

Sweetland/Swetland Lore #34

June 2005

Special points of interest:

- The President's computer had a worm, p. 1
- Your editor loves to have you receive S/S Lore via email, p. 1
- confronted with a full knowledge of what Miss Valentine will have to say about it, p. 2

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From Our President and Update on the 2005 Reunion

It's good to know that Roger and Priscilla Swetland have returned home from their winter stay in Florida. Unfortunately, their computer acquired a worm and the work to restore the computer to usable condition made it impossible for Roger to submit a message for this issue. For this reason his message is abbreviated to the story of their computer and its worm.

Priscilla was not sure how their computer caught a worm. She did need expert help to remove the worm. It was out of service for about a week. Since the work is over, she is back in service and can send emails. But this came just when

Roger was to send a President's Message and I was about to send Priscilla information.

Now I have a problem. Is a virus and a worm the same? I suspect the net effect on a computer is similar.

The editor has pitched in to give an update on our 2005 reunion, July 22-23 in Ludlow and Monson, MA. We are going on a boat ride Friday evening, the 22nd, and will meet at Miller Park on Saturday, the 23rd.

All those who sign up for either event will receive the final agenda for the Saturday reunion meeting and luncheon. The reunion will begin in Miller Park at 9:00 a.m. and last until the after-

noon when the business meeting will take place. We have a number of items for the business meeting including our reunion in 2007. One special item for the 2007 reunion is choosing a reunion chair for that year. A draft of reunion chair responsibilities will be available at the business meeting. Until I acted in this role in 2003, I had never realized how much this person contributes to our family gatherings. The position takes time and effort to make the reunion go well and to attract members to come and enjoy the reunion. Until you come, you will never enjoy a reunion. So come this year and you will come again and again. I have been to all.

Email For S/S Lore

Mark Harrison will add your email address to his present list, and I will thank you, if you wish to have delivery via the Internet. Send Mark an email at his address, mark@genesistems.com. He will acknowledge your

message and you will receive future issues by email only.

As of this issue, some 40 members of the SFA receive S/S Lore by e-mail. In addition, I mail 125 copies by the USPS.

Mark's email address has many useful tips. I have just used one to print out two photos attached to an email letter. It worked. I now have two new photos of Gladys Swetland in my computer photo file.

William Wirt Smith

(continuation from S/S Lore #33)

This issue continues the information in S/S Lore #33 sent in by Susan Hahn. It is fascinating to realize what old data can be located. Now if only many others would contribute similar material for future issues of S/S Lore! I need material for S/S Lore #35.

2. William and Susan Farnsworth Smith's only child, Edna Valentine Smith, was apparently quite a character. This is a transcription of a newspaper article which appeared Nov. 6, 1914. Susan assumes this was in a Detroit or Chicago paper.

CHICAGO GIRL IS ORDERED TO DECAMP FROM DETROIT

MISS VALENTINE SMITH FOUND GUILTY OF INCITING INSUBORDINATION AT HOME FOR AGED LADIES

Detroit, Michigan Nov 5 (Special)

Miss Valentine Smith was tried today on the charge of disturbing the peace, the complainant being the Rev. C. L. Arnold, president of the Arnold Home for Aged Ladies. She was found guilty, but released on suspended sentence and given until tomorrow noon to depart from Mr. Arnold's establishment.

A year ago, two aged women, the Misses Farnsworth (Edna's mother was Susan Valentine Farnsworth Smith) of Detroit, went to live in the Arnold home. Last February one of them died and Miss Smith (Edna), a niece, came from Chicago to pack the other Miss Farnsworth's trunks and take her to Chicago. Miss Smith's presence became objectionable to Mr. Arnold, he testified, because she incited the employees to insubordination. He requested her to leave and she refused to do so. He then instituted ejection proceedings against her aunt, Miss Farnsworth, and won his case. Miss Farnsworth then appealed and with her niece continued to live in the home. Mr. Arnold then procured the warrant charging Miss Smith with disturbing

the peace.

3. Another article concerning Miss Valentine Smith, great granddaughter of Benjamin Sweetland was in the Chicago Tribune dated January 14, 1909.

KICKS AT COST OF ARCHIVIST FINANCE COMMITTEE THINKS CITY COULD USE THAT \$4000

ALDERMEN AGAINST MISS SMITH

OBSERVERS WONDER IS COUNCIL CAN OUTMANEUVER FAIR CURATOR

The council finance committee finds itself confronting a troublesome problem. It is what to do with the city archivist and curator, an extremely energetic young woman by the name of Miss Valentine Smith. In a moment of carelessness and out of a spirit of gallantry the city council created the office. But it forgot to provide any salary. This did not daunt Miss Smith. She had invented the office and claimed it by right of invention. Then she went after the finance committee for a salary. She got it in the last budget. The members of the committee capitulated on demand. What were thirteen men against one determined woman? She has been drawing pay at the rate of \$2500.00 a year ever since and her duties are to keep dusted a few 'relics' supposed to be associated with the early history of Chicago.

COULD USE THE MONEY OTHER WAYS

But ever since the passage of the last appropriation bill the members of the finance committee have been thinking that the \$4000 a year the office of 'archivist and curator' was costing the city would pay for a number of flushing machines of practical benefit. The suggestion was made that a civil service examination be held for that place and it is still pending. But Miss Smith rose superior to that. She declared she was head of a department

and as such superior to the civil service law.

MISS SMITH WINS AGAIN

Then she evolved the idea that the Chicago Historical Society was envious of her and called a delegate convention for next Saturday to form a rival association of her own. This was nearly balked by the fact that the charter convention wanted the council chamber that day, but its meeting was postponed. It was released yesterday and Miss Smith has the room. As the finance committee looks at it, the only thing to do is to cut the appropriation for an 'archivist and curator' out of the next budget and they are confronted with a full knowledge of what Miss Smith will have to say about it.

Ellis Island Records

Ted Sweetland of Hopewell, VA, sent a list of matching passenger records for the name Sweetland. The list has 92 records.

The list has a Name of Passenger, Residence, Arrived (date), Age on Arrival, Passenger Record, Ship Manifest and Ship Image. The last three records are tied to Views so one can see the record.

30 records are for a Conrad Sweetland between 1918 and 1924. Was he a crewman on a ship? Earliest dates on the list are four in 1892. Latest record in the list is 1924.

Among the residences are Pt. Maria and Kingston, Jamaica, Limerick, Ireland, Paris, France, Bristol, London, Liverpool, Taunton, Portsmouth, Bayswater and Devon, England, and Bonavista, Newfoundland.

All those tracing Sweetland ancestors may find it useful to go through the list. Could you have an ancestor or relative who came to the USA during the time frame of the list? Thanks go to Ted Sweetland. His mailing address is 102 Crescent Avenue, Hopewell, VA 23860-2016.

William Swetland of Salem, MA

I used to write "William and Agnes Swetland of Salem, MA." After looking for an original record which gave Agnes as the name of the wife of William of Salem, I have not found such a reference. Was the wife of William named Agnes? If any fellow Swetlands can give me the reference, please do so.

My earliest printed record listing William and Agnes is the maroon-bound pamphlet published after the first Swetland reunion on Sept. 15, 1896. Page 15 of this says in the first paragraph, "In 1703, William Swetland and Agnes, his wife, resided in Salem, New London Co., Conn." Three children were listed.

In the gray bound booklet which came out in 1908, the genealogy of the Swetland family begins with "William Swetland and Agnes his wife were residents of Salem, Massachusetts, in 1676." It also repeats their residing in Salem, CT in 1703. Six children now are listed.

Searching for William of Salem in RootsWeb.com shows 14 mentions of him by ten people. On person has given four entries and another two entries so the 14 entries come from 10 people. Of course, they vary in information. And I disagree with some of the entries.

Using the sequence in which they appear, let's look at the data in record #1.

Residence: Reported as residing 1676 in Salem, MA. Essex Quarterly Court Records (EQCR) show William in Salem from 1676 to 1683. John Lambert records say Lambert traded his lot in Beverly, MA to William for William's lot in Salem on May 7, 1686. No one has shown any record for William and his wife in Beverly. This may simply show that the Beverly, MA records are incomplete. We should make no other conclusion.

Residence: Living with wife Agnes 1703 Salem, New London Co. CT. Another record (#10) follows this residency with the sentence "However, the town of Salem, CT was not known in 1703." Does this suggest that William and Agnes were living in Salem, CT in 1703 is wrong? All one can say is that this may be wrong. More work is needed to prove it right or wrong but until proof exists, the statement should not be repeated anywhere. Here is a research goal for someone.

Occupation: Captain of the ship "James" from New York—Barbados—Return 13 Feb 1678 Eastern Bound. Tickets of Leave from Barbados do show a William Swetland, Commander of a ship "James." Several ships named James appear in English naval records. However, none of these records show this William having a connection to Salem, MA. Proof is needed.

All notes in the Essex Quarterly Court Records, Sidney Perley's three-volume History of Salem MA and other records in Salem suggest that this William was a tailor, not a ship captain. Does this make it impossible for a tailor to be a ship captain? No! But a good genealogist looks for evidence before making an assumption. Do not believe that the captain of the ship James was the William who lived with his wife in Salem until evidence proves it.

I urge all people tracing their ancestry to William of Salem, MA, to remove all mention of William as a ship captain and as living in Salem CT in 1803 until such time as positive evidence shows that either statement is correct.

Going on to records #2-14, records #1, #8 and #13 list only one child, Joseph, record #12 lists five children and the others list six chil-

dren. Perhaps the researchers listed the names of interest to them. I may never know why all six are not listed. And perhaps, they had seven.

Salem church records list only four, Peter, Grace, John and Joseph. The Public Records of Connecticut show that the descendants of Benjamin and Hannah Swetland are descended from Sarah, John, Joseph and Agnes all of whom seem to be children of William of Salem. The evidence shows that Benjamin was also a child of William. On the basis of this data it seems that William and his wife who may have been named Agnes had seven children, Agnes, Sarah, Peter, Grace, John, Joseph and Benjamin.

Perhaps, Agnes and Sarah were born before William came to Salem, possibly in England. Benjamin may have been born in Beverly, MA after John Lambert and William traded property.

Why do we think they came from England? Most immigrants to New England in the 1600s came from England. The EQCR records indicate that he used English as his language. He could sign his own name and he may have been able to write. Coming from England does not prevent them from having a Swedish background but no one can project how many years that was before they came to New England.

Other discrepancies exist in the 14 records from RootWeb.com. It would be helpful if no one reported theories or assumptions but undertook the work required to validate their theory or assumption. This does not make reading about our ancestors less interesting.

This appears in the hope that others will read what is here and reply to this, even refuting what is said here. Let's have a discussion.

Pennsylvania's Oldest Resident

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Organization

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Vice-President—Jamie R. Swetland,
RR #1, Box #2575, Gillett, PA 16925
Secretary—Michelle Grandusky
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West Orange, NJ 07052
Treasurer—Priscilla Swetland,
R. D. #4, Box 121A,
Montrose, PA, 18801-1934
Reunion Chair—Virginia Miller,
224 Hovey Rd, Monson, MA 01057

Mary Lou Thomas kindly sent me a copy of an article which tells that Gladys Swetland was to appear on the Today Show. The article goes on to say that Pennsylvania's oldest resident celebrated her 113th birthday with family and friends Saturday and will be recognized on the Today Show this week. Gladys Swetland is currently the fourth oldest person in the USA and the 10th oldest person in the world among those recognized by the Gerontology Research Group. Marcia Newcomb, who has Gladys's Power of Attorney, says Gladys is doing terrific for a woman who was born in the late 19th century. Gladys loves to receive mail. The more colorful it is the easier it is for her to see. A quick 'hello' or a 'thinking of you' sent any time throughout the year is welcome. She wants to talk to everyone who calls on the phone. She has a phone in her room, 814-274-2216. Calling her about 11 a.m. seems to work for me.

Mary Lou's letter tells that she has been out of circulation for a long time. She fell running on cement last October 24th and smashed her right humerus bone, resulting in a shoulder reconstruction. "You'd think," she said, "that at 73 yrs. old she would know better." She has been in therapy for 11 weeks with slow but encouraging progress. Her letter was sent in April and this is the first newsletter since she wrote. Mary Lou also says her mom lived to be 100. Both these ages impress me. At 83 now and 84 in August, I am planning to live out this year and let the future care for itself. More than that is a bonus.

Gladys Swetland now 113

Alice Keighton, her son and granddaughter, traveled to Coudersport the week before her 113th birthday to spend time with Gladys. Her son and granddaughter were most impressed by Gladys. They have a short video that shows Gladys quite animated in her speech. Several pictures were taken and are now in my photo folder of Gladys. The color in the pictures does not have enough contrast for me to include in a future newsletter but I may try some day.

During their visit a past student of Gladys learned that she was in extended care and asked his nurse to take him in his wheelchair to meet his former teacher. Alice says it was a very special moment to witness as these two people greeted each other and began to reminisce. She may have a picture of this to send later.

Was Alice's husband Jim also present? Alice was in both the pictures so she did not take the photos. Alice did not say who the photographer was.

Some questions exist as to where all of Gladys's possessions have gone. Some have been sold, the major items, but where are the family pictures and other papers, the knickknacks and china she had in her house when she went to the hospital? I can answer part of this. Over the years she sent me some of her old papers which I will donate to the Potter County Historical Society. Most likely this will be in July while I am in Coudersport. I have copies of six of the family photos which Gladys let me borrow some 12 years ago to have copied. I have negatives of these pictures and returned the originals to

Gladys. Let's hope that others will share with us what they have from Gladys.

As an example, when Gladys told me to take any photos she had in the four large old albums on the second floor, I took pictures of my direct Swetland ancestors. Blank spaces showed one album had pictures of Morgan and Pamela Swetland. Several other descendants of Morgan would love to have copies of these pictures. If the current owner lets me hear, I will get copies made of them so everyone can share the joy in them.

Gladys has been a treasure of stories about the family and many items in her house had special memories for her. How wonderful it would have been to record these stories. The time to do this passed years ago.