

❖Sweetland/Swetland Lore #20❖

(Formerly Sweetland Lore)

December 2001

Sweetlands in England and Australia

(continued from S/S Lore #19)

George and Emily had three children living by this time. Two more were born in Box Hill, Arthur Henry and Walter. The Sweetlands were Non-conformists, members of the Independent Church in London and Melbourne, but in 1866 when Arthur died in Box Hill, aged two, he was buried in the United Free Methodist Cemetery. There seems to have been considerable movement between the sects. Henry Sweetland became a Baptist and his cousin Stephen's family were Presbyterians. George's other Box-Hill born son Walter became a fireman in Footscray and died in 1897 after he fell out of a loft.

In 1867 the George Sweetland family moved back to Fitzroy, opening a greengrocer's shop. Several descendants were also involved in the greengrocery business in other suburbs, but none returned to Box Hill. George died in North Fitzroy in 1904.

Henry Sweetland

Henry was living in the inner suburbs and working as a warehouse man when in 1867 he married Mary Bloomfield, the 25-year-old daughter of a London cooper who had arrived in Melbourne in 1855. He lived in Rathdowne Street, Carlton until 1877, then moved to Essendon. They had 10 children, at least four dying in infancy. In 1889 the family came to Box Hill. The move was probably occasioned by Ann Sweetland's health, as Box Hill at this time was claimed to be a healthy region, (BHCHS Papers, Vol. 1, New College Prospectus, quoted by F. Bamford). Ann was ailing and died soon after the move.

They lived in Sim land in a brick villa (still standing in what is now Merton Street). This Henry bought from his sister Catherine, George Sim's widow, in 1892. The house must originally have been reached by a long drive or track leading from Albion Road. Henry Sweetland was a small man who walked with a stick. He lived in Merton Street until just before his death in 1917. His children seem to have had little connection with Box Hill, except for Frederick (born 1870) who married a local girl Emma Jane Collier, before moving to a farm in Hay, New South Wales.

(to be continued in S/S Lore #21)

Sanaker-Swetland Connection

Through the Internet I have learned of Patricia Sanaker whose grandmother was a Swetland. On August 12th 1908, Cynthia Fidelia Swetland married Nicholas W. Craft in Ottertail County, MN. Witnesses were Cora Swetland and George Swetland, sister and brother of the bride. Patricia is an avid genealogist who has visited Forty Fort several times and taken pictures there.

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SFA 2003 Reunion

We have a reunion committee working on plans for the 2003 Reunion. Jason Stevens, whom those who came to the 2001 reunion met, will act as the Reunion Coordinator.

Arthur Sweetland has been looking for a location in the north-west corner of Ohio. Roger and Priscilla Swetland have been looking for a place near Tunkhannock, PA. Irwin Messick will look into a new place just outside Wilkes-Barre, PA. If you know of a good location, near a Sweetland/Swetland site with a good motel at a reasonable cost, please let Jason know. His address is 70 River Club Drive, Hilton Head Island, SC 29926.

For information my address is 13 Raymond Road, Bluffton, SC 29910-4526, telephone 943-705-5661. My e-mail address is: mwsweetland@compuserve.com.

Our plan is to select a location and date for the reunion no later than June 2002. This will let everyone know where and when we will meet so your long range plans can include the reunion.

We will also chose a theme for the 2003 reunion. The responses to the questionnaire will be helpful in making final decisions. Only a limited number of questionnaires were mailed. While I was sending them out, Jean badly injured her right knee and for some time I was doing everything except mailing questionnaires.

David Stephen Swetland, July 4, 1961 - September 29, 2001

S/S Lore #19 told on page one the story of David Stephen Swetland and his search for his birth parents. Little did one suspect that the end of his story would be told in the next issue of S/S Lore.

To repeat his story in part David was adopted after birth. David knew he was adopted and at the age of 25 decided to change the name given on adoption and take the name of David Stephen Swetland. He believed his mother was a Swetland.

Early this year he placed a message on several Swetland bulletin boards saying he was searching for his birth parents. His message gave so little information that no one contacted him. He found my name through Jason Swetland's web site and sent me a message on August 22 this year. I saw it that night and answered him, suggesting I put his story in S/S Lore. David responded at once and gave me more information for the story which you read in S/S Lore #19. Ron and Susan sent a letter to their family which reads:

"Dear Family, During the holidays I like to send someone I am thankful for a letter and this year I want to let all of you how deeply thankful I am for our family and how much I love and appreciate each of you. My husband and I also want to share a family story with you, one that some of you know part of and some may not know at all.

When we were high school sweethearts, we had a baby boy who was adopted. After I knew he was 21, I registered with an adoption-find agency, thinking that if he wanted to find us, we would make ourselves known to him but if he did not want to find us, we had no intention of in-

terfering in his life. Forty years went by with no contact.

On October 31st we were at Dad's house and my husband happened upon the September issue of S/S Lore. On the first page was the story of Baby Boy Swetland who wanted to find his birth parents. We were ecstatic to say the least. You know me, I was already planning a big party to introduce him to all of our family and friends. We immediately e-mailed David and began an e-mail correspondence with the editor of S/S Lore who had provided much needed information about David.

Although we learned of David too late, we are thankful that we received information about David which we have been interested in for the last 40 years. (from his birth parents)

When we didn't hear from David, we e-mailed him several times, called phone numbers where David lived and finally found his adoptive parents at the same address as David's.

We sent a certified letter to that address and on November 9th received a call from David's adoptive father that David had died of a heart attack on September 29th.

We are so sad. We didn't know it was possible to grieve for the loss of someone we never knew, but indeed we are mourning that loss and are deeply saddened. We are fortunate that we received a picture of David through Mark Swetland. David is a carbon copy of his birth father whose sons also show an incredible likeness to David.

We have expressed our sympathy to David's adoptive parents for their loss. We want everyone to know that we would never have known about David without S/S Lore and we are indebted to our extended family of Swetlands for their dedication to family history and for helping us to connect with our birth son even though it was only through the words and pictures he left behind. I am sorry, David"

Never Put Off Until Tomorrow What You Can Do Today

Although the story of David Stephen Swetland has parts contributed through S/S Lore, I am deeply saddened that I took so long to act. You see, I saw David's message on the two bulletin boards and took no action until he e-mailed me directly. Had I contacted him sooner, he and his birth parents might have had a reunion before his death.

For me the story has a major message, expressed by the title of this note. **Never, never, put off until tomorrow what you can do today.**

Many of you know that I passed my eightieth birthday this past August. Believe me, it is now more important than ever not to put off something that I need to do. Did David Stephen Swetland have a thought that he would not be around forever? In his second message to me, he said, "I have just turned 40, so time is working against me." I can say that I have just turned 80, so time is working harder against me.

My hope is that you who plan to send me stories for S/S Lore or send data to Doug Sweetland for his next book wait no longer. This is a word to the wise. Don't wait until tomorrow what you can do today. I don't dare wait!

Statira P. (Hurd) Swetland

You will recall that S/S Lore #15 told about the Reverend Ira A. Swetland, the great-great-grandfather of Mike Chapman. Mike has been of great help with material and help in learning more about using the computer to produce the newsletters.

S/S Lore #19 had a picture of Statira on the front page. Now is the time to tell her story.

"Mrs. Statira P. Swetland, wife of Rev. Ira A. Swetland, died in Mauston, WI, August 1, 1893. She was born in Newport, Canada, January 6th, 1812; was married to Rev. Ira A. Swetland, in February 1834, and for forty-seven years toiled side by side in the loving service of the Master. Brother Swetland died in Mauston, April 1891. He entered the ministry as a young man. Sister Swetland on her bridal day became the wife of an itinerant. For a number of years they labored in Vermont and New Hampshire. Her husband's health failed in 1854 and they came to Wisconsin and they settled in Mauston. Regaining his health, they again entered the work of the ministry and served Baraboo, Mauston, Monroe, Madison and later Wonewoc, Kilbourn, Reedsburg and Mauston Circuit.

Sister Swetland was an earnest and enthusiastic helper, and though their support was meager in the earlier charges, both east and west, yet she cheerfully sustained her part of the toils and sacrifices.

Her home since the death of her husband has been in Mauston the greater part of the time, but the last year of her life was spent in Dakota. A few weeks before her death she came back to her old home, saying "She would rather come while she

could than to have friends bring her," for she must be buried by the side of her loved ones.

Her death was sudden - only three days of sickness. Out among her friends on Friday, God called her the following Thursday. When told that her physician considered her case dangerous, she sent for her pastor and requested that she might receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. It was a solemn scene when relatives and a few friends knelt around the bedside of this dying woman and received the emblems of the broken body and shed blood of

At the close of this beautiful service, she said, "I am ready" and then as though to give greater emphasis to her dying testimony, she said with greater earnestness, "I am ready now."

the Lord Jesus Christ. Though her strength was fast failing her responses to the prayers of confession and consecration were distinct and earnest. At the close of this beautiful

service, she said, "I am ready." and then as though wishing to give greater emphasis to her dying testimony, she said with greater earnestness, "I am ready now."

The funeral services were held in the church where she had so often worshipped. The service was improved by the use of Paul's words, "I am now ready." A large number of friends and acquaintances were present to show their love and pay tribute to her memory.

She was the mother of eight children, six of whom had preceded her to the land beyond the river. Eighty-one and a half years, and nearly all spent in the Master's service, led to the ripeness of Christian experience, saintliness of character, and unbounded faith in the promise of God. "Servant of God, well done."

(taken from the Minutes of the Annual Methodist Episcopal Church West Wisconsin Congress 1893)

Blooms Beautiful Year-round

Cleveland Botanical Garden provides a wonderful location for a visit at any time of the year. Roses bloom at the proper time in the Mary Ann Sears Swetland Memorial Rose Garden. At other times other flowers bloom. In the winter the pavilion has on display indoor exhibits, ideal for getting visitors into the spirit of the season.

The Cleveland Botanical Garden gives the visitor opportunity to spend time out of doors and then during the winter inside the warm spacious pavilion. You can visit nature indoors or outdoors year-round.

Jean and I were there in July. It was delightful to wander through the Japanese garden. We looked through the Western Reserve Herb Society's collection of medical and culinary herbs and fragrant plants. One can spend an hour viewing the 37,000-square-foot glass-walled pavilion, which includes plant displays, a fine library and a garden-theme gift shop.

If you are in the northern Ohio area, make time to visit. For information call 216-721-1600 to learn when the gardens are open. They should be open seven days a week from dawn to dusk.

Internet Browsing (or Rambling)

The term "browsing" is popular today. What follows could equally be termed rambling. Here is the result of searching the Internet.

Let's begin with two terms for those who are not computer literate. A web site is a location on the Internet where data, information, and images are stored on pages. A search engine is a computer program that looks for terms in a web site.

Many search engines exist, each with a unique name. Some of these are Netscape, Alta Vista, Lycos, Ouverture, Google and more. A search engine lets you enter a word or a phrase or sometimes several words separated by AND, OR, AND OR, NOT, AND NOT to qualify the search. My experience shows that Google finds more web sites of interest than any of the others although no one seems to find 100% of them.

I first tried Ouverture using SWETLAND SWEETLAND. This brought me to the "Sw entries" at www.placesnamed.com. This showed Sweetland to be the 25,954th most popular last name (surname) in the United States. Swetland was the 59,856th most popular last name (surname) in the United States.

Sweetland, Nevada County, California, is located at 39°25'35" N, 121°7'9" W. Sweetland, Linda County, West Virginia is located at 38°15'34" N 82°2'32" W and its elevation is 649 feet. Sweetland, WV also has zip code 25568. Sweetland Center, Muscatine County, Iowa is at 41°29'36" N 90°59'10" W.

Using Google I entered various names and found as follows:
SWEATLAND About 796

SWEETLAND About 17,800
SWETLAND About 7,400
SWETLAND SWEETLAND About 82
SWETLAND OR SWEETLAND About 20,100.

I restricted Google to the English language. Google produces four categories of sites, Web, Images, Groups and Directory. I explored all of them briefly. Let's look at SWETLAND SWEETLAND since it gave the fewest sites, 82.

Web	About 82
Images	1
Group	About 6
Directory	About 12

Bringing up the one image showed the picture of Artemas Swetland which is in the booklet by Dr. B. S. Swetland printed in 1908.

Do not expect a search like this to be limited to genealogy. Such a search as this may introduce you to businesses run by Sweetlands or Swetlands. You can learn more about two sites, www.swetland.com

and www.swetland.net/. You will find biographical data on people with these names, on awards they have received and on businesses they run. It is unlikely I will ever visit all of the about 20,100 sites that exist.

Searching these names does introduce you to people who are researching their ancestors and recording data on the Internet.

I learned of the death of Charles H. Sweatland, New York Central Foreman in 1930. I saw that Russell Sweatland runs Sweatland's Tune-Up Service in Milledgeville, GA. Sweetland of Quilts, selling hand made quilts, is in a small Amish and farming community in northwest Pennsylvania. Doug Sweetland, not the man who produced our big book, ran for County Commissioner in Oregon. For over 80 years Sweetlands Chocolates have been satisfying chocolate lovers everywhere, tel. 1-800-842-3444, www.sweetlandcandies.com.html. Chocolate lovers, why not try them?

In Memoriam

Charles Hotchkiss Swetland of Fort Mill, SC passed away on November 9, 2001. He is survived by his wife Mildred and a niece and nephew. Jean and I had the pleasure of meeting them ten years ago when they visited us in Moss Creek Plantation. Since Charles and Mildred had no children, another Swetland line ends. He will live on in the memories of his wife, relatives and many friends and acquaintances.

2003 Reunion Questionnaire

This is a last minute report. Arthur Sweetland tells me that 35 replies out of 52 have come in. He is sending a story on the results which will arrive to late for this S/S Lore. Look for a full report in S/S Lore #21. Many thanks go to the wonderful people who have shared their thoughts with us. If you want to add your ideas but did not receive the questionnaire, let me know and you will get one. Believe me, you did not receive one because I ran out of time.

Addresses - more in next issue

Mark W. Swetland and Dr. Jason H. Stevens - see page 1
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