

❖SWEETLAND/SWETLAND LORE #8❖

S/S Lore #8 (Formerly Swetland Lore)

October 1998

Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference, Cincinnati, OH, 8/19-22/98

For four days, I, Mark Swetland, lived and thought of nothing but genealogy. That's close but Jean came with me and left Cincinnati saying she enjoyed a good visit back to her birthplace so she was not neglected.

What does one do at a genealogy conference? Before I went, I had a list of the seminars and workshops. I chose the seminars I thought most useful but was free to change after I arrived. The workshops required prepayment so those were carefully chosen. With these decisions I sent in the admission form with payment.

On arriving in Cincinnati, I reviewed the seminars, made one change and started on Wednesday to the first event. Each day, each seminar and each workshop seemed better. I attended at least four every day for six or more hours. Best of all were the workshops.

One workshop was on how to use court records. The instructor gave each of us a set of court papers and showed how each of them were used.

Another showed us how to read 17th century American writing. The professor from Utah gave us examples of the various ways the letters were formed and showed us how to approach deciphering the writing.

One workshop showed how to estimate the decade for photos taken before 1900 based on picture type, clothing style and hair style.

Much will be useful for our newsletter and family association. Also came home with more ideas than I can use for the present.



Travel plans allowed me to visit with Margaret Smith to discuss next year's reunion. You will soon receive a letter from Robin on the plans for our reunion, June 18-19, 1999 at Lake Chautauqua, NY. Make your plans early and join us in western New York State!

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Who Was This Man?

Who was this boy, this young man, dressed in the uniform of a Civil War soldier of the Grand Army of the Republic? He was surely kin to one of my ancestors or one of their relatives. Why else would this tintype have been in their papers?

Studying the photo suggests that it was taken in a studio. The photographer has draped a flag on the boy's left side with a plain background behind and to his right side. Note he is clean-shaven. He appears to be 18 to 20 years old.

My great-grandmother, Susan Ann Thomas Swetland, had one brother, John H. Thomas, who enlisted in 1861, served three years and re-enlisted in 1864. He led a charmed life with never a wound until in 1864 at the battle of Cold Harbor he was hit by a mini ball in his right thigh. The wound didn't seem serious when he wrote his mother that day from the hospital in Washington, DC, where the ball was removed.

Unfortunately, infection set in and he died ten days later. His father, Benjamin Thomas, went to Washington and had the sad job of accompanying his coffin by train back to his home near Harrison Valley, PA.

For three days the coffin lay in their barn. The stench from the coffin was too horrible to stand. The body had not been embalmed. The barn and house still stand today although renovated several times since then.

Is this John Thomas? He is the only young man from either side of my family to serve in the GAR. I am sure he comes from my Swetland line. Why, oh why, didn't someone identify this photo?

Luke Swetland Honored

Luke Swetland, colonial settler and Revolutionary hero, was honored on Sunday, September 13, 1998 at the Forty Fort Meeting House with a dedication ceremony and unveiling of a new grave marker.

Among those involved in planning the ceremony were William, Irwin and Harold Messick, descendants of Luke Swetland.

The program featured Roger Swetland and William Messick who spoke on Early Swetland History and the times and life of Luke Swetland. Following the talks Vicki Harvey and Jennifer Bachman, daughters of Irwin and Helen Messick, unveiled the grave marker in the Forty Fort Cemetery.

Luke's own story of his capture by the Seneca Indians, his life with them and later escape has been reported in Issues #3, #4 and #5 of Swetland Lore. To receive copies of these send \$0.75 to cover photocopy and postage costs to Mark Swetland, 13 Raymond Road, Bluffton, SC 29910-4526.

Among those present were Roger and Priscilla Swetland and sons Jamie and Brian, Ron and Mary Swetland Bishop, Christine Swetland Scheffler, Sue Mary Cawley, Vaughn Shupp, William Messick, Irwin and Helen Messick, their daughters Martha M. Bachman with Jennifer and Jodie Bachman, and Suzanne M. Harvey with Annette Harvey Kuzma and Vicki Harvey. A respectable showing of Luke Swetland descendants was there you see.

The ceremony concluded with a reception for all guests at the Swetland Homestead on Wyoming Avenue in Wyoming, PA. The Wyoming Historical and Geological Society which acquired the house from Mrs. Dorothy Darling Darte, a descended of Luke, is now restoring the 200-year old building to give it more space to tell the story of Swetlands.

Some of our members will recall that the SFA has donated regularly to the Society for use in maintaining the

Swetland Homestead. You can still donate to the Society by mailing your contribution to the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, 49 South Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701. If you donate, please tell them you are members of the Swetland Family Association. They should know us by that name. Many of us have visited their Museum in Wilkes-Barre and know the work they do.

This year the Wyoming Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross will feature the Swetland Homestead as its 1998 Christmas Ornament, produced with the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society. You can purchase this year's ornament from the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society at a price of \$10.00.

While we are discussing the Wyoming Valley area and its surround-

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ings, this gives an opportunity to include the address of the Wyoming County Historical Society, P. O. Box 303, Tunkhannock, PA 18657, telephone (717) 836-5303. You may remember that we have selected this society to archive our artifacts, our mementos other than paper or film.

One can not stress how important it is for all of us to place our artifacts some place where they will be preserved for the future. Often we expect, incorrectly, that a family member will treasure them as much as we do and provide them loving care. All such material is subject to the perils of fire, theft, vermin and weather hazards. Our best protection for all artifacts is to store them in the best location we can find, one as safe as possible from all hazards. Only then can we feel confident that our artifacts will be around for our descendants to see.

SFA Treasury Report

Since the last report on the SFA Treasury, we have received donations from Tim Colson and Barbara Boudreau. Priscilla Swetland, our Treasurer, states that a check for \$250.00 has been sent to Katy Lynne Bradley, daughter of Lynne Swetland Bradley and descendant of Wallace Jay Swetland of Whitney Point, NY, for her scholarship award granted in 1998. Priscilla Swetland has sent Katy's lovely letter of thanks which follows:

May 20, 1998

Dear Sweetland Family Association,

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to you for awarding me your scholarship. It really means a lot to me because my mom has been tracing the Sweetland genealogy so that we know who our ancestors are. The scholarship gives me another link to this family. Once again I thank you for the award. I will use it as I pursue my goals for education at Penn State University."

Sincerely,

Katy L. Bradley

As of June our scholarship fund has only \$117 for the next award. The balance can come from the general fund but it will be nice to see the scholarship fund grow between now and June 1999.

The Treasurer's Report is:

Balance after '97 reunion	\$1,410.10
Wyoming His. & Gen. Soc	-100.00
Donation to Schol. fund	-25.00
Scholarship award	-250.00
Newsletter mailings (3)	-355.28
Balance today	\$729.82

Donations to the scholarship fund should go to Priscilla Swetland, R. D. #4, Box 121A, Montrose, PA 18801. Contributions to the general fund which supports other activities including the newsletter may also go to the same address. Mark all checks payable to the Swetland Family Association. You are always in our prayers.

Tornados!!!

On June 10th 1998 Priscilla Swetland wrote that "we had a couple of bad storms but no damage from them. Sunday night tornados hit NY state and our sky was sure weird.

"We lost power for 4½ hours. Tuesday night we lost power for 12 hours and tornados hit near by. We actually saw the cloud coming and felt the pressure when it turned. Got pelted by dirt from the cloud.

"Roger's aunt and uncle, Ron and Mary Bishop, did get hit by the tornado at Lake Carey. We spent 12 hours on Saturday trying to secure what was left of their home. Their living room and back bathroom are gone, stone wall picked up, shed is gone, carport too, garage damaged and tenant house has the top floor gone. It's an awful mess, glass, trees and dirt everywhere. They are okay but trapped there for 25 hours before anyone could get to them. Their whole house, inside and out, was coated with dirt. Insulation was sucked through every crack including inside their refrigerator and cupboards.

"It will be months before they can go back there to live. House next to them is almost on top of them. It was picked up and moved that far. Roger and our son Brian did all the roof and repair work to protect from rain. Mary fell last week and broke her collarbone. Not what they needed."

Luke Swetland Bible

Irwin Messick has photocopied the pages from the Luke Swetland bible in The Swetland Homestead. The bible has a description written by Edward Merri-field a descendant of Luke. Four pages, 679-680, contain family entries, one of marriages, two of births and one of deaths. Dates range from 1762 to 1918. The writing is not always easy to read. Anyone wishing a copy should send \$0.50 for postage and copy costs to Mark Swetland (address on page 2).

Newfoundland Sweetlands

David Pike has been on the address list since 1993. Recently, he moved again and is now living in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada. His letter added more information on Sweetlands in Newfoundland.

William Sweetland resided in English Harbour, Trinity Bay, Newfoundland where he was buried on October 17, 1824. His wife Catherine was buried June 6, 1818. They had six children that he knows of: Mary Beston Sweetland, John Beston Sweetland, Hannah Hart Sweetland, William Sweetland, Martha Sweetland and James Sweetland. Of these six children only Mary is known to have married. She is David's great-great-great-grandmother.

John died in 1825 at about 35 years of age. Hannah died in 1802 about 10 years old. Martha was buried the same day as Hannah (she was about four years old) and James died in 1845 at about 41. He does not know what became of William (junior).

The marriage date for William and Catherine eludes him thus far. He assumes that her maiden name was Hart, the daughter of Joseph Hart and Mary Beston. David would welcome any help in going further with his research in Newfoundland.

Thanks go to Priscilla Swetland, Irwin Messick, David Pike and the Chautauqua County Genealogical Society for data.

Issue Numbers

If you have kept all issues of this newsletter, please note that the issue dated July 1998 reads #6. The number should have been #7. For some reason I was so sure that it was #6 that I never looked until after the issue was mailed. By then it was too late to make the correction. Please use a big black pencil to change the 6 to a 7 when you next see the July 1998 issue.

Horace Munroe Swetland

Among Roger Swetland's papers was the obituary of Horace Munroe Swetland, taken from the *Fredonia Censor* of June 18, 1924 which reads:

"Horace M. Swetland, former Fredonian, head of the United Publishers Corp. of New York and large holder of New York real estate, died at his late home in Montclair, NJ, June 15, 1924. Funeral services were held at his late home Tuesday, and the body will be brought to Fredonia for burial today.

For several years Mr. Swetland and his family lived in Fredonia at a home at the corner of Central and Maple Avenues. He was instrumental in the foundation of Citizen's State Bank, which later became the Citizen's Trust and served as its first president. His growing interests in New York caused his removal there and the business interests which he promoted have grown to such an extent as to make him at the time of his death one of the leading figures in the publication of class or trade journals in the world.

The life of Horace M. Swetland is the story of a country boy who rose from humble beginnings to nationwide distinction in his chosen field of endeavor. Born near Mayville, January 18, 1853, he was educated in Mayville schools and taught at the schools in Mina, Findley Lake and Panama. In 1876 he married Clara Dumont of Erie Co., PA. In 1882 he started in the business in which he was destined to great success by becoming an advertising solicitor for the Boston Journal of Commerce. Through the efforts of Emerson Harris, a native of Chautauqua Co., he was led to purchase *Power*, a mechanical magazine devoted to industrial engineering. The general adoption of electricity in industry found *Power* organized to cover that field, and the publication was a pioneer in the movement which changed industrial power from steam to electricity.

(to be continued)

Chautauqua County, NY, Site of the 1999 Reunion

Our 1999 SFA reunion will be at the St. Elmo Hotel as noted in the previous newsletter. Note that by calling our group the SFA it was not necessary to write Sweetland, Sweatland, Swetland or any combination of them. If you object to the use of SFA, please write and tell me.

While in Cincinnati I met members of the Chautauqua County Genealogical Society. Lake Chautauqua, Chautauqua County, NY is the site of our next reunion, June 18-19, 1999.

With permission the map showing the location of Local History Research Collections is reprinted.

In this pamphlet they list all of these research locations with addresses and telephone numbers. A phone call is suggested to be sure that the hours of opening are still the same. The pamphlet lists the following collections:

Reed Library Special Collections
SUNY Coolege at Fredonia, NY 14063
Phone: (716) 673-3183
Fax: (716) 673-3185

Dunkirk Historical Museum
513 Washington Avenue
Dunkirk, NY 14048
Phone: (716) 366-3795

Darwin R. Barker Museum
7 Day Street
Fredonia, NY 14063
Phone: (716) 672-2114

Chautauqua County Historical Society
P. O. Box 7
Westfield, NY 14787
Phone: (716) 326-2977

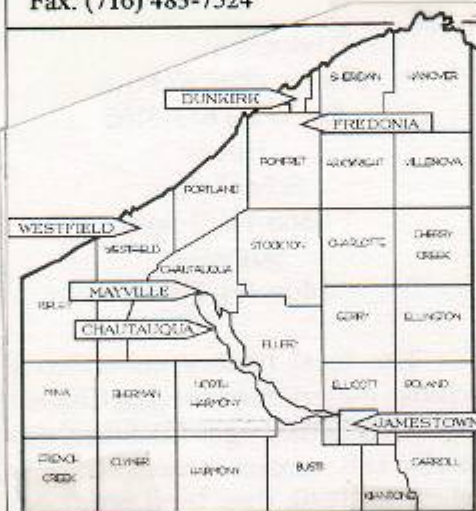
Chautauqua Cty. Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 404
Fredonia, NY 14063

Patterson Library
40 South Portage Street
Westfield, NY 14787
Phone: (716) 326-2154

Chautauqua County Court House
Mayville, NY 14757
Phone: (716) 753-4331
(County clerk's Office)

Chautauqua Institution Archives
Smith Memorial Library
21 Miller Street
P. O. Box 1093
Chautauqua, NY 14722
Phone: (716) 357-6332/6306
Fax: (716) 357-9014

Fenton Historical Society
67 Washington Street
Jamestown, NY 14701
Phone: (716) 664-6256
Fax: (716) 483-7524



A second pamphlet published by the Chautauqua County Genealogical Society lists the publications which they have produced. These publications are the result of thousands of hours of home computer data entry by volunteer Society members. For example: Genealogical Indexes to the *Evening Observer*, 20 books covering the years from 1886 to 1995. Chautauqua County School District Records, 22 books by the Trustees of various rural districts who filed annual reports with the town clerk. Many of these reports are filed with the Chautauqua County Historical Society in Westfield, NY.

The Chautauqua County Genealogical society has done tremendous work by publishing data useful to genealogists. In addition to the publications listed in the previous column they have published 34 other books for genealogists.

They have published *An Index to the 1867 Atlas of Chautauqua County* which will help the genealogical or historical researcher find ancestors or landmarks that have disappeared.

Their books are too numerous to include all of them here but you will find it interesting to note how much has been accomplished by its volunteer members. The selling price of these books is set to recover the cost of production to replenish the fund for their next project.

1997-1999 SFA Officers

Now perhaps is the time to focus on the officers who serve out of love for our family and its ancestors. Present officers have served for at least two years and some for many years more. Let's consider whom we will nominate to replace those who may not wish to continue in office.

Present officers are:

President - Mrs. Margaret N. Smith, 4421 3rd Ave. West, Palmetto, FL 34221

Vice President - Mr. Bob Sweatland, 35 Arthur Street, Clifton, MA 01510

Secretary - Mrs. Bette Steinbrenner, 635 W. Linden St., Lancaster, WI 53813

Treasurer - Mrs. Priscilla Swetland, R. D. #4, Box 121A, Montrose, PA 18801

Historian - Mr. Roger E. Swetland, R. D. #4, Box 121A, Montrose, PA 18801

Reunion Chair - Mrs. Robin Leidhecker, 1380 Radio Club Road, Montoursville, PA 17754.

Scholarship Fund Chair - Mrs. Carolyn Butler, 7 Cat Brier Lane, Hilton Head Island, SC 29926

Newsletter Editor - Mr. Mark W. Swetland, 13 Raymond Road, Bluffton, SC 29910-4526.

Yes, I will accept replacement if someone steps forward. Just volunteer. I will help you with material.