

Sweetland/Swetland Lore #26

(formerly Swetland Lore)

June 2003

SFA 2003 Reunion Approaches

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- Sweetland and Swetland Coats of Arms notebooks, p. 2
- Bill Noyes retired again, p. 4
- **Doug Sweetland's address is 401 South 4th Street, Marshal, MN 56258-1229 and his email address is sweetlan@chartermi.net**

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You can still join us for the twelfth SFA Reunion on July 11 and 12, 2003 at the Holiday Inn in Wilkes-Barre, PA. As prior newsletters noted, Friday evening we meet under a tent on the grounds of the Swetland Homestead in Wyoming, PA. We will have a catered dinner at 5:30 p.m. and then tour Luke Swetland's home ending on the second floor for meeting friends and discussions on our future reunions.

Saturday morning we meet in the banquet room of the Holiday Inn from 8:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The last hour will be lunch.

Saturday afternoon we meet in the Old Meeting House again in Wyoming, PA, not far from the Swetland Homestead. At 2:00 p.m. our speaker will be Robert Mischak, who portrays the person of Colonel Nathan Denison at the Federal Historic House of Colonel Denison located about a mile from the Swetland Homestead. He will be dressed in uniform as worn by Colonel Denison.

Following the meeting in the Old Meeting House we will visit the Swetland graves located there.

The monuments for the Battle of Wyoming are all within a mile radius of the Swetland Home. Information on finding them will come with the data on the reunion coming

Bring Your Family History to Life

Sun City residents have formed a writers club called Sunscribers, a club which I joined. One member brought a new book by Katherine Scott Sturdevant entitled "*Bringing Your Family History to Life through social history.*" The Foreword stresses that Kathy Sturdevant bridges the gap between the genealogist and the historian. For many years I

to all people who register for the reunion.

The single change from the original agenda is that Margaret Smith will not be with us to give her talk on "Identifying Old Photographs." She is not ill. She merely feels that she can not make two trips north this summer. Since a grandson is getting married in September, she feels she must be there for that event. We would all make the same decision.

If you need another copy of the data on the reunion, phone me, send me a letter or send an email and I will rush another copy to you at once.

SURPRISE

Patricia Sanaker has offered to send us an item for us to raffle at that reunion. She told me what this will be and you may be sure you will be happy to win the raffle. She is under pressure to finish it by the reunion but assures me she can do it. The only way to see this is to come to the reunion. We will not hold the raffle until after lunch at the Old Meeting House. Here is a second good reason to attend the afternoon session.

Preliminary response to the reunion is good but no one ever knows until that last minute how many will come. Please do not be among those who want to come but fail to sign up until you think it is too close to the reunion to sign up.

have wanted to write the story of my grandfather, Roger Williams Swetland. I borrowed the book and am now reading it. The book leads me to believe that I can write my book if determination holds and life permits. My cardiologist this morning tells me that my heart is strong despite past problems. Now my determination must be equally strong.

Mysteries in Genealogy

We need your help. Who is “we?” Your editor! Who is “your?” Those reading this article.

How do we know that William Sweetland of Salem, MA had a wife named Agnes? What records tell us that her name was Agnes? Can anyone tell us where to find her name in original records? Sidney Perley’s three-volume books on the history of Salem do give us the name Agnes as William’s wife and says that Agnes married second Simon Lovett so we know an Agnes Sweetland existed. We can find Simon and Agnes and many of their children in Beverly, MA vital records. A Lovett manuscript in the Connecticut Historical Society files show more children of Simon and Agnes than in the Beverly records. If the manuscript were correct, their last child would have been born when Agnes, the wife of William, was about 60 years old. Can you believe this? I don’t.

So mysteries abound. Was William’s wife named Agnes? Did his wife marry Simon Lovett or was it another Agnes Sweetland? In writing further on William’s children, he did have a daughter Sarah who married William Bassett.

Their wedding date, her date of death and her age at death are recorded and show she was born about 1674. The earliest written record for William is about 1676. Was Sarah born in England? This might explain why her birth is not recorded in New England records.

Could the Agnes Sweetland who married Simon Lovett have been a daughter of William, not his wife? If so, she might also have been born in England. Where should one look in England? Two researchers have said that Agnes and/or Sarah, both daughters of William, were born in England but neither researcher has said where to find the English records. Another mystery exists here.

For another mystery doubt exists in some minds that a man named John Oliver Sweetland existed. Richard Tivey is convinced that Leon Hiram Sweetland erred in naming one of John Sweetland’s son as John Oliver Sweetland. Tivey says that no man by this name was ever born. Tivey has some convincing evidence but you should read the entire story before accepting it as valid. Let me suggest that you obtain a copy of Doug Sweetland’s new book and see what Doug has in-

cluded on this.

Before Tivey sent Doug his arguments, reason to question John Oliver Sweetland came from the fact that this person is the only child of his proposed father to have a middle name. At the suggested date of John Oliver’s birth, no person was given a middle name. Not until much later did it become customary to give anyone a middle name. As late as my grandfather’s birth in 1861, his parents named him Roger Sweetland. Roger adopted Williams as his middle name while still in school but his name at birth was only Roger Sweetland.

Don’t think that these are the only mysteries in our Sweetland/Swetland genealogy. Some of us lack the birth place or wedding date and place of our grandparents and earlier ancestors.

Why not let us relate your mysteries in future issues of S/S Lore? Some one may already have a solution to your mystery but does not know that you need the information. It is hard to think that you have no mystery in your ancestry.

All information that comes in response to this article will appear in future newsletters.

SFA Treasury

As of today the Sweetland Family Association treasury has \$1130.36 excluding the money received for the Reunion. The scholarship fund of \$318.00 is included in the total which makes the general fund \$812.36.

Producing the newsletter now costs some \$93.00 per issue. That permits

publishing some eight more newsletters with allowance for donations that come in regularly even when no appeal is made.

Discussion of our treasury will be on the agenda at the reunion. We will also discuss the scholarship.

In all recent reunions we have passed two baskets, one for the general

fund and one for the scholarship fund.

This year we need to consider whether we should make a donation to the Luzerne County Historical Society for their help with the reunion and for their use in maintaining the Sweetland Homestead.

The decisions will be reported in the reunion minutes.

Sweetland and Swetland Coats of Arms

S/S Lore #25 had a short article on Coats of Arms. Those who come to the reunion will be able to see the various coats of arms that have been collected from several sources. The one that seems to be most attractive as an old coat of arms is that which comes from two people, Jason Stevens and Gladys Swetland. Jason’s was in a picture frame hanging on the wall of his father’s home. Gladys’s was a drawing

on a sheet of paper in an envelope in her home in 1985. Jason still has his but time has seen the disappearance of the drawing Gladys had. Some relative(?) was attracted to the drawing and took it without permission, perhaps to make sure it was preserved but today no one knows where to look for the drawing.

Fortunately, in 1985 I made a photo of the drawing so we know what it looked like.

We also have three coming from family-crests.com via the Internet. Roger Swetland has another which brings the total to six. At the reunion you can view all six of them in a three-ring binder. If you wish to have a similar binder of your own, you can buy or order one on the spot. The cost will be \$10. All proceeds above out of pocket costs will go to the treasury and you will have a spectacular binder.

Genealogy Tales

Lineage Societies

John C. LaPiana published an article entitled Lineage Societies in Heritage Quest #13. Lineage societies are those where membership is granted to all whose verified ancestors qualify them to be members. For example, those whose ancestors served in the Revolutionary War may join either the National Society Daughters of the Revolution (DAR) or the National Society Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) based on gender. Lineage societies may be patriotic, social or service organizations.

Our family association qualifies as a lineage society since our members have a common interest in a surname. As we learn more about our ancestors, we realize that whether we spell our name with 'e' or 'ee' or 'ea,' we may have come from one family. We descend from Sw(e)a(t)lands.

Sweetlands in Australia

An email from Shirley Sweetland reveals that she lives in Australia. She must have found my name on a genealogy forum list. Shirley has offered to help. I have sent an email telling her a bit about us and our need to find William Sweetland's ancestry in England. She says the Sweetlands came from Devon. Read future issues to see what comes from this contact.

Miss Sweetland's Class

Recently Google found the website for Miss K. Sweetland's class for me. Miss

Sweetland's class is in Plymouth, MA. This is a wonderful site for the children taking her class and their parents.

Among the links is Curriculum, a list of all the studies which the students take. The list includes Reading, Language, Writing, Math, Science, and Social Studies. A Reading list is also attached.

Nilestree.com

Google also showed me the Niles family tree. The index bears the heading "Niles & Edwards Family History." Checking the 'S' entries showed 18 Sweetlands starting with Alvah Oralva Sweetland and ending with William Sweetland. Each name is a link to the person on a family tree. Where a birth and death dates are known, these also show in the index.

Conrad Truce Eagle Sweetland

The website giving me this name is <http://www.siteoftheyear.com/babypumpkin/> It also showed me a picture of the baby. I have sent an email to his father Chris Sweetland asking permission to show a picture of this new Sweetland in a future newsletter. Watch for the next issue to learn what the response will be. One wonders where the name comes from.

Sweetlands in South Carolina

Jean and I and Carolyn and Bob Butler have lived in South Carolina for a number of years. Last fall our son Paul and his wife Melissa joined us in South Carolina, just

eight miles from our home. Now I learn from Google that a Karen Sweetland may be in this state. The website of the University of South Carolina Spartanburg shows that Karen is an assistant librarian and reference coordinator. Her data gives two degrees from the University of South Florida, BA (Mathematics) and MLIS. Would someone please tell me the correct full name for this latter degree.

Thomas Ancestry

Ted W. Sweetland, Sr. has sent data on his Thomas ancestry. Ted's mother was Marie Thomas Sweetland and her mother was Mary Funiak Thomas. Mary and John Thomas had five children, John Thomas, Jr., Joseph Thomas, Elizabeth Thomas, Franklin Thomas, and Marie Thomas, Ted's mother.

Ted goes on to say that the first two died of TB in their twenties, Elizabeth died before age 10, Franklin died of unknown causes and his mother lived until 1954.

Mary Funiak Thomas was interred above her daughter, Elizabeth, in 1947 in Mount Olive cemetery in North Pittsburgh, PA.

Dale Sweetland

Eunice Colson sent me a picture of Dale Sweetland at a gathering but without a title for the article which must have accompanied the picture. Dale is the Chairman of the Onandaga County Legislature and the son of Al and Sonia Sweetland. Many of us have met them at our reunions. Eunice, now 93, is moving again and has sent her new address so

Doug Sweetland's New Big Book is Ready

Doug Sweetland tells me that he will be at the reunion and that he will bring a copies of his new book. Publisher will deliver this to him on June 10th. He will mail copies to those who ordered from him shortly after he gets them.

Although he has reduced the font size from 11 to 9, the book is about 20% thicker than before and it is sure to be much heavier. The book has a lot of new information about the descendants of William and Agnes and the descendants of John Oliver Sweetland. Doug says that this time he has heard from some 25-30 people he had never heard from before.

All Sweetland and Sweetland descendants owe Doug a vote of thanks

for his work and dedication to producing this new version. He is the only one of us who could accomplish this mammoth book.

If you have not already ordered a copy, you can do this now and give Doug another vote of thanks. Cost of the book is \$95.00 including postage costs. The book can be ordered on CD for another \$15.00 or \$15.00 for the CD alone. Doug hopes that those who order the CD alone will not produce their own book. My guess is that the book has so many pages that the cost of producing the book from the CD will bring the cost nearly to the same total.

See Doug's addresses in bold type on page 1. In a separate email Doug

sent a copy of a message headed "Words to Live By." Here are a few examples.

"Accept that some days you're the pigeon and some days you're the statue.

"Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.

"Never buy a car you can't push.

"Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker.

"The early worm gets eaten by the bird, so always sleep late.

"Ever notice that the people who are late are often much jollier than the people who have to wait for them".

Thanks, Doug!

13 Raymond Road
Okatie, SC 29909-4526

Phone: 1-843-705-5661
Fax: 1-843-705-5662
email: mwswetland@compuserve.com



Organization

President – Mark W. Swetland—see above
Vice President—Dr. Jason Stevens, 70 River Club Drive, Hilton Head Island, SC 29926
Secretary—Michelle Grandusky, 98 Whittingham Place, West Orange, NJ 07052
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

Tribute to Bill Noyes

Bill Noyes is the husband of Maxine Swetland Noyes. In 2002 Bill received a tribute to his 39 years serving as the voice of the Penn State marching band. In addition, this same year he joined the 80s club. Their daughter Debbie planned a big celebration before Maxine knew about it. Debbie invited all of the guys in his many clubs and their friends. The celebration took place in the Elks Club and 75 attended. It was a complete surprise to Bill and all had a great time. Bill has been a long time choir director in two churches in State College.

Just before the Alumni Band Show, the announcement read “At rehearsal earlier today the Alumni Blue Band presented commemorative gifts to Bill Noyes. Bill began as “Voice of the Blue Band” back in 1963 and continued following retirement to serve as “The Voice.” After 39 years of voluntary service to the bands, Bill decided to “hang up his microphone” after the day’s show. Please join the bands in a Penn State Thank You to Bill Noyes.” The announcement came as a great surprise to Bill.

Many of us know Bill and Maxine who have been with us as often as health permitted. Bill has served as chairman of our scholarship committee and made many contributions to the association though he says he is not a Swetland. We hope he accepts our adopting him as a fellow member and look forward to seeing both of them often. Bill and Maxine still reside in State College, PA, where they have lived for many years.

Internet Ramblings

Most times to search for distant relatives, Swetland, Sweetland or Sweatland, I use Google. It is fast, it is extensive and it does more than I need. Other search engines exist including Overture. Some of what each search engine finds is identical but not everything. So using several search engines may give more results than just one.

Google presents the results under four categories, Web, Image, Group and Directory. In November 2001 I searched each category and found under Swetland Sweetland for Web 82 results, for Image 1, for Group 6 and for Directory 12.

I repeated the search but this time for only Sweetland. Now I found for Web 17,800 results, for Image 440, for Group 4,6909 and for Directory 2,850. Let me at this point qualify the large totals as about. Google says the totals not are exact.

Using the terms Swetland OR Sweetland for the search showed an increase in the Web sites to 20,199 results. You can be sure that I will never see all of them. By the time you try to reach some sites they will no longer be on the Internet although they were when first counted.

Another point to make is that the results do not indicate that each site relates to a possible distant relative. Many sites are named with the word Swetland or Sweetland. For instance, Charles Swetland of Vandalia, IL runs the swetland.net site. Every bit of data on the Internet that has this site, swetland.net, as the source of this information is counted in the totals. The data may have nothing to do with Swetlands.

Why should anyone want to make such a search. Most people have no interest in such information. For some strange reason the figures

appeal to me. They stagger me. Running similar searches on the name Swetland are also astounding. And why should searching on Swetland Sweetland reduce the number of results? If any reader has an answer to this, please let me hear from you. I feel sure one of you can answer the question.

A final point may be of interest. Google has an advanced search where you restrict the search by not including some terms such as “swetland.net” or by insisting that more than one term be included to be counted. This is done by placing quotation marks around the terms. Restrictions such as these reduce the number of “hits” but our names still produce a large number of results, far more than one would have ever thought. But don’t start to make a search unless you have ample time. One can spend hours searching and completely lose track of the time.