

# Sweetland/Swetland Lore #31

September 2004

## *Special points of interest:*

- The Millers have offered to act as reunion coordinators for 2005. P. 1
- David W. Swetland of Alma, Maine, writes wonderful letters. P. 2
- The trials of scanning into the computer. P. 3
- Gladys Swetland enjoys her 112th birthday. P. 4

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## **From Our President**

Dear SFA Member:

The summer is going fast and it has been nothing but rain all summer here in northeast PA. We don't have more than two days of sunshine, then rain. We set or tied some low high temperatures lately. The GOOD NEWS is that the Miller sisters have volunteered to plan the reunion for 2005. Virginia Miller contacted me and said that they would plan and execute the reunion.

It will be held around the Springfield/Monson/Chicopee MA area. The details will follow. The timing looks like mid to end of July. You may want to think about extending your vacation and tour the area. I would

personally like to THANK the Miller sisters for their volunteering and hope that any help they need will come forth.

Things seem to be hectic around here. I think I had more time to get things done when I worked. We are hoping to have a vacation weekend with our children starting a week from today (August the 13th) for 5 days of relaxation. Then our granddaughter will start back to school. Priscilla and I volunteered to help at our local fair and Labor Day is almost here.

I have had numerous contacts about John Deere tractors. I just rebuilt a carburetor for a friend and neighbor and

still am trying to restore one of my own. I thought I would have had it done by the 4th of July and may be real lucky if I get it done by Labor Day. At least I have it running and can drive it. Now it is mostly cosmetics.

Roger E. Swetland



Carrie Belle Thomas as a child

## **SFA Treasury**

Priscilla Swetland, our treasurer, reports that no costs have come in except those for S/S Lore #30 which went out in June. These costs were \$81.49. Costs for S/S Lore #31, this issue, will be a bit less because of more

e-mail copies

The firm printing the newsletter for issues #25-29 increased their page price from \$0.05 to \$0.06. Using the UPS Store as I did for #30 I can buy 1,000 copies for

\$0.05 per page, which is cheaper than the last firm. While the savings is not great, I do everything possible to reduce costs. Now I am looking for discount postage to save on another major expense. Wish me luck!

# David Wightman Swetland of Alma, Maine

David has a wonderful goal, to publish the history of his family. Grandson of Truman Munroe Swetland and son of Frederick Luetchford Swetland, David has a long background to tell the full story. He has been working on this for many years, and still has more work to finish the draft. One can be sure that, when published, it will tell many stories of Swetlands.

David is a wonderful writer and has written a number of letters many of which you have read. This issue continues with David's latest letter of June 7, 2004

"Acknowledging yours of 5/31/04 and 9/12/03, I write this on an open folder entitled "Life and Times of David W. Swetland Sect. 2." This is a draft containing 6 sections so far of a short history of my immediate family with DWS, as principal narrator. Don't despair of DWS getting the job done although it is taking far longer than I wished when I started in 1978. After finishing with Art Dougan our history of the Holden Arboretum, it is hard work. I try to set aside time. Your AM schedule is fine in theory but many things interfere.

The family photos I have in excess. My father was a photographer since his early youth (1889—7 years old—moved to Cleveland from Michigan). He left me his interest, his advice and a vast collection of 6 x 7 glass plates and negatives. His later movies are lost. My own archives of photos start in 1925 and are equally notable for quantity if not quality collections. It also contains movies and stills - oh my - 5 volumes of places and people.

Truman you ask about. He

was also a restaurant owner and operator—the Oyster House in Grand Rapids, MI, before 1889. My father took up this trade in Cleveland between 1904 and 1920. He ran The Gridiron in the basement of the Park Building, the family's first building in Cleveland.

In 1908 Truman traveled to Cuba and bought 9000 acres in the Isle of Pines for a real estate development. In 1911-1912 he led / followed his sons in building three new buildings in Cleveland, the Frederick, the Swetland and the Truman. In addition, they acquired several apartment buildings, all before 1925.

During the year 1925 (the "boom") they bought and laid out for development 12 acres on Biscayne Bay in Miami, Coconut Grove. This was proposed as a residential development and many lots were under "contract" before the '26 hurricane and the "boom" broke. I sold the last piece of this property in 2004 for an unconscionable sum of money.

Neither generation of the family foresaw this. The older generation, resigned to the collapse of the market, used the property as their homes for 25 years, I, as the sole representative of the younger generation, saw the transition from a worthless commodity to a priceless piece of real estate as a boon and a curse. I faced the inevitable and sold out thus ending a 70 year association with Camp Biscayne.

Truman's Cuba adventure was promising until the Twenties. First the island was ceded to Cuba in the early Twenties by an unfeeling Congress and then there were duties to pay and a Cuban government to deal with. Finally there was the '26 hurricane which wiped out many of the citrus groves. The family di-

vided up the Florida and Cuba holdings in 1930. My father took the Isle of Pines house and grounds in exchange for his Camp Biscayne ownership.

For the next twenty years he lived during the winter months in in his beloved island home, creating an ideal tropical landscape for his and my mother's pleasure. He died in 1950. My mother stayed on for six years more and then sold out to my older brother who had always wanted to continue his life as a farmer/rancher on the island. He had his way for only four years. Then Castro had his way.

More later. D

N.B. Truman died in Feb. 1928"

## Material for S/S Lore

When you read this issue, note that members provided much of page 1 and all of page 2. The article on Gladys Swetland on page 4 also came from a member. Now realize that a significant part but not all of this issue is the work of members. If only all of it were from members! Your editor would be ecstatic to have material come in from members so he had only to organize the newsletter before typing, printing, copying and mailing it.

Everyone has stories from their lives to share with other members. Since no one but your immediate family may know these stories, sharing them through the newsletter will let all enjoy them and share them with other Swetlands, Sweetlands and Sweetlands. As you will note, page 3 was the work solely of your editor, a necessary action for this issue. Next issue will tell more of my experiences unless other members tell their treasured stories. **Please help your editor!**

# Scanned Slides & Photographs in Genealogy

Jean and I have taken photographs of our family from 1947 up to today. From 1947 to 1987 all photos were slides. Since then they have been color prints for the most part. During the time we took only slides we accumulated over 1,000 slides.

In February 2003 I decided to scan the slides into a computer. When I began, I had no idea of how to scan the slides or what to do with the scans after I had them. At the time the Sun City Computer Club (SCCC) had no slide scanner so I went to the Hilton Head Island Computer Club. I had been a member since 1985. They had a HP PhotoSmart scanner so I began.

At first I put the scans, about 7 at 300 dpi, on 3½" disks. A member told me to scan all slides at 1200 dpi. I quickly learned that only four such slides at most will fit on a 3½" disk. After several months I learned how to transfer the scans to a CD so now I could put some 600 or more scans on a CD except the CD writing program sometimes limits the scans to those already on the CD. This means the need for a blank CD to copy the scans. No one has yet explained why this is so.

I copied the scans on the 3½" disks onto my computer at home and gave names to the scans. After a few months I felt I should arrange the slides. It seemed that filing them in folders by year made good sense. Now I had both the folders with scans and the original scans which are not part of folders.

After placing the later scans on CDs, this left me with today's situation, original scans, folders and CDs, a slightly confusing collection of scans from slides. Next step was to obtain Adobe Photo Album software. I installed this on my computer and tried to open the pro-

gram. To my astonishment the program refused to open and told me my computer was not powerful enough. It explained what I needed. Now I had to upgrade my computer in order to arrange the slides to meet my desires. This was about 14 months after I first started to scan the slides.

In the meanwhile the Sun City Computer Club bought several scanners, only one of which scanned slides but all of them will scan letters and photographs. I was able to scan a few photos or papers into a computer and print them out on photographic paper or clear films.

Since I had now scanned all of the family slides into the computer, it was time to tackle scanning the old family photos into the computer. I tried to use the computers at Sun City. For some reason not yet explained by anyone in the computer club including room monitors who have an understanding of the software, periodically when I tried to use anyone of the computers to scan photos, I got a message which told me the scanner was already in use although I had just turned on the machine.

Note that SCC has scanners on four computers. The scanners and software are different on each machine but the same message came up on each screen. Only rarely was I able to scan any photos into a computer at the Sun City Computer Club. On the occasions when I could make scans there, their software showed me that I need to learn much more than casual use will produce. I did make some 40 scans which are satisfactory using the computers there.

Much more success comes using the Visioneer scanner and its PaperPort software at the Hilton Head Island Computer Club. The

minor disadvantage is that it takes about half an hour driving time to get there from home. That time is invested in using our auto which makes this work feasible only when Jean does not need the car,

I can not say how many slides I now have in the computer and on CDs. Had I counted how many slides we had when I started, I might have never begun. Since the old computer had Windows 98SE on it, I have printed out a list of all the scans on every disk and CD and in every folder on the computer. This will let me count up the number of scans if I ever want to know the total. Being an engineer, I may do this some day but not soon.

During the past year and a half, I have used several software programs to print out the scans. My preferred program is MGI PhotoSuite 4. MGI sold the rights to Roxio who produced a version 5, more powerful than version 4. Buying this was a mistake. The program would not open after installation. After much time and messages to Roxio, they sent me an e-mail which explained how to modify some seven lines of code in Windows so the program would run. I still have the software but have never tried to modify the lines of code to see if the program will work.

You have seen some of the scans in S/S Lore. Another example is on page 1 of this issue The photo of Carrie Belle Thomas as a young girl was made from a tin type which dates from the early 1870s. It is a picture of my grandmother when she lived in Wisconsin, before she came to Pennsylvania and married my grandfather. The tin type is dark but the software cleared up and brightened the photo remarkably. I love working with both the slides and photographs. Now I must get a backup system to work.

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## **A Dearth of News**

*Three members have made it possible to put out this issue of S/S Lore. David W. Swetland of Cleveland, Ohio and Alma, ME, Roger Swetland, our President and Sandra Swetland of Pittsburgh, PA are the contributors. When you read page three, you will see how desperate I am for material. Each SFA member has family stories which have never been told in S/S Lore. I urge you to correct this situation and swamp my mail box with too many stories to use in the next several issues. If you want me to edit your story, I promise to show you what, if any, I have changed in the story before it appears in S/S Lore.*

*My granddaughter Allison Faig decided she wanted to put together a scrapbook with pictures of her ancestors. This adds to the importance of completing the scanning all our slides and photographs into the computer. I feel confident that over 1,000 scans are now in the computer or on CDs and scanning still goes on. I rather suspect that at year end I will cry "enough" and stop scanning family photographs. That will leave the many slides of stamps and postal history covers which are yet to think about.*

## **PASR Honors Gladys Swetland's 112th**

PASR honored their member Gladys Swetland on her birthday April 18, 2004 when she turned 112 years old. As of that date Gladys retained her status as the oldest person alive in Pennsylvania and was then the eighth oldest person in the United States. She was also the 20th oldest person in the world according to the Gerontology Research Group which tracks such records.

Gladys received recognition from the White House, the U. S. Congress, the Pennsylvania General Assembly and a visit from the governor. PASR President, PASR Vice President and two local PASR leaders joined in recognizing Gladys.

Gladys told them her oft re-

peated comment that she can't wait to get back to her home. "These people in here are all old. I need people I can have an intelligent conversation with," she said.

The President of PASR said "It was an honor for me to be able to meet such an extraordinary woman who has left a profound effect on many of the lives she has touched."

When it came time to cut the cake for her 112th birthday, she insisted that she could do it herself and then proceeded to cut for her many wonderful guests. She also played the piano for the guests.

Upon leaving, Don Casto, PASR President, said to Gladys, "We'll see you next year." Her response was, "I'll be here. You just make sure you are too."

PASR is the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees and represents all retired PA school teachers.

Thanks are due to Sandra Swetland of Pittsburgh, PA, who sent me the article from their newsletter. Without Sandra's help you might never hear about the recognition that Gladys received on her 112th birthday. A total replacement of my right knee kept me from visiting Gladys this year but you can count on my seeing her in 2005.

Louis Epstein of the Gerontology Group told me by e-mail today, September 16th, that Gladys is now the 15th oldest person in the world. With her spirit and determination time will see her rise much closer to the number one spot.