

# ❖Sweetland/Swetland Lore #19❖

(formerly Swetland Lore)

September 2001

## 2001 Sweetland/Swetland Family Reunion

What a wonderful reunion we had in Williamsport, PA this year! All of us agreed that this was the best reunion yet held. From the start to the finish the program moved quickly from one talk to another with interest in all that we heard.

Robin prepared an outline for the day and passed out folders with the outline and material from Bob Ulrich and Lisa Gaunt. This provided a great introduction to the day's events.

Both of the talks kept us listening eagerly. Bob Ulrich gave us much data on how to search for our Civil War ancestors and told us about how his own interest had been stimulated, so well that he stimulated us to search for more data on our own Civil War ancestors.

After lunch Lisa Gaunt came to us clad in a Civil War costume. She is a vivacious woman with much experience in making photo albums and on keeping our photos safe from degradation by light, dirt, fumes and vermin. During the talk she demonstrated many of the tools that add to the visual appearance of photo album pages. With these tools it is easy to make each page attractive and different from all the others.

Following the last talk the business meeting added the news about Jason Swetland's web site named <http://www.swetlandfamilytree.hypermart.net/> You can access his web site with this address. Jason



*Mrs. Ira Swetland (S/S Lore #20)*

provided several letters telling why he has set up his web site and how we can contribute to his site by sending in stories about your Swetland ancestors which he will add.

The group agreed we will support his web site for the next year by funds from our treasury. You can help by donations to Priscilla Swetland, our Treasurer. Her address is in the minutes just issued.

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## Baby Boy Swetland Born July 4, 1961

CoyoteBluze@aol.com

Can any reader help David Stephen Swetland? David found my name through Jason Swetland's web site. From several e-mails later you can read his story.

"I was born on July 4, 1961 at Daniel Freeman Hospital in the City of Inglewood, CA, County of Los Angeles. My name at birth was given "baby boy" Swetland. My adoption was handled by a private attorney, and my adoptive parents are Roy and Frances Miller.

"Six months after my birth, in the County of San Bernadino, CA, my adoption was finalized and I was legally given the name "Stephen Ray Miller." At the age of 25 I stopped using the adoptive surname "Miller." I have been using the name David Stephen Swetland since that time.

"I do not know if Swetland is the name of my birth mother, or birth father. I tend to believe the former is true, and that it was my birth's mother name.

"There was some talk of one or both of my birth parents being in college, possibly in the medical profession. My adoptive mother pointed out to me on many occasions that both my birth parents were very intelligent people.

"I have just turned 40, so time is against me, and I would like to find my birth parents before it gets too much later.

"That's all the information I have at present. Can you help me?"



## A Note on Family Associations

August 1997 saw the beginning of The Heritage Library Foundation on Hilton Head Island, just 19 miles from where we live. The library is dedicated to genealogy and family history. Two men, Randy Holcombe and Bill Alstaetter joined together to form this library and its sponsoring foundation. Through their work and the efforts of many volunteers, the library is a reality.

This is a preamble to tell where I found information on another family association which seems to have a similar problem to ours.

At The Heritage Library I found several copies of Phelps Family News, described by themselves as the only official newsletter of The Phelps Family Association in America. This is an unincorporated non-profit organization for the purpose of gathering, collating and distributing all PHELPS data. They appear to have about 150 members. The annual membership fee is \$20.00.

At the start their newsletter consisted of five pages printed on only one side. Latest issues are still five pages but now printed on both sides. They have been printing all of the data on Phelps in the International Genealogy Index in addition to other data.

In the January 1998 issue, the President/Editor makes the following comments:

"Since none of our most recent members responded to this editor's request for their charts, family group sheets, etc., we are very confused about the state of our organization!!! We need your assistance to make this publication work for you and you must put forth work for this to happen!!! Please help us at this time!!!"

How appropriate these comments are for us Sweetlands, Swetlands and Sweatlands today. If you look at the four pages of S/S Lore #19, this issue, you will note that less than two pages have been come from other than editor. Check other recent issues to see how they compare to this one. To your editor this is a major problem. How can we get more help for your editor???

Yes, this is an appeal for more data and stories from you, the readers. You have been most generous in contributing funds to keep the newsletter coming and to help support our reunions every other year. The reunion attendance has fallen off. The minutes of the 2001 reunion tell you how many came.

Those who did not come missed out on a great reunion. Was it the cost, the location or the date of the meeting. Shortly we will send out a questionnaire asking for your input on future reunions. When you receive it, please respond quickly so we can use the information in deciding on the 2003 reunion.

Should we have another reunion in 2003? Where should we hold that reunion?

*We need your assistance to make this publication work for you and you must put forth work to make this happen.*

ion? Who will serve as the reunion chair? Remember that we are 100% a volunteer organization, dedicated to us and our ancestors. Only with input from all of us can we continue. We need you!

## Internet Success

If I knew how to change pages after they are typed, this would wind up as page four and page four would then be page two. Sorry about this but read this as a follow up two page four.

Genealogy.com has proven to give more information on Swetlands of all spellings. Several have shown to be descendants of Luke Swetland, famous as the Seneca Indian captive. Not all of them know the story of Luke. I am fortunate to have two extra photocopies of the book by Merrifield. I have no need for extra copies and will gladly send one to anyone who donates to the treasury. Since you can buy a reprint from Amazon.com for \$8.95 plus postage, make your donation with this in mind.

All donation should be made out to the Swetland Family Association. I will send you the photocopy and then pass your check on to Priscilla Swetland, R. R. #4, Box 121A, Montrose, PA 18801-9437. I have two photocopies and will return your check if you are not one of the first two checks I receive.

The minutes of the reunion gave everyone the status of our treasury so it is not repeated here. However, let me say that all donations are welcome to support our future efforts.

## Archelaus Spencer Sweatland, 1805 - 1880

Eunice Avery Root Colson is a great-granddaughter of Archelaus Spencer Sweatland and Samantha Pease of Somers, CT. Eunice and I have been in contact regularly since 1985, sharing whatever we had that would interest the other. 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 but 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's new address is 403 Delwood Drive, Baldwinsville, NY 13027-3376



# Sweetlands in England and Australia

## Origins in Devon

In the early days of the colony of Victoria, four young Sweetlands together with the family of Sims came to the Port Philip District. They were all born in London but the Sweetlands had been Londoners for only one generation. Twenty years earlier, three brothers from Devon had all started bakeries in London.

John, Michael and Stephen Hayman Sweetland were sons of a Seaton man, John Sweetland. Their uncle, Michael, was inn-keeper of the "Kings Arms" in Seaton from 1794 to 1812 (Quarterly Session Returns, Seaton-Beer). Their mother was Margaret Hayman of nearby Sidbury. Seaton and Beer are twin villages on the south-east coast of Devon, Seaton on the river Ax, and Beer on the cliffs above. Now they are little holiday resorts; in the eighteenth century, they were farming, fishing and noted smuggling communities. (What dealings Sweetland the inn-keeper had with the smugglers we are not told, but at that period some traffic was inevitable. See Ann Sutton *The Story of Sidmouth*, 'even our uncorrupt and fearless magistrate died in the state of sanctity; his executors found his brandy cave.) The Sweetland name is found scattered through the West Country, but concentrated in this south-east pocket of Devon, especially in the towns of Colyton and Axminster. Early parish records show that they were there and at Seaton in the mid-seventeenth century. The first record of the family which eventually came to Australia is of Michael Sweetland, a Seaton farmer, who married 23-year-old Ann Harper of Seaton in 1749. He was the grandfather of the young men above.

Sidbury is a very old market town on the river Sid; Sidmouth at the mouth is the former port which in the 1820s was enjoying a revival as a fashionable 'watering place' like Lyme Regis nearby. The Haymans, blacksmiths, farmers, bakers, joiners figured largely, if humbly, in Sidbury affairs. Farmer John Sweetland, on his marriage to

Margaret Hayman, moved from Seaton to Sidbury and later to Sidmouth. His three sons all moved to bakeries in London in the 1820s. It was the children of John, Jr., and Stephen who grew up in London and then with Stephen's widow made the move to Melbourne.

## Arrival in Australia

In 1849 the entire surviving family of Stephen Hayman Sweetland (died in London 1834) emigrated to Australia. His widow Elizabeth, aged 51, had been running their bakery on Edgeware Road, but apparently preferred the unknown dangers of the Antipodes to being left without her family and alone in London. So she ventured with her daughter Catherine and family, her sons George (26) and Henry (18), and her daughter Martha on the high seas for Australia. Stephen's nephew, his namesake Stephen Hayman Sweetland, followed four years later.

## George Sweetland

George and his mother settled in a little cottage bought by Elizabeth in April 1850 in Graham Street, off Young Street, in Fitzroy, an inner suburb of Melbourne. George seems to have done

considerable business together with George Sims, including possibly the sending of goods to the goldfields. About 1852 he started his own bakery on the Collingwood side of Smith Street, and on June 1st he married Emily Helyer, daughter of a glove maker of Somerset who had emigrated in 1842. George lived in Collingwood for a time, making some minor speculations in land in Collingwood and in Glasgow, a Chirnside venture in Werribee. In 1855 he bought land in Bolingbrook (now Pascoe Vale) and moved out to farm there, later mortgaging it to buy the neighboring block (CP 150, Lots 19, 20. Mem. 31 759, 50 317). His mortgage was held by Charles Payne, a Melbourne merchant, who also held the mortgage on O'Leary's Portion 26 in Nunawading. Thus when on Payne's death his assets were realized, George Sims was able to make a fortunate purchase of the O'Leary land in Box Hill while poor George Sweetland had his land sold from under him in October 1863 (CP 150, Lots 19, 20. Mem. 133 507). He therefore moved out to Box Hill and farmed some of George Sim's land south of Canterbury Road.

(to be continued in S/S Lore #20)

## A Note from Australia

This article on Sweetlands in England and Australia is the through courtesy of Mr. Peter Freund who indeed lives in Ballarat, Victoria, Australia. He found me through the internet and we have exchanged several messages. His e-mail address is pfreund@hermaj.com.

When I found he was an Australian, I wrote him asking if he would send a story on Sweetlands in Australia. Peter responded with a two and a half page story written by Peter and his mother in 1990. This issue gives only a part of the story. Until I have typed all of it into the newsletter, I won't be sure how many issues it may take.

This story is presented to tell you about our possible relatives in Australia. I say possible because we can not rely on spelling alone to make us relatives. Much research is needed to confirm that we are related. Now that you have this story, one of you may have the desire to do the necessary work to determine whether we are related. In today's world perhaps DNA would prove or disprove the relationship. It seems unlikely that we will have the chance to determine relationship through that testing. Nonetheless, it does seem that DNA testing might answer the question.



## Internet Ramblings

Recent searches on the Internet have produced results that no one would have guessed before trying or looking. If you have a computer and modem, do some looking to see what exists for Sweetland. Here are some of the things I have found.

Using either Internet Explorer or Netscape, make a search using Google as your search engine. In the search line enter Sweetland, next time enter Sweetland, third time enter Sweetland. You may get some of the same results or you may have different results. Why can the results differ from time to time? One reason is that what is on the Internet keeps changing, as web sites go out of existence and new ones begin.

When I entered Sweetland, more than 200 sites turned up. One of the more interesting for me was the Gayle Morris Sweetland Writing Center at the University of Michigan. This was funded by a generous gift from John Sweetland, (UM BA 1958, MA 196) in memory of his late wife. The Center was dedicated on November 19, 1997.

Much information on the Center is on the site and one can read the Sweetland Writing Center Newsletter. Since I have a strong interest in writing and do a fair amount of writing, the site was most fascinating to me. The Sweetland Writing Center is associated with the College of Literature, Science and Arts. Also located in this college is the English Composition Board.

The Center has the mission of invigorating writing in the disciplines from the first year through the dissertation. As a former Director of the Center states, we see the Center as embodying the important principle of writing throughout the curriculum, for writing is a crucial part of analytic thinking, a necessary skill for all LS&A undergraduates and graduates in every year they are here.

In several sites I have reached, I find the word pedagogy used more than I would have thought. Has this become

a buzz word in teaching? My dictionary says that pedagogy is instruction. Do you have any comments to make on this? I will print responses, if any come in.

Ancestry.com has many message boards which contain messages on surnames. Of course, our interest is Sweetland, which also contains messages on Sweetland and Sweatland. Some of the messages are on Sweetland history, Lydia Sweetland, born VT, Andrew Hall Sweetland, Alfred Thomas Sweetland, Sweetland book, Hannah (Tiffany) Sweetland, Lucy Sweetland, Sweetland Family Associa-

*The Gayle Morris Sweetland Writing Center was funded by a generous gift from John Sweetland in memory of his wife.*

tion, Sweetland Ancestry, Archelaus Sweetland and Bennet Sweetland, I have not given all the titles of the messages but you can see a great deal of interest exists.

Ancestry.com also has the Lineage Books of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Entering Aaron Sweetland gave the names of two people who joined the DAR based on descent from Aaron. One is Mrs. Henrietta E. Wiard Read and the other my great aunt Mrs. Lois Sweetland Dildine.

All my life I knew her as Aunt Kitt. She is another Sweetland who lived past 100, dying about a month after her 100th birthday. Her birth name was Katherine Lois Sweetland but was called from her early days by her father as Kitt or Kitty. I have a few letters which he wrote to his daughter and treasure them. This is the only way I know how he called her.

Another site is genealogy.com which also has message boards. Look for Sweetland, amazing results. On the Sweetland message board I found new people but also messages from some of the same people who had entered messages in ancestry.com. I have answered some of the messages in both since I had information to share, answers to some of the queries raised. Great fun!

## 2001-2003 Officers

The reunion minutes have told you the officers for the years 2001-2003 but repeating them here may make it easier to get to them when you want them.

President, Mr. Mark W. Sweetland, 13 Raymond Road, Bluffton, SC 29910-4526, tel. 843-705-5661, fax 843-705-5661, e-mail mwsweetland@compuserve.com. Note this is a new fax number. It is not automatic. I must be present to turn on the fax machine if someone wants to fax me.

Vice President, Dr. Jason H. Stevens, 70 River Club Drive, Hilton Head Island, SC 29926.

Secretary, Mrs. Michele Grandusky, 98 Whittingham Road, West Orange, NJ 07052, e-mail Angel92752@aol.com.

Treasurer, Mrs. Priscilla Sweetland, R. R. #4, Box 121A, Montrose, PA 18801-9437, tel. 570-934-2187.

Historian/Genealogist, Mr. Roger E. Sweetland, R.R. #4, Box 121A, Montrose, PA 18801-9437, tel. 570-934-9437.

Reunion Chair, to be decided when the 2003 reunion site is fixed.

Other officers or chair people have not been needed in precious years. However, as President, I may call on others to help with planning the next reunion or any other activity which seems useful for the association.