



### SWEETLAND/SWETLAND FAMILY ASSOCIATION

#### Message by New SFA President, Carol Gregoire

Reunion Attendees Visit Robert E. Lee Monument on Gettysburg Bus Tour.



Hello Sweetland / Swetland family,

At the reunion in Gettysburg I was elected your president. Gettysburg was such a wonderful place to meet. On the bus tour of the battlefields that surround the whole town we learned so much. Our guide had studied the Civil War for forty years and he is still studying facts.

My husband,

Bob, and I have visited Gettysburg a couple times to visit the wonderful museum at the National Park Visitor Center. Since we've been antique dealers since 1979, we were interested in the artifacts of the soldiers. The exhibits helped us to recognize Civil War items which we have bought in Stuart, Florida where we live in the winter. We've also found items in Massachusetts in the summer when we stay with our daughter, Wendy Blanchard.

At our reunion Wendy and I shared what happened when a tornado struck towns in Western Massachusetts on June 1, 2011 that set a record of thirty-nine miles long. It passed through her property damaging two hundred trees. Luckily her home sustained only minor damage to the roof and chimney. After the tornado passed five trees rested on one end of the house. A sixty to seventy foot tree enveloped the whole roof and five trees were stacked in front of house and yet not a window was broken. By the next day the three churches in town provided food, clothing and volunteers. What a relief to have their help. We were overwhelmed by the amount of cleanup.

Within a week loggers had cut the pine trees. The logging left us with mounds of brush to be moved within ten feet of the road. The first pile was two hundred feet long and two stories high. Thanks to the volunteers who came from many states, even Florida, the cleanup took from June to Oct. when a blizzard hit causing more tree damage in all of New England. The final cleanup was a crew who turned brush into chips. This spring we had two house-sized mounds of chips to spread around Wendy's two treeless acres.

Wendy's home is being repaired by her Dad, her brother Alan and his son Justin. They built her a porch for shade. Next they'll shingle her roof. Her land is bar-

*"When we die we become 'stories' in the minds of other people." - Unknown*

#### THE SFA

#### ORGANIZATION WISHES TO THANK

**JAMIE SWETLAND FOR HIS NEARLY THREE YEARS OF SELFLESS SERVICE AS PRESIDENT**



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ren, but Alan grew a vegetable garden. Does anyone need zucchini? In the early 1900's the property was an apple orchard so Wendy plans to plant fruit trees. A vision for the property will give her hope for the future.

Now I'll tell you about myself. I was born the day before Pearl Harbor was bombed. I grew up in a large family surrounded by aunts and uncles from my mother, Ida's, family. Her parents were Robert and Amy [Sweetland] Miller. I have so many memories of my family and the stories they told me. So I documented the stories and eventually we published "The Millers, Our Unending Story." Now our family is in the process of creating a sequel to depict the memoirs of the second generation of fifty-three grandchildren.

My husband, Bob, and I have been married fifty-two years. Some of you met our daughter, Wendy. We also have a son, Alan, who has four children, Ciera, Justin, Alysia and Tyler. Ciera and her husband, Alberto Vega, have blessed us with four great-grandchildren, Adrian, Cameron, Isabella and Jordyan. They are the fifth generation from my grandma, Amy [Sweetland] Miller.

Family heritage is important to me with the stories and the values we learn and share. This is why I am interested in the Sweetland/Swetland lore. All of you have stories to share to pass on for generations to come. Peoples' recollections rarely get preserved, but we have an opportunity to share memories with our families and others in our Sweetland/Swetland organization. Far into the future they will treasure your memories. They will read your stories and be grateful you took the time to put the gift of memories together for them.

—Carol Gregoire

All reunion photos in this issue were taken by Priscilla Sweetland.

**Below:** The Miller sisters at reunion dinner. Left to right, Alice Elderkin, Clara Dvorchak, Florence Munroe, and Joan Pierce.



**Right:** Reunion group assembles for photo after battlefield bus tour.



### MINUTES OF 2012 SFA REUNION, JULY 20-21 GETTYSBURG, PA

#### Friday, July 20<sup>th</sup>

At 4:30 pm family members gathered in the lobby of the Eisenhower Hotel and Conference Center to meet and greet family members. Goodie/gift bags from the town of Gettysburg were distributed.

After greeting new members and getting re-acquainted with old members we car pooled to Dunlap's Restaurant for dinner. Dinner was enjoyable and gave family members the opportunity to catch up on happenings within the families.

#### Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup>

Members met at Gettysburg Battlefield Tours Bus Station at 9:30 am for a tour of the battlefield. The tour guide was very professional and enlightening. Even though it rained, everyone enjoyed the experience. After returning to the hotel, luncheon was served at 12:30 pm. Everyone enjoyed looking at the display of

family history and memorabilia brought by participants. The address book was sent around for signatures, addresses and e-mail addresses, although, not everyone had time to sign it.

SFA president Jamie Sweetland called the meeting to order at 1:45pm. He elaborated on how interesting and informative the battlefield tour had been that morning.

The president outlined some new electronic formats that could be used for future reunions, such as videoconferencing or Skype. He said his biggest question was "WHY DO YOU COME"? This comment was made because of low reunion attendance. This question has long been asked of family members to see what they want on the agenda for future reunions. One comment from the floor was "To hear about the history in the area and anything pertaining to Sweetland's."

Historian, Roger Sweetland spoke of his research on soldiers who served in the Civil War, finding that 184 Sweetland/Swetlands/Sweatlands served in Civil War. Of these, three Swetlands, twenty Sweetlands, and four Sweatlands fought in the Battle of Gettysburg under the Union flag. Only one Confederate soldier was listed, William A. Sweetland from Virginia.

A very interesting and descriptive talk was given by Carol Gregoire and Wendy Blanchard about the tornado that hit Massachusetts in 2011. They spoke of the 39 miles of devastation which included Wendy's property. Fortunately, no family members were injured.

### **New business:**

**Lore Editor**—Anne Kirby has asked for someone to volunteer to take over the job as editor and she is willing to help that person get started. They could use the template she and Mark Harrison have created in the Microsoft Publisher program. The four page newsletter is published quarterly.

**Treasurer's report**—This will be published in the Winter Lore, since a report dated May 01, 2012 recently appeared in the Summer 2012 Lore, issue #62.

**New officers**—Nominated and elected as follows:

**President**—Carol Gregoire, Monson, MA and Stuart, FL

**Vice President**—Joy Folsom, Bangor, ME

**Secretary**—Jamie Sweetland, Gillett, PA

**Treasurer**—Priscilla Sweetland, Montrose, PA

**Reunions**—No decision was made on the Reunion Chair or the location of the 2014 reunion. The possibilities are Freetown Corners, NY with Nancy Lounsberry Graczyk as Chair or Miller Park at Monson Massachusetts. Later, Nancy Lounsberry Graczyk accepted the appointment as Reunion Chair.

**Meeting Adjourned.**

Mary R. Sweetland Bishop, Secretary

### **Reunions are For Kids, Too!**



Jamie Sweetland and daughter Abigail from Pennsylvania.



Joy Folsom, new Vice President from Maine, plays with Eamonn and Emily McCann.



Kelly McCann and his son Eamonn from California.



Jamie's wife, Rebecca, and their son Zachary.





**Left:** Joyce Moses (at left) and new president, Carol Gregoire.



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SFAWebsite:  
[www.swetland.org](http://www.swetland.org)

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articles and photos to News-  
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**Right:** (L to R) Paul Swetland, Warren Lee and Randy Bishop examine Gettysburg map at Dunlap's Bakery and Restaurant.



**Above:** (L to R) Samuel Swetland, Gerrie and Warren Lee at meeting after luncheon.



**Above:** Wendy Blanchard speaks on devastating tornado.

### Loyal Lore Reader Responds

"Thank you very much for all your efforts. I have always appreciated the information and have been amazed at the work and dedication you have sustained for a long time. Shame on me for not saying 'Thank You'!" (From a Lore subscriber, 15 June 2012).

### Donation Form (Please make checks out to Swetland Family Association)

My name is \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my donation for the newsletter fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
the general (reunion) fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_ and the scholarship fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .

To save on newsletter expenses, you can arrange to have future newsletters emailed to you by simply doing the following:

Send an e-mail to Mark Harrison at [Publisher@swetland.org](mailto:Publisher@swetland.org)  
and ask to be placed on the S/S Lore email list.

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