

❖ Sweetland/Swetland Lore #7 ❖

(Formerly Swetland Lore)

July 1998

1999 Reunion Swetland Family Association

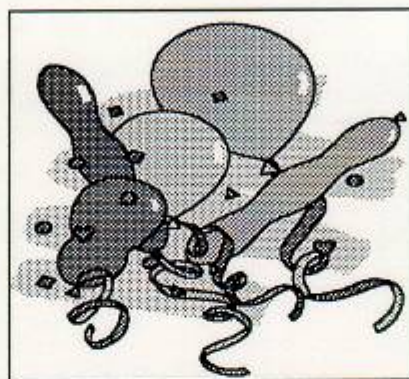
After investigating western New York state, Robin Leidhecker and Margaret Smith have selected the Chautauqua Institution and Lake Chautauqua for the 1999 reunion on June 11-12, 1999. They have reserved space in the St. Elmo Hotel, a renovated Victorian building. All rooms have kitchens. They will mail the first notice this fall with details on costs, how to make a reservation and information on the preliminary program.

The Chautauqua Institution is an ideal location for our reunion. In addition to its location on a lake, many opportunities exist for boating, golf, eating, sightseeing plus in adjacent towns we have places where Swetlands have and still live.

They may have a boat/dinner cruise or a picnic dinner on Friday and will serve lunch at noon on Saturday.

We will have maps and other information on where you can visit sites where other Swetlands have lived. You can get information about the area on the Internet if you go to <http://www.chautauquaarea.com/>.

At this date the program is waiting on input from others. You can help finalize the program by sending Robin scanned old pictures and family stories to use in the program. Only you know the stories which add to interest in our family history. Remember now the date is



Microsoft Publisher created this image when showing me how to use the program. I kept it because it may remind us how our family lines are entwined.

firm, June 11-12, 1999.

Addresses for your information:
Robin Leidhecker, 1380 Radio Club Road, Montoursville, PA 17754.

Mark Swetland, 13 Raymond Road, Bluffton, SC 29910-4526.

Summer address only:
Margaret Smith, 326 Center Street, Williamsport, PA 17701.

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More Data Needed Will You Help?

As always more information from other members of the Swetland Family Association is essential to make the newsletter interesting to all. It must be something other than a one-man publication. Some members have provided data and stories but all of you can help the editor before he runs out of stories of his family lines. This request goes to all who have stories or facts that they want to share with all readers.

This is not the only problem we face but it is the major one to make the newsletter of interest to all who receive it. Will you take the time to provide data on your family line? Can you send us stories which your family has preserved because they were important and you want them to be remembered forever? The stories you have seen here before came mostly from other family members, not the editor. You read my stories only when you do not contribute the stories you know.

Please flood my mail box with stories so that the October issue comes with stories and data from many who have not written before. I will acknowledge all material which comes in and use it as soon as space is available. No one will be left not knowing what has happened to his material.

Next step is up to you but don't put this appeal aside. October will come faster than you realize.

Bits and Pieces

Since nothing has come in by mail from anyone for this issue, I have gone through letters of the past five or so years to see what you may not have seen or heard about before.

These notes are not sorted by type or date but will give you a picture on what others have sent.

Pvt. Archie Sweetland

A newspaper clipping had his letter of January 1, 1919.

"Mr. & Mrs. H. F. Sweetland"

Dear Mother and Father and all:—As this is New Year's I will try and write you a few lines to let you know I am feeling good. I am still in the hospital. I have been expecting to go out to my company every day for a week, but haven't been up. Well, dear ones, I hope that this will find you all well and in the best of health. I suppose it is real cold back there now; it isn't cold here. We had a white Christmas and that was all. The snow went off the next day. I sure remember where I was a year ago and what a good time we had. They claim that it is most generally quite cold here at this time, but I guess the heavy shell fire is what made it. It was sure a sight to see the shell holes in places. They were so thick it looked like they had been dug up by a steam shovel and the towns and villages that were blown up are just a mass of stones and bricks. I can't tell you much in a letter because it would take too long, but when I get back I sure will have lots to tell you. It sure was a sight up in the Argonne woods. I will tell you all when I get back. What is Hiley doing now? Tell him and hello for me and Kenneth. I suppose Clarence is still going with his little girl on Cow Corners. We all got a Christmas box today from the Red Cross. It was a nice box. I got a box of talcum powder, bar of soap, tooth

brush stick of shaving cream, a razor, pack of playing cards, gum, candy and pipe, but I don't smoke a pipe or cigarettes. Christmas day the Red Cross man came through and gave us the stuff. He comes through the wards every day. The Red Cross sure has done a lot for the boys over here, believe me. I suppose you folks are eating oysters today. Well, we didn't have oysters but we had a good dinner. We had potatoes, gravy, soup, boiled beef, soon pudding, bread and coffee. So you see that was a good feed. There is a boy here in the hospital and his name is Sweetland. He is from Wisconsin. He and I have been visiting today. He said that he had a relation in Michigan, but he didn't know where, so he might be some relation. I suppose you get lots of mail from Nellie. I write to her real often. I sure will be glad when I get back home with her and you all. We will sure be glad when we walk up the gang plank and the old boat sails for the good old U.S.A. I hope when I get back to the company that I will have a lot of mail from all of you. Well, dear ones, I guess I have wrote all for this time so I will close with lots and lots of love and kisses.

Your loving son,
Archie

Answer soon
Pvt. Archie Sweetland
Co. F, 6th U. S. Engineers
American E. F.

Arlington National Cemetery

On 3-30-92 Ted Sweetland sent me the data which follows:

27-768 Artemus Sweetland (27-768)
d. 5/30/1864

7-9852-A Betty Schroeder Sweetland
12/28/1890 - 2/22/1960

Ernest Guy Sweetland
8/29/1897 - 3.15/1969

2-K482 Robert H. Sweetland
12/27/1920 - 4/22/1982

60-1323 Russell A. Sweetland III
10/15/1968 - 9/14/1986
Russell A. Sweetland, Jr.
9/8/1942 - 2/4/1980

The first date of two is the date of birth and the second is date of death.

Curtis C. Roselle

Curtis Roselle lives at 6125 133rd Ave NE, Kirkland, WA 98023. Luke Sweetland is his great-great-great-great-grandfather through Joseph Sweetland, Hannah Swetland, James Hodges, Sr., Edward Wiston Hughes, Emma Hughes and Clara Coughlin, his mother. He was born on Yeager Avenue in Forty Fort, PA about a mile and a half from the Swetland Homestead.

Luke Sweetland's Bible

James Hopkins, 204 N Division St., Mt. Vernon, OH 43050-2546, has written that the Luke Swetland Bible is at the Museum. He asks someone to copy or photocopy the vital statistics in the bible and send them to him. It will be interesting to learn what the bible contains and share the data with all of us. Do we have someone near to the museum who can look it up and send it to Mr. Hopkins and to Mark Swetland for the newsletter.

A Reunion Reminder to All

This is your reminder for the 1999 reunion which will be June 11-12, 1999. Nellie Hale lived not too far from Gladys Swetland in Mills and her daughter Helen lived near Gladys. Nellie wrote in a 1991 letter that she hoped some day to attend a reunion. Time passed and Nellie died before she could come. Could the same happen to anyone reading this? The message is simple. It is always later than you think. Come in 1999, not later.

Obituaries

Not a happy subject is this? However, over time numerous people have let me know of the passing of relatives or possible relatives. Some of these obituaries may have been covered in the past but not all. To be sure none are overlooked, this issue includes all found from the past few years less the two included in the last issue.

Anna B. Swetland

Anna Belle Swetland, 68, of Cowanesque, PA, died Sunday, August 16, 1992 in Wellsboro, PA. Born December 22, 1923 in Elkland, PA, she was the daughter of Howard and Ruby Young Osterhoudt. She married Morgan Swetland on March 21, 1949 in Richmond, VA. Mrs. Swetland had lived in Cowanesque since 1949. Her husband, Morgan died in 1987.

Surviving are four sons, Miner Swetland II, Mark Swetland and Carlton Swetland, all of Cowanesque and Dale Swetland of Knoxville, three daughters, Mrs. Thomas (Diane) Prouty of Gaines, Mrs. Gaylon (Linda) Goolsby of Mt. Pleasant, TX and Mrs. Bernard Roe of Nelson and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

John V. Swetland

John V. Swetland of Olean, NY died Tuesday, May 5, 1992 at the Olean General Hospital. Born November 10, 1919 in Olean, he was the son of William and Lilian Bump Swetland. On September 12, 1940 he married the former Ella B. Johnson who survives him.

A lifelong resident of Olean, Mr. Swetland was a veteran of World War II, serving with the U. S. Navy. he was employed by Dresser Clark until his retirement in 1983.

Surviving besides his wife are two daughters, Mrs. Dan (Judy) Lepadatu of Bridgewater, NJ and Mrs. Edward (Sandi) Hitchcock of Allegany,

seven grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, a brother Robert Swetland of Odessa, FL and a sister, Mrs. Fred (Jayne) Heitzinger of Port Richey, FL.

Theodore A. Miller

Theodore A. Miller, 79, died January 13, 1996. Born in Ludlow, he was self-employed in the construction business and also worked for Lye Construction and Palmer Trucking Co. He was the son of Robert King Miller and Amy Maria Swetland, one of nineteen children of the couple.

Evelyn Calkins Thomas

Evelyn L. (Miller) Calkins Thomas, 79, of Colonial Park died June 26, 1997. Many of us met her at reunions. She left two sons, Robert E. Calkins of Wales and Frank E. Calkins of Palmer. She was a daughter of Robert King Miller and Amy Maria Swetland, another of the 19 children of the couple. She was survived by 14 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Paul E. Sweetland

Appleton, ME - Paul E. Sweetland, 70, died March 17 1998 at Togus V. A. Facility. He was born June 25, 1927, in Searsmont, the son of Arthur and Charlotte (Wood) Sweetland. He was a former selectman and road commissioner for a number of years. He enjoyed watching his grandchildren participate in sports, particularly football.

He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Joyce, of Appleton, four sons, Philip, of Appleton, Charles of Montville, Paul Jr. and Elmer of Searsmont, and three daughters, Karen Wichenbach of Appleton, Brenda Spaulding of Montville and Elizabeth Carter of Appleton with their spouses. 20 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Researching in England

Does anyone wish to join with others to support research into where Isaac Sweetland and his sons lived? Anne Kirby is one of our member who has tried using a researcher. Anne has now proposed that we make a joint effort.

If you would help, write to Anne Kirby, 3482 Concomly Rd. S, Salem, OR 97306. (Note - this is a new address.)

So far the results have been unsuccessful. That does not make it impossible but it suggests that a knowledge of the parish where they lived would be helpful.

Your editor tried in England in 1990, choosing Somerset as the county which had the largest number of Sweetland and Sweetlands in the country.

The first question asked of me when I approached the clerk at the Somerset Records Center in Exeter was what parish did they come from. Without an answer she could only tell me that the records center held the all of the parish records not yet microfilmed by the LDS and I was welcome to research in any of them.

I did not even begin to look. Researching in records which may have been in early English writing or even more in Latin was daunting. The probability of being successful was overwhelmingly against me. Since the records had never been microfilmed and would never be until a new bishop took over, I had no way to select which parish to begin with.

I would encourage them to search using whatever knowledge anyone possesses of the records in England. With enough effort we may locate the parish they came from. All that may be needed is the right amount of work to achieve the impossible.

Family Connections

Roger Sweetland, our family historian, visited New London, CT in 1989, searching for information on Benjamin and Hannah Sweetland. Benjamin was the youngest child of William and Agnes Sweetland of Salem, MA and Hannah was his wife. Roger sent the following data on locating cemeteries which is useful today:

Rev. Eleazar Sweetland (1787) lies buried below a Manning granite schist, Millington Burial Ground. Routes 151 and 82 turns into Millington Road.

Mary Sweetland (1748)

Daniel and Hepsibah Sweetland, Sr. (1748)

Lucy Sweetland (1809)

Hephzebate Sweetland (1770)

Jonathan Sweetland (1767)

Buried in the Townshend Hill Burying Ground.

From stoplight in Andover at junction of route 6 and 316, follow 316 west 0.6 miles where Bolton Hill Road enters from right, turn onto this and continue for 0.3 mile to where you will see the old burying ground on the left.

Benjamin Swe(e)tlend - Buried in the Antientist Burying Ground in New London, CT. From Springfield, MA take route 91 to Hartford, CT, then turn to route 2 southeast to route 85. Follow route 85 until it turns into Broad St. at New London, CT. Follow Broad St. to Williams St. and turn left. Follow Williams St. to Granite St. The burying ground is on the right just past the intersection of Granite St. and Williams St. Benjamin is buried about half-way down along Granite St.

Following Williams St. west to Hempstead, turn left and you will be at the Joshua Hempstead House. This area is now predominantly Hispanic and Black and caution should be taken.

Roger went on to hope that the local relatives will add to the list of burial grounds within the areas where they live.

Roger also located a copy of the Joshua Hempstead diary which had been printed and sent me pages which refer to both Benjamin and Hannah. This diary gives the exact dates of death of both Benjamin and Hannah. With Benjamin's headstone and the diary we can confirm his date of birth and be certain that Benjamin was the youngest child of William and Agnes Sweetland.

In the Connecticut State Library in Hartford, CT the wills of many Sweetlands are on microfilm. Both Benjamin's and Hannah's are there although they are not complete. On one of my trips to Boston, I found in the New England Historic Genealogy Society library a series of books called the Public Records of Connecticut. More than

12 volumes exist. References to Sweetlands are Vol. 8, p 536, May 1743, Vol. 11, pp 392-393, May 1760, Vol. 11, pp 446-447, Oct. 1760, Vol. 12, pp 260-261, May 1764, and Vol. 12, pp 311-313, Oct. 1764. The first reference mentions only Joseph Sweetland but the four references in Vols. 11 and 12 give the story of a suit by the relatives of Benjamin and Hannah Sweetland to claim the residue of Benjamin's and Hannah's wills.

The papers in Benjamin's will are skimpy. Hannah's will has more records but still seems incomplete. A thought is that the suit which took place from 1760 to 1764 may have the documents which are missing from the file. The records of the suit should still exist in Connecticut. Do we have someone who would be able to go to Hartford to look for the papers of the suit? The information in these documents may be of much interest to Sweetlands of today.

I copied the microfilm records of the two wills. It is nearly impossible to read everything. The originals must be difficult to read and copies from the microfilms add to the difficulty. With much time most of the records can be deciphered.

Even without locating the apparently missing documents, the last of the references in The Public Records of Connecticut gives useful data for us. On page 312 the suit lists all of the relatives concerned with the suit as following: "Which last mentioned committee have executed said commission and reported, that the said articles of the last will of said Benjamin, deceased, did of right belong to the first dissenting church at New London, to the old North Church in Boston, and to John Sweetland, Joseph Sweetland, William Sweetland, Jonathan Sweetland, Zeruah Clauson, Caleb Sweetland, Nathan Bassett, William Bassett, Joseph Bassett and Gideon Bassett, the said petitioners and also to William Lovet, Sarah Lovet and Grace Lovet, all of said Beverly, children of Agnes Lovet of said Beverly, deceased."

Although it does not state that Agnes Lovet of Beverly is the wife of William Sweetland of Salem, Sidney Perlman in his three volume History of Salem states that Agnes Sweetland married John Lovet of Beverly and gives two dates neither of which make it reasonable for Benjamin to be the child of Agnes although probably of William. All of the Sweetlands and Bassetts mentioned can trace their line back to William Sweetland in the Salem church records and the marriage records of New England.

I have copies of the pages noted above. Anyone wishing copies should write to Mark Sweetland (p. 1)