

**FREDERICK ALFRED WEEDMARK AND SUSANNAH (DELRORGE) FRASER:  
THE MYSTERY IS DEBUNKED – by Lloyd Westbrook**

In the early 1990's, my mother, Myra "Muriel" (Weedmark) Westbrook, and I made a trip to the Beachburg, Ontario area, her birth place (June 22, 1910). I was inquisitive about the family history, and one of our Weedmark relatives in Beachburg handed me a hand written page of genealogy produced by a young Weedmark descendant, Lori Burger. This young lady (who is in the Frederick Jr.'s Festus lineage) had produced a school project that contained information she gathered from her relatives. It contained information about a Frederick Alfred Weedmark and a Susannah Fraser, purportedly the original ancestors of all our Weedmarks.

This one page of genealogical information had the birth dates of Frederick and Susannah; Frederick was born September 29, 1774, and Susannah Fraser on August 31, 1790. I thought there might be some substance to these dates as they are so specific, as opposed to circa 1774 and 1790. These dates are not proven but seem to match up closely to later census and assessment records (the Canadian census of 1861 shows Frederick Sr. is 87 years old, and if you do the math it means he was born in 1774. These specific birth dates were passed down through generations of Weedmarks. This article by the young Weedmark also contained information that suggested Frederick had come from Sweden, met Susannah Fraser in the Hebrides, Orkney Islands area of Scotland, were married and came to the United States, and spent time in the New York State area of Watertown and Massena, before coming to Canada as United Empire Loyalists.

I started researching Scottish records for this Susannah Fraser and could find nothing on her with the birth date listed above. Further, the genealogy became muddled when not knowing much about Scotland, I discovered the Hebrides are islands off the west coast of Scotland, and the Orkneys are islands off the north east part of Scotland, both part of Scotland. There are Frasers in both areas. It is interesting to note that most Frasers of the Hebrides are Catholic, while many Frasers from the Orkneys are Protestant. Fellow researcher, Ellen Cup, in her notes to me also says Frederick Sr. married a girl in the Orkneys. My research there was unproductive. If Frederick's birth date is correct, it seems unlikely he came to Canada as a UEL as he would only have been 12 years old in 1786, ten years after the Revolutionary war of 1776, unless he came to Canada with family as a child. The problem here is there is no mention of any Weedmarks in Canada until Frederick shows up about 1812. I recently received information from a fellow researcher, Christine Beek, that she discovered Frederick Weedmark (a private) on the war of 1812 pay list of the Dundas 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> regiment of Grenville Sedentary Militia led by Captain Daniel Burritt, for duty performed at various periods 25 September 1813 to 24 December 1813 inclusive. This information was found at the York Public Library, Yonge Street, Toronto in Film T-10381, Folio 173 & 174. It would be logical that Frederick was in Canada before the war started, or at the start of the war. It seems plausible, because of his young age after the revolutionary war (1776), he would have been with family in the U.S., if he was ever there, and came to Canada as a bachelor. Options are open on this one and it needs more research.

On one of my trips to eastern Ontario on June 27, 1992 while doing research, I discovered a treasure trove of information on Marlborough Township at the home of William and Georgina Tupper (archivist) who housed records on behalf of the "History of Rideau Township Committee," part of the "Rideau Heritage Board," of which William Tupper was Chairman. I believe these Tupper's may have had connections back to the confederation of our country. Their hospitality in opening their home at North Gower was much appreciated, which was open to the public at certain hours, and allowed me to find a key piece of information in my research about Susannah Fraser. I don't know if they still have this archive or if it is open to the public now. I copied down the information word for word on the Census Records of 1818 for Marlborough and they are as follows: "Frederick Weedmark, Anna (probably Susannah as she shows up as "Susannah" in the 1829 census), Philomen 3, Fred'k Weadmark Jr. 1, and **James W. Fraser 5.**

It was this piece of information about James W. Fraser that intrigued me as we had no previous information about Susannah's ancestry. Was Susannah Fraser her maiden name and she had an illegitimate son, or had she been married previously and had children? It was at this point that I searched possible Fraser connections in Scotland without luck. Was this just family folklore passed down with the assumption that Susannah was Scottish because of her last name, or did it really reflect heritage of her previous husband?

Just a note here before I continue on about the ages of Frederick and Susannah because they have been hard to substantiate. "**Friederick Weidmarke was buried on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1864, age 90 years, of Marlborough, Parish of Merrickville, his Trade was listed as Carpenter & Joiner, and the officiating minister was Charles Forest,**" on page 285 of the register. This is proved by the official records at the Anglican Diocese of Ontario Archives, Kingston, Ontario. This shows the date reported in the family folklore that Frederick Sr. was born in 1774 could very well be correct. It is interesting that many of his descendants became carpenters, including Frederick Jr., my great grandfather, and my grandfather, Hiram Weedmark.

By the way, I also discovered the burial place of Frederick Weedmark Jr. in 2005 at these same Anglican archives in Kingston. Their records show, "**FRED K. WEEDMARK – Age Next Birthday 84, Farmer, Born at Marlborough, Disease-Paralysis, buried: June 4, 1899 in Chester's Burying Ground, Officiating Minister William Roberts, Merrickville Parish,**" on page 323. Frederick Jr. died on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1899. It is probable that Chester's Burying Ground refers to McGuigan Pioneer Cemetery, as the original John Chester and many of his descendants are buried there, as is Frederick Junior's first wife, Pheobe Chester. Even Frederick's name appears on her headstone, but with no dates. As well, his second wife, Mary Jane Copeland, did not die until 1914 and there was no readily available site other than that of Pheobe Chester. Also, Frederick Jr. fathered most of his children in Marlborough near Burritt's Rapids with his wives Pheobe Chester, and then Mary Jane Copeland.

Susannah's date of death remains a mystery. There are conflicting times of death mentioned; 1835 being one of them but unproved. I also gleaned the following information at Georgie Tupper's home in 1992; **the assessment rolls of Marlborough from 1882** show a Weadmark Widow-no age, Concession 1, on ¼ of village lot 26 valued at \$125, persons 21-60 (1) total in family (3), religion M. This same Weadmark Widow also has concession 1, 1/16<sup>th</sup> of village lot 25, valued at \$25.00. It is interesting that a Frederick Weadmark, age 30, is on concession 1, 1/8<sup>th</sup> of village lot 25, valued at \$90, persons 21-60 (2), total residents (6), ages 5-16 (3), ages 7-13 (2), religion C. of Eng. These lots are in the village of Burritt's Rapids. Is this Weadmark widow our Susannah, who knows? Prior to this, Frederick Weedmark Jr. is involved in land transactions for all of village lot 3 south centre, which he finally sells off in 1881.

I was also given information by Ellen M. Cupp in 1996. She passed on in 2004, and was a descendant of Frederick Junior's son, Festus, who fought against the Fenians. Ellen re-typed **a letter from Wm Arnold Weedmark, born 1899, a grandson of Frederick Jr. through George**). This letter (partial below) was dictated to his daughter Lois Bennett March 3, 1965 and states:

“Alfred Weedmark b 1775.....married a girl from Orkney Islands – immigrated to USA – settled in N.Y. State near Massena or Watertown, before the American Revolution. Came to Canada with the U.E.L..... My Great Grandfather Alfred was 108 years old when he died and my Great Grandmother was 106 when she died.”

Obviously the longevity of Frederick Sr. and Susannah are out by 15 years or so, as we know that Frederick Sr.'s burial record of January 2, 1864 showed him 90 years of age. What is interesting though, he relates Susannah lived a long life, possibly into the 1880's or later. Again, we can't verify this Susannah information, so we don't really know.

Ellen Cup's records state Frederick Weedmark Sr.'s birth date as Sept. 29, 1775, where Lori Burger had him born Sept. 29, 1774. Frederick's birth date sounds closer to 1774 (or even 1773) according to his official burial record. Also, she and Lori Burger had the same birth date for Susannah Fraser, August 31, 1790.

Because of James W. Fraser showing up in the 1818 Marlborough census, aged 5, I started searching internet sites for “James Fraser” around the period of 1812, and found a James Williams Fraser born in Williamstown, Glengarry County on the LDS “Family Search” web Site. That information led to his parents, George Fraser and Susannah Delorge. This was exciting to see a Susannah married to a Fraser with a son named James Williams Fraser. I don't take the LDS information as gospel, but it gave me a good lead and direction for research. As I had discovered earlier on, a James W. Fraser and a Susannah show up in a new family with Frederick Weedmark; even the middle initial (W) of James Fraser matched the birth record of James Williams Fraser, and he was 5 years old in 1818. I thought right away this was more than a coincidence, but wanted some more proof. I had never seen this information tied together before so I submitted it as a query in the Sept/Oct 2005 edition of the Leeds Grenville O.G.S. newsletter. I never got any corroborating response to it, but as some of you know, bits of this information have come forth since then, and Bev and Dave Alexander mentioned to

me they had seen my query in the L & G newsletter. I now needed to prove what I found on the internet was factual and hoped to get at least one more piece of evidence to substantiate this claim.

In 2005 I emailed the “The Manor House,” which holds the Glengarry Archives at Williamstown, Charlottenburg, Glengarry County. In response, I received the following information from Penny Cavell.

This information was taken from the “**REGISTER OF BAPTISMS AND MARRIAGES, ST. ANDREWS CHURCH, WILLIAMSTOWN, ONT., 1779-1817, VOL. I—II.**” These were performed by Reverend John Bethune, Minister of the Gospel in Glengarry as follows: (Note-Williamstown is located in the Township of Charlottenburg.)

**George Fraser and Susannah De Lorge both of Charlottenburg were married on the 20<sup>th</sup> November, 1810, at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Williamstown. (pg. 182, Vol. I)**

**Elizabeth Fraser, Daughter of George Fraser of Charlottenburg & of Susannah De Lorge his Wife, was born on the 28<sup>th</sup> September, 1811, and baptized on the 10<sup>th</sup> October, 1811. (pg. 15, Vol. II)**

**James Williams Fraser, Son of George Fraser of Augusta (formerly of Charlottenburg) & Susannah DeLorge his Wife, was born on the 21<sup>st</sup> September, 1812, & baptized on the 24<sup>th</sup> December, 1812. (pg. 36, Vol. II)**

It is interesting that a Weedmark relative, Ellen Cupp, who I mentioned earlier, related in her correspondence to me that she had Susannah Fraser having two children, James and Elizabeth, but did not say where the information came from.

There are also a couple of other entries in these records (St. Andrews Church, Williamstown) that may be related to Susannah Delorge, but are unproved at this time. They are:

Alexander DeLorge of Charlottenburg & Rebecca Ducher of Cornwall were married on the 21<sup>st</sup> November, 1811. (pg. 16, Vol. II)

and

Helen De Lorge, daughter of Alexr. De Lorge, formerly of Charlottenburgh, but now a private soldier in the Glengarry Light Infantry, and of Rebekah his wife was baptized on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 1813. (pg. 43, Vol. II)

Could this Alexander DeLorge be the brother of Susannah? There was an influx of French Canadian settlers from the neighbouring communities of Quebec into Glengarry County in the early 1800's, as land had become scarce in Quebec. I have been unable to find any other Delorge family in Glengarry during this time, but there are many in Quebec, and this aspect needs much more research to find out if Alexander and Susannah

are related, and of course their ancestry. Possibly the Drouin Collection of Quebec Records will be helpful in finding Susannah and Alexander there circa 1790's. I have googled the Delorge name and I have traced it back to the early 1700's in Belgium, where the name is most prevalent. There had been many Frasers prior to 1800 in Glengarry, as in 1785, 500 settlers arrived from Glengarry, Scotland after Scottish landlords forced many Scots off their lands, as they were needed for grazing purposes. There was also a John Fraser who had served with Sir John Johnson in the King's Royal Regiment of New York, and came to Charlottenburg after the 1776 revolutionary war. A John Daniel Fraser has a son George born circa 1776 in Canada, but this record is on the LDS web site and I don't know if it is credible, and there is little information with it? As a result, it will be more difficult to find George Fraser's ancestors.

Another curiosity I had was whether the Frasers and Delorges had been catholic or not at some point. Many Frasers in Glengarry were catholic, and of course many Quebecers were catholic. I asked this of the archivist when I visited The Manor House built for Sir John Johnson in November of 2009. She assured me that as George Fraser and Susannah Delorge were married in a Presbyterian church, and by a Presbyterian minister, it is certain they were Presbyterians, at least at the time of their marriage, and their two children were also baptized in the same church and by the same minister; Presbyterians all round. Of course the Presbyterian Church is known as the Church of Scotland.

This brings me back to tying up the loose ends about **Susannah** and Frederick Weedmark Sr. It is on record in the 1891 Canadian census that two sons of Susannah and Frederick, Frederick Jr. and Nelson, both reported that their mother **was born in Quebec**. In addition, Marlborough Township researcher Lee Bartley confirms this information while mentioning that another son of Susannah and Frederick, Hiram, stated his mother was born in Quebec. What pretty much sealed the deal for me though, was the Marriage record, Register B, for Decatur County, Iowa, for Nathan Weedmark and Ellen (Kelly) Cook, married on August 09, 1899. This record was found on the web site "**Weedmark Family History**" hosted by **Dave and Bev Alexander**, which is a treasure trove of Weedmark history and genealogy, expanding all the time. This marriage document contained the final piece of the puzzle as Nathan states his mother's maiden name is "Susaneah Deburge." This is the first time I had seen Susannah referred to by the name **Deburge**, which is very close to the spelling of Susannah **Delorge**. We all know how census takers can mess up spellings, not to mention that Nathan was probably trying to remember the correct spelling for Susannah's maiden name as she had probably been dead for some years. **There seems to be no question that Susannah was born in Quebec, not Scotland. I am certain now that it was Susannah (Delorge) Fraser who married Frederick Weedmark Sr.** When I was at Williamstown in 2009, I put my information to the archivist at the Manor House to get her opinion on my theory about Susannah and Frederick (*even before I had the "Deburge" spelling in Nathan Weedmark's marriage record which I discovered in 2010*). She said "you've got it," and agreed with me there were too many coincidences supporting my theory that the original Susannah Delorge was now the wife of Frederick Weedmark Sr., in 1818, when she had her son, James W. Fraser, with her on this date.

We do not know exactly what happened to Susannah's original husband, George Fraser, or her daughter, Elizabeth Fraser. It is probable that George would have been a member of the Glengarry Light Infantry as was Alexander Delorge (possible brother of Susannah), when all able bodied men had to serve in the militias, especially at the time of the 1812-14 war. My theory here (unproven) is the result of George Fraser leaving Charlottenburg for Augusta sometime between the baptism of Elizabeth Fraser (October 10, 1811), and the baptism of James Williams Fraser (December 24, 1812) which was mentioned earlier. I can think of only one reason for this, the war. It is not clear if Susannah and the children went with him to Augusta or not; they may have stayed in Charlottenburgh with family. Of course Fort Wellington at Prescott is in the Augusta area. I think George Fraser may have been killed during the war, as it seems he was alive in late 1811, and Susannah is With Frederick Sr. in 1814 or 1815. Their first born son, Philomen, is 3 years old in 1818 in Marlborough. We know that Frederick Sr. served in the Grenville militia during the war, and George was in Augusta at this time, possibly involved in the war effort. Did they know each other, and maybe were even friends? We don't know, but somehow Frederick Sr. and Susannah Fraser got to know each other.

It is interesting that two companies of the Glengarry Light Infantry at Prescott (Fort Wellington) were involved in an abortive attack on Ogdensburg on Oct. 3, 1812. Together with 600 militiamen, the Glengarrys set out from Prescott to cross the St. Lawrence River. The American artillery quickly ranged on the boats and turned back the force before it was halfway across the river. (We can assume there must have been many casualties.) On Feb. 22, 1813, the attempt to take Ogdensburg was repeated with a surprise attack by crossing on the frozen river. There was brief resistance and the Americans fled. The Glengarrys went on to fight in many of the major battles in Upper Canada during 1813 and 1814. The Glengarry Light Infantry was disbanded on May 18, 1816 at Kingston, Ontario.

Genealogy research is ongoing and never ending it seems. What remains to be determined is when and where did George Fraser die, what happened to George and Susannah's daughter Elizabeth, and when and where were Frederick Sr. and Susannah married? Possibly a military record for George Fraser will turn up at some point, as well as a marriage certificate for Frederick and Susannah. We live in hope, and keep searching.

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