

# ❖Sweetland/Swetland Lore #10❖

(Formerly Swetland Lore)

April 1999

## 1999 SFA Reunion Goes Ahead

### Surprise! Surprise!

The 1999 Swetland Family Association Reunion will take place June 11-12 (not a week later as said before) at the St. Elmo Hotel on Lake Chautauqua. By now you should have received a copy of the notice. As soon as you reply with your registration, you will receive an information packet with particulars.

If you do not have one, write to Robin Leidhecker, 1380 Radio Club Road, Montoursville, PA 17754. Enclose an SASE for her reply.

Jean and I expect to be there. I had scheduled a knee replacement for April 12th but this has just been changed to the 19th. This gives me the minimum time needed to recover before leaving for the reunion. I know that I will be restricted in walking and standing but expect to be with you that weekend.

Please refer to the lower right section on page 2 which gives the agenda for the reunion. This shows Friday evening and Saturday events.

In addition to the agenda for genealogists, the site offers many ideas for spouses and children. They can boat, swim, golf, etc.

It will be fun. Margaret, Robin, Jean and I hope to see you there.

Robin has been slowed down by illness in her family. Under these circumstances she has done a good job and we owe her our thanks. Note that she will not be able to continue an-

other two years so a replacement will be required. Carolyn Butler has said that she can not continue to serve as Scholarship Chair so this makes a second position to fill at the reunion. Think about how you can step forward to take one of these positions which we need to perform effectively. Everyone is important to our future.

### Treasurer's Report

Thanks go to Lois Franklin, Carolyn Castle and Lee I. Swetland for donations to the newsletter. If you wish to donate to the newsletter, scholarship fund or general fund, please send them to Priscilla Swetland, R. D. #4, Box 121A, Montrose, PA 18801.

We have successfully finished another two years with donations our only source of funds. You are the ones who deserve credit and thanks. Those who remember us between reunion add their support to those who come to the reunions, perhaps even the same people. In any case we are solvent and remain so.

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## SFA Reunions 1896 - 1906 in New York

David Wightman Swetland of Cleveland, Ohio has sent me newspaper clippings on some of the early reunions. They made news with these reunions.

The write-up of the second annual reunion (1897) says that the meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM at the residence of H. M. Swetland. At 1:30 PM the meeting recessed for dinner at the Columbia and a group photo was taken.

The reunion convened again at 8:00 PM to elect officers and committees and to plan the next reunion. Committees on constitution, arrangements and entertainment were appointed. Fifty-three members attended.

The third reunion was planned for August 17, 1898. Other articles show that the fifth reunion was held at Pickard's Hotel, Bemus Point on Chautauqua Lake on Wednesday, August 19, 1900. Much of the article gives a story of Clarissa Swetland and her husband, Orange Whitney, early settlers in the area. This also tells of "Aunt Mariah" Swetland, daughter of Ira Swetland and Ruth Wright. Mariah Swetland married a distant cousin, Palta Swetland.

The last clipping tells of the reunion August 27th and 28th, 1902. A group photo was taken on the steps of the new Swetland Block in Mayville, NY. Some 55 people appear in the photo.



## William Swetland 1789-1864

**William Swetland** (b. 1789 Jul 26, d. 1864 Sep 27) was the first son of Belding Swetland, the first son of Luke Swetland, the captive of the Seneca Indians. Doug's book, p. 184, tells part of the story of William Swetland. Fred L. Swetland, Jr. of Ohio has sent a document which adds to the story of William

On October 15, 1979 Jean K. Stevenson wrote to Fred telling about a finding she sent him. The paragraph relating to this reads, "Two weeks ago I spent an hour or two at a nearby flea market. One exhibitor had a book of old documents and stamps (my interest) and the name Swetland jumped into my consciousness. On closer inspection the document I enclose pertains to a William Swetland of Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, PA in 1831."

This document is the appointment of William Swetland to be a manager on part of the state "in the Bridge over the River Susquehanna at the Borough of Wilkes-Barre." His term is from the first Monday of March 1831 to the first Monday of March 1832.

The document is a folded letter, postmarked in Harrisburg, Feb. 24 and has a manuscript marking which reads "For'd from Kingston March 1." One can not tell where it was delivered but perhaps to Wyoming, PA.

The first part of the document tells about the enactment of April 10, 1826 "That from and after from the first Monday in June next, the number of managers to be elected and appointed for each turnpike road and bridge company, within this commonwealth, in which the state has a moiety, or more of the bona fide stock, shall be reduced to five, the

president included, and shall be elected and appointed as follows, to wit: The stockholders shall on the first Monday of June next, elect three of the said managers, and on the first Monday in March following, and every year thereafter, on their part, and the Auditor General shall appoint two managers, on or before the said times aforesaid, on the part of the state."

This document has now traveled from the flea market to Fred via Jean Stevenson to your editor. It belongs in our family archives or the Swetland archives at the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society in

*Could it be possible that the man who had the book of old documents at the flea market still has other Swetland papers?*

Wilkes-Barre, PA. I shall ask Fred whether he has a preference and accept his suggestion.

Has anyone sent material to one of our archives as yet. At our 1997

reunion we selected the Allen County Library as the official archive depository for archival papers including photos and that duplicate copies of papers and all artifacts should be placed with the Wyoming County Historical Society. The addresses are :

Allen County Public Library  
Genealogy Department  
900 Webster St.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46802  
phone: (219) 424-7241 ext 2242

Wyoming County Historical Society  
P. O. Box 303  
Tunkhannock, PA 18657  
phone: (717) 836-5303

Perhaps you have already sent some letters and other paper items to another archive. It will be helpful to list all such locations so that other Swetlands tracing their ancestors know where to look for help. If you know of any such archives, we can prepare and distribute a master list for members.

## 1999 SFA Reunion Agenda

- Friday:** 2 hour boat ride around beautiful Chautauqua Lake with buffet meal.
- Saturday:** 8:30 Registration begins at St. Elmo. Pre-registration required. Morning agenda: Introduction and time for reports from YOU. Program Theme "Photography and Genealogy"  
1st session: "Identifying old Photographs"
- Luncheon:** At St. Elmo  
2nd session: How to include pictures in your genealogy using computers and non- computer methods.  
3rd session: "Digital Photos"
- Business meeting:** Secretary's report Treasurer's report Committee reports  
Introduction of officers - nominations for Reunion Chair and Scholarship Chair - Election of the slate  
Consideration of the 2-year plan of reunions. Report from Mark Swetland on the web, Any other business.
- Continuation:** photography, computers and genealogy Discussion of displays



## Data from Chautauqua Records

## Horace Monroe Swetland

Lisa Swetland, step-granddaughter of Henry M. Swetland, sent much data from a visit to the D. R. Barker Library in Fredonia, NY. Her data follows:

### A. B. Swetland

Born in Mayville, NY, January 19, 1865, he came to New York City in May 1890 and entered in the publishing business as treasurer of the Power Publishing Company which position he occupied until 1900. He then returned to Mayville where he built the Swetland Block, now occupied by four stores and the opera house. He then became associated with the Class Journal Company of New York, publishers of The Automobile and Motor Age. In 1907 he purchased an interest in the Engineering Review and in 1908 purchased the controlling interest and became President and General Manager. His business address is 290 West 39th Street, NY Residence, 1855 Seventh Avenue, NY.

### Benjamin S. Swetland, M.D.

A well-established and successful physician, he is the son of Sanford and Rhoda (Moore) Swetland, and was born at Middlefield, Otsego Co., New York March 15, 1854. The Swetlands are of Welsh descent and are one of the old families of Massachusetts. Sanford Swetland, the father of Dr. Swetland, was born in East Longmeadow, Hampton Co., Mass. and moved with his father, when a small boy, to Otsego Co., but left there when thirty-five years of age and came to the village of Portland where he died in 1886 in the sixty-second year of age. He was a mason by trade, an abolitionist and republican in politics and Methodist in religious belief. During the late Civil War he enlisted twice in a Federal company but was rejected both times on account of physical disability. He married Rhoda Moore of Scotch-Holland-Dutch descent and a native of Otsego Co. who was born in 1821 and is a consistent member of the Methodist church of Portland where she now resides.

Benjamin S. Swetland was reared

in the town of Portland where he received his early education in the public schools and then attended the Westfield High School. Leaving school, he read medicine and then entered the medical department of the University of Buffalo from which he graduated Feb. 26, 1878. In the same year he opened an office in Portland where he practiced until the spring of 1883 when he went to Boston, Mass., and became a solicitor for the Boston Journal of Commerce. During his four years in this capacity, he learned much valuable knowledge of human nature. In the spring of 1887 he returned to the practice of his profession and came to Brocton where he has been active and has had successful practice since.

*Dr. B. S. Swetland was known to E. Manette Swetland of Oberlin, Ohio, who has stories about her mother and this doctor.*

On March 14th of the centennial year he united in marriage with Eva C. Munson of Portland.

This continues the obituary begun in S/S Lore #8.

The advent of the automobile opened another field of endeavor, and the leadership of the Chautauqua man resulted in a large number of industrial publications printed in one establishment and covering a wide field. Many of his most trusted associates in his ventures have been young men from Fredonia to whom he had given the opportunity of demonstrating their ability. Mr. Swetland never lost an interest in Fredonia and was held in high and affectionate regard by many residents of his former home. During the War he subscribed to the Fredonia quota of various war enterprises.

In the fall of 1918 he headed a delegation of industrial publishers who visited England and France as guests of the British government. On his return he wrote an account of the trip under the title "American Journalists in Europe." Autographed copies of the work are prized by former friends here.

He is survived by his wife, Clara, three daughters, Mrs. Stevens, Mrs. Johnson of New York and Mrs. Kane of Montclair, New Jersey and a brother.

## On-line Researcher

March 2nd email came from Jason Swetland. Jason and his wife Amanda are at 10701 Hanson Blvd. #210, Coon Rapids, MN 55433. Jason descends from Luke Swetland through Joseph, Artemas, Joseph, George Washington, Joseph Ellsworth, Joseph J. and Joseph E. Swetland to Jason.

Jason's grandfather has some letters from Luke to his children. Jason is trying to get scanned copies for us to see. His father has a book written in the fifties about his family and some information tracing some Swetlands back to the Netherlands.

Jason has said that he is compiling a large Swetland database with all known descendants of Sweetlands, Swetlands and Sweatlands. He reports that this is a two-year project but when finished he will make copies available for the cost of a CD. He intends to include a map showing the progression of where your family went and how they progressed across the country. So far he has put in about 420 hours. (With 2 children and work, he has no spare time for genealogy despite his desire to carry out his project -Editor's comment) He is willing to offer his services to the Swetland family Association for a simple price - their help.

(continued on page 4)



## Close Swetland Families in Cleveland and Fredonia

David Wightman Swetland of Cleveland, OH has sent information which adds to the story of his family and that of H. M. Swetland whose obituary began in S/S Lore #8.

David's letter tells that "I have a short note to add to your recent article in S/S Lore. My father (Frederick Luetchford Swetland) and grandfather (Truman Monroe Swetland) were very close to H. M. Swetland during a ten year period, about 1895-1905. My family lived in Cleveland; H. M. lived in Fredonia, NY. They probably became acquainted at time of the first Swetland reunion (1896). Grandfather became President and H. M. assumed another office. H. M. had four daughters and T. M. had four sons. They were of similar ages, all unmarried

"From 196 to 1900 there were countless "socials" at Fredonia and one at least at Bass Island, Sandusky where the Swetlands had a camp. In July of 1900 Flossie, the second daughter of H. M., fell and drowned at Bass Island. My father, F.L., was devastated over the loss of this young girl (20 years old).

"Rather than blame him or the other boys (F. L. was 28 years old at the time) H. M. invited father to join his firm and work in New York. Father had an aptitude for mechanical things and H. M. was then running amongst others a magazine about automobiles. Father was his man on autos. This association continued for five years.

"Father became close to Clara, H. M.'s wife, and the oldest daughter, Velma, a close relationship that lasted all her life.

"In 1904 Velma married a local

boy, Frederick Stevens, and father's job disappeared in 1905. The son-in-law got it and moved to New York.

"Father moved back to Cleveland and re-entered the family business, by then real estate. The tie was maintained but at a much lesser degree than before. Velma and F. L. continued as friends and later my mother when F. L. and she were married (1912). I have letters and photos from this period of family gatherings."

David then goes on to tell that

*I was lucky with the computers I bought in 1985, 1988 and 1993 and the upgrades by the manufacturer in 1995 and 1986.*

he is for the first time looking into these family letters because he is writing his own history and these things lead into it.

I would love to have such stories from all our members because this makes their lives more vivid.

### Your Editor Writes

This is a new story, one about my experience with computers. Last November I felt I needed more RAM and a larger hard drive. To do the work I chose a local computer "expert." He went to work and several days later he came back. I now had 32MB RAM, a 4.6GB hard drive and a new 56K modem, which I had not expected.

However, he was unable to transfer any files from the old drive to the new one so he left the old drive out. That means I lost all the work files from the old drive and had to re-install all the programs I still wanted.

Can you guess how I miss the old files? You bet I do! Finally, I have hope that the drive manufacturer can help me recover the lost files. I have to get the old hard drive re-installed and phone one of his technical support people to work through the problem with me. Some day I may be back to where I started.

## On-line Researcher (continued from page 3)

Jason volunteers to serve the family association as the official on-line researcher. He adds that he "uses and abuses" the net for work as well as for his hobbies, guitar playing, outdoors and, more recently, genealogy and he is usually very resourceful with it.

"Gimme a job and I'll do it," he says. "If it's out there, I'll find it." He has been networking with a few people at on-line forums where people trade "lookups" among other services including going to different government offices, looking up information and trading it with you in exchange for a favor or the cost of their research.

The information Jason needs are: Name, date of birth, place of birth, residence, spouse, date of marriage, date of death (when applicable), offspring and optionally occupation and/or education. He will take whatever else he can get. This includes family stories or family legends. As he says, you never know when something will be a key to lost information that traces out a line.

Through the net Jason has met Joan Swetland, President of the Florida Watercolor Society, but he is not able to trace her family back past the mid-1800s.

Jason's email addresses are Jaysunn72@aol.com or JCSwetland@aol.com.