
❖ Sweetland/Swetland Lore #14 ❖

(formerly Sweetland Lore)

June 2000

Wonderful People Read This Newsletter

Readers of S/S Lore #13 are marvelous, wonderful people. Jane Gage, Darryl Sweetland, Dorothy Hinckley, Lynda Myers and Marion Germano have donated \$115.00 to the treasury. Each donor received my thanks with a note of appreciation. As I told them, their donations give me the inspiration needed to continue with S/S Lore.

At the same time material for this issue has come in. Special thanks go to Marjorie Scott and Anne Kirby. Marjorie's data will appear in S/S Lore #15 and Anne Kirby's write-up on her ancestor John Sweetland is on page 3. These make work easier but I can still use more information from others that they want to share with "cousins."

I use the term "cousins" although I can not always determine exactly what the relationship may be. Marjorie Scott and I must go back a long way to William and Agnes Sweetland's son, John. Relationship charts shows that Marjorie and I are 6th cousins. Anne Kirby and I go back even farther. Our common ancestor is John, son of Isaac of England. She and I are then 8th cousins, once removed.

Does this matter? No? We can find a common ancestry but it changes neither of us by knowing it. Finding the common ancestry is the challenge and reward.

Can I trace the ancestry of all the Sweetland Family Association

members to find a common ancestor. No!! Some of us share the surname without knowing how we are related. But what fun it is looking for that common thread! The chase is as much the fun as getting to the end.



Mark W. Sweetland, Sr, 1886-1948.
About two years old

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Survey Results to Special Mailings

Using the S/S Lore mailing list, I selected 25 names of people who had not written me over the past several years. I sent a letter and return post card with the last S/S Lore to these people asking if they were still interested. Eight returned the post cards showing strong interest in staying on the mailing list. This showing still left 17 who did not respond. For this reason they will not receive future issues of S/S Lore.

Some time after S/S Lore #13 went into the mailing, I found at long last a copy of the reunion mailing list which had some 60 more names than the S/S Lore list. The reunion mailing list had been lost since late 1998 when my hard drive problems caused me to get a new one.

With these 60 names I sent another letter and post card, asking if they wanted to be back on the mailing list. Surprisingly, 18 have sent back their cards, some with data for possible future issues of S/S Lore. Those who wanted a copy of the latest S/S Lore should have already received them.

Now should I be happy? In some ways, yes, but it means that I must mail out almost the same number of copies of S/S Lore as before I tried to trim the list. However, the donations which came from the two sets of responses have inspired me to get this issue

Websites of Interest and Value to Swetlands

The computer provides much data and help for genealogists. To many a computer is a mystery.

However, the computer also can assist in many ways. Of particular value are the websites useful to genealogists.

Perhaps the most useful of all websites to all genealogists is this site, <http://www.familysearch.org>, the site of the Family Search Internet Genealogy Service of the Church of the Latter Day Saints. When you enter the site, you are given the choice of using Ancestor Search, Keyword Search or Custom Search. I usually choose Custom Search as this gives many additional choices. I can then access Ancestral File, International Genealogical Index, Pedigree Resource File and Family History Library Catalog plus others. By choosing the Catalog, I can find all the books which have data on Swetlands. This turns out to show 12 listings.

The first of these is Memories, 1598-1936 by Louise Grant Smith Richardson. She wrote this about 1936 and Kenneth Richardson added a few pages a bit later. By asking for microfilm No. 1035971 and reading Item 1, one learns that this gives her memories and those of her relatives about their lives, where they lived and the times they went through. It has a reference to Swetlands in that her ancestor, Marcia Mahala Swetland, was the daughter of Benjamin Swetland, son of John Swetland, son of William and Agnes Swetland of Salem, MA. Many ancestral lines are contained in these memories.

On another note using the Pedigree Resource File, I came

across William and Agnes Swetland. The submitter for their data and the date of their marriage was a man from Scarborough, Ontario. It has his full address so here is a person I must write.

Previously, I have mentioned Jason Swetland in these newsletters. Jason is a descendant of Luke Swetland, living in Minnesota. His email address is JSwet2337@aol.com or you can reach him at P. O. Box 48541, Minneapolis, MN 55448-0541. Jason has entered his Swetland ancestry at his website: <http://www.angelfire.com/mn2/Swetland/>

Jason Swetland also wrote that Swetland Researchers need to let website providers know their services are needed.

[index.htm](#). When you enter his site, you read his home page which has links to [Swetland Research](#), [Family Tree](#) and [Photo Album](#).

Clicking on the first brings you four pages discussing Swetland Research. This has comments on research, on the correct surname spelling and on how you can add your data to his website and support this website. The most important comment is copied below:

“To support this website please click on any of the links or banners you find. I have tried to make them all very specific to Genealogy as well as use search engines.

I have also included links to Amazon.com as a part of Amazon.com’s associates program. Simply put, if you buy a book from Amazon.com, after clicking on a link in this website to get there, Amazon.com will give some of the proceeds from that sale to this website.

That money will be used to keep this free and on the internet. In the future I hope to get it on my own web server so that there are no pop up advertisements at all. “

In This Issue

Page 1 of this issue has an article telling everyone how wonderful the readers of Sweetland/Swetland Lore are. You also see the results of two surveys, one reaching out to present readers and the other seeking those who were lost from the data base for long over a year.

Page 2 has data on internet websites that are interesting and useful to genealogists.

Page 3 has the story from Anne Kirby on her ancestor John Sweetland of Marblehead, MA, plus Errors and Reader Responses.

Page 4 has the present write-up on my great-grandfather, Austin Aaron Swetland. The write-up is called “present” because more information on his life has to be available with more searching.

Much more information on all ancestors may come to light with enough looking. For example, Jason Stevens has found that Austin’s grandfather, Aaron Swetland, had a shop before he went to New York state. When I have more of the story, you will read it here.

John Sweetland in the Revolutionary War by Anne Kirby

My fourth great-grandfather, John Sweetland, played a role in the Revolutionary War under General George Washington. He was born 28 October 1750 in Marblehead, MA, married 21 May 1772 to Jane Thompson, later married Elizabeth Grant, and died about 1785.

The Marblehead regiment, in which John was a private, played crucial roles in the war by rowing troops across rivers on two different occasions. Washington Irving called them "John Glover's Amphibious Regiment of Marblehead Fishermen." A small wiry man, the Colonel had been a fisherman out of Marblehead, and the men in his command were likewise Marblehead fishermen and had known him, and each other, for most of their lives. No regiment in the American army was closer knit than this one.

On August 28, 1776, General Washington had nine thousand men assembled at the Brooklyn Fortification. Meanwhile, British General Howe, with his twenty thousand men, was about to bring his gunboats up the East River to fire on Brooklyn and trap the Americans with no way out, unless they retreated across the river in one night. Washington gave Glover his written authority to get the boats they needed for the crossing near the Brooklyn ferry. The Marblehead regiment scattered through the night and returned with flatbottomed boats, longboats, barges, rowboats and whaleboats. The Marbleheaders secretly crossed the East River and brought the boats to the Brooklyn shore in the rain.

The nine thousand American troops had been living on daily rations of two hard biscuits and four ounces of raw pork. They could not build fires for warmth or cooking for fear of being seen by the enemy, and they took turns in the trenches, which were full of water and mud.

With a strong nor'easter howling in their ears, the Marbleheaders began the impossible-seeming task of transporting

an entire army across the East River in one night. If the storm continued, they would be unable to complete the mission that night, and the troops remaining on the Brooklyn side would be killed or captured by Howe's troops. However, at eleven p. m. the nor'easter suddenly died and was replaced by an unusual breeze from the southwest. At 5:30 in the morning, under cover of a thick fog which came up the river, the last of the troops were rowed across the river by the Marbleheaders, who had rowed all night.

Notes:

1. Johnston, Henry P., *The Campaign of 1776 Around New York and Brooklyn*, 1878, Reprint, New York: Da Capo Press, 1971.
2. These events are depicted in the historical novel by Ron Carter, *Prelude to Glory, Vol. 2*, Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1999.
3. Camberland, *Old Marblehead*, New York: Hastings House.

Anne Kirby has said that the second crossing of John Sweetland and others in his regiment will be available for the next issue of S/S Lore, #15.

Errors - I Hate Them

S/S Lore had three errors on the last two pages, 3 and 4. One was caught due to the sharp eyes of Tracy Crocker. The reference 2 on page 4 to the marriage date of William and Agnes Swetland of Salem, MA is incorrect. As of this moment I am not able to find a reference to this date other than a note in an LDS Ancestry Research page. I am still looking for this data and will issue these two pages again when I get the correct reference.

A second error was a superscript on page 3. The superscript 8 after "John Lovett.)" should have been 6.

The third is that the number 6 was not printed in front of "ibid, Vol. II, p. 70" at the top of the third column on page 4.

The last two errors are quickly changed on your copies but the reference to the marriage date of William and Agnes must come later.

When the reference for the marriage date of William and Agnes Swetland comes to hand, I will re-issue pages 3 and 4 of S/S Lore #13.

Reader Responses

Interesting responses have come on the post cards: Will you help?

Marion Germano, Punta Gorda, FL - Last year I did discover my 2nd great-grandfather and 2nd great grandmother. Charles and Mary Swetland were born in "Vermont" about 1795 and 1796. That is all I know about them. Their son, William, is better known to me as he was born and died in Oneida County, NY.

Darryl Sweetland, Concord, CA - It might be interesting to publish the names, cities and states of our circulation. You might also consider a form to add new Sweetlands and Swetlands to the list. Both ideas sound good. Do you object to being on such a list? Write me or send an e-mail to MWSwetland@compuserve.com.

Dorothy Golden, djgolden@iolinc.net - Dottie is looking for data on Lucy Swetland, born in 1860s to 1870s. She married William Edward Smith and lived in New Bedford, MA for a time. Her first daughter, Ruth Elizabeth, was born July 1897 followed by Mabel, Benjamin and Theodore. William worked in the baggage room of a railway. Lucy died in Springfield, MA

Austin Aaron Swetland, 1832-1899

The following article on Austin Aaron Swetland is compiled from many records, some held at home and others from literature.

Austin Aaron Swetland, the third son of Harmon Swetland and Rosamond Watrous, was named after his grandfathers, Austin Watrous and Aaron Swetland. Aaron Swetland served in the Revolutionary War and Austin Watrous also served according to Lena Stevens. I have Aaron's pension papers and also those of his widow Lois Allen Swetland.

Born on June 3, 1832, Austin Aaron Swetland lived his early life in Freetown, NY.

In 1857 he moved to the Harrison Valley, PA, area. This year comes from family tradition that says he taught school the first year he was there. His certificate as a school teacher, which still exists, is dated November 25, 1857, and was signed by J. Hendricks, Superintendent of Potter County. Austin's first contract, dated December 12, 1857, signed by Olman Olney, President, and attested by George Gilbert, Secretary of the Board, was to teach at Harrison Valley for a term of three months at a compensation of \$50.50.

On December 19, 1860 he married Susan A. Thomas, daughter of Benjamin Thomas and Catherine Gorton. Austin and Susan must have met after he moved to Harrison Valley. In 1861 they were living on Snyder Hill up above the valley where their son, Roger, was born that year.

Austin and his brother Mulford enlisted in Company I, 189th NY State Volunteers, Infantry, in 1864. It seems the boys went back to Elmira, NY, to enlist with neighbors they had known in New York state. Austin kept a diary during his service, now filed with the Firestone Library at Princeton University. The diary records not quite day by day activities of where they were, what they did, and how he felt. He headed the diary "Campaigning 1864" and the first date is September

27, 1864.

Austin and Mulford enlisted as Privates. Austin soon rose to the rank of Corporal which remained his rank until the end of the war. He joked that he was given the rank so he could wait on the rest of the men. His daughter Kitt later wrote that her father had served in the 5th Corps, 1st Division, 2nd Brigade, 189th Regiment, Company I, NY Volunteers, as copied from a record given her by her father.

The brothers participated in the battles of Gravelly Run, Hatcher's Run, Lewis Farm and Five Forks. Austin and Mulford were present when Lee surrendered at Appomatox Court House. Austin's words on April 12th 1865 were "Called out about 9 o'clock.

*"He was firm in his convictions and fearless in expressing them."
"A man who saw his duty clearly and did it manfully."*

Formed in line, Rebs filed past and stacked arms out front. Thus ends Lee's great army."

Both men served until June 1865. They broke camp for the last time on May 30th, marched to Washington where they got aboard cars, freight cars without seats. They reached Elmira, NY, June 1 and marched to Barracks No. 1. Both were discharged in June 1865.

Austin and Susan had two children, Roger born September 28, 1861 and Katherine (Kitt) Lois born April 9, 1869. At one time after Kitt was born, they were living across the street from the Harrison Valley Baptist Church. Her mother would leave her outside the church to be watched by her brother while her mother was in church. Austin was Sunday School Superintendent for a number of years.

Austin's trades were coopering and blacksmithing before he joined the army. After the war he "returned to his vocations," as a newspaper obituary reported, "until in 1879 failing health no longer permitted him to work at hard

labor." He ran the Coudersport and Westfield stage for three years. He ran a mail stage from Coudersport to Jersey Shore, PA, for two years. He was elected County Treasurer in 1887 for a term of three years, a job he said was the most remunerative he ever held. He conducted a cheese factory in Harrison Valley from 1883 until near his death and served as Justice of Peace for over nineteen years.

His pension papers give the reason as "unable to work with his disability due to the war." On November 16, 1899, 12 days before his death on the 28th, his daughter Kitt wrote a postcard to her brother Roger saying "I think father is really better today. He sleeps and reads in his chair very much like himself."

Austin's obituary reads, "He was firm in his convictions and fearless in expressing them. Warm-hearted, generous, honest and industrious. A man who saw his duty clearly and did it manfully. He was a careful reader, a clear thinker and a forceful speaker. Nearly forty years ago he gave his heart to God and died in the faith, knowing in whom he had believed. No one in his town was better known or more greatly honored and loved."

Now Comes Your Turn!

Surely many of you can provide stories on your ancestors similar to this one. Yes, it does take time. What you read here began three years ago. As new data came to light, the story grew. Even now I feel sure I have more data to add to the story as I came across more hidden data. If I knew where it was today, this article might have filled the entire page.

Please take this to heart and see what you can send in to enlighten and entertain others.