

❖Sweetland/Swetland Lore #22❖

(formerly Sweetland Lore)

June 2002

A Remarkable 110th Birthday

Gladys Swetland celebrated her 100th birthday in Mills, PA on April 18th 2003. Her "party" took place on Saturday, the 20th, to allow as many as possible to come. Some 70 people, former students, friends, neighbors and relatives joined the happy and most unusual event. Unusual? How many 110th birthday celebrations have you attended?

Gladys was in her element. The party was in her honor and she was the focus of all eyes. Many came whom she had not seen for long years. Nan Frye, her nephew Frederick's daughter, came from the farthest away, Seattle, WA.

The event was mentioned in the local newspaper. No invitations were issued but people found out and came to honor Gladys. Potter County Commissioners came, a district attorney came and many letters came from officials in the state of Pennsylvania as well as the President of the United States. Someone did a marvelous job of spreading the word about this remarkable event, 110 years of life.

The Potter Leader-Enterprise for Wednesday, April 24, carried the headline *At 110 Gladys Swetland Says, "I Never Walked...I Ran."*

As one paragraph says, "Born three years before Marconi invented the wireless telegraph, Gladys Swetland has witnessed the most extraordinary period of technological growth in human history." We who were there enjoyed the event.



Patricia Sanaker sent the above photo of four generations taken about 1940. Reading clockwise from the top left are Cynthia Fidelia (Swetland) Craft, Margaret Rosina (Craft) Glawe, Margaret Elizabeth (Wallace) Swetland and the young girl, Helen Marie (Glawe) Stensgard.

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2003 SFA Reunion

Plans for the 2003 reunion are moving ahead. Three sites are under consideration, one in Ohio and two in Pennsylvania. The dates will depend on the final site selected.

So make the 2003 SFA reunion part of your activities for the year 2003. The reunion will be in either July or early August. Some schools are in session by mid-August so we intend to avoid that time.

Jason Stevens, the reunion coordinator, will visit two of the sites in early June to help fix on the location. Help has come from Arthur Sweetland, Irwin Messick and Mary Bishop. All who submitted responses to the appeal for help have been outstanding in providing information.

The theme for 2003 is Our Revolutionary War Ancestors. Can you provide any artifacts such as rifles, bayonets, cartridge belts, or anything from that period of America? You may have a painting of a man who served in the Revolutionary War. You do have a family group sheet of these men so bring these at the least.

Will one of you volunteer to print large name tags showing the Revolutionary War ancestor from whom each person descends.

We can share with each other stories that came down from that time. You have read three stories of John Sweetland and the Marblehead fishermen and their contributions to the war. If new stories come in before May 2003, I will be most happy to print them before the reunion.

William and Agnes Swetland, Salem, MA Thomas Ancestors

A remarkable story is developing for the birth place of William and Agnes Swetland of Salem, MA. When Leon Hiram Sweetland did his work on the Sweetlands of Massachusetts, he thought the William was a son of John Oliver Sweetland from whom some of our members believe they descend. Recently, two people on Doug Sweetland's list for updating his book have taken issue with this.

Judith L. Young-Thayer and Eileen Leinweber both believe that William and Agnes were married in England. Judy believes that two girls were born to William and Agnes in England, Agnes in 1672 and Sarah in 1674. Eileen only says that they arrived in 1676 which would make Sarah born in England.

To be sure of their marriage in England, one needs to locate a parish or church record to confirm the data. As yet we do not have the references to confirm the information.

If true, this information would go toward explaining several points in the data we now have. If William and Agnes were married in England, then we know why we do not find such a date in New England records.

If Sarah was born in England, we know why we can not find a birth record for her in New England.

If they had a daughter Agnes, this helps to know why the marriage of their daughter Agnes to Simon Lovitt could have taken place in 1674 or 1676 and not conflict with the birth of Benjamin to William and Agnes in 1686.

It could help explain how Agnes could have children born in 1709. If the Agnes who married William was born about 1650, she would have

been remarkable to have children as late as 59. This is not impossible but most unusual.

I begin to think that the mysteries existing in my story of William and Agnes have simple explanations. Before revising the text of my write-up, I want to know where to find the parish records in England so someone can view the original data.

Anne Kirby has suggested that several might want to share the costs of a genealogist in England to research for the data to confirm that William and Agnes were married in England and that they did have one or more children before they came to New England. The costs may be several hundred dollars.

If you have an interest in supporting this work, I ask you to write Anne and discuss this with her. Anne's address is Mrs. Anne Kirby, 3482 Concomly Rd S. Salem, OR 97306. It would be wonderful to settle this question. Please let me know if you are supporting Anne.

My line descends from two Thomas lines, my great-grandmother Susan Agnes Thomas who married Austin Aaron Swetland and my great-grandfather John Wallace Thomas, my grandmother's father. Both lines go back to Samuel Thomas who lived in Allegany County, NY.

This year on the way to Mills, PA I took a side trip to Belmont, NY, county seat of Allegany County. Here I was fortunate to found the Allegany County Historical Society, next door to the county court house. A stop at the historical society let me meet a man who could show me how to take advantage of the court house records.

With his help I was able to go through the 1855 and 1865 Censuses of New York State. Previously I had the 1850 and 1860 Federal Censuses so these added to my data.

I now know that Samuel lived more than 91 years and never moved from Allegany County. A faded sheet of
(Continued on page 3)

Scanning Slides and Photographs

Recently, I have been scanning slides into my computer using an HP PhotoSmart scanner that is available at the Hilton Head Island Computer Club of which I have been a member for about ten years. The equipment works well once you learn a few tricks. First you scan the slides onto a floppy disk so you can take them home and put them in a folder at home. The most difficult part is getting a slide to fit in the scanner. After a hundred slides I began to find out how to do this easily. Once the slides are in the computer, MGI PhotoSuite manipulates the pictures, adjusting size, cropping, enhancing and printing on the paper you chose.

Since I won a scanner in March, I am still trying to find the space to set this up next to the computer. My scanner does not take slides but will scan color and black-and-white photographs into the computer. I have used a similar scanner at the Sun City Computer Club so I have a bit of experience. The process is easy, only requiring that you read the instructions and follow them. As I get more experience, I will be able to put more pictures in future issues of S/S Lore. Already I have several photographs on hand.

Thomas Ancestors

paper which has come down to me through Gladys Swetland's files shows that Samuel and his wife Betsey Tabor had 8 children:

Samuel Thomas born Jan. 18, 1774, died Oct. 6, 1865.

Betsey Thomas, born Oct. 9, 1778, died Jun 19, 1856.

Gardner Thomas, born Oct. 16, 1796, died Apr. 5, 1865.

Elizabeth Thomas, born Jul 16, 1798, died Dec. 27, 1971.

Martha Thomas, born May 28, 1801, died Dec. 19, 1889.

Jonathan Thomas, born Aug. 10, 1803, died Oct. 31, 1879.

Hannah Thomas, born Jan. 13, 1806, died Jun. 1870

Benjamin Thomas, born May 26, 1808, died Oct. 23, 1888.

Susan R. Thomas, born Jul. 19, 1812, died Jul. 9, 1971.

John S. Thomas, born Jun. 8, 1815, date of death not recorded.

Borh Benjamin and Jonathan are my great-great-grandfathers with their children from whom I descend being named in the first paragraph in the right-hand column on page 2. This makes my great-grandfathers first cousins.

Samuel was the son of a John Thomas and Martha (St. John?) Thomas. Samuel was born in Ridgefield Township, Fairfield, CT in 1774 as noted above. This must have been the John Thomas whom my grandfather sought and found, even though he never recorded just which one of the six John Thomases who served in the Revolutionary War he had found. Samuel's father would have been of the right age.

Do any of you have a Thomas ancestor? The name is so common it creates much difficulty in tracing.

Our New Address

The USPS has decided that the growth of this area needs another post office and zip code. On July 1 our address will be 13 Raymond Road, Okatie, SC 29909-4526. The change is in the post office name and five-digit zip code. No change takes place in our phone and fax numbers and email address.

Please note this change as a year from now you may not reach us at the old address. The USPS has said they will recognize both names and zip codes for one year after the change. It is better to note the change now rather than rely on the USPS.

Sanaker-Olson Website

Here is a wonderful website with information on Swetlands. Patricia Sanaker has added a number of photos of the Luke Swetland area and Forty Fort cemetery. To contact this site, send an email and ask to register. Patricia Sanaker@mystery.twny.rr.com.

Swetland Internet Co.

The Internet has given us the name and email address of this website, <http://www.swetland.net/> Printing their pages out in color adds to their attraction.

The company's goal is to provide Internet service to surrounding areas from their home location in Vandalia, IL.

President and CEO is Charles A. Swetland, Sr., who started Swetland Supply Company in 1980. Today, 10/5/01, he is supported by Jennifer Koonce, General Manager, Charles A. Swetland, Jr., Vice-President, M. Hope Swetland, Secretary and Jonette Eddy, Internet Administrator.

Swetland Supply Company is a full service office supply and computer sales/service company. They carry a full line of computer systems built specifically for each customer. All systems are fully upgradeable and come with a three year warranty. Their name came through a search using Google.

The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy

This continues listing (S/S Lore #21) Part 2 of Val D. Greenwood's book :

13. Census Returns
14. Using Census Returns
15. Understandin Probate Records and Basic Legal Terminology
16. Rhat About Wills?
17. The Intestate - Miscellaneous Probate Records
18. Governmant Land: Colonial and American
19. Local Land Records
20. Abstracting Wills and Deeds
21. Court Records
22. Property Rights of Women as a Consideration
23. Church Records
24. American Aids to Finding the Home of the Immigrant
25. Military records: Colonial Wars and the American Revolution
26. Military Records After the Revolution
27. Cemetery and Burial Records

The entire contents of this book of 660 pages may be read using the Internet.

Internet Rambling

Using Google as the search engine on the Internet has provided many hours of interesting information. Such a search will not appeal to everyone, only to a select few whose curiosity matches mine.

Tekno Bubbles

Have you seen Tekno Bubbles, the bubbles that glow under ultraviolet light? This invention is an idea developed by Byron Swetland. Byron was also the inventor of the "leg stuck in a car door" gag, reported in an earlier S/S Lore. The leg gag was withdrawn when an elderly woman said she didn't think it was funny.

Tekno Bubbles is the latest product by this local inventor and his family company, BM&E. The company is named after its three employees, Byron, wife Melody and their 20-year old son, Enoch.

This may be Byron's most popular invention to date although he has not stopped thinking about the next one. The 50ml bottles were recently offered online with a suggested retail price of \$3.95.

Today Tekno Bubbles are being marketed in Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Scotland, Slovak Republic, Switzerland and U. S.

Also published on the Internet is an interview with Byron and Melody Swetland. However, finding them is as much luck as anything. Why? When I begin to research the name Swetland by entering it in Google, I find that I may have over 2000 hits to go to. How many can one go to in a lifetime, especially when you start so late in life? Jean wonders why I use a computer for this!

Stuart W. Swetland

Several times using Google to search the Internet I have seen this name. To use his full title he is Monsignor Stuart W. Swetland. Stuart is the son of Lutheran members and grew up in that church. Upon graduating from the Naval Academy where he studied physics, he won a Rhodes scholarship to Oxford in England. At Oxford he became the captain of the Oxford basketball team. It was at Oxford that he began to study the Lord's life and committed himself to the Catholic Church. He received his first communion in 1984 at St. Thomas More Chapel.

In 1987 he resigned his Naval commission and began his study for the priesthood.

Today Father Stuart serves as the Newman Foundation Director at the University of Illinois. I urge you to use Google as a search engine and learn more about Stuart Swetland who is doing so much to bring Christ into everyone's life in college.

SFA Treasury

I have not asked Priscilla Swetland for an updated status of the treasury because she and Roger spent much of January through April traveling with their motor home, if that is the correct name. I do know that several donations have come in since the returned home, one to Priscilla and one to me. Your donations are truly welcomed. They keep us going from year to year.

WE have today enough on hand to cover all our newsletter costs from now through the end of 2002. We also have some funds allocated to the scholarship fund which we need at the next reunion. We will give again a scholarship of \$250.00 to a high school senior. The requirements for the scholarship have been published before and I will repeat them early next year.

We do need more funds now so we will not be short after making the mailings for the 2003 reunion.

For your information each newsletter costs about \$90.00.

Copyright Matters

A matter of special interest today is the use of copyrighted material. In today's world the copyright owner or holder has the sole use of material produced for profit. Unauthorized use for sale leads to significant penalties. Facts can not be copyrighted, but the words used to present the facts can be copyrighted.

How can one avoid misuse of the copyrighted material? This question shows up constantly in genealogical magazines. After studying the question and the articles from different authors on the subject, it seems that anything printed unless over 100 years old may still be copyrighted. That's not the right number of years but the laws have been greatly extended to protect the rights of authors. I love to have a member write an article for me because then he or she has given me permission to print the story, tale or whatever. When I produce my own article, I am conscious that I may have copied something from the past. Now where did it come from?