
❖Sweetland/Swetland Lore #17❖

(Formerly Swetland Lore)

March 2001

Swetland Family Website by Jason Swetland

In several past issues of Sweetland/Swetland Lore you have read about Jason Swetland, a young man who lives in Wisconsin. Jason has set up on his own the Swetland Family Tree website. He is anxious to add as much as we send him on our common ancestors.

Like many of us he has limited time to add new names to his website but can add no more than his line unless the rest of us help by sending him the needed data. I have sent him the past issues of Sweetland/Swetland Lore which he will put on the website as time permits. However, Jason wants to make this a central website for Swetlands so he needs your help.

Please note that this does not mean that he will omit Sweetlands. Most, perhaps all of us, realize that the first Swetland in this country spelled his name with two "ee's." We do not know why the one "e" was left out but I suspect that spelling was of no importance in early days and any spelling was accepted. Some of our ancestors may not have known how their name should have been spelled so never questioned how others spelled it.

You can reach Jason's website at <http://swetlandfamilytree.hypermart.net>. Omit the < and > when typing into the Internet but, of course, you know that. You can also send email to him at jason72.somtel.net.

By email Jason has said, "The best thing I need help on is names, birth dates, dates of death, marriage dates, anything the members of our family want to see. As you may have noticed, I have but half or less of the data base of names up. There are literally thousands of names.

"Mostly I have to just keep plugging away adding these names but, if anyone can help, they really need to scour it looking for inaccuracies and please!!! Cite your sources!!! I will compile a list of where my information ends and anyone wanting to add theirs just needs to email me. If anyone wants to offer their services for looking up info in towns across the country, then they should email me with what they want posted so people know how to contact them for information.

"I will write up more when I can but I have to get going. The pump went out here. No water pressure!!! Sure is fun!"

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SFA 2001 Reunion

You have already seen two notices about our 2001reunion. April will bring you the final notice with the details on how to sign up for the reunion, where to stay, how to make reservations and what the confirmed agenda is for the reunion.

The theme remains the same, Our Civil War Ancestors. We ask you to give us the name or names of your Civil War ancestor(s). We also ask that you bring with you as many photos of such ancestor(s) as you can together with any Civil War artifacts that have come down through your family. Display tables will be there.

Please share with us at the reunion the stories which you have heard, where they served, how they lived, with whom they enlisted and everything else you can think of. You will make the reunion the best yet.

Robin Leidhecker has planned a fine meeting with two speakers. One will talk on what the Civil War was like in the morning and the second will tell us about preserving family photographs in the afternoon. How well do we know what serving in the army during the Civil War was like?

In addition to the speakers, we want as many as can to tell us about these ancestors. Time for each may be limited to five minutes so prepare to speak no more than this. If more time becomes available, you will know this at the meeting. I look

More on Roger Swetland

You learned before that you would hear more about my ancestral line unless the members provided me with enough to fill every issue of S/S Lore. For the current one, I have almost no data or information from anyone. So you should make sure that I have what I need.

Since my aunt, Kitt Dildine, Roger Swetland’s sister, saved many of the letters he wrote to her, I have material for many more issues. I have more than 200 letters written between 1898 and 1934, the year of his death. I have also over 20 letters which Roger wrote to his brother-in-law, Will Dildine. I have letters he wrote to his daughter, Ruth, two to his nieces, Lois and Helen Dildine and one to his nephew, Roger Austin Dildine, a boy who died young.

His letters to Ruth came from her estate after her death and the others mentioned came from Kitt Dildine’s estate. I know more about my grandfather than ever before. A mystery exists about how many letters are from each year. He must have written about the same number each year but for some I have only one letter. No one will ever know where the other letters went.

Roger was a remarkable man, more so the more I learn of him. Since he died when I was only 12 years old, my recollections are of a stern, older man who loved his family deeply but did not show it much. One of his letters comments on this as a Swetland trait. Another Swetland trait he noted is that Swetlands are always nearly short of money. Thank goodness, that isn’t always true but health has managed to diminish what remains.

Roger resigned from Cook Academy in Montour Falls, NY, in

1898 when he accepted the position of Principal of The Peddie Institute in Hightstown, NJ. He taught both at Cook Academy and at Peddie but in later years Peddie grew to the point that he gave up teaching.

Roger was deeply devoted to the Baptist Church. In Hightstown he formed a Men’s Club which he thought of as a Sunday School class in the Hightstown Baptist Church shortly after he moved there and served to teach the Men’s Club from then until just before his death. A few of his letters to Kitt contained notices for the his Sunday School class.

He was in demand as a speaker and preacher at many organizations and churches throughout New Jersey.

Roger also became President of the North Jersey Baptist Association and served for about three years. This work took more time than

thought from his main position at Peddie so one term was all he served.

He was in demand as a speaker, and a preacher at many organizations as well as churches throughout New Jersey. One might think that some of his talks were written just yesterday because they apply so well to what we face today.

Roger read deeply and well He was deeply religious and applied his religion to everything he did. He worked hard to accomplish what he felt was needed and trusted in God to help him do what he needed to do.

His last words on his death bed when asked what he wanted were, “The peace of God.”

The SFA Treasury
Priscilla Swetland reports that the treasury has a balance of \$886.98 as of December 23 including all donations to date. SFA members have been most generous with their contributions. The treasury is in good state until the reunion.

Notes on SFA Members

James Messick, Levittown, PA - “I have been out of touch due to health, improving now. My wife, Josephine Messick, passed away on 20 Oct.1999. I miss her very much after 52 years of marriage. I am indeed lost without her.” I am sure all readers join me in sending Jim our sympathy and condolences. Jim, I hope you can join us in Williamsport this summer.(ed.)

We have lost another member, friend and relative, James R. Hopkins. Thanks to his special friend, Ann Auskings, we received a copy of his obituary. Jim came to some of the early reunions, although a number who have joined us in later years never had the chance to meet him. Jim was born May 19, 1929 and died February 9, 2001. He was a Korean War veteran, serving in the Marine Corps and Air Force.

Priscilla and Roger Swetland have been spending time in Arizona this winter, enjoying their motor home. They left behind the cold and snow of Pennsylvania but their return in early March will show them that winter is still with them. How fortunate they are to be able to do this and be young enough to take full advantage of retirement. There is much more to life than

Mark Swetland's Ancestral History

My Ancestral History is underway. It is planned and work begun. No firm date is set for its completion.

Perhaps, knowing about it may inspire you to do the same for your line.

What does this title mean? Beginning with myself, I am telling the story I can about each of my direct ancestors. The line goes back to Isaac Sweetland of Sussex, England and goes down through each of the sons in my line down to myself.

The history when finished will start with Isaac and proceed down to Mark W. Swetland, Jr., at the end. Our children will be shown as part of our family and perhaps our grandchildren but this is not sure. Why not? By that time I may need to finish so that it does get done while still alive. This will then give our children a chance to write their own.

Having begun, I find that much more work is needed than thought. While I have many references, not all those needed are in my files so I am looking for the rest. Not all I have are properly written out so I can not give them without looking up the full reference.

It may be no surprise that more data on William Swetland of Salem, MA, exists than on any ancestors other than my father and grandfather. William is mentioned in many books on Salem and Essex County, MA. Going back from my grandfather, I find the data decreases as I go back until I reach William of Salem.

A reason for this is that much more work will be needed to fill in missing data, data I have not sought.

To finish what has been begun any time this year means that I will go with what I know now.

The work is fascinating. It teaches me more about these ancestors than I had imagined. As I look through my records, it teaches me much about what makes a good genealogist. Had I started this years ago, my research would have been better by far. Since I can't repeat the past, I must go on from where I am today and learn for the future.

While I can use help, I do not expect much. Our son Paul has been of great help in proof reading the first drafts and letting me know

As I said in the beginning, may this inspire you to do the same. Msery loves company!

where I am not getting across to others so they understand everything I have written. His help is outstanding. He sees things that I

miss.
As I said in the beginning, may this inspire you to do the same. Misery likes company!

Swetland Road, Doylestown, PA

Now we have the information on how Swetland Road in Doylestown, PA came to be. Marcia Stillwagon had the persistence to make several calls to contact the developer who gave names to the roads. The story from his secretary is that they chose the names of famous women in Pennsylvania.

Going through the list of famous women, he found the name of Hannah Swetland, wife of Luke Swetland. The name Swetland Road thus gives honor to Luke's wife Hannah.

Marcia also sent a photo which we should be able to scan into a computer and use in a future issue of the newsletter. Do we have a member who will scan the photo for us into their computer and send me the file on disk to give our printer? I

Family Newsletters - Bridging the Past

Ancestry magazine for Jan / Feb 1994 had an article by this title which I copied and saved. The writer of the article is Doris F. Rodriguez who began a newsletter and was in her twenty-ninth printing when she wrote. This is sent on a fee basis, what she figured it would cost to print and mail a monthly newsletter twelve times a year. The response has been stimulating to read what she says. Here is a paragraph from near the end of the article..

"In closing, I can say that the family newsletter not only bridges the gap between today and our past, but it inspires excellence and achievement in future generations by increasing our awareness of who we are and what we hope to achieve. With this legacy comes a great responsibility, a responsibility to be the best we can be and to do the very best that we can. It has given us a deeper purpose, a deeper meaning to our lives and those of our children. It has helped us remember those who came before us and has helped us understand and admire their pioneering spirits."

Recent New Members of the SFA

Through the Internet and contacts by mail I have found other Sweetland/Swetland descendants who are interested in what we are doing. While I know them only by mail and email, this will let you learn about some of them. You may also know how to reach them.

Mike Chapman -

mchapman@earthlink.net.

Mike's Chapman ancestors were indentured servants in Muncie, IN in the late 1700s. Mike learned of my name through Ancestry.com. His grandmother was Adele Sweetland from Wisconsin.

Mike asked for copies of past newsletters which he now has. This proved a great time to find out how many we had issued. For your information, 17 issues of Sweetland Lore went out, 62 pages. We have sent out 17 Sweetland/Swetland Lore issues, 64 pages including issue #17, the current one.

Tracy Crocker -

tracy@tracycrocker.com

Tracy holds significant positions in genealogy. He is President of the Thomas Rogers Society, Register General of the Order of the Crown of Charlemagne in the United States of America, and Editor of the Mayflower Society in Hawaii. He also has his own web site, www.tracycrocker.com. Tracy and Dewey Eldridge have exchanged information for years. Tracy is a descendant of William and Agnes Sweetland of Salem through John Sweetland, John Sweetland, Jr., Jonah Sweetland and Luman Sweetland.

I recommend that you go to his web site. He has a remarkable line of ancestry. He also mentions a Sweetland microfiche which I must see.

Lynda Myers -

almyers@win.bright.net

Lynda is active in many family reunions. She signs her name as Lynda (Sweetland-Stafford-Kozak) Myers. She is planning a Stafford/Kozak reunion to take place several weeks before ours. She hopes to join us in Williamsport. She is telling her Sweetland/Stafford line about our reunion so some of them may come.

Wayne Myers -

Some of us know Wayne but others should also know of him. Wayne joined us in Chautauqua at the 1999 reunion. He has noted recently that his ancestors may have moved as far north as Albany when the British arrived and changed the name of Nieuw Amsterdam to New York. In New York the Myers name was spelled Miers.

Wayne found and met a Mr. Charles Myers in Eldred, NY and saw many Myers names in the nearby Eldred, Tusten and Narrowsburg cemeteries. He learned

that his grandfather Sweetland watched the well drilling in Narrowsburg, joined the company and moved to western Pennsylvania where he drilled wells. He is buried in Vestal, NY

Wayne's Sweetland descent is from Theophilus Sweetland by two lines, one from his first wife, Dorcas Dewey and the other from his second wife, Zelpha Sprague.

Gareth Pearson -

PEARSONGAR@aol.com

Gareth's wife, Lynda Chapman Pearson, is a descendant of Anson Sweetland and Elizabeth Abbott. Gareth is working on genealogy with his father-in-law, Claude Wilmer Chapman. He has sent me his Gedcom file for use.

ANNUAL APPEAL

This appeal is not for money but for help to make future issues of S/S Lore more interesting to others. I can keep on going with my grandfather's letters but you must want something more. It is up to **YOU!**

More News

12th

Swetland Family Association - July 27-29. This is the heading on the notice of our family reunion in the year 2001. This is on Mr. Spiffy's reunion web site. The notice goes on to say, "We gather on Friday for discussions and social activities. Saturday will be the meeting with two speakers, one on the Civil War and the second on preserving family photographs. We will have talks by members on their Civil War ancestors, the theme of this year's reunion. We welcome all Sweetlands, Sweetlands and Sweatlands and their descendants."

You can access Mr. Spiffy at <http://family-reunion.com>. This should bring up his March 2001 newsletter. From this you can reach the register and read all the many notices on it. It seems there are more than 100 notices, too many to be worthwhile counting. They are in alphabetical order.

You can reach the web site every month to read the latest newsletter and read about the latest information on reunions, interesting info about others.