

## **SWEETLAND/SWETLAND LORE #6**

*(Formerly Swetland Lore)*

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

We may soon need to call Doug's book by another name. Doug has written that his revised book is due from the printer some time this month. If you have not yet placed an order, send him a check for \$75.00. The cost is \$70.00 for the book plus \$5.00 for packing and shipping. At least two of us have sent enough money to pay for their own copy and for a copy for a genealogical library. I urge that those who can send him \$150.00 to obtain their personal copy and to contribute a copy to a genealogical library. I expect that he will send at least six copies to major genealogical libraries around the country. Doug has earned the respect and gratitude of all of us.

You should have received two letters from Doug, April 7 and May 15, announcing the book, telling when it will be published and giving the cost. If you have not seen them, please write me so I can make sure you are on the next set of mailing labels I send to Doug.

### **In Memoriam**

**William Richard Thomas, Sr.** Bill Thomas, husband of Mary Lou Thomas of Portville, NY, passed away Wednesday October 15th, 1997 of Crohn's disease, one of those illnesses that doctors are still learning more about. Bill was diagnosed when he was 60 in 1989 but believed he had it during his 50s. His children and wife placed a moving memorial to him in the newspaper which they have given permission to share with us.

Bill was born in Olean, NY. He is survived by his wife, a son, two daughters, seven grandchildren, two sisters, a brother, several nieces and nephews. He was the son of Ruth Mable Swetland and John Albert Thomas. Bill was a veteran of the Korean War, having served in the Army Air Force. A graduate of St. Lawrence University, he worked for McGraw Edison Corp, Olean, NY for 16 years. He later taught elementary physical education at Scio Central School. He officiated basketball for 42 years, officiated football, and coached football and many other sports.

God saw you were getting tired  
And a cure was not to be,  
So he put his arms around you  
And whispered, "Come to me."

With tearful eyes we watched you,  
And saw you pass away.  
Although we loved you dearly,  
We could not make you stay.

A golden heart stopped beating,  
Hard working hands at rest.  
God broke our hearts to prove to us  
He only takes the best.





**Margaret Ann Swetland** Margaret Swetland, wife of Lee I. Swetland, of Lincoln, NE died April 18, 1998. She went into the hospital April 14th for in-and-out surgery. Complications set in and the surgery proved to be too much for a body damaged by an 1988 illness. Margaret is missed not only by her family and friends but also by all of us in the SFA who have known her since she and Lee came to the 1987 reunion. She was both well organized and quite accurate. Margaret and her daughter Nancy attended the 1997 reunion.

In early 1996 Margaret and I began corresponding on Lee's ancestry back to the earliest ancestor found, Augustus Riley Swetland. An earlier newsletter has told the story of Augustus. In August 1996 I entered all of the data from Doug's book on Lee's ancestors in my computer and sent it to Margaret and Lee. Back it came, correcting errors I had made and adding new data. It took several more exchanges until all the errors and additions were correct by the end of January 1997. No count was made of the computer hours needed to do the work but an estimate of twelve hours over six months would not be far off. The work was useful. It taught me much about Family Tree Maker and enabled us to produce as complete and accurate a picture of Lee's ancestry as Margaret could make it.

### **Harmon and Rosamond Swetland**

Harmon Swetland was the fifth child of Aaron Swetland and Lois Swetland and a grandson of William Swetland, Jr. and "Sary" Northum. Harmon was born in Salisbury, CT, January 23, 1798, and moved with his father Aaron to Cincinnatus, NY before 1818 where Aaron applied for his Revolutionary War pension. I have a copy of the pension papers from the National Archives and Records Administration. Aaron died in 1819 and is buried in the Freetown Corners cemetery, NY. Harmon's mother, Lois Allen Swetland, lived in Freetown until her death in 1854 and is buried next to Aaron. Their gravestones still stand.

Harmon and his wife, Rosamond Watrous, had five children, Morgan Wayne, November 27, 1825, Mulford Reed, February 12, 1830, Austin Aaron, June 3, 1832, Esther Julia, birth date unknown and Polly who died at the age of 2 or 3. Family tradition says that Mulford was the first to move to the Harrison Valley, PA area and Harmon, Rosamond, Austin and Esther came a few years later about 1856. The last to move from Freetown was Morgan who was the only one of Harmon's children to marry before leaving Freetown. The reason for moving was to rejoin former neighbors in Freetown who had moved to Potter County earlier.

Harmon and his family first farmed on Snyder's Hill above the valley where both Mills and Harrison Valley began. A postcard sent to me by my grandfather in 1921 marks with an "X" the location where they lived and my grandfather was born. Harmon was a farmer throughout his life and his children grew up on a farm. Three of them, Mulford, Julia and my great-grandfather, Austin Aaron, became school teachers in the old-time school districts of Potter County, PA.

Little about Harmon is recorded other than a brief report written by my grandfather. Harmon is reported to have been short and slender but life as a farmer made him a strong man. During a visit to Harrison Valley in the late 1920s my grandfather told me that Harmon had mowed an acre of hay with a scythe when he was 80 years old. This would have been in 1878. This feat made little impression on me when I was less than ten years old but surely does today.

Rosamond Watrous, the daughter of Austin Watrous and Sally Backus, was born in Granville, Washington County, NY, October 22, 1805. It is likely that Austin and his family moved also to Freetown, NY before 1824 because Harmon and Rosamond were married in



Freetown. A few letters from Rosamond and Harmon survive suggesting that she was more of a letter writer than Harmon but she surely used creative thinking when she spelled.

Below are photographs of Harmon and Rosamond Swetland which were in an album of old photos which Grace Swetland, Gladys Swetland's sister, had carefully identified. Grace had grown up with these photos and knew many of the people in the pictures. The photos below most probably were taken in the late 1870s although the photo of Rosamond could be of a later date.



Harmon Swetland  
23 January 1798 - 27 January 1880



Rosamond Swetland  
22 October 1805 - 6 April 1896

### **Old Letters - Family Archives**

What does one do with old letters? When my grandfather died, my father and mother had the task of going through box after box of family letters dating back to the 1860s. More than 30 boxes were in the attic over the Octagon, the name of my grandparents home at The Peddie School in Hightstown, NJ. Today I would love to go through these letters which meant so little to my parents that they discarded most of them. I have less than 1% of the letters which survived from the 1860s to 1934. Don't let your heirs throw away those old letters and photos in your possession! Send them to the Sweetland/Swetland archives. The addresses are: for paper materials, such as letter and photographs, The Allen County Library, Reynolds Historical Genealogy Dept., P. O. Box 2270, Fort Wayne, IN 46802; for artifacts, Wyoming County Historical Society, P. O. Box 309, Tunkhannock, PA 18657 or Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, 49 South Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701.



### **Other Lines - Doty, Hamlin, Sutton, Cole**

Clara Porter, 7007 Prestwick Ln SW, Port Orchard, WA 98367, sent us information on her ancestry to take to the 1997 reunion. Since not all may have seen the data, part of it appears here. Clara wrote that she is descended from Malina Sweetland. She also has collateral lines of Doty, Hamlin, Sutton and, of course, Cole who are her immediate ancestors. She will be happy to exchange information with anyone interested. The Doty - Cole lines are from the Mayflower.

William Sweetland and Agnes of Salem, MA

John Sweetland and Sarah Davis

Ebenezer Sweetland and Sarah Leach

Abner Sweetland and Polly Doty

Malina Sweetland and Eli Cole

David Orlando Cole and Aradella C. Rude

The last are Clara's great-great-grandparents. Her data came as computer output so she can provide copies of whatever information she has to share..

### **Other Lines(?) - Bruce**

Among my grandfather's papers, which I have as I wanted them and no else did, are three folded-over-twice 8" x 10" sheets of ruled paper which give data on twelve Bruce men all with dates in the 1700s to early 1800s. The data includes the names and addresses of correspondents with dates of 1895 to 1901. The handwriting may have been my grandfather's but this is uncertain.

All of the Bruces seem to have enlisted during the Revolutionary War. I ascribe this to the symbol "e" and a date between 1775 and 1781 after each "e." Checking against Doug's Red Book shows no Bruce among the collateral lines. If anyone would like the data, write to Mark W. Sweetland, 13 Raymond Road, Bluffton, SC 29910-4526 and I will send you a copy. I plan to save them until the mystery is solved. Why were these pages created and why was someone interested in Bruce Revolutionary War soldiers? Are Bruces related to any of my lines which include Thomas, Watrous, Backus, Pomeroy, Cleveland, and Fox among others?

### **1999 Reunion - Western New York State**

Margaret Smith and Robin Leidhecker will visit western New York State this summer to finalize the plans for our 1999 reunion. In S/S Lore #5 we asked for your help in planning the reunion. The probable time is the 2nd or 3rd week in July. The suggested program is "Photography and Genealogy." Can you give a 15 minutes presentation sharing with others your experiences (with exhibits and hand out sheets if possible) on one of the following:

1. Identifying old photographs.
2. Computers and your photos.
3. How to take good pictures for the record
  - cemetery stones
  - houses
  - people

Please send your name, address or email and topic to any of the following:

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