

## **SWEETLAND/SWETLAND LORE #4**

*(Formerly Sweetland Lore)*

Several "cousins" have sent data which needs to appear in the newsletter. This issue of S/S Lore contains as much as possible. However, you have indicated that you want more stories like Robin Leidhecker's first hand story by Emory Sweetland at Gettysburg where he saw and heard Lincoln speak.

Don't you have stories of your families, either of current members or your ancestors? All it takes is to send in the story. Perhaps it appeared in a newspaper. Perhaps you wrote it to others in your family. You could become famous by telling us an interesting tale. You can reach me at Mark W. Sweetland, 13 Raymond Road, Bluffton, SC 29910-4526, phone 803-705-5661, e-mail markws@hargray.com or CompuServe 73314,1634. To reach me via the internet at CompuServe, you need to send it to 73314.1634@compuserve.com. The next step is yours but do send one.

### **Sweetlands in England**

Anne Kirby has sent us part of the work of a genealogist she has hired. He travels regularly to England to do research there. Anyone interested in combining efforts with her and hiring a genealogist to do further research may write her. Anne (Mrs. Dale Z.) Kirby, 225 Kashmir Ct. S.E., Salem, OR 97306, phone (503) 588-9548. Anne's story follows:

"The family of John Oliver and Rebecca Sweetland is the earliest known and established branch of the family in America. The marriage of John Sweetland and Rebecca Clark took place in 1684. (Note the different spellings in the several records.)

"Unable to verify any information beyond John and Rebecca in New England, he turned to English sources in order to learn more about the Sweetland family. The 1988 Genealogical Index (IGI) was the first search. Two hundred entries which took place prior to 1700 were extracted to learn more about the family. Plotting the location of these entries on a map of England by county made it clear that the family had origins in Devonshire. Since it was possible that the IGI was skewed toward Devonshire if more extraction had taken place there, all wills were searched prior to 1700. The calendar of wills listed fourteen records, an excellent number for such an uncommon name. All of these listings were for parishes in the south and/or east of Devon and all within twenty miles of the coast. This was an area of a fair amount of early emigration to the colonies.

"Unquestionably, the Sweetland family in America must have come from Devonshire. A remote possibility exists that they came from London, but any surname in England can be found in London because so many English moved there from other parts of the country. Opportunities for work existed in London that were not available in most other areas.

"A record of persons taxed in various tax records in Devonshire from 1581 to 1660 was searched for more occurrences of the Sweetland surname. Many early entries were found. The Prerogative Court of Canterbury will indexes were searched from 1588 to 1670. Eight Sweetland wills were located, five of which were for persons from Devonshire.

"The German bombing of Exeter in 1942 destroyed the wills for Devonshire. However, extracts of many of them exist and should be searched. Research should then move on toward compiling possible ancestral families in Devon and attempting to locate appropriate marriages and



burials in order to try and prove or disprove them. This uncommon name gives an advantage in further research." Thus ends Anne's story.

This looks like a reasonable method for starting research on the Sweetland families in England. However, questions arise. The John Oliver Sweetland who married Rebecca Clark, is listed as in records compiled by Rev. Leon Hiram Sweetland. These records were microfilmed by the LDS and are available on CALL NUMBER, USA/CAN, FILM AREA, 1035549, Item 3.

Leon Sweetland's records give John Oliver's father as John Sweetland, son of Isaac Sweetland, and show his name as Sweetland on his marriage records and Sweetland for the birth records of their first seven children. His records show Isaac's birth year as 1560 in Sussex, England and John's as 1603 in England. John Oliver, born in 1651, was the fourth child of John Sweetland, all of which were born in America.

Uncertainty exists on the year when John Oliver Sweetland was born. Some records give his birth year as 1651 but his tombstone gives his death as 1711, age 58 years. That would make 1653 the year of his birth. So when was he born?

### **Updating Doug Sweetland's Red Book**

Latest word from Doug Sweetland is that he has scanned into his new computer 75% of his book. You can send him data via e-mail, Sweetlan@starpoint.net. Now fill his mailbox with the additions and corrections which it needs. He is counting on us to make this next edition as accurate as all of us can make it. Where you can provide source information, please include it.

### **Margaret Jean Nyhart Smith**

All who have read the minutes of the 1997 reunion know that Margaret Smith has agreed to serve as the SFA President for the next two years. She has done much research on not only the Sweetland line but on many other of her ancestors. Her ancestry lists over seventy five surnames other than Sweetland. Some of her lines extend back to the 1500s and 1600s.

More importantly, she has been documenting (nearly completed) to the maximum extent the source of her data. This is an important step in recording and reporting her genealogy charts. With this documentation others can determine where her data comes from and check it if they wish. During the Federation of Genealogists Conference in Dallas, TX which I attended in early September, one speaker told us that none of the books giving data from the vital records of New England or produced by genealogists from the 1880s up through the 1940s are reliable. Every bit of information which you take from such books must be checked against the original records to be certain that they are correct. The reason is that human error exists in all those books.

Books produced today are more accurate than these early books and many years from now the books then will be far more accurate than today. Of course, he is giving his opinion but his reasoning is that future books will have even better means of reproducing the original data without involving human error.

Using data she sent, I compiled a partial Ahnentafel for Margaret Smith which appears on the following page. An Ahnentafel can be called an ancestor table. The data after the name is year of birth, then location, county, and state or country, whichever is available. If no data is given, the missing data shows commas between the data given to indicate what is not given. Note that all male ancestors have an even number and all female ancestors have an odd number.



### Partial Ahnentafel of Margaret Jean Nyhart Smith

1. Margaret Jean Nyhart, 1924, Buffalo, Erie, NY
2. Jay Lee Nyhart, 1895, Pomfret, Chau., NY
3. Floy Margaret Sweetland, 1895, Aldrich Hill, Catt. Co. NY
4. John Jay Nyhart, 1864, Eden, Erie, NY
5. Susan Julie Crumb, 1864, Villanova, Chau., NY
6. Herbert Spencer Sweetland, Little Valley, Catt., NY
7. Dora Ellen Finch, 1873, Sawyer City, Bradford, PA
8. Philip Nyhart, 1837, Eden, Erie, NY
9. Elisebeth Wagenblatt, 1841,,, perhaps NY
10. Levi Crumb, 1822, Plainfield, Otsego, NY
11. Alvira Amsdell, 1828, Hamburg, Erie, NY
12. Emory Sweetland, 1835, Little Valley, Catt., NY
13. Mary Jane Holdridge, 1837, Napoli, Catt., NY
14. Smith Hardy Rundle Finch, 1828, Geneseo, Livingston, NY
15. Helen Mary Ethridge, 1844, Mansfield, Catt., NY
24. Lewis Sweetland, 1810,,, Vermont
25. Drusilla Palmer, 1812,,,,
48. Asa Sweetland, 1784, Attleboro, Bristol, MA
49. Tabitha Houghton, 1788, West Northridge,, MA
50. Asa Palmer, 1775, Saratoga (then Albany),, NY
51. Amy Palmer, 1784,,,,
96. Benjamin Sweetland, 1763, Winchendon, Worcester, MA
97. Chloe Gould, 1765, Cumberland,, RI
98. Nehemiah Houghton, Jr., 1767, Winchester, Cheshire, NH
99. Lydia Dodge, 1764, Winchester, Cheshire, NH
100. Othniel Palmer, 1742/43, Westerly, Kings (Washington),, RI
101. Silence Stevens, 1748/49, Sheffield, Berkshire, MA
192. Thomas Sweetland, 1737, Attleboro, Bristol, MA
193. Abigail Pushee,,,,
384. Samuel Sweetland, 1711, Attleboro, Bristol, MA
768. John Oliver Sweetland, 1653, MA
769. Rebecca Clark, 1651, Boston, Suffolk, MA
1536. John Sweetland, 1603,, Sussex, England
1537. Temperance,,,,
1538. Christopher Clark, ca. 1618,,, England
1539. Rebecca Eire, 1626,,, England
3072. Isaac Sweetland, 1560,, Sussex, England
3078. Simon Eire, 1587,,, England
3079. Dorothy Paine, ca. 1602,,, England
6156. Symon Eire, ca. 1557,,, England
6157. Susan Vale,,,,
6158. William Paine,,, England
6159. Agnes Neves,,,,



## The Graves of Harmon and Rosamond Swetland

Some of us met Gladys Swetland and all of you have heard mention of her from time to time. She is still living at the age of 105 but for the moment is in the long term care section of the Coudersport, PA hospital, recovering from some broken bones in her leg and foot. Gladys is the great-granddaughter of Harmon and Rosamond Swetland, who are my great-great-grandparents.

Every year since 1985 I have visited Gladys at her home in Mills, PA. We talk about her ancestors and mine. We have Harmon and Rosamond as common ancestors but she is descended from their son, Morgan, and I am descended from Morgan's brother Austin Aaron. One year Gladys mentioned that she did not know where her great-grandparents were buried. She could not recall what cemetery they were buried in although they lived in Potter County, PA at the time of their death. She had searched the Mills cemetery but could not find their graves. Possibly they were buried in the Potterbrook cemetery in Tioga County about nine miles east of Mills. We left for South Carolina the following morning so had no chance to look. The following year Gladys mentioned this again. I offered to take her and search with her. She declined so I went alone.

The Potterbrook cemetery runs along PA route 49 for several hundred yards and seems almost as deep as long. Beginning on the right hand side and working my way to the back I looked at every headstone on both sides moving to the second row over at each end. After a half hour I found other Swetland relatives. A few rows later Harmon and Rosamond's names showed up. They are on a four-sided vertical monument about four feet tall. Harmon's name and date of death are on one side and Rosamond's are on the opposite side.

You can see the monument in the 1994 photo below but, believe me, it was much darker when I found it. Gladys was so enthused that she had a stonecarver clean the monument and deepen the words. Today this is the whitest monument in the cemetery. It stands out like a beacon. Perseverance paid off!!

