
❖ Sweetland/Swetland Lore #18 ❖

(formerly Swetland Lore)

June 2001

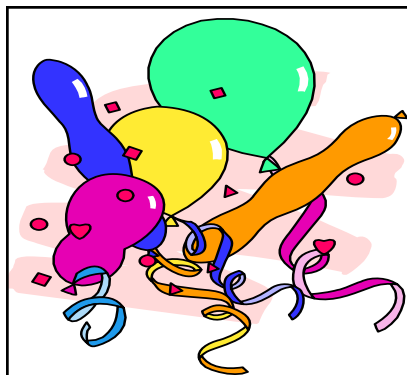
2001 Sweetland/Swetland Family Reunion - July 27-29

By now you should have received the final notice for our reunion. We hope that you have returned your reservation form telling Robin that you will be with us in Williamsport, PA, July 27-29.

Did you notice the typo error in that letter of invitation? The mistake is in the first line of the second paragraph. The date should have read July 27th, not July 25th. Since the date reads correctly elsewhere, we trust this did not confuse anyone but you have my apology for the error.

We already have our reservation for the Genetti Hotel and Suites and have sent in the reservation form to Robin. Jean and I will arrive early Friday afternoon. We hope to see Gladys Swetland the day before. Gladys passed her 109th birthday on April 18, 2001. She is a remarkable woman, keen and sharp, who still plays the piano or organ for church on Sundays.

While Gladys will not be at our reunion, you may be certain that she is with us in spirit. She loves to go out to eat whenever someone comes by with a car large enough to take her wheelchair. She knows all the restaurants with a handicap entrance and how to drive there even though she has not driven for about six years. Her memory of how to drive to all her old spots is amazing. She has taken us over many back roads we could never have found without



No picture again this time. I must find space for a scanner and learn how to use it so I can add pictures to the newsletter. Who is a scanner expert to advise me?.

her alongside us.

Please tell us about your ancestors who served in the Civil War. My great-grandfather, Austin A. Swetland, and his brother, Mulford R. Swetland, served together and returned home together. I am bringing photos of Austin and his wife Susan Thomas. Do bring photos of your Civil War ancestors.

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Sweetland/Swetland Family Archives

.For over five years we have talked about creating a family archives for us Sweetlands and Swetlands. Let me repeat what we put in the Minutes of our reunions.

At the 1995 reunion we began a program to locate a place to set up a family archive to store our records and such other items as we might consider.

The minutes of the 1997 reunion say "After discussion it was moved, seconded and approved to make the Allen County Library the official archive depository for all documents of the Swetland Family Association. The further sense of the discussion was that duplicate copies of documents together with artifacts should be filed at the Wyoming County Historical Society in Tunkhannock, PA. Also if anyone send documents to a local society, a duplicate copy should go to the Allen County Library and it should be noted that copies exist in both locations.

The IN MEMORIAM section on page 3 notes that I have five books from Jim Hopkins that I will place in our archives. This makes it essential that we now open our archives with the Allen County Library in Fort Wayne, IN so that we begin to place books and papers in our archives. Since Dr. Norman Bowers was the contact with the library in Fort Wayne, I will ask him to proceed with opening our archive with them.

NEHGS Circulating Library

For the past six months I have been using the New England Historic Genealogical Society lending library to get books by mail in order to read books which may be useful to Swetland genealogy. So far fifteen books have come through the mail. The books cover all kinds of topics, Swetlands, Bassetts, books on towns and people in Massachusetts, and Connecticut, and some of general interest.

If you have never tried to use a circulating library, let me urge you to do so. Why, you may ask? Costs! Without leaving your home, you can have the USPS deliver the books to you. Delivery time varies depending on how the USPS works. I am receiving books in Bluffton, SC, from Boston, MA. From the time I mail a request for books, the time has varied from two to three and a half weeks until the books arrive.

Library regulations require that you return the books two weeks after they reach you. This may not appear to be much time but you can obtain only three books with each request. In two weeks you can look through the books, decide what in them you need to keep and either copy or photocopy the pages that interest you.

So far I have received fifteen books from NEHGS. Not all of them have had data which seemed to be of value to me. I try to imagine what I may some day find interesting and take notes on more than is immediately necessary. This is to keep me from finding later that I need to have the same book sent a second time. Requesting the same book again seems like such a waste of money.

After I receive the books, I make a list of the pages which seem

to have useful data and copy the data on the pages. I then make a folder with the name of the book and file the data in the folder.

The next stage which I have not quite reached is to set up a master file with the names of the book or the names of the ancestor or towns I am interested in and the location of the folder. I believe that this will let me find everything I have in the books that have reached me.

Some of you have other ways of keeping track of the data you find in the books you have read. If you will send me your method and tell

Tell me how you keep track of the data you collect from books and I will pass this on to others.

us how it works for you, I will include this in a later newsletter. I have learned much from the books received and will request more.

Let me list some books which are of value to my research on my direct line ancestors.

Charles J. Hoadley, *The Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut, Vol. 11, May 1757—March 1762, and Vol. 12, May 1762—October 1767.*

Vol. 1, *Diary of Joshua Hempstead of New London, Connecticut, covering a period of forty-seven years from September 1711 to November 1758.*

Sidney Perley, *The History of Salem, Massachusetts, Vol. 2, 1638-1670 and Vol. 3, 1671-1716.*

Essex County, *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County, Massachusetts, Vol. 4, 1667-1671, Vol. 5, 1672-1675, Vol. 6, 1675-1678, Vol. 7, 1678-1680, Vol. 8, 1680-1683.*

A source yet to be searched is the 13 volumes of *The Essex Antiquarian, A Monthly Magazine Devoted to the Biography, Genealogy, History and Antiquities of Essex County, Massachusetts.*

Archelaus Spencer Sweatland, 1805 - 1880

Eunice Avery Root Colson is a great-granddaughter of Archelaus Spencer Sweatland and Samantha Pease of Somers, CT. Eunice was also a niece of Flora Sweatland Paine who with Eunice and several other nieces attended many of the reunions from 1986 to 1992. Eunice has joined us since then but Flora passed away in 1992.

In S/S Lore #16 we reported that Eunice had at last found a reference to the parents of Archelaus Sweatland. She has just written that she is sure the data came from the Syracuse, NY, library. Now we need someone to contact Eunice and with this information learn who the parents of Archelaus were. For years Flora tried to learn this and passed away without having her ambition satisfied. Perhaps now we can find this and report it to all of our readers.

Eunice has moved into a small apartment which she says still needs bookcases so she can unpack all the boxes she has and find where everything went when she packed. Eunice and I have been in contact regularly since 1985, sharing whatever we had that would interest the other. Eunice's new address is 403 Delwood Drive, Baldwinsville, NY 13027-3376

Sweetland and Swetland Notes

John Oliver Sweetland

Margaret Smith had sent some data on John Oliver Sweetland which I want to share with others.

John Sweetland was born in 1603 in Sussex County, England and died in 1685 in Providence RI. He had three wives although we do not know the exact dates of marriage for them.

We believe that children, William and Susannah, were the children of his first wife, Susannah. William was christened in 1646 and Susannah in 1647.

His remaining children were Temperance, 1649, John Oliver, 1653, Mary, ca. 1654, Abigail, ca. 1656, Mehetable, ca. 1657, Mehetable, 1659, and Edward, ca. 1661. John's other wives were Temperance and Elizabeth but lack of marriage dates precludes us from knowing which children were theirs.

We think that John Oliver, was born in England, He married Rebecca Clark, 4 August 1684, in Boston, MA and died, 9 June 1711, in Attleboro, MA.

Jason Swetland's Web Site

Some ten issues of Sweetland / Swetland Lore have now been entered in Jason's web site. You can reach this by going to <http://swetlandfamilytree.hypermart.net/> with no space between the `://` and the next word.

Jason's time is severely limited and he deserves our thanks and our support for what he has accomplished so far. You can be certain that he will persevere. He would like to know that more people are interested in his work so contact his web site as often as you have time to do so. Recently I have sent him a write-up on William and Agnes Swetland of Salem for adding to his

web site some time in the future after I have gone through it one more time. The style of the references needs to conform to standard practices. Each time I go through his, I learn more about how I should have done it the first time.

Genealogy in the Bible

On a trip to Houston I found myself looking at a Bible placed in the room by the Gideons. The Bible was open to the book of Nehemiah. Going on a page or so I found that Chapter 7, verse 5 read as follows:

"5. Then my God put it into my heart to gather the nobles that they might be registered by genealogy. And I found a register of genealogy of those who had come up in the past return and found written in it."

So now you know that genealogy is not a new thought but goes back to the ancients.

More About Luke

Ann Auskings, a special friend of Jim Hopkins has passed on to us Jim's genealogy data. One

item is a letter dated Dec. 20, 1934. This came from Charles Inshaw, Clerk of Seneca County, NY is which he wrote, concerning the story of Luke Swetland's captivity, "One of the local weekly newspapers ran the story as a serial so that many historically minded people in the county have been extremely interested in it. Several people at the hamlet of Kendaia (Appleton) are searching for the cave in which your ancestor spent his spare time in meditation. Mr. Henry J. Van Vleet of Kendaia now owns the land where Luke was imprisoned. The spring mentioned in the book still flows and produces a prodigious amount of water."

Sweetland/Swetland Reunion

One more reminder!!! The 2001 reunion takes place in Williamsport, PA the weekend of July 27-29 at the Genetti Hotel and Suites. Contact Robin Leidhecker at 1380 Radio Club Road, Montoursville, PA 17754 for data if you do not have your copy.

In Memoriam

We have lost two members in the past several months. James Robert Hopkins died February 9, 2001 at his home in Mt. Vernon, OH. Jim was a veteran of the Korean War, serving in the Marines and Air Force. He is survived by his sister, Helen Frances Hopkins and his special friend Ann Auskings. Jim first came to the 1987 reunion and a number of later ones, the last being in 1997. Ann sent us the obituary and has since passed on to us Jim's five genealogy books which I will place in the Sweetland/Swetland Family Archives (see page 1) as well as his records of the Swetland family reunions. I will bring his books to our reunion this year so that every one will be able to see and inspect Jim's books before they go into the archives.

On April 15, 2001 Dewey C. Eldridge died in Lourdes Hospital, Town of Maine, NY. Dewey also came to the 1987 reunion and a few later but arthritis had kept him from coming as often as he wished. His son Brian sent us the obituary together with a copy of the death certificate. Brian tells us that his brother Keith will have all of Dewey's genealogy records and continue to do research. Dewey was also a stamp collector, a hobby I share.

Pennsylvania's Notable Women

Hannah Tiffany Swetland was nominated for inclusion in the Book of Honor to be placed in Strawberry Mansion Fairmount Park.

This is an extract from an article which appeared in the Public Ledger, Independence Square, Philadelphia, PA. The copy sent me did not contain the date when this was published.

Hannah Tiffany was a girl still in her teens when she married Luke Swetland in Kent, CT in April 1762. When the American Revolution broke out they had been married fourteen years and had four boys. The eldest, Belding, was beginning to be a great help to his mother and the youngest, Artemus, a child of 6 was beginning to be of less care and could run about for himself.

By this time they had moved to the Wyoming Valley in Pennsylvania where Hannah came out of the ordered life of New England to the wilderness which guaranteed an arduous life if not a dangerous one.

Luke could now join the patriot army with a mind somewhat free. He saw service as early as September 1776 in New Jersey, his enlistment lasting through the battle around Bound Brook, the winter at Valley Forge and the near debacle of Brandywine. In 1778 he got his discharge to go back to defend the Wyoming Valley, rumors of impending British and Indian raids having grown serious. Hannah could carry on the farm alone but men were needed to build Forty Fort.

On July 3rd what history knows as the Wyoming massacre began. Four men were detailed to defend Forty Fort and the rest

marched out to meet the enemy and death. Luke was one of the four so Hannah did not lose her husband that day.

In August when the farm harvest was ready for the mill, Luke and another man, Blanchard, were hardy enough to take some sacks in a canoe down river to a mill on Fishing Creek. Six Seneca Indians surprised and captured them. No one returned to tell what had happened so Hannah assumed that Luke was lost to her forever. Hannah resolved to return to Connecticut and left the fort with her children. With tremendous courage she returned to her former home in Kent. There she found a warm welcome and started her boys on the old lines which she and Luke thought they left behind.

Blanchard was never seen again after he left Luke. Fourteen months later Luke returned to Kent. He had lived as a captive for close to a year. After escaping from the Indians he was suspected of being a Tory spy until recognized by old

friends. He then served as a scout for General Sullivan's army until release to go back to Forty Fort where he found that Hannah had gone back to Connecticut. He rejoined his family in Kent. Sometime before 1800 he decided to return to the Wyoming Valley and they were back. Hannah and their children came with him and again they began a life in Pennsylvania. Luke, at 71, built the Swetland Homestead within sight of the fort. Belding and Luke cleared their land, planted their orchards and helped start their church.

But Hannah did even more. She made both farm and house the Swetland home for a new crop of Swetland grandchildren coming on. Belding's wife, Sally Gay, did her share for she gave Belding twelve children. William, eldest of the grandchildren, whose house it became when the two generations who founded it had passed away, could remember the things which his grandmother had told him and in turn passed the stories down.

Genealogy Mistakes

Here is a partial list of Genealogy Mistakes

1. Why should I write that down? I will always remember it.
2. Of course, Swetlands are not related to Sweetlands. My father told me they weren't the same family.
3. Why should I photocopy those letters before sending them to the archives? The post office delivers everything, don't they? No! they don't!
4. That Bible is important and I want you to give it to me after you sell off the rest of the house contents. Words to the woman who handled the sale!

This is a particularly sad tale. Austin A. Swetland was for many years the Sunday School superintendent of the Harrison Valley Baptist Church. Members of the Sunday School gave Austin a large Bible when he retired. In this Austin or his wife Susan recorded births, marriages, and deaths of many members of the family. On Austin's death in 1899, the Bible passed to Kitt Dildine, Austin's daughter. When Kitt died, her daughter, Helen DeWolfe inherited the Bible. She knew the Bible was there and gave specific instructions to the woman who sold the house contents that the Bible should come to Helen. Helen did not think about this until after the sale and then it was too late. The Bible was gone. Where is that Bible today? Whoever has it today has no relation to the family.