

# Sweetland/Swetland Lore #27

(formerly Swetland Lore)

September 2003

## SFA 2003 Reunion a Success

### Special points of interest:

- Mark A. Swetland displayed Aaron Swetland's musket.
- David Bickford and Rob Ruth have great websites.
- A new photo
- A hip fracture at 82.

Several SFA members gave great help in planning and carrying out the 2003 SFA Reunion. Without their help nothing could have been done. This expresses my great thanks to all of them.

Robert Sweetland investigated holding the reunion in northwest Ohio where Norman Bowers had found Sweetland ancestors. Robert found the Troy, OH, Chamber of Commerce ready to help in choosing a motel and planning events in Troy. This provides a basis for a future reunion.

Mary Bishop was our contact with The Shadowbrook. She visited The Shadowbrook, checked out the new management and reported that it would be completely satisfactory.

Jason Stevens visited the Holiday Inn, Wilkes-Barre and was favorably impressed by the facilities. This gave us a choice of two motels for the reunion. I chose the Holiday Inn for several reasons, including closeness and costs. All complaints about the reunion and the location should come to me.

Irwin Messick was a great strength in the planning. He was our contact with the Luzerne County Historical Society and the caterers and provided on-site contact with the Holiday Inn. This proved to be essential.

At the Reunion talks by Irwin Mes-

sick, Roger Swetland and Mark W. Swetland on their Revolutionary War Ancestors were informative and interesting.

Doug Sweetland gave a talk on his new book and had brought copies of the book and CD with him so we could obtain a copy.

Mark A. Swetland brought and displayed the Revolutionary War musket carried in the war by his ancestor Aaron Swetland.

David Kryder has offered to send out the newsletter by the Internet which will reduce future mailing costs. We accepted his offer. Now we need to have the e-mail addresses and I must arrange to get them to him.

Priscilla Swetland gave a report on the SFA treasury which is in excellent shape, the best ever. Donations during the reunion added to the good state of the treasury.

New officers for the positions of President and Vice-President were elected as shown on page 4.

Attendance was good with some 44 people present both days. Minutes of the reunion should be coming in the near future with more complete details.

The major records of letters and data for the 2003 reunion are now filed for use by a future reunion chair. Choosing that person will be up to the new officers. I urge you to send them your offers to help.

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## Teacher's Offering

Bette Steinbrenner has sent word of a recent find from the Swetland past, a small 2½" x 4" booklet entitled "Teacher's Offering." The booklet, printed in 1862, was a gift to Emma Caroline Fosnot Swetland from her mathematics teacher for having the most perfect marks in her arithmetic class. Her teacher Marion C. Boscoe presented

the award on March 15, 1864. The booklet contains many short stories from a morally correct bygone era. Emma was the spouse of George Washington Swetland who arrived in Wisconsin with his parents during the mid 1840s. Three generations arrived in Wisconsin during this time span, the oldest being Artemus, grandson of Luke Swetland.

## Using the IGI

The IGI is the International Genealogical Index created by the Church of the Latter Day Saints, the Mormons.

While those of us who have computers and Internet access find it easy to use the IGI, everyone has access by using one of the local Family History Centers, located in a local LDS church. Not all such churches have Family History Centers but I have visited the centers in both Beaufort, SC, and Savannah, GA. Both are about the same distance from home.

Members of the local church are generally in charge of the centers. Joanne Hampton is in charge of the center in Beaufort. She is friendly, helpful and knowledgeable.

Members of the New England Historic Genealogical Society have another advantage. With their membership number they can find an excellent article on their website by Helen Schatvet Ullmann titled "Making Optimum Use of the IGI." <[www.newenglandancestors.org](http://www.newenglandancestors.org)> One can print out this article in full for one's own use but be sure to use landscape mode, not portrait mode. In portrait mode not all right hand letters print.

One can print the article in color

or in black and white. I chose color because I like color. The resulting article in color is no better than in black and white.

Printing the article takes 11 pages, the last of which has the references. Ullmann gives an extensive story of using the IGI for a man born in CT that she was researching. She shows a number of ways to use the IGI.

She notes that the entries have been made in different ways at different times. She also explains why the Mormons have created the IGI. Although you may have used the IGI before, you will learn a new appreciation for the IGI and better ways of using it after reading her article.

My own use has been frustrated in tracing my Thomas ancestors in New York and Compton ancestors in New Jersey. At present my conclusion is that the data was never entered in the IGI. Since more data is entered every year, my frustration may some day be overcome by new data. That is one hope. Or by using the article I may learn how to use the IGI better and find what I am looking for.

On page 3 is mention of David Bickford who sent me a photo which he

## David Bickford

had received from Ruth Sweetland of Dryden, NY. He was delighted to have this photo of one of his ancestors.

David and Mary Bickford have created an amazing website. I visited this site again just before writing this. Last update was Saturday, July 26, 2003 at 10:21. To reach this website, go to RootsWeb.com. Then go to Family Trees and look for the site.

Their site lets you enter a surname or go to all names under the first letter. I went to "S" and found that the site has 445 Sweetland names and 50 Sweetland names on the site. Since David's ancestor was Mary Ann Sweetland, I used the name Mary Sweetland and found nine Marys, one of which was David's ancestor.

I then printed out the list of Sweetland names. One of the names was Roger W. Sweetland, my grandfather. His genealogical data has found its way to the Internet. My problem now is how do I correct the mistake he and Dr. B. S. Sweetland made on Aaron Sweetland's father.

## SFA Treasury Report

Thanks to the wonderful donations received our Treasury now has funds for several years. After paying reunion costs and the costs for the latest S/S Lore, the treasury now has \$505.00 in the scholarship fund and \$1,294.61 in the general fund for a total of \$1,799.61.

At the reunion we received a total of \$707.00, \$187.00 for the scholarship fund, \$241.00 for the general fund, \$84.00 for chances to the quilt, \$20.00 for the Coats of Arms notebooks and \$175.00 from other donations received by the treasurer at the reunion.

We have enough in the scholarship fund to make two \$250.00 awards. The general fund has enough for three years or more. No one can guess how much costs for printing, paper, envelopes and postage will increase over the coming years but we are solvent and more. Sincere thanks come from your officers.

Since the reunion we have received a nice letter from Jesse Teitelbaum, Executive Director of the Luzerne County Historical Society. Those at Sweetland Homestead on Friday evening saw Jesse setting up large fans to cool the rooms we dined in. His letter reads.

"Thanks you very much for your generous contribution to the Sweetland Homestead. I'm happy to hear the Sweetland Family descendants enjoyed themselves at the Homestead. We were honored to host your reunion. I apologize that it was so hot on the second floor during dinner but everyone was good sports and stuck through it.

Again thank you for your donation and if there is anything the Luzerne County Historical Society can do in the future for Swetlands, feel free to contact me."

As agreed at the reunion Saturday

we donated \$200.00 to the Luzerne County Historical Society, stating that \$100.00 was for restoring the Sweetland Homestead and \$100.00 for preserving other Sweetland articles.

The costs for the reunion dinner Friday evening and Saturday noon were set to be sure we did not run over the costs. A check of the income for the dinners and the costs for both days for catering, paper products for Friday evening, Saturday lunch and the Forty Fort Meeting House Preservation committee for the Saturday afternoon meeting came in below estimates and the excess has been added to the treasury.

It was a successful reunion as stated on page 1 of this newsletter. I thank everyone for their support and wish the new officers that same outstanding help in all aspects. As a reminder I will always accept stories for the newsletter.

# Candice Carpenter Sweetland

David Bickford, one of my Internet contacts, sent a copy of a picture postcard of Candice Carpenter which he had received from Ruth Sweetland of Dryden, NY, so that he could share it with others. This came as an attachment to an e-mail message so I was able to reproduce the picture. You see the results in column 2. In reply to my request for more information on Candice, David kindly sent several pages on Candice and her husband, Jervis Wakelee Sweetland.

Jervis was born January 2, 1813 in Dryden, Tompkins County, NY. Candice was born November 2, 1817 in Tompkins County, NY and married Jervis on April 23, 1837. Their marriage produced ten children of whom four died in infancy.

Jervis died March 13, 1898 in Danville, Harper County, KS and Candice died March 13, 1913 in Anthony, Harper County, KS at the age of 95 years, 4 months and 25 days.

Some of David's data come from the Kathy Bolam's Sweetland family data and notes. This records that Candice fell and broke her hip in March 1913 which may account for her death March 13, 1913.

Reading David's data shows the need for constant attention to details. Candice's marriage is shown as 1837 in one place and as 1836 in another. Most likely, 1837 is the correct year.

An obituary records that four of her children were with her at her death in 1913.



Candice left behind twenty-six grandchildren and forty-eight great-grandchildren.

The early part of the marriage of Jervis and Candice was in Dryden until 1856 when they moved to Hillsdale, MI. In 1872 they moved to Woodford County, IL then to Iowa with some of their children and in 1878 to Anthony, Harper County, KS.

Jervis was a farmer until late in life when he became nearly blind. He was a famil-

iar figure on the streets of Anthony until the winter of 1897-1898 when he was bedfast.

He was strong in his likes and dislikes, but was a man of sterling integrity and always took an uncompromising position for what he considered right. He hated cant and hypocrisy and was never slow to express plainly his views on such conditions.

Candice resided with her children after the loss of Jervis and spent her days with them. Converted in early life, she united with the Methodist Church in 1837 and lived the consistent upright, peaceful life of a true Christian for seventy-six years.

She was with her children and their children and had all the comforts of good homes and the care of those who loved her. So she lived a patient, happy, unselfish, person, exemplifying the characteristics of a useful and self-spent life. She died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. George Evans and her funeral was conducted by Rev. John R. Edwards. Interment was in Forest Park Cemetery.

I am grateful to David for sharing so much information on both Jervis and Candice (Carpenter) Sweetland and by no means did this article include everything. By sharing your data someone may find something most helpful. Consider this when you have a story to tell or data on one of your ancestors. What you believe is common knowledge may be an important piece of information to another person. Of course, this is a plea for material for future issues of S/S Lore.

## Doug Sweetland's New Big Book is Here

The 2003 SFA Reunion was graced by Doug Sweetland bringing copies of his new book and the CDs. One can not imagine the hours of time that were needed to update his 1997 book. All of us owe Doug a big thanks for his work.

I am thankful to have a copy of this book. I use his book to answer the questions that come to me by letter and by e-mail.

The index to Doug's book lists well over 10,000 names of Sweetland/Sweetland descendants. With his book and the system he has used for identifying these people one can trace all lines back to the first person listed in his book.

A word of information about his book is useful. Doug claims he is not a genealogist. By this he means that he is not the person who has traced all of the people listed in the book. The book is the compilation of the information that many have sent him to help in listing the data in the book.

Some of the data has been carefully traced and documented by those who sent Doug the data. Other data is family information that has not been documented. This in itself does not make it inaccurate but one needs to check carefully before accepting it as valid.

If you have not yet bought a copy, I urge you do so. Doug's book is in a prominent place in the genealogy

section of my book shelves. I would be lost without it.

Doug's address is 401 South Fourth Street, Marshall, MN 56258-1229. His e-mail address is sweetlan@chartermi.net. Be sure to spell it exactly as it is here.

Those of us who have a copy of his book can be of great help to Doug. You may find data that conflicts with what you have. If so, let Doug hear from you. If his data should be incorrect, you will help to make a future version more accurate.

Proofreading such a mammoth book is nearly impossible for one person. Your help will be of immense value to later genealogists.

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## Organization

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## Rob Ruth's Website

Those of us with computers and internet access can find one member who has set up a marvelous website. This is <http://www.myancestry.org/web/swetland/aqwc03.htm>. The number after aqwc will change with the generation.

Rob is a descendant of Philetus, Lewis, Joseph, William, John and Isaac Sweetland/Swetland. He says that he has a lot on Philetus and the next 7 generations of descendants of Philetus but not much on the earlier ones. From Lewis down to his parents he has an incredible amount of information. In his ancestry Sweetland predominated in the late 1700s. By 1870/1880 it had changed mostly to Sweatland. It appears that this was not an abrupt change by all Swetlands in his line. It seemed to change depending on the person and the time. By 1900 the change to Sweatland seems to have been complete.

Rob's line ended up mostly in Michigan. His great-great-grandmother was a Sweatland from Michigan. His personal line branched off about 4 generations earlier.

Checking the 11 generations on his website shows that it will take some 65 pages to print out all of the data. Surprisingly, the most data is on the ninth generation. Citations require more pages to print. If any of your ancestors lived in Michigan, it may be worthwhile to see what Rob has on his website. You will also want to see if your data matches his.

## A New Experience

This section tells a story and at the same time is a word to all that this issue of S/S Lore has been largely written by the editor. What does that mean? You readers need to send in your family stories so that they are read by more people.

My story begins on August 8th. Leaving the dining table, I caught my left foot in the chair behind me and fell on my butt. I got up, picked up the papers I had dropped and limped to the den. I was sore but thought it was only a bruise.

Since it did not improve, the next week on the 15th I saw a specialist who ordered X-rays. They were inconclusive so MRIs were ordered. The MRI doctor was out of town until Monday night so Tuesday, the 19th, I learned that I had a non-displaced fracture of my right femur, my hip in other words.

More X-rays on the 21st showed the fracture, a dark line across the bone. Given the choice of surgery to insert plates and screws or letting nature heal me, I chose nature over surgery.

New X-rays on the 28th revealed that the dark line on the 21st now has white portions indicating the bone is healing. Wonderful news, even though it still hurts when I move the wrong way! We also rented a wheel chair to make getting around the house easier.

I have an appointment to see the doctor again on September 11th. I hope to be nearly healed by then but don't expect to be fully healed. No one can guess how long it will take. Time will tell the answer. Part of the reason is my age. On the 15th I celebrated my 82nd birthday, not exactly the way I had planned.

We did go to the British Open Pub at our clubhouse with our son Paul and his wife and our daughter Diane, her husband and three grandchildren. Jean and I went to the same restaurant for dinner last Saturday evening so you see that I am still going, just not as I would like.

Having read my tale of woe, please think now about sending me stories of your family and your ancestors. These are the parts of the newsletter that everyone enjoys reading. My address is on this page. You can send the stories by mail, by e-mail, or by fax. How you send them is unimportant. It is important to me that you send them.

This story also explains why S/S Lore #27 is later than more recent issues. Let's all hope that this is the last time the newsletter is later than usual.