

Sweetland/Swetland Lore #37

March 2006

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Your President's Message from Roger E. Swetland

I am writing this from mostly sunny Florida. We have been here since January 10th and it has been an up and down weather pattern with more than the usual wind. We are at a different RV park than we have been for the last four years and find it difficult to connect with the friends we made over the past few years. The campground we stayed in was closed by the county and they closed another in the adjacent county with about 400 units. A lot of those are saying they are not coming back to Florida. Today the paper had an article saying that it appears there are fewer Snowbirds which they relate to the past hurricanes. However, if they

keep closing campgrounds, there will be even fewer Snowbirds as most are not going to buy a condo or vacation home starting at \$200,000.

Since my November letter, we have two additions to our family. Hannah Jean Renart, daughter of Kurt and Christine (Swetland) Renart was born on November 28, 2005. Christine is the daughter of my brother James Swetland and his wife Norma. Second is the birth of Zachariah Roger Swetland born on December 6, 2005. He is the son of Jamie and Rebecca Swetland, my son and our SFA Vice-President.

No contact or input on our next reunion has

come from anyone and I expect that when we get back and settled, we will have to start making arrangements for our 2007 reunion with a trip to the Brocton, NY area to see what is now available in the area and start on an agenda.

A friend of ours at the RV Park who is working on his genealogy, came across the name Seetland and wanted to know if this was ours. He mentioned Ancestry.com so we logged in and found that Mark W. Swetland appears to be addressing all the queries to date at that address. Our friend thinks he has enough material for three volumes, 4 to 6 inches thick. He has archived piles of data from overseas.

E-mail for S/S Lore

If you are on the Internet, please send a message to mark@genesistems.com giving him your name, email address and the name of the newsletter you want. He distributes several. He will acknowl-

edge your message and you will receive future issues by email only.

As of this issue, some 50 members of the SFA receive S/S Lore by email. In addition, I mail 120 copies by USPS. You

know that mailing the newsletter is drudgery, nothing creative about it. So the more email copies Mark Harrison distributes, the better for your editor. I should figure out how many hours this saves.

Gladys Swetland, 1892-2005

Yes, Gladys Swetland died December 14, 2005, age 113 years, 7 months, 24 days. She had passed into a coma, then rallied and knew everyone around her but was not hungry, then fell into a coma again and passed away in the late hours of the night of December 14th. What an amazing life she had! Born in and growing up in the Harrison Valley, PA, area, her early education was in this town. When her sister Grace went to college in Michigan in 1912, her mother told her she might as well go too. So she joined Grace at Michigan State Normal College for two years. Gladys obtained a job teaching in the Detroit area and did not return to Pennsylvania until about 1932.

Illness in the family kept her there so she took a position teaching in the Harrison Valley schools for the next 17 years. At 75 she retired but continued substitute teaching for several more years. During much of this time she was taking care of the house her father had built about 1880 and this kept her busy after retirement.

She had a riding mower which she drove mowing the grass until finally at 95 she found a younger man in town to do the mowing. When asked how young this man was, she replied he was only 85. She raised flowers around her house inside and out. When we knew her from 1984 until she went to the hospital, she always had as company around her house a large cat. Her life must have inspired the cats as they always lived longer than most cats.

Gladys drove her own car until age 104. A nephew once let Gladys drive him and his wife around to see the Mills area. After one trip he never let Gladys drive them again. We asked Gladys once what it was like to drive from Mills to Wellsville, NY, some 14 miles away. Gladys said it was no problem. She just drove down the middle of the road. She must have led a charmed life.

Gladys was born April 18, 1892, the youngest child of Chester Allen and Kate Doud Swetland. All of their four children were given middle names. Gladys was born Marguerite Gladys Swetland, the youngest. The oldest, her sister Grace, was born Edna Grace Swetland. The second child of Chester and Kate was Ben, named Benjamin Brosius Swetland at birth. Her brother Bob who lived to 98 was born Charles Burt Swetland. We never learned how he received the name Bob. Both Ben and Bob went to the Peddie Institute as then it was named where my grandfather Roger Swetland was Principal. But to find Bob in Peddie records, look for the name Burt.

Ben and Bob must have been quite a handful at Peddie. Gladys told me that Roger wrote to Kate that he might have to send them home. They were too disturbing. Kate wrote back, according to Gladys, saying, "don't send them home. If you do, I will tell things about you that you don't want anyone to know". Now what could these have been? Another story Gladys told was that Roger and Kate were sent to school in Ulysses, PA, four miles from Mills. The teenagers lived together in a large, open room on the second floor of a house. To make it into two rooms, they strung rope across the room and hung large blankets over the rope. Beyond doubt Gladys had more stories to tell, now lost forever.

My knowledge of Gladys relates only to her when she was 92 and older. I did know Gladys as a child when I was five or six but she was never home much those days. Memory says that if we saw her, she was not attracted to young children. Jean and I went to see her in 1984 after my retirement. She greeted us with joy. Someone more had come to visit. But after a few days it was certain that we had overstayed our welcome. Anyone coming to visit upset the routine of her life after a few days. But she always looked forward to our return the next year.

Now her house has been sold and it is no longer the home we knew. Last year we drove past her old house as we headed east to the 2005 reunion. While the building still remains, her home has disappeared. The lovely lawn and flowers she carefully tended were gone.

We began to visit Gladys in 1984 and returned every year for one or more days through 2003 and again in 2005. In 1992 only I came. Jean did not come that year for some reason that escapes me now. That year I went to see the Freetown Corners cemetery where my great-great-great-grandfather, Aaron, is buried. Trips to see Gladys have given the chance to make other stops. One was to meet Henry Stevens, the father of Jason and John Stevens. Jason lives close to us and John came to Gladys's funeral. I now have a photo of John, thanks to Nancy Graczyk and Beth Lounsbury.

One must feel sorry for Gladys. She outlived everyone she knew as a child and knew many years later. Her passing removes my last contact with anyone in my line older than myself. I am amazed to think that, if correct, I am now the oldest of any descendant of Harmon Swetland, my great-great-grandfather.

Let me encourage all who live to a long age that you arrange with someone other than yourself to preserve everything you think of value to yourself and your family members. Value does not mean money value. When we saw Gladys in 1984, her house had many papers and articles that had meaning to her. About 1936 someone in her family had bought a delightful goblet with a Swetland family crest engraved on it. I told Gladys this was the only thing in her house I would love to own. She promised it to me and remembered it every year. When I saw her at her 110th birthday celebration, she told me someone had taken the goblet. She did not know who. Some other relative now has my goblet.

William Swetland of Salem, MA

This continues the story of the Roots Web entries for William Swetland of Salem, MA begun in S/S Lore #34, June 2005. Roots Web has 14 entries from 10 researchers. S/S Lore #34 discussed #1, #2 and #9 are from the same man so this issue covers two more entries.

Entries #2 and #9 are much the same except for the addition of data on where some of the information is located and a different birth date for one of his children.

Father: John Swetland, b. 1603 in Sussex Co., England

Mother : Unknown Susanna.

I suspect that the data on William's parents comes from the work of Leon Hiram Sweetland, mentioned in S/S Lore issues before. This may be true, but I can not accept it until the original record proving this is at hand. Too much information reported by earlier researchers is the result of wishful thinking or assumptions. I am as guilty as others in the past but I will not do so any longer.

Birth: 1646 in England

Death: 1703 in Salem, New London Co., Connecticut

I do believe that William was born in England but do not know his parents so as yet I can't prove the place or date of birth. S/S Lore #34 cast doubt on his death in Salem, New London Co., Connecticut. I suggest that both dates be discarded until original records come to light.

Marriage: 1 Unknown Agnes b: Bef. 1650 in England or Sweden

Married: 8 Mar 1674/75 in Salem, Essex Co. Massachusetts

How do we know that William's wife was named Agnes? I can find no record of their marriage which I believe was in England. Nor can I prove that the William who married on the above date was the William from Sa-

lem, Massachusetts. Who can show me the original records?

Children

1. Benjamin Swetland b. about 1685 in Salem, Essex Co. Massachusetts

2. Sarah Swetland b. 1674 in Salem, Massachusetts

3. Peter Swetland b. 1 Jul 1676 in Salem, Essex Co., Massachusetts

4. Grace Swetland b: 8 Mar 1678/79 in Salem, Essex Co., Massachusetts

5. John Swetland b. 1 Jul 1681 in Salem, Essex Co., Connecticut

6. Joseph Swetland b. 5 Nov 1683 in Salem, Essex Co., Massachusetts

The dates of birth match my records but the sequence should show Sarah as the first of his children and Benjamin as the last because of the birth dates. The Salem church records give the birth dates for Peter, Grace, John and Joseph. I believe that Sarah was born in England but can not prove it. I think that Benjamin was born in Beverly, Massachusetts but can not find a birth record. If you have an original record for either, please tell me where to find it..

Our President Roger Swetland has seen the grave of Benjamin in New London, CT so this records his death. Based on age at death his birth in 1685 may be correct or perhaps 1686. An earlier S/S Lore has given this data.

Entry #9 by the same researcher gives some of the above data but first shows a new source.

This data is from Doug Sweetland's book, "The Swetland Family in America." As Doug has repeated many times, he is not a genealogist

but tries to report accurately what Swetland descendants have sent him. With so much data to record, accuracy is an ambition, hard to achieve. Anyone who finds what is thought to be wrong will do Doug a major service by reporting the information to him. Such efforts are necessary to make the next edition more accurate. New data may come to light which also needs to be sent to Doug.

If you do not have a copy of Doug's book, I recommend you obtain your own copy. Contact Doug at www.sweetlan@chartermi.net or phone him at 507-537-4709.

Other entries show other source information which will be in future issues of S/S Lore. Yet to be discussed are entries #3-8 and #9-14. While some data is identical, other data varies which I am convinced needs to be corrected. How does one correct data which is wrong?

Some entries show the source as Roger Swetland. Roger Swetland is my grandfather who worked with Dr. B. S. Swetland on finding which of William's sons was his ancestor. Regrettably, Roger and Dr. B. S. chose the wrong son of William, Joseph instead of John the correct one. The result is that many have repeated the error by assuming that Roger's data was correct. It took me years before learning of the error and doubt that the error will ever be corrected by other researchers.

I believe that data incorrectly entered can only be changed by the person who entered the data. Attempting to change the data entered by another would show an alternative to the data thought to be wrong. This leaves it to the future person seeing the data to decide which alternative is correct. I won't live long enough to see Roger Swetland's data fully corrected.

This and That From Our Members

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Priscilla Swetland wrote last November that Roger celebrated his 60th birthday in October, the 27th if I am right. Congratulations to you, Roger. We wish many more years for you

Anne Kirby was working in the Family History Library in Salt Lake City last October and found a DAR lineage book which listed a line of Sweetland families. This gives the lineage of Mrs. Lillian Truesdell Lovell. She was the daughter of George Lord Truesdell and Ann Amanda Sweetland, granddaughter of Bowen Sweetland and Betsey Durkey, great-granddaughter of John Sweetland and Sally Wood. John Sweetland (1751-1824) was placed on the pension roll of Rutland Co., Vermont, 1818, for service of sergeant in the Massachusetts Continental Line.

Sweetland Fine Chocolates—Fine Home Made Candies Since 1919—Grand Rapids, Michigan. If you enjoy good chocolates, you can find them at Sweetland's Chocolates at 616-363-3444 or 1-800-842-3444. They ship chocolates only between October 1st and April 30th so don't delay. You can get an online order form or call them between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., EST, Mon—Fri. Call them for more information. If you are on the internet, contact them at <http://sweetlandcandies.com/index.html>.

This space left blank because no other member has sent any data for this issue of S/S Lore. How is it possible for the rest of you to have so little to say about your ancestors?

Ancestry.com Civil War Collection

My great-grandfather, Austin Swetland and his brother, Mulford, are not in this collection although I have the service records of both men from the NARA. Two Swetlands are listed, John R. Swetland and Benjamin Swetland.

John R. Swetland who resided in Plymouth, Massachusetts, was a soldier. He enlisted 25 January 1864 as a Private at age 42. He was mustered out 4 November 1865 in Richmond, Virginia.

Benjamin Swetland whose residence was Marblehead, Massachusetts, was a cordwainer. Microsoft Publisher does not know what a cordwainer was. Do you? He enlisted as a Private on 20 September 1861 at age 26. He received a disability discharge on 26 March 1863. He served in company B, 23rd Infantry Regiment, Massachusetts.

Records of these men came from entering the name Swetland and searching in Ancestry.com. To repeat this search and see what else exists, start with entering www.ancestry.com. Other bits of information are there for you to search. Try the name Swetland, the name Sweetland and the name Sweatland. Each may produce results.

One-Name Studies

The Swetland Family Association is a one-name study as well as a family association. We look for ancestors of Swetland, Sweetland and Sweatland, many of whom are descended from William Swetland of Salem, Massachusetts and others from John and Thomas Sweetland, sons of Isaac Sweetland of England.

The Guild of One-Name Studies in England publishes a quarterly Journal of One-Name Studies. Page 23 of the Jan-Mar 2002 issue notes a book "Organization for One-Name Studies" by Dr. Penelope Christenson who lives in Mission, British Columbia, Canada. The author has conducted five one-name studies, three of whom are registered with the guild.

Could SFA register with the Guild? Yes. It takes a member willing to do the work and carry out the correspondence required with all who contact the study. Let me hear from you if you are willing to do the work. You will meet other people and may find new friends.