

Sweetland/Swetland Lore #25

(Swetland Lore)

March 2003

Music and Our Ancestors

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As a child, music was part of my home. No day passed without music, instrumental or vocal. From genealogy one learns that our ancestors made more use of music than we do today. The earliest musical ancestor found so far was Benjamin Swetland.

Susan Hahn, wife of Bryan Hahn, has sent information on Benjamin. Bryan is descended through Benjamin's daughter Polly. Benjamin enlisted on May 1st 1777 in the Third Massachusetts Regiment and served until April 1780. While in service he was promoted to Fife Major and then Sergeant. He re-enlisted again August 23, 1780 at West Pont and was discharged in 1781.

Benjamin kept the roster for his first company and used his book during the war for notes, military orders, speeches, ciphers, bible verses and hymns. He also used the book to write births, deaths and other family information.

The Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution published a book in 1904, "*Patriot's Daughters*," which includes a chapter on Benjamin's daughter, Florilla. The book gives the words of a song written by Benjamin entitled "A New Song." The book also includes a sheet from his book on which he has written two pieces of music for fife.

Rick Olson has sent in a page found

at the Library of Congress web site on a song written by Chas. A. Sweetland, copyrighted in 1878. His song is entitled "*Thro' Cloud and Care*," A Ballad with Chorus. He also sent the words, four verses with chorus.

The early Swetland Family Association reunions from 1896 to 1907 always had music as part of the reunions. At the first reunion H. M. Swetland's daughters played and sang. In 1902 Palta Swetland's five daughters sang "*Blessed Be The Tie That Binds*." Our ancestors had no radio, TV, or computer so music was an important part of their lives.

Roger Swetland, my grandfather, had a marvelous voice, developed by years of teaching and preaching. Although not an ordained minister, he preached at many Baptist churches throughout New Jersey. At a Peddie School alumni dinner in New York City about 1925, after the singing a music teacher who also sang in the Metropolitan Opera chorus came up to him and said, "If only you had come to me five years ago, I would have you on the concert stage now."

I grew up with music around me. My father conducted school bands and taught many boys in both The Peddie School and Blair Academy to play band instruments after coming to school. I played the piano, the baritone and the cello but nothing since college.

SFA 2003 Reunion Brief

This issue urges you attend the 2003 reunion in Wilkes-Barre, PA on July 11th and 12th. See the further story on the reunion on page 3. We urge you to reach Wilkes-Barre Friday afternoon in time to visit the Luzerne County Historical Society building, 49 Franklin Street. Here you can see what resources the Society has on the Wyoming Valley and on

Swetlands in the area. Their library has a list of all Swetland references available. Also use the search engine Google and type in Wilkes-Barre Pennsylvania. This gives you a listing of sites where you can get more information on the area. This will give you all the attractions in and around Wilkes-Barre and let you plan your visit in advance.

Louisa Marie Chubbuck

Louisa Marie Chubbuck
Crosses The Plains
(Continued from S/S Lore #24)

We found some of the rivers were beds of quick sand and I remember how we crossed those rivers. We would hitch all the mules, horses and oxen on one wagon and horses would reach the other side, then they would take one wagon at a time and cross as quickly as possible. If they stopped, the wagon and animals would quickly sink down in the quicksand. No doubt a great many lives had been lost in those quicksand beds. So each wagon was taken over that way and landed safely on the other side. Little did we children realize the danger there was in traveling at that time.

When we camped, some Indians came up and had a blanket and began to shake it so the horses became frightened and all stampeded and went over the hills as fast as they could go and the Indians after them. The men got the best of them and brought the horses back to camp again. All the women and children were left alone while the men went after the animals. And we did not know if the Indians would have us all murdered when my

Father and the men came back or not. The animals were getting pretty tired, so we camped in a place called Ruby Valley, that was in the eastern part of Nevada. There was just two teams of us left then, a man by the name of Bevins came along, until we got near Fort Churchill we got separated, then each of us took a separate road. One place we were traveling, Father lost the tire off one of the wheels of the wagon when we were driving one night, and had to go back thirty miles to find it. He did not miss the tire until the next day. We camped in Empire a few days, then we came on, went up over the Van Sickle grade and stayed at Mud Springs a few days (it is called El Dorado now). We got at Mud Springs the 8th of August 1863. From there we went to Placerville and settled down for several years, then later returned east.

We went east on about the first train that crossed the continent after the gold spike was driven. There were no nice coaches or sleepers like they have now. For the beds we brought sort of ticks stuffed with hay, turned the seats toward each other, had boards the right length to put these ticks on, and that was our bed.

One place the brakes on the cars did not hold very good, and it was down grade. The cars started to go at a great speed, and went quite a distance before they could be stopped. Luckily we did not meet another train there would have been a collision. No doubt a lot of the passengers would have been killed. We certainly had a lot of narrow escapes coming and going. We saw great herds of buffalo and some of the men would shoot out of the car windows at them. The stations were a great distance apart, and the men at the stations had dried Buffalo meat to sell.

Before going to New Jersey, we went to Dayton. My Father had a large piece of Woodland in the Como Mountains. He had men cutting wood in the mountains and several large teams hauling the wood to Virginia to the mines. After staying there in Dayton for about three years we returned to a city called Vineland in New Jersey, about half way between Philadelphia and Cape May.

I hope you will excuse all the mistakes, and the children will enjoy hearing you read my trip.

MOTHER

(Louisa Marie Chubbuck Sweetland)

SFA Treasury

This message comes with great love and thanks to the many who have contributed wonderfully to the treasury. Since the December issue more donations have come in to both Priscilla and myself. As Roger and Priscilla have been away from home since about mid January, the June issue will list those since the list in

the December issue. Just know that the treasury is in good shape, as good as it has been since we began.

As no scholarship applications came in before March 1, we are holding the donations in that account. At the reunion we will ask for your input on whether to award a scholarship in 2004 or

award two in 2005

All new donations to either the scholarship or the newsletter fund will be gladly accepted. And you will be acknowledged in the June issue. As you know, our costs are only the scholarship and the newsletter. Other costs are donated by the members who incur them.

Sweetland and Swetland Coats of Arms

Are we Sweetlands, Swetlands, Sweatlands or some other variation? David Humphrey of FamilyCrests.com has written me that Swetland and Sweetland are the same name. "Due to odd English phonetics Sweetland is actually pronounced Swetland and is more often than written as such."

Should you wish to obtain a Sweetland coat of arms, go to <http://www.family-crests.com> and

ask for record number 16661 and 16662. If you want the Swetland coat of arms, ask for record number 16667.

Their site gives an order form which lets you place the order online. You need the number of the records, e-mail address, mailing address and credit card information. The coat of arms will be sent to your e-mail address about five days later.

Once you receive the form,

you need to copy it to the photo image program on your hard drive or to a floppy disk. In either place you can then use your photo program such as MGI PhotoSuite to display the coat of arms on your monitor, and print it in any size you wish from 3" x 5" to full page size. I am bringing to the reunion a notebook with all of the records mentioned herein. You will see these plus more I have collected.

SFA 2003 Reunion—Wilkes-Barre, PA

The theme for the 2003 SFA Reunion is our Revolutionary War ancestors. Our headquarters is the Holiday Inn at 880 Kidder Street. The reunion will be from July 11th to July 12th. The Inn has given us a special rate of \$69.00 per night plus tax. Those wishing to stay there should call the Inn at 570-824-8901 and tell the reservation desk that you are coming to the Swetland Family Reunion to get the special rate. They are holding a block of 15 rooms for us until June 21st.

Those arriving early on Friday the 11th can visit the Luzerne County Historical Society building at 49 Franklin Street and see the reference library which has extensive resources on the Wyoming Valley. Friday evening we will have a dinner under a tent at the Swetland Homestead across the river in Wyoming, PA. Dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m. After dinner Society members will conduct us on tours of the Homestead in groups of ten ending in the upstairs rooms for social discussions. This may be the best time for us to meet others.

The Holiday Inn rate includes a continental breakfast. We should eat early so that the Saturday meeting can begin at 8:30 a.m. We have half of the ballroom for our meeting. The meeting will begin

with introductions of all attending and then a memorial service to honor our members who have left us since 2001. Several members will give talks on their Revolutionary War ancestors which include Luke Swetland who built the Homestead and whose grave site we will see in the afternoon. Before lunch we will hold a business meeting to get the Treasurer's report, discuss the reunion site for 2005, take up new business and elect officers for 2003-2005. We need a new President as I have decided that I will not serve again. We should also elect a Reunion Chair person. No applications have come in for the scholarship.

Lunch will take place in the room where we are meeting. After lunch we will gather in the Forty Fort Meeting House close to Luke Swetland's grave. Margaret Smith will give a talk on finding clues and identifying the period of old photographs. The final talk will be by a member of the Historical Society on the Wyoming Valley during the Revolutionary War.

During the morning Saturday we will determine how many want to get together for dinner that evening so we can find a restaurant to meet. Those who stay over can also take advantage of the

many activities in the Wilkes-Barre area.

With this newsletter is an insert to be filled out and sent with a check to Priscilla Swetland, RR #4, Box 121A, Montrose, PA 18801-9437. Please be sure to indicate the number of reservations needed for dinner on Friday and lunch on Saturday and list the names of everyone clearly so name tags will be ready in advance. Each reservation will receive a package with directions on how to find the locations for the reunion, a detailed agenda and a brochure on the Holiday Inn.

The Luzerne County Historical Society has made major plans for the early part of July to celebrate the 225th anniversary of the Battle of Wyoming and the 200th anniversary of the building of the original Luke Swetland house. Luke's son enlarged the house and other changes have since been added. The last work on the house was to remove the porch at the front of the house which returns the appearance to how it looked after the house was first enlarged.

We hope that many members will make their way to Wilkes-Barre for the second weekend of July and join us at the reunion. We know you will meet wonderful people who may be relatives.

Doug Sweetland's New Big Book is Ready for Publication

This news must appear in large bold print. Doug has accomplished a mammoth task and all Swetland, Sweetland and Sweatland descendants should be grateful. Through the use of his book we can now better relate to others. During the years since the last book appeared, I have used it numerous times to answer questions coming from others and pass on information of help to them.

Doug has sent a letter or e-mail message to everyone on his mailing list. If anyone reading this newsletter has not received such from Doug, please send him your name and address at 401 South 4th Street, Marshall, MN 56258-1229, e-mail address sweetlan@chartermi.net.

Doug's letter is more inclusive

than this but let me urge you to respond to Doug as quickly as you can so he can arrange to proceed with publication of the book and the CD. I will purchase both the book and the CD.

Doug tells us that his new book will be 837 pages. He did not say how much it will weigh. Be careful not to drop it on your toes as you may wind up with a broken toe. It would not be fair to Doug to blame him for the misfortune.

Doug indicated that it will take 4-6 weeks for the printer to produce the books after Doug gives the order. If he receives enough orders quickly, you may have your copy before the reunion. If his order goes in after May 15th, he may be able to bring a few copies to the reunion,

if his other activities permit him to come. I am anxious to see the book, look through it and begin to read some of the new data it must include. How else could it have grown so large!

As with any book such as Doug's the data in the book is the result of contributions from many people who have selflessly sent Doug the data he needs and answered his questions. Do not assume that all data which we have contributed is completely accurate. All genealogists realize that later information may change the data one has today. I am still unsure whether William Swetland of Salem, MA, was related to John and Isaac Sweetland. I may never be certain. But order his book and CD.

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Organization

President – Mark W. Swetland—see above
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Treasurer—Priscilla Swetland, R.R. #4, Box 121A, Montrose, PA 18801-9437
Reunion Coordinator—Dr. Jason Stevens
Genealogist—Roger Swetland, R.R. #4, Box 121A, Montrose, PA 18801-9437

Partial History of George and Emma Swetland Family

Finishing the Introduction to Bette Steinbrenner's book for now! "and it only stated Swetland. Therefore, I do not know if they are Seth or William Theodore as they both belonged to Co. A. Our George Washington Swetland belonged to Co. L of 3rd Cavalry Reorganized. We have a photo of him with his brother William Theodore taken later in life. Benjamin Franklin Swetland died during a battle at Vicksburg during a skirmish at Black River, Miss. It is thought he is buried in a common grave.

I am greatly indebted to Douglas Sweetland who authored the book "The Swetland/Sweetland/Sweatland Family in America, 1560-1997." His book is in much greater detail and covers all of the generations. A special thank you to Aunt Isabelle O'Connor who knew many of our relatives and recalled wonderful memories. To My brother Mike great appreciation for being a terrific resource person who assisted me in interpreting the lineage. Thank you to the staff at Reedsburg Library who assisted me in securing Swetland photos and data. Thank you also to Joyce Berndt who researched the Edna Earl Swetland family and provided me with data. I would like to thank wonderful relatives who assisted me in gathering data, resource material, loaning treasured photos and writing thoughtful memories of our loved ones. Diane Gates Januchek loaned me original copies of legal and business papers of our grandparents. Betty Vogel typed and proof read the Vogel story and that story will be perfect. Most of the other history, I proof read and there will be errors. Forgive me/

Internet Ramblings

More and more information on Sweetlands and Swetlands appears on the Internet. I suspect that two things are happening. One is that more is added regularly. The other is that more comes to my attention. Some I find and some comes from others. My thanks go to everyone who adds to my knowledge. Where I give a web site, please put <http://www>. In front of the site I show.

Rosemary Swetland, adjunct music instructor at Angelina College, has released "He Restoeth My Soul," the first in a series of Sounds From My Heart CD recordings combining traditional sacred, classical and easy listening music with new electronic performance media. Rosemary has been a church organist for more than 46 years. You can learn more at angelina.edu/press%20releases/swetland.htm.

Nancy Sweetland has written

68 short stories for adults; over 50 articles and essays in regional and national magazines and newspapers; juvenile fiction and poetry; five books for children and numerous individual poems for children and adults. Besides golf and tennis, she sews, cooks and plays piano. She is the mother of 12 children and grandmother to 25. Nancy is a member of the Wisconsin Regional Writers Association and four other writing groups. Find her at wrwa.net/spotlight/nsweetland.html.

Cecil Swetland is Executive Director and CEO of Desert Christian Schools. The school is an extended family committed to academic excellence, biblical values and character development. The school was founded in 1977 to provide an educational setting that integrates faith and solid academic instruction. The schools web site has many links which give more information on the school. To reach the web site use Google as the

search engine.

Joan Swetland, FWS, is President of the Florida Watercolor Society. Again, I found information on Joan using Google as the search engine. The info found says, "There is no such thing as a typical **Swetland** watercolor as Joan's work is so varied. Her versatility and style seem to change according to the requirements of her subject. Drawing and masking portions of her painting control the realism of her main subject, but indirect painting adds special effects of color and light that help to activate the viewer's imagination. Joan's creativity is kindled by her love of our natural environment, She attempts to create her vision of the land, the creatures and the plant life that co-exist with us. "

I will bring with me a notebook with examples of what exists on the Internet.