

Sweetland/Swetland Lore #32

December 2004

From Our President and Treasurer

Special points of interest:

- Our President has learned that retirement does not mean spare time exists, P. 1
- Benjamin Swetland, the Fife-Major, P. 2
- Check the dates for the 2004 SFA reunion, P. 3
- Should we have our own website?, P. 4

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Dear SFA Member:

This really is not a letter from Roger Swetland but rather a set of comments and notes which have come from him and Priscilla. He finds that he is working longer hours now that he has retired. Many of us have found this to be true. Wait until you retire to see how true this is!

Roger and Priscilla have decided this year to leave Pennsylvania early and avoid more of winter. They held Christmas this past weekend and now must clean up after their Christmas and pack the motor home to be on their way.

Roger tells me he has had to work on three

tractors and a 200 kw generator before they leave. He has to get things ready to leave their house for, I suspect, an unknown length of time.

Roger has said he still has to have their car inspected, see his dentist, get his tax data in order for their CPA and undecorate the house.

Roger has received some data on our 2005 reunion. You will find the information available today on page 3. Some data has not yet come in so we will make another mailing as soon as possible next year.

For next year after they return home, Roger already has two tractors

to work on and about a week's work on a dozer plus an Army reunion the week before our reunion.

We should be grateful that Roger has a strong feeling for our family association. He is truly accomplishing major work on our behalf. Write him your thanks. His address is on page 4.

Priscilla reports that our balance is \$1,474.91 as of 11/29/2004. We received \$200 in donations and \$248.53 were our expenses. The treasury has \$505.00 in the Scholarship fund and \$969.91 in the General fund. This is great but remember that each issue of S/S Lore costs about \$90.00 even with using email for some 35 copies.

Email for your copy of S/S Lore

Mark Harrison will add your email address to his present list if you want to have delivery via the Internet. Send him a message at his address, mark@genesistems.com. He will acknowledge your wish and you will receive

future issues by email only.

I am grateful to all who have asked to have Mark deliver their copies as each one reduces the work of mailing your newsletter. You will not

realize how much I appreciate sending each issue to Mark and having him deliver some 35 copies. Can you imagine the time it takes to fold each copy, insert it in an envelope, stick on a mailing label and add postage?

Benjamin Swetland, the Fife Major

Benjamin Swetland descends from William and Agnes Swetland of Salem, MA. His father was John Swetland, Jr., and his grandfather was John Swetland, son of William and Agnes. Benjamin was born September 29, 1856 in Bolton, CT and died September 29, 1819 in Waterville, NY. On June 6, 1782 he married Rosanna Hancock in Springfield, MA. Rosanna, daughter of Silas Hancock and Rachel Wright, was born August 4, 1763 in Longmeadow, MA and died June 15, 1838, also in Waterville.

Benjamin Swetland enlisted May 1, 1777 and served in the Continental Army in the third Massachusetts Regiment under the command of Col. John Groaton in Capt. Charles Colton's company. Benjamin kept the roster of the company and used his book during the war for notes, military orders, speeches, ciphers, Bible verses and hymns. He also used his book to write births, deaths, and other family information. He was 20 years old when he enlisted the first time 'to do or die for his country' as he once wrote. Here are some entries from the roster which he kept:

"Appointed May 1, 1777 Fife Major, Benjamin Swetland.

His weekly return of February 24, 1780 is signed "Benjamin Swetland, Sargt."

"A short account of three year's campaign. On May 1, 1777 I enlisted under the command of Capt. John Groaton of Roxbury, MA in Capt. Charles Colton Company of Springfield until the August to guard Continental stores, and then received orders to join the Regiment which we found at Van Sloik's Island near Halfmoon, then from there to Stillwater, then after the battles, then Saratoga where Burgoine surrendered with his army to the Americans.

"WestPoint, October 17th: For

years from this day since the surrender of Genl. Burgoin at Saratoga in the year 1777, Benjamin Swetland, Eye witness,

"Sunday, April 30, 1780 at Continental Village: "I got my discharge from the service of the United State of America and came as far as Crompound and tarried there till Wensday, the 3rd of May, and then I set out and came to Salem that day, and the next day I came to Woodbury and there I staid until Monday, the 8th of May, and then I set out from Woodbury and came to Southington, and the next day I arrived at Hartford, Friday, May the 9th, 1780.

While in service he was promoted to Fife Major (Fife and Drum Corps) and then Sergeant. After his discharge in April, he re-enlisted August 23, 1780 at West Point in Captain Cook's Company, Col. Canfield's Regiment of the Militia and was discharged in 1781. He is listed in the DAR Patriot Index, Copyright 1994, Page 2868, DrmFifMaj, PNSR. He was pensioned, Act of 1818 (Pension R 10355V) but Rosanna's widow's pension was rejected because she was not married at the time of his service in the War (they were married in 1782.)

Benjamin along with his daughter, Florilla, was featured in a 7 page biography (with photos of his musket, which he carried with him throughout the war, and his warming pan, plus pages of his roster and music) which was published in 1904 in a book entitled "Chapter Sketches-Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution-Patriot's Daughters. At the time of the writing of this book, the musket and warming pan were owned by the William G. Mayer family, the Roster book was in the hands of Benjamin's grandson, William Wirt Smith, Esq. of Chicago, IL who later donated it to the Chicago Historical Society (about 1904).

His death is September 30, 1819 on his tombstone and September 29, 1819 in family sources.

Some of the data on this family is taken from DAR applications of family descendants.

Susan Hahn kindly sent other information on Benjamin. Her material included nine pages from the book mentioned above. Much of the data on the nine pages came from Benjamin's daughter, Florilla, who passed her 100th birthday about the time the book was published.

One of the nine pages shows a hymn written by Benjamin, entitled "A New Song." The words show his patriotic feeling. The hymn states that it was written in 1780 when he would have been about 24 years old.

Benjamin and his wife Rosanna had eleven children, three sons and eight daughters, of which Florilla was the ninth, born October 23, 1803 in Waterville, NY She married Reuben Pierce, a soldier of the War of 1812. Reuben and Florilla also had eleven children, five sons and six daughters.

This story on Benjamin Swetland will surprise Susan Hahn whose husband Brian is a direct descendant of Benjamin. Susan sent me the data November 12, 2002. I misplaced the information and wrote Susan telling her I could not find it. She gave up on me and never responded.

With great care when I received the information from Susan, I placed her papers in protective sleeves and filed them in a new 1/2" binder which I stored above some genealogy binders on a bookshelf in the den. The new binder was not labeled. Not until three weeks ago did I look again at this binder. I was thrilled to see this data I never throw anything away but it can be difficult to find everything I want when I need specific material.

2005 SFA Reunion This and That Follows

Virginia Miller, 2005 Reunion Chairperson, tells us that we will use the Comfort Inn & Suites in Ludlow, MA. Reunion dates are July 22-23, 2005. Be sure to mark your calendar for these dates. I hope that many of us will stay both Friday and Saturday nights so we can get to know more of our SFA members. Jean and I plan to be there and hope many of you will join us.

Information on rates and type of rooms will be coming in the near future. Since not all details are final at the moment, another reunion notice will come out next year so you can make all of your plans. The important thing is to put the July 22-23 dates on your calendar.

Most probably we will take a 2-hour river cruise Friday evening. Cost details are in preparation as well as the reunion cost.

Since Roger and Priscilla are leaving home this week, please use Virginia Miller as your contact for any questions you may have. Her mailing address is 224 Hovey Road, Monson, MA 01057.

Lost Members

S/S Lore has come back from several members during the past year. Have they passed away? Did they move without sending a change of address? If anyone knows where these people are, please let me hear from you. The returned envelopes with no new address are:

Patricia Smith of Ellington, CT.

Jane Gage of Grosse Point, MI

Herbert Sweetland of Cookeville,
TN

Eunice Colson

Many of us remember Eunice who came to many reunions beginning in 1986 when Flora Paine and

many nieces came to the first reunion. Eunice has moved again, now to 4055 Longbranch Rd., Liverpool, NY 13090. Her telephone number is (315) 451-2645. She would love to talk with you if you can phone her. Her son Tim let us know about the move.

Sweetland Candies

If you need another gift for Christmas, why not contact Sweetland Fine Homemade Candies Since 1919 on the Internet? You can phone them at 1-800-842-3444 and buy your gifts over the phone. Or you can reach their website at www.sweetlandcandies.com. They specialize in turtles, boxed chocolates and the biggest, best truffles, flavored with rum, mint, Swiss mocha and double chocolate, covered with milk chocolate or semi-sweet chocolate.

Karen Swetland

In May 2003 a search for Swetland in Google showed Karen Swetland on the Library Faculty and Staff of the University of South Carolina, Greenville. Will someone go to their website in 2005 and tell me if she is still there? Why don't I do this? I think I am too busy or not quite strongly interested to do this.

Niles Family History

On the Internet I learned of this Niles and Edwards Family History which has an index by surname. The table listed 18 Swetlands with first names beginning with Alva Oralva and ending with William. Going through the list shows that this family is related to Benjamin, the Fife-Major, featured on page 2 of this issue.

MARK@GENESISTEMS.COM

Each time I go to Mark Harrison's website, I learn more about

how useful this website can be to computer users. One of the useful site resources is "Useful Tips-NEW." If you are a computer user, you may find this is helpful.

Major headings under the Useful Tips Archive are:

Anti-Virus Program Notes

Virus Notes

Backup Notes

Windows OS Notes

Operating System Notes

Hardware Notes

Software Notes

Security Notes

Internet Notes

Miscellaneous Notes

Service Notes

General Notes

Virus Hoax Notes

E-Mail Notes

Non-Computer Notes

The section on E-Mail Notes has many useful tips for users of e-mail and Microsoft's Outlook Express. Last time I printed out his listing I found 46 tips under this heading. I realize that some of our members do not use a computer but without this gadget, burden or whatever you call it, this newsletter would not be appearing. Go and look at a few of the tips. They may help you.

S/S Lore Archives

Mark Harrison is setting up a file of old copies of S/S Lore to serve as an archive. I will send him copies of the older issues on my computer.

Family History

SWETLAND FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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Treasurer—Priscilla Swetland,
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Reunion Chair—Virginia Miller,
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A visit to The Peddie School over two years ago resulted in Dr. David Martin, the school archivist and a history teacher there, showing me a form submitted by an alumnae, Grace Swetland. Grace was the sister of our Gladys Swetland and the oldest of Chet and Kate Swetland's four children. Grace left Peddie in 1906 after graduating from the school. She attended Elmira College, Elmira, NY, 1908-09 and Michigan State college, Ypsilanti, MI, 1912-13. In her career she taught English and Latin at the Harrison High School, Harrison, Valley, PA and was Library Assistant and Assistant librarian at the Olean Public Library, Olean, NY and then worked in the Port Jarvis, NY, Port Jarvis Free Library. Grace was also the Postmaster in Mills, PA from 1941-1945. One never knows what new data will turn up.

Family Associations

The Swetland family Association has existed since 1986, the year of the first reunion. Imagine having existed for 137 years. The Kelloch family began their reunions in 1867 and are still going strong. Their reunions have had between 69 and 200 attend their gatherings. They meet every year at the ancestral home in Warren, ME where a Scot, Finley Kelloch, settled. Some members come every year. One member of the Kelloch clan has attended 95 of their reunions. She is now 101 years old. Does anyone believe that our association can equal theirs?

Our Own Website

At the two most recent reunions the subject of a family website came up. A member at each reunion offered to set one up and run it. And each time work and other activities prevented this from happening. Do we have enough need for a website for someone to set up a Swetland Family website or similar name?

Here at Sun City Hilton Head several friends have set up personal websites. Cost seems to be nominal but I have no recent figures.

Two of our members have websites using MyFamily.com. Costs would be free for a 30-day trial. A Standard Site costs \$29.95 a year and a Super Site with Personal Domain costs \$109.95 a year.

If we were to set up our site with MyFamily.com, a yearly cost of \$29.95 seems reasonable. A major question is who would set this up and run it. Keeping a website interesting takes time and effort so that members will use it. Another source suggest that a site needs 10 to 20 regular visitors to be useful.

If enough comments come back either for or against our personal website, we can decide whether to look further into a family website.

What are some of the reasons to join MyFamily.com? We will have an online home. The site ensures privacy since it will be password protected. It will be easy to communicate with each other and share pictures, video and voice clips. We can stay current with address

changes. MyFamily Message Boards will enable us to exchange views, questions and suggestions on hundreds of topics. It will save money if we should want to contact members overseas and we do have one in Australia who contributed a great story of Sweetlands in Australia.

MyFamily.com is also a way to create a family tree, save stories and record dates.

Important questions are will enough members use it and who will run the website. Since I stick my neck out often, I offer to set up the website with MyFamily.com if members feel that the yearly cost is within our resources and enough of us want to use a family website. Without use and contributions of data we have no need for a website.