

❖Sweetland/Swetland Lore #21❖

(formerly Swetland Lore)

March 2002

In Memoriam

In sadness we report the death of four people. It is a shame to lose those who have meant much to members of our family association. We have lost:

Paul Hamilton Swetland Word on Paul's death on December 17, 2001 came from a friend in Florida who sent Paul's obituary telling of his living in Naples, FL from 1985 until his death. He leaves two brothers in Ohio, David Wightman Swetland of Cleveland and Frederick Lutchford Swetland II of Yellow Springs.

Ron Bishop Those of us who attended reunions in Pennsylvania and elsewhere knew Ron, husband of Mary Swetland Bishop. Ron came whenever he could and shared with Mary a love for all of us who came. Despite health problems for many years, he was always cheerful and loved to talk about antique cars, especially the DeLorean which he cherished. Mary Bishop was an outstanding President of the SFA from 1992 through 1995. Ron left us on December 12, 2001.

James R. Scott, Jr. Jim died January 3, 2002. We met Jim first when he brought his wife, Linda, and his mother, Marjorie Scott, whom we all know, to our reunion at Chautauqua, NY. Our first meeting with him was Friday evening on the boat ride around the lake. We have pictures of the three of them taken on the boat.

Ray Swetland of Fredonia NY, passed away on Thanksgiving morning 2001. Ray was the son of Gay Swetland, grandson of Ormal Reed Swetland. Ray is survived by his wife Jean who is now living at 134 Temple St. #23, Fredonia, NY 14063.

We loved them while they were with us. With this we express our deepest sympathy to those left behind.



This picture is of Florence Swetland taken in Meshoppen, PA.

SFA Treasury

Since Roger and Priscilla Swetland are traveling through the South the last update for our Treasury status says that we had \$579.83 at the end of the year before December issue costs were entered. Now it is time to remind you that we exist through the generous donations from all who wish to give. We accept your gifts for the newsletter costs and the \$250 scholarship which is granted every other year.

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2003 Sweetland / Swetland Reunion in July(?)

Plans for the 2003 reunion are under way. The responses to the surveys have been outstanding. 39 responses came in from 55 letters asking for input on where we should meet and what we should plan to interest a maximum number of our members.

If you did not receive a query and feel left out, please forgive me. I began with the intent of asking for input from everyone. Part way through Jean injured her right knee playing tennis. For the next seven days I was cook, dishwasher, laundryman, shopper and everything else. We survived. With good care Jean recovered completely and is playing tennis again. With the interruption I stopped mailing out more requests for help in planning the next reunion. The deadline was too close.

The responses gave a preference for Pennsylvania for our next reunion. Ohio was second. We are looking into both states for the 2003 reunion and hope to settle the location before the June issue of S/S Lore.

We had a definite response to the theme of the 2003 reunion. It will be our Revolutionary War ancestors.

The responses showed a preference for a site near where Swetland/Sweetland ancestors lived. They also indicated a preference for a resort type motel with outdoor amusement facilities for those who have less interest in genealogy. We are working along these lines and will welcome ideas from anyone. We have people working for both Pennsylvania and Ohio sites. If you can help, send your thoughts to Dr. Jason H. Stevens, 70 River Club Drive, Hilton Head Island, SC 29926.

Internet Ramblings and Others

Unless you have tried the Internet, you can not realize how many people use it or how much you can learn from those who use it. Let me tell you a little of what I have found from the Internet and share with you other ramblings which did not come from the Internet.

Florence Swetland

The page 1 picture of Florence Swetland comes from Steve Burton who found my name via the Internet. His message said he had a picture of Florence Swetland and wondered if I was interested. I was so he sent the photo via e-mail.

Steve is not a Swetland descendant but wishes this photo go to a relative of Florence. You will not be a descendant of Florence as she never married. You may be related to her family.

Ray Swetland

Ray's name is in **In Memoriam** on page 1. Ray lived in Fredonia, NY and he and his wife Jean had several visits from Roger and Priscilla Swetland. But Ray did not like to travel. Since his death Jean wrote to tell of her loss. Naturally, I wanted to tie down his ancestry. Amazingly, he is not listed in Doug Swetland's book.

From 1986 to 1995 I talked and corresponded with Ramona Swetland, who was divorced from Sanford Swetland (don't have a date). In old letters from her she told me that Ray was the son of Gay Swetland and the grandson of Ormal Reed Swetland. Now we have more data to add to Doug's next version. I must ask Jean if she can fill in the missing data on birth, etc.

Sweetlands

S/S Lore #20 mentioned a Russell Sweatland and a Charles H. Sweatland whom I found via the Internet. A letter from Joyce Ballard surprised me by saying that she is the granddaughter of Charles H. Sweatland and Russell is the son of her brother Charles E. Sweatland. Charles E. was in the army and

met and married his wife, Nina, in Georgia. They and their two boys, Russell and James, all lived in Georgia until Charles E. lost his life on Labor Day 1960 in a racing accident at the Darlington Racetrack in South Carolina. Joyce says she enjoys the "Lore" very much.

Marjorie Scott

Marjorie has come to many of our reunions but was unable to join us in 2001. Her life has been plagued since a fall broke her right wrist and injured several fingers. She has been able to get back to writing letters and she keeps in touch with us. Last October she sent me three recipes, one for Wacky Cake, one for Crazy Chocolate Cake and one for Vinegar Cookies. If these interest you, write me and I will pass them on.

Cortland County, NY, Deeds

Deed Books are an excellent source of data on our ancestors and their relatives. A search thorough the deed records mentions six deeds of interest to me.

In 1832

For \$465 Walton Swetland bought part of lot 22 in Freetown from Ebenezer Backus, Jr., and his wife Sally.

Deed Book 1 page 319, October 6, 1837

Harmon Swetland sold part of lot 42 in Freetown, NY to Austin Watrous for \$100. Recorded in 1838.

Deed Book 9 page 195, 1845

Executors of Milton Swetland, Isaac W. Baker and Ezra J. Watrous sold a house and lot, part of lot no. 22, to Harmon Swetland

Deed Book 23 page 185, April 2, 1855

Harmon Swetland and his wife Rosamon sold part of lot 22 in Freetown, NY, to Morgan W. Swetland for \$500. (Morgan was their oldest son.)

Deed Book 38 page 368, 1864

M. W. Swetland and wife Pamela sold 68 acres for \$50, part of lot 32 in Freetown, NY to Gilbert M. Watrous of Solon, NY

Deed Book 43 page 455, 1867

On January 10, 1856 Harmon Swetland sold part of lot 42 in Freetown to Walton Swetland for \$15. Deed recorded May 10, 1867.

Deed Book 46 page 65, 1867

Wm. W. Swetland and wife E. W. Swetland on 30 October 1867 sold 1 acre for \$200, part of lot 22 in Freetown, NY to Nancy R. Travis.

SFA Treasury

I know, page 1 tells about the SFA Treasury. However, it has been some time since donations to our treasury have been mentioned. We need your support to keep the newsletter coming and to grant a scholarship of \$250 next summer.

To contribute, please make out your check to the Swetland Family Association and mail it to Mrs. Priscilla Swetland, R. R. #4, Box 121A, Montrose, PA 18801-9439. She tells me regularly who has contributed so I can acknowledge receipt in future issues of S/S Lore.

Some of you send your checks to me. That's wonderful. The money goes for the same purpose. I deposit the checks in my account and tell Priscilla the money has come. When I send the next statement, I deduct my receipts from the total costs for the mailing. But it is easier for Priscilla to receive all funds directly as this lets her do all the accounting.

However, you wish to donate, whether to Priscilla or to me, be assured that your donation is gratefully received and all money supports the newsletter and scholarship and provides seed money for the next reunion. For the 2003 reunion all funds and expenses will go directly to Priscilla. That way we will know all costs and expenditures at the end of the 2003 reunion.

Sweetlands in England and Australia

As you have read, this story began two issues ago. Now comes the end.

(continued from S/S Lore #20)

Stephen Hayman Sweetland

This young man, cousin of the other migrants, arrived in Melbourne in 1853 and became a draper, also in Smith Street, Fitzroy. He moved to Hawthorn in 1854 and then to Kew and St. Kilda. In April 1855 he married Mary Ann Cocks, daughter of Jonathan Cocks, a nursery- and seeds-man of Donington, Lincolnshire, the town where Matthew Flinders was born in 1774. Mary Ann Cocks seems to have migrated as a single woman. Their only son Henry Sweetland was born in Fitzroy in 1856. He was a fine cricketer who played for Kew in the 1870s and once had a chance of a tour to England. He was a partner in Hammond and Sweetland, debt collectors, in Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, and later had an importing firm. He married a Scottish girl from Rutherglen, Agnes Prentice, in 1884, just at the time that George Sim, his father's cousin, was selling his big subdivision of the "Mona Vale" property. So Harry bought a large block, nearly two acres, in Victoria Street, and built a large, rambling, single-storey weatherboard house. This he called "Donington" after his mother's home town in Lincolnshire. Here his four children were born, Stephen James in 1886, then Emily Alice, Agnes Dorothy and John Stuart.

The family were active members of the Presbyterian Church in Box Hill.

The son Stephen was the first Box Hill man to die at Gallipoli. He went to Wesley College until 1902 and was finishing an accountancy course when he enlisted in September 1914. Promoted to sergeant in the 8th Light Horse Regiment, he embarked for the Middle East in the HMAT "Star of Victoria" on 25 February 1915. On 16 May he left Egypt for Gallipoli and on 30 June 1915 he died of wounds there. He is

buried in the Point Cemetery, Ari Burnu (Central Army Records; Box Hill Reporter 23.7.1915) A keen sportsman, he had been active in football, swimming and golf in Box Hill and was also a valued member of the local Presbyterian Church and Sunday School.

Jack, the younger boy, went to New College, which was then situated next door to the Sweetland house in Victoria Street. The Sweetlands kept some cows and there is a family story that at least part of young Jack's fees were paid in the form of milk for the College.

Jack later became a commercial traveler and lived in Surrey Hills; Alice

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and Dorothy lived at "Donington" with their parents. Harry died in 1921, his wife Agnes in 1922. Thereafter the two unmarried sisters lived on in the house until quite recently. Alice died in 1963, Dorothy in 1970. The house was then bought by the Box Hill City Council, and being in a run-down condition, was

demolished and the land made into a small park.

With the death of these two old ladies, the Sweetland connection with Box Hill has ended, at least as far as the name is concerned. As Catherine Sim's (Sweetland) great-granddaughter, who has returned to the district, I might perhaps claim, with my children, to have continued the story. Other Sweetland descendant are living in Melbourne and other parts of Australia and to them I am indebted for much of the information above. Perhaps one day someone who knew the later Sweetlands and their circle personally may add some flesh to these dry bones. My purpose has been to record as far as I could facts about two families who played a part in Box Hill's story.

Eleanor Findlay 1990

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Mrs. Sweetland Dies Suddenly

Mrs. L. D. Sweetland, aged 66 years died from a shock Wednesday at 1 a.m. at her home. Funeral will be held at the home Saturday at 2 p.m. with burial in the Bellville cemetery.

The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy

The publisher of Val D. Greenwood's book, *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy* has placed the complete book on the Internet.

Part 1 Background and Research

1. Understanding Genealogical Research
2. Familiar Record Practices: Problems and Terminology
3. Analyzing the Pedigree and Place
4. Evaluation of Evidence
5. An Introduction to Research Tools: The Library
6. An Introduction to Research Tools: Reference Materials
7. Organizing and Evaluating Research Findings
8. Successful Correspondence
9. Computers in Genealogy
10. Family History: Going Beyond Genealogy

Part 2 Records and Their Uses

11. Compiled Sources and Newspapers
12. Vital Records

Space does not let me finish the contents (17 more) but the next issue will continue.

Matthew Sweetland

A long time ago, well not really, Dean Sutton of Santa Clara, CA wrote telling me of his search for the ancestors and heirs of Matthew Sweetland. Since S/S Lore had some success before, perhaps Dean's story should be reported here. If you can help, write to me and I will pass it on. Dean's story follows:

"I am looking for information and heirs of Matthew Sweetland. I am the son of Wanda Ireland Sutton Spradlin and Gerald Dean "Mike" Sutton. My mother, Wanda, is the daughter of Nancy May Isabell Sweetland Ireland. Nancy was born May 30, 1910, in Vandalia, IL.

Nancy's father was Charles Sweetland. We know a little about him:

Charles died in March 1910 from pneumonia (or something similar). He worked at a paper mill in Vandalia, IL county seat of Fayette County. The story is that he would get hot at the mill and go out on the dock to cool off—that is how he got the pneumonia.

Charles married Alta Louiza Hall in Fayette County, IL in 1902 (we believe). My mother has a copy of the marriage license from the court house records. The document says that "Charles Sweetland's father was named Matthew Sweetland" and that his "mother's name was Rachel Jane Crum," Crunn or Crune (the handwriting is illegible). We believe the correct spelling is "Crum" as there was a country church named "Crum's Chapel" in the area.

Rachel Jane Crum(?) Sweetland died in Vandalia, IL and is buried there in the "old" cemetery. Rachel's son Charles had two daughters, Cinda and Nancy. Cinda looked and acted like Rachel, thin, black-headed, bossy and not too easy to get along with. Nancy took after her mother, Rachel, with an even-tempered disposition and heavy build.

Rachel Jane Crum(?) was born in Indiana. She married first a man

named Denning; we believe it was Joe Denning. We do not know what happened to him but she had three children by Denning, all born in California. The California sons were Louis Denning, Job Denning and Joe Denning, born in 1858, 1859 and 1860.

Rachel married Matthew Sweetland in San Joaquin County, CA in December 1860. Records say they had two sons, William and Charles Sweetland.

Something must have happened to Matthew Sweetland in California because the next record of we can find is the 1880 census of Fayette County, IL. Rachel is listed as a widow and head of a family with three Denning sons and two Sweetland sons. She is listed as a housekeeper for a family named Kifer. The three Denning boys are listed as laborers and the two Sweetland boys were in school.

None of the family have ever heard anything about the missing brother William Sweetland.

We do not know anything about Matthew Sweetland either. Nancy remembers her mother saying that someone "drowned at sea." This may have been Matthew. He apparently worked

in the lumber business and could have drowned while floating or otherwise transporting logs.

Charles Sweetland grew up in Fayette County, IL and was a violin "fiddle" player at dances. Charles married Alta Hall in Fayette County and they had four children. The first was stillborn. Then came son Virgil, and daughters Cinda and Nancy. Alta was pregnant with Nancy when Charles died in 1910. Virgil died at age 12. Cinda died recently in Illinois after a full life. Nancy turned 87 in May 1997 and lived in Kern County, CA.

Nancy thinks that Matthew Sweetland probably came to California for the gold rush probably as a miner. There were Sweetlands in the gold rush area. One was in the California legislature and fought for miners' rights. A town named "Sweetland" had an established post office and some nice houses or farms. But the town was all undermined when a dam was destroyed, letting water rush in, and the entire town was washed away. Whether Matthew Sweetland was connected with the town, we do not know.

Can anyone help?

Scott Swetland of Oregon

In December 1988 a note appearing in the November/December issue of The Genealogical Helper referred to a deed abstract mentioning Scott Swetland and his wife Lizzie. Following through on my curiosity I obtained photocopies of the related papers.

On June 30, 1888 Scott Swetland bought five acres of land from the estate of John Finstermacher for the sum of \$7500.

On July 3, 1888 Scott and Lizzie, his wife, conveyed this property by Mortgage to the Boards of Commissioners for the sale of School and University lands. Apparently, he paid for part of the \$7500 and took a mortgage for the remaining unpaid \$4000.

As of January 1, 1889 Scott and Lizzie agreed to sell the property to S. B. Wiley, trustee, free of all covenants except a mortgage of \$4000 due the Board of Land Commissioners of the State of Oregon.

The last papers dated August 28, 1890 reported that the said Board of Commissioners issued a release for payment of the mortgage, saying they had received full satisfaction of that certain mortgage.

Anyone interested in having these photocopies may have them by writing to the editor, Mark W. Swetland, 13 Raymond Road, Bluffton, SC 29910-4526;