermont Infantry; Carded Records, Volunteer Organizations, Civil War; Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780s-1917, Record Group 94; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

<sup>5</sup> Paul Drake, J.D., *What Did They Mean By That, A Dictionary of Historical and Genealogical Terms, Old and New* (Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books, 2003), 45.

<sup>6</sup> Edson Weed (Pvt., Co. C, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vt. Inf., Civil War), pension no. 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, D.C.

While Edson was with the Third Vermont he was exposed to many battles including Fredericksburg in June 1863, Gettysburg in July 1863, and Wilderness in May 1864. During the battle at Cold Harbor the Third Vermont suffered “13 killed, 17 mortally wounded, and 53 more or less severely wounded.” Throughout its existence, the Third had a total of 1809 officers and soldiers, and lost 200 men due to combat and 144 as a result of disease.<sup>[7]</sup>

After his discharge, Edson applied for a pension citing the gunshot wound and caries. The Pension Office granted him a one-half disability of \$4.00/month commencing 8 July 1865. This \$4.00 equals about \$49.00 in 2006 dollars.<sup>[8]</sup> Edson’s efforts to receive a full disability pension resulted in a three-fourths disability (\$6.00/month) starting 17 September 1870. Over the years he continued to pursue a full disability pension. The loss of the two fingers on the right hand did not interfere with his writing ability: his signature remained steady and very clear (the signature appears to be that of a right-handed person). The amount of facial disfigurement caused by the caries is difficult to determine. The physician reports vary from “considerable deformity” in 1877 to “somewhat disfigured” in 1903. Perhaps the twenty-six years of facial aging had rendered the disfigurement less noticeable, or the two physicians shared markedly different opinions.

Despite his injuries Edson led a productive life. He returned to Goshen Gore, Vermont, where his parents were living. He appeared in the 1866 Grand Lists (tax lists) as a poll without any land; he was likely living with his parents.<sup>[9]</sup> He married a little more than a year after his discharge. By 1870 Edson’s occupation was “farmer & cooper,” the same occupations as his father in 1850 and 1860. The value of Edson’s estate was rather modest when compared to his immediate neighbors. However, this seems to be related to age — the older neighbors had a larger estate value. His residence was two households from that of his parents.<sup>[10]</sup> He had sixteen acres of improved land and ninety acres of woodland, but no values were entered in any of the produce or livestock columns.<sup>[11]</sup> If Edson was farming less than three acres and sold produce valued under \$500, then crop and livestock data would not be recorded.<sup>[12]</sup> His only produce may have been for family subsistence.

Like his father, Edson bought and sold land in Stannard<sup>[13]</sup> and in Wheelock.<sup>[14]</sup> This may have been a way to earn money; his war injuries could have limited his ability to do agricultural work. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 1871 the U.S. Post Office Department appointed

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<sup>7</sup> G. G. Benedict, *Vermont in the Civil War* (Burlington, Vt.: The Free Press Association, 1886), 154-55.

<sup>8</sup> S. Morgan Friedman, *The Inflation Calculator* (<http://www.westegg.com/inflation/> : accessed 26 September 2007).

<sup>9</sup> Goshen Gore Grand Lists 1866, box B1; Vermont State Archives, Montpelier.

<sup>10</sup> 1870 U.S. census, Caledonia County, Vermont, population schedule, Stannard, p. 4 (penned), dwelling 29, family 29, Edson Weed; digital image by subscription, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 15 January 2007); citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 1616.

<sup>11</sup> 1870 U.S. census, Caledonia County, Vermont, agricultural schedule, Stannard, p. 4 (penned), line 27, Edson Weed; NARA micropublication M1798, roll 5.

<sup>12</sup> Kathleen W. Hinckley, *Your Guide to the Federal Census* (Cincinnati, Ohio: Betterway Books, 2002), 70.

<sup>13</sup> Stannard General Index to Land Records, 1867-1972; FHL microfilm 889,319.

<sup>14</sup> Wheelock Index to Land Records, 1785-1992; FHL microfilm 1,869,749, item 2.

Edson the Postmaster of Stannard, a position he held until the 28<sup>th</sup> of January 1873.<sup>[15]</sup> He served a second term from 14 April 1879 to 29 August 1890.<sup>[16]</sup> The 1880 census does not list an occupation for Edson or for most of the neighborhood.<sup>[17]</sup> With him and Verona were four children between the ages of one and twelve, and he was enumerated next to his parents. In August of 1887 a fifth child, Harry, was born;<sup>[18]</sup> but six months later died of “inflammation of the brain.”<sup>[19]</sup> In 1890 Edson’s fifteen year old son Sumner died as a result of an injury.<sup>[20]</sup>

The 1890 Veterans Schedule shows Edson still residing in Stannard<sup>[21]</sup> but in 1894 he bought a lot in Lyndon Center Village, Vermont, about a dozen miles east of Stannard.<sup>[22]</sup> Edson and Verona shared their Lyndon house in 1900 with their recently married daughter Gertrude and her husband.<sup>[23]</sup> Edson was working as a sexton at a cemetery. Since there is currently only one cemetery in Lyndon Center, this is likely the one at which he worked. The Lyndon Center Cemetery is where his two deceased sons, Harry and Sumner, were interred on 11 November 1896.<sup>[24]</sup> They were most likely buried in Stannard where they died but it seems Edson, or perhaps Verona, had them relocated to Lyndon Center.<sup>[25]</sup>

In addition to living in Lyndon Center Village in 1900, Edson retained a seventy-seven acre lot, with a house and other buildings, in Wheelock.<sup>[26]</sup> Edson’s daughter, Gertrude, and her husband had moved to Manchester, New Hampshire, by 1906.<sup>[27]</sup> Edson and Verona were visiting Gertrude when he died of the flu on 27 November 1906.<sup>[28]</sup> His body was transported back to Lyndon, Vermont, where he was buried beside

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<sup>15</sup> Registers of Appointments of Postmasters for the period 1832-1971; Record Group 28; Caledonia County, Vermont; micropublication M841 (Washington: National Archives), roll 129, frame 0073.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid., frame 0076.

<sup>17</sup> 1880 U.S. census, Caledonia County, Vermont, population schedule, Stannard, Enumeration District [ED] 53, p. 9A (penned), p. 160A (stamped), dwelling 3, family 3, Edson Weed; digital image by subscription, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 15 January 2007); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1342.

<sup>18</sup> Vermont Vital Record Card Index 1871-1908; DBGS microfilm F-30628.

<sup>19</sup> Vermont Vital Record Card Index 1871-1908; DBGS microfilm F-30628.

<sup>20</sup> Vermont Vital Record Card Index 1871-1908; DBGS microfilm F-30628.

<sup>21</sup> 1890 U.S. census, Caledonia County, Vermont, “Special Schedule: Surviving Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines, and Widows,” Stannard, enumeration district [ED] 57, p. 2 (penned), line 15, Edson Weed; NARA microfilm publication M123, roll 105.

<sup>22</sup> Lyndon Land Records, vol. T 1890-1904, vol. U 1892-1897, p. 191, microfilm no. F59 L96 L96; New England Historic and Genealogical Society (NEHGS), Boston.

<sup>23</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Caledonia County, Vermont, population schedule, Lyndon town, Enumeration District [ED] 48, p. 1A (penned), p. 110A (stamped), dwelling 6, family 7, Edson Weed; digital image by subscription, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 15 January 2007); citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 1690.

<sup>24</sup> Record of Interments, Lyndon Town Cemetery, p. 107; FHL microfilm 1,870,399, item 6.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid., p. 131. Also, FHL microfilm 1,870,400, item 1, p. 179.

<sup>26</sup> Edson Weed Intestate Probate File, Application for License to Sell Real Estate (1907); Caledonia County, Vermont, Courthouse, St. Johnsbury.

<sup>27</sup> *The Manchester Directory, 1906, Containing a Directory of the Citizens, Street Directory, the City Record and Business Directory* (Manchester, N.H.: Temple and Farrington Company, 1905), 625.

<sup>28</sup> Edson Weed death record, 1906; N.H. Division of Vital Records, Concord.

his sons.<sup>[29]</sup> Verona lived with Gertrude and her other surviving children until her death on 5 December 1926.<sup>[30]</sup> She is buried with Edson and her two young sons in Lyndon.

Children of Edson and Verona R. (Montgomery) Weed:

- i. IONA SYLVEEN WEED, b. Stannard 18 September 1867;<sup>[31]</sup> d. Andover, Merrimack County, New Hampshire, 4 April 1928;<sup>[32]</sup> m. (1) Stannard 21 October 1885 ROBERT LEE SMITH,<sup>[33]</sup> b. Clinton, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 14 October 1860, son of David and Margaret (--?--) Smith,<sup>[34]</sup> d. St. Johnsbury, Caledonia County, Vermont, 25 November 1903;<sup>[35]</sup> m. (2) Haverhill, Grafton County, New Hampshire, 24 September 1908, DILLON H. PITT,<sup>[36]</sup> b. Canton, St. Lawrence County, New York, 28 May 1858,<sup>[37]</sup> son of Samuel W. and Elmira (Burin?) Pitt,<sup>[38]</sup> d. St. Johnsbury, Caledonia County, Vermont, 10 September 1919.<sup>[39]</sup>
- ii. ARTHUR EUGENE WEED, b. Stannard 11 September 1872;<sup>[40]</sup> d. Burke, Caledonia County, Vermont, 6 March 1951;<sup>[41]</sup> m. Wheelock, Caledonia County, Vermont, 3 January 1894 LUCY ELVIRA GERRY,<sup>[42]</sup> b. Moretown, Washington County, Vermont, 14 May 1874, daughter of George and Ella (Eaton) Gerry,<sup>[43]</sup> d. Wheelock, Caledonia County, Vermont, 1 August 1932.<sup>[44]</sup>
- iii. SUMNER C. WEED, b. Stannard 7 June 1874;<sup>[45]</sup> d. Stannard 6 May 1890.<sup>[46]</sup>
- 4 iv. GERTRUDE L. WEED, b. Stannard 26 March 1879;<sup>[47]</sup> d. Grasmere, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire, 8 October 1931;<sup>[48]</sup> m. Lyndon Center, Caledonia County, Vermont, 23 May 1899 ARTHUR E. WIGGIN.<sup>[49]</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> Lyndon Records of births, marriages, and deaths, 1869-1992, Transportation of Corpse Certificate, p. 75; FHL microfilm 1,870,398, item 3.

<sup>30</sup> In 1910 and 1920 Verona is enumerated with Gertrude: 1910 U.S. census, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire, population schedule, Manchester, Enumeration District [ED] 141, p. 18B (penned), dwelling 153, family 211, Arthur E. Wiggin; digital image by subscription, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 15 January 2007); citing NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 863. Also, 1920 U.S. census, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire, population schedule, Manchester, Enumeration District [ED] 104, p. 13A (penned), dwelling 204, family 300, Arthur E. Wiggin; digital image by subscription, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 15 January 2007); citing NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 1010. In between the two censuses she spent some time with her son Arthur: Personal item, *The St. Johnsbury (Vermont) Caledonian*, 21 January 1914, p. 2, col. 3. She died at the home of her daughter Iona: Verona Weed death record, 1926; N.H. Division of Vital Records.

<sup>31</sup> State of Vermont Vital Records to 1870; NEHGS microfilm F48 V5, roll 268.

<sup>32</sup> Iona Pitt death record, 1928; N.H. Division of Vital Records.

<sup>33</sup> General Index to Vital Records of Vermont, 1871-1908; FHL microfilm 540,147.

<sup>34</sup> Robert Smith birth record, 1860; Massachusetts Archives, Boston.

<sup>35</sup> Robert L. Smith obituary, *The St. Johnsbury (Vermont) Caledonian*, 2 December 1903, p. 1, col. 6.

<sup>36</sup> St. Johnsbury Vital Records, 1790-1993; FHL microfilm 1,871,646, item 1.

<sup>37</sup> Dillon Herbert Pitt, death certificate no. 116 (1919); DBGS. Also, FHL microfilm 1,871,652, item 3.

<sup>38</sup> The names of Dillon's parents are in the marriage record [note 36].

<sup>39</sup> Dillon Herbert Pitt, death certificate no. 116.

<sup>40</sup> Vermont Vital Record Card Index 1871-1908; DBGS microfilm F-30628.

<sup>41</sup> Arthur E. Weed death record, 1951; DBGS.

<sup>42</sup> Wheelock Vital Statistics, v. 2C, marriage certificates, 1882-1895; FHL microfilm 1,869,749, item 4.

<sup>43</sup> Vermont Vital Record Card Index 1871-1908; DBGS microfilm F-30531.

<sup>44</sup> Vermont Vital Record Card Index 1909-1941; DBGS microfilm F-30902.

<sup>45</sup> Vermont Vital Record Card Index 1871-1908; DBGS microfilm F-30628.

<sup>46</sup> Vermont Vital Record Card Index 1871-1908; DBGS microfilm F-30628.

<sup>47</sup> Vermont Vital Record Card Index 1871-1908; DBGS microfilm F-30628.

<sup>48</sup> Gertrude L. Wiggin death record, 1931; N.H. Division of Vital Records.

v. HARRY ELLSWORTH WEED, b. Stannard 26 August 1887;<sup>[50]</sup> d. Stannard 25 March 1888.<sup>[51]</sup>

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<sup>49</sup> Lyndon Marriages, vols. 3-5, 1883-1907; FHL microfilm 1,870,099, item 7.

<sup>50</sup> Vermont Vital Record Card Index 1871-1908; DBGS microfilm F-30628.

<sup>51</sup> Vermont Vital Record Card Index 1871-1908; DBGS microfilm F-30628.