

Sweetland/Swetland Lore #33

March 2005

From Our President

Special points of interest:

- Our President and Secretary enjoy Florida, p 1
- SFA 2005 Reunion data, pp. 1, 3, 4
- Feast of the White Dog, p. 2
- New data on William Swetland of Salem, MA in 1686, p, 3
- The Swetland Family Association Website is real, p. 4

We are enjoying our time in Florida again this year. We have met old friends and made many more new ones. The time has gone by so quickly that it is difficult to believe that February is coming to an end. The weather seems a bit colder than past years with more swings in temperature. However, it has been much better than back home. I've started some tomato plants from seed and hope that I will have enough room to take them home.

The campground that we have been staying at for the last four years will probably close for good this June. Many have gone or will be going in different directions and we will miss them. It has been like family with the people we have met here over the years.

We don't know yet where we will be going next year and need to look around seriously before we leave. We plan to start heading for home about the end of March. We plan to stop in Florida City and will try to visit with Edna Swetland before heading north. We keep saying that we want to take our time and see some sites as we go north but we will have to see how that works out.

Enough about our fun times in Florida and now on to the SFA reunion.

A tentative agenda is:

Friday

Gather Friday afternoon for a River Dinner Cruise (for those interested) Gather at the motel for an evening to get together, meet new relatives and renew friendships with

those we have met before.

Saturday

Meet at Miller Park about 9:00 a.m.

Introductions by attendees Memorial for those who have left us this since 2003 Talk by a local historian about the area and our SFA forefathers

Break (5-10 minutes)

Talk by Jamie Swetland on the SFA web site he has set up. Update on S/S Lore news by Mark Swetland. Talks on family member genealogy.

Lunch at Miller Park

Business meeting

A list of items for the business meeting will come out with the final information on the reunion. This will go to all who sign up for the reunion.

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Email for your copy of S/S Lore

Mark Harrison will add your email address to his present list, and I will applaud you, 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.

As of this issue, some 38 members of the SFA are receiving S/S Lore by e-mail. In addition I will mail 129 copies

by the USPS. Our numbers continue to grow. Some of this comes from present members and others come from the Internet. The world wide web has potential for SFA as well as email and buying from eBay.

William Wirt Smith, A Grandson of Benjamin Swetland, the Fife Major

The following, received from Susan S. Hahn, is the obituary for William Wirt Smith, son of James and Marcia Swetland Smith. Marcia was the youngest daughter of Benjamin and Rosanna Hancock Swetland. This is a very interesting account of her son, and gives a lot of insight into the culture of the times. (Susan made additions/corrections in parentheses).

William Wirt Smith, 1839-1903

Wm Wirt Smith, youngest son of James A. Smith (and Marci M. Swetland) was born in Chicago, April 4, 1839 on the present site of the Pullman Building, corner of Michigan Avenue and Adams St. Mr. Smith was baptized by the Rev. Flavel Bascom, in the first Presbyterian Church. Mr. Smith attended the first school in the city, Prof. Bennetts's, later preparing at Norwich, CT for Yale, and after two years returned to Chicago to join his father in business in the firm of James A Smith & Sons, manufacturing hatters and furriers.

About this time (1857) Mr. Smith joined the Scammon Light Infantry and was a Lieutenant in Col. Ellsworth's famous Chicago Zouaves.

Mr. Smith was a great-great-nephew, on his mother's side, of Gov. John Hancock, First signer of the Declaration of Independence, (Note: this is incorrect) and in his family is a Revolutionary Note Book of 89 pages containing a complete roster of the 23rd Mass Infantry and a list of stores and accoutrements of the same, recorded by his paternal grandfather, Sergeant Major Benjamin Swetland, together with an \$8.99 bill of 1776. They are now owned by his daughter, Miss Edna Valentine Smith.

His father, being President of the Northwest Fur CO, young Mr. Smith was soon after his return from college put in charge of the firm's extensive trading with the Indians of the great Northwest, which were vastly numerous at the time. The Company built

and operated among the first steamers, on a large scale, which plied between St. Louis and the remote waters of the Missouri River, carrying large cargoes of their own and government supplies for the forts and agencies en route. Bringing back on their return trip tens of thousands of deer skins, beavers, mink, otter, wolf and antelope, and from 100,000 to 150,000 Buffalo skins a year, to be sent all over this country and abroad.

His friendly intercourse with the Indians made him a valued intermediary with the authorities in Washington, where he represented the conditions of the Chiefs Red Cloud, Rain-in-the-Face, Man-afraid-of-his-Horse, Medicine Bull, Iron Bear and others.

An amusing and typical episode, on one of these trips to the 'Great Father' (the President of the United States) was when Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Smith were sojourning there, with Mr. and Mrs. James A. Smith, on a trip of business and pleasure. The Chiefs were seated around the floor of the hall reserved for them, and Mrs. Smith was asked if she would like to see the celebrated red-men. With Mr. Smith and an interpreter, she went in with concealed trepidity. At once, there was a wild gesticulating and excitement, which was noticeably centered about Mrs. Smith and her fears seemed well grounded and she was quite ready to withdraw, when the interpreter told her the consternation was about her cloak, an imported wrap of plush, which had a long silken nap, of brown and white, that somewhat resembled fur and the Indian's curiosity aroused to know what kind of fur it was, and where the animal came from, as they had never seen anything like it out in their country, and the Chiefs told Mr. Smith to tell the 'pale-face-squaw' that her coat would be much warmer if she would wear it inside out.

A notable event in Mr.'s Smith's Indian experiences in the Northwest

was the 'Feast of the White Dog' in June 1865, at which Mr. Smith and his company there were the principals at that occasion, when 3400 Indians of the Mandans, Arica-Rees and Grosses Ventres, with two interpreters for each tribe, sat down to 'eat dog.' However, before the repast began, Mr. Smith escaped the ordeal by strategy.

Later on business interests made Mr. Smith a resident of New York, and while there he was on the Reception committee to meet and escort the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia, who was the second royal personage to visit this country. The Reception Committee, composed of Maj. Gen. MacDowell, Rear Admiral Gordon, Gen. John A. Dix, Henry Clews, Albert Bierstadt, Peter Cooper, Prof. Samuel B. Morse, J. J. Astor and others, with their ladies, numbering 100, sailed down the bay to greet the Imperial Highness, who with his fleet was accorded the naval and military honors that befitted his rank, and a banquet was served in his honor, while escorting him to New York, on the Reception Steamer, the Mary Powell.

Mr. Smith was a 32nd degree Mason, and a member of Astor Lodge on New York, and a member of the 2nd Presbyterian Church of Chicago.

Mr. Smith married previous to going to New York (1867), Miss Mary Susan Valentine Farnsworth of Detroit, MI. Their only child is Edna Valentine Smith, who was born in the old homestead, 1824 Prairie Avenue, and is the third generation to belong to the 2nd Presbyterian Church of Chicago.

Susan Hahn has sent other information which will come in later issues of S/S Lore. Two articles are on Edna Valentine Smith, the only child of William Wirt Smith and his wife, Mary Susan Valentine Farnsworth. Edna may have been a real character according to the two articles that Susan Hahn sent me. You will enjoy reading them..

2005 SFA Reunion This and That Follows More Information

Virginia Miller, 2005 Reunion Chairperson, tells us that we will use the Comfort Inn & Suites in Ludlow, MA. Reunion dates are July 22-24, 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.

Rates at the Comfort Inn & Suites are single and double, non-smoking, two queen beds, \$93.49, per night, Single king bed, non-smoking, \$110.49 per night. AAA and AARP discounts will probably apply. Members of the Choice Hotels group may get a better discount. We urge you to check for the lowest rate possible.

The motel offers complimentary breakfast, all rooms are equipped with a coffee maker, hair dryer, iron and ironing board. They have an indoor pool and a fitness center.

Donations

Two donations have come to the editor and sent on to the Treasurer. More may have come to Priscilla but she may not know until their return home. The gracious members, whose donations are appreciated, are Mildred Swetland, widow of Charles Swetland of Fort Mill, SC and Dorothy Hinckley of Suffield, CT, a niece of Flora Sweatland Paine.

Jean and I had the pleasure of meeting Charles and Mildred when they stopped by our home in Moss Creek Plantation more than ten years ago. Mildred wrote in her new note that only two people in Charles's line can now claim the name Swetland.

Dorothy Hinckley was one of Flora's nieces who came to reunions from 1986 to 1991 or later. It is so good to know that she still has an interest in the newsletter and wants

to contribute to postage.

More on William Swetland of Salem, MA

Using Google to search for the term "Swetland genealogy", a story came up from John Lambert Genealogy. The second paragraph of this reads:

"May 7, 1686, John Lambert sold to William Swetland, tailor, his grandfather's house in Beverly, next to the old meeting house and the burying place, which he had received from John Lambert, the first, and a parcel of land on Bass river and took in return for it Swetland's house, and Mar. 2, 1695, he sold to Daniel Bacon of Salem, fisherman, the piece of land in the South Field which his father had bought of Thomas Maule."

This suggests that William Swetland moved to Beverly, MA in 1686, which may explain why the birth of Benjamin Swetland in 1686 is not recorded in Salem, MA church records. So far Benjamin's birth is not recorded in Beverly records. Perhaps, William did not join a church in Beverly at the time of his move and Benjamin's birth was never recorded.

Isn't it curious how a bit of information comes up when least expected. Perhaps, other bits may come to light in the future which will answer some of the questions which puzzle us today..

House of Names.com

This is an organization devoted to surnames. Surname history costs \$16.95 and zooming in to the text will show you whether you are interested. You can also go to a coat of arms and see their version of the Swetland Family Crest. It is not identical to other crests which I have seen. Most likely all have been

created by an artist using only a word description of the crest. Their page with the crest has a note reading, "We have researched the Swetland family crest in the most recognized sources. Before an artist or craftsman can render a family crest, it must exist. In other words the crest must have been designed and recorded by the heralds from time immemorial.? Do you understand what this says?"

The Ira and Rose Swetland Family

From the Beeman genealogy we learn that Rosalia/Rosette Delight (Rose) Beeman born 10/25/1850 in Illinois married Ira B. Swetland, on 4/25/1869(?) From this marriage six children were born, Lillian Swetland, 10/14/1870, Lucy Amanda Swetland, 10/10/1871, Lucius A. Swetland, 10/12/1871(?), William D. Swetland, 1/18/1874, Ira F. Swetland, 3/11/1875 and Mary Elgia Swetland, 8/3/1883.

Some question about the birth dates of Lucy Amanda and Lucius A. should exist. Can births take place two days apart?

Under **Family Notes** it states that no further information has been collected.

Garnsey Family Papers

These papers are filed in the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, Cornell University Library. The primary sources of the papers were Cyrus Garnsey, Jr. and Cyrus Garnsey III. The description contains notes, clippings, and research material about the Sullivan Expedition and Luke Swetland. It would be interesting to learn whether the papers have new data on Luke Swetland. Does one of our members live close enough to research in this library?

2005 Reunion Update

SWETLAND FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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President Roger Swetland has been unable to update the information on the reunion since writing his message on page 1. This will bring you current with data coming in the past week.

We will go on the boat ride on Friday but likely late in the afternoon. Virginia Miller does not have full information on time and cost but we will be able to send out final data for all three days, July 22-24, by mid April. So hold these days in July open for the 2005 reunion.

It seems probable now that the Friday evening get-together will be moved to Saturday evening. Roger will decide on this after he and Priscilla return to Montrose in April.

By then the costs for Saturday will be confirmed so the next sending will have full cost data. Your editor feels at times like the boy who had his finger in the dike. Better yet I am juggling the data on the reunion while at the same time preparing the newsletter is under way.

We elect officers at every reunion. The practice has been for the President and Vice President to hold office for two terms, four years. Be sure to encourage Roger and Jamie to continue until 2007 or longer. Priscilla has done such a wonderful Treasurer it is impossible to think of another person as Treasurer. Secretary Michelle Grandusky wrote an excellent report on the 2003 reunion. She and I found that computers are not perfect in sending e-mails and may never understand the problems we had.

Swetland Family Association Website

Jamie R. Swetland, Vice President of the SFA, is a systems engineer with Lockheed Martin Distribution Technologies. His work in past years has given him extended stays in Australia and locations in the USA plus shorter trips on work. In one of his e-mails, he noted "I have read a bit about writing HTML code (the computer language used to create websites) to make a website and all of this in what little spare time I have between work, work-related travel and a young family, mostly what I would call lunch-break education. With all of his activities he has created the Swetland Family Association Website.

Those of us with computers and the Internet can see this website by going to <<http://>

balder.prohosting.com/jrswet01>. This hosting company comes with ads on the pages but the ads intrude little and the cost for our site is now zero.

Pay options will be discussed at the reunion to see if we agree that our own website is a benefit to the SFA. For a monthly fee we can get rid of the banner advertisements and enhance the site by adding more pictures, sound clips or other big file media.

Since Jamie wrote the above he has taken out a own domain name, <www.swetland.org>. You can access our website through the domain name and you should reach our website. I found it worked well and suggest that all of us with computers see what Jamie has now cre-

ated. I like it!!!

At the reunion you can see the website on Jamie's computer. We are trying to arrange for a projector to hook up to his computer and show what is on the monitor on a large screen. I have printed out of all the pages on the website and placed them in a binder. Everyone will be able to view what our own website is now and imagine what we can make it with input from all members.

If you can not attend the reunion, please send your comments on our website to Roger Swetland so we know how you think about supporting the website. His address is above left. We owe Jamie a large vote of thanks for the work he has done and is willing yet to do.