



Creating Family Memories by Carol Gregoire, President

Everyone has something to share that no one else has when it comes to memories, especially during the holidays. I have wonderful memories of Thanksgiving and Christmas. The best memories are in the kitchens of my grandmothers, Amy [Sweetland] Miller and Olivia Hermanson. They both spent many hours preparing food for their large families. The Millers had eighteen children and the Hermansons had eight boys. So they were forever cooking, baking and canning with the fruits and vegetables on their farms in Monson, Massachusetts.

One time during the hurricane of 1938, Grandma Miller sent my mother, Ida, and her sister, Ginny, out to the orchard, saying "Girls, pick up as much fallen fruit as you can find for canning." They had so much fruit that Grandma had canned that they enjoyed the fruits of the windfall all winter.

One of my favorites she canned was Blue Grass Chili Sauce and now a cousin, Joyce Moses, makes it. The recipe is not a chili; it is a relish made with peaches and vegetables. We serve it on our buffets at our annual Miller Reunions at Miller Park.

Our reunions at the park started when my mother, Ida, was walking her dog one day in 1975 in the upper mowing of the Miller farm. While resting she had a vision of reunions in that place. So she walked downhill to the house of Uncle Ray, who had bought the farm. She told him, "Ray, I think the upper mowing would be a wonderful place for our family reunions." Ray agreed, saying, "I think it's a great idea and I'll even donate the land." So in 1976 we had our first reunion at Miller Memorial Park with over 200 members of the Miller family. Eventually Ray donated nineteen acres. We have had many celebrations there, such as weddings and showers. In 2010 my husband Bob and I celebrated our fiftieth wedding anniversary there.



Left:
The Miller
Reunion
In 2012

The food at the park has always been scrumptious like Thanksgiving and Christmas combined

Reunions are a great way to get to know our family, especially since the family



SFA President
Carol Gregoire

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keeps growing every year. We now have five generations from my grandparents. These gatherings are a way of saying we care and of catching up on family news. Other families in surrounding areas also come to celebrate at the park. Uncle Ray has handled bookings and mowing the park. Now the younger generation is taking over, helping to clean the pavilion and kitchen before parties.

This year at the Miller reunion we brought back the tradition of playing softball, which started in the 1940's and the tug-of-war, which we hadn't played in years. In 2009 we celebrated Grandma and Grandpa's 100th anniversary. We had a contest to design wedding dresses out of toilet tissue. We roared with laughter as the three teams pinned and wrapped the tissue around the three brides and were amazed with the teams' creativity.

Throughout the years we have realized reunions are great events which also require a lot of work for the food and maintenance committees and also for the recreation committee to plan fun activities. Hopefully in 2013 I can convince my grandsons Justin and Tyler to be on the recreation committee. I've discovered we can't wait for volunteers. We need to ask for help.

The work is well worth it because of family bonds created as we gather together while celebrating who we are as a family. Reunions also create wonderful memories. I recommend that even if you have a small family that you try to get together at least once a year or every two years like the Sweetland/Sweetlands do. So be ready for the SFA reunion in 2014. We'll need your help and ideas.



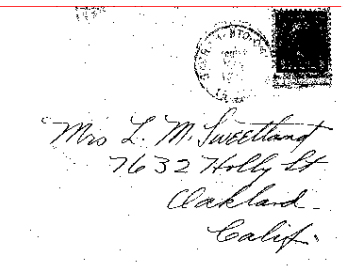
Our president's grand-daughter and her four children, the 4th and fifth generation from Carol's grandparents. Shown are Adrian, Jordyan, Ciero, Isabella and Cameron.

Do You Have Old Family "Stuff"? 'Tis the Season to Share

Anne Kirby

Have you ever come across a box of keepsake photos or letters, perhaps from one of your parents or grandparents, and found items that made you think, "My second cousin really should have that—it's a letter to his father."

I've received a number of such items this year, and how I treasure them! Kim Buzan in Arizona and I share a common ancestor, William Harris Sweetland (1845-1926). Kim's great-grandmother was Grace Sweetland and my grandfather was Grace's brother, Ernest. Kim and I have not met, but she has sent postcards and letters to me as well as others in her extended family. What a treasure these are! I found one particularly poignant.



My grandfather, Ernest J. Sweetland, had just left for Europe with his family. His mother, Louisa Marie Chubbuck Sweetland, was getting older and apparently was sad about his leaving. The letter with the 3-cent stamp Kim sent me (at left) was from Ernest to his mother, reassuring her that the time would fly and he would be back soon. He mailed it during his train trip from San Francisco to New York before taking the ship to Europe. When I shared the letter with another cousin, she pointed out that Louisa died while her son Ernest was aboard the ship. I did some checking, and sure enough, she died only eight days after Ernest had written to her. This knowledge makes the letter even more meaningful. The letterhead reads, "San Francisco Overland Limited" and it was written "May 29 '38, 11 p.m." Ernest writes in part, "Dear Mother, . . . I will just write a short note to let you know I am thinking about you. Three months will pass by before you know it. Remember when I lived in the East it was years between our short visits, so this is really only a very short absence. . . . With much love, Ern.

(Continued on p. 3)

Sometimes we have an old family item such as jewelry, clothing, tools and such. My 2nd cousin in California, Carolyn Hartman, photographs old letters, her scrapbook pages, and family heirlooms for others to enjoy. My husband and I recently visited Carolyn and she let us photograph Louisa Sweetland's brooch and gave me a copy of a photograph of Louisa wearing the brooch. She showed us a tin box (at right) made by Louisa's husband, William Harris Sweetland, as well as his pocket watch, shown at left.



Others have generously given me other treasures and photos of family relics over the years. When I thanked one of them, she said, "I make it a practice to send these items to the proper family where they belong." No doubt the "proper family" values them even more than the person who first had them. For example, Kim Buzan sent me the postcard shown at lower right of the El Mirador, Palm Springs, California. It was sent by my grandfather E.J. Sweetland to his mother in 1930.

Holidays often bring thoughts of family—those who have gone before us, as well as our extended families who are still living. Perhaps there are some items tucked away in a closet, attic or garage which could be given or photographed for their "proper families." And a note to those who receive such gifts: thank-you emails or letters are *never* out of style.



Holiday Ideas for Involving Friends and Family in Family History

The holidays can be a busy time of year with minimal spare time for things like genealogy research. But you can keep your family history momentum going during the holidays and maybe even get some of your friends and family members started with family history by doing quick and easy genealogy activities.

Here are some ideas:

Print out multiple blank pedigree or family tree charts and have a competition at a family party to see who can fill in the most information.

Put photo albums or old pictures on display for family members coming over for the holiday season. Learn a few stories that go along with the photos or the people in them to share with your family.

If you have unlabeled family pictures, pull them out and provide archival pens and pencils for your family to help label them. Family members may have details about photos that you don't remember.



Create an ancestor trivia game.

Take a few minutes to talk to a family member about his or her personal history, and record your conversation.



Use the 12 days of Christmas or the 8 days of Hanukkah to choose an ancestor and find one piece of information about him or her for each day.

Document your holiday gatherings with photos and quick notes about important, interesting, or funny things that happened while you were together.

Buy a DNA kit for a family member, or bring some to your family gatherings to get the older generation's DNA samples.



Make a family history Christmas tree by decorating the tree with pictures of ancestors (be sure to label them). Take time with your family to go through the pictures on the tree, talking about each individual repre-



sented. This is a great way to get children and grandchildren involved with family history.

Record your family traditions, and include them in your family history book. You might even start a new tradition or resurrect an old one that has gradually faded away. Write about your experiences.

These are just a few of the things you can do to add fun and richness to your family history research and to get your friends and family involved during the holidays. Visit the FamilySearch Research Wiki today for more family history

TREASURER'S REPORT AFTER REUNION July 21, 2012

Balance as of May 1, 2012
\$1684.01

Donation:

\$45.00 Lore Fund
\$30.00 Scholarship Fund
(\$60.00 was given to me at Reunion and was put into Lore and Scholarship Funds)

Reunion and Bus Trip Money Received:
\$1060.00

Expenses:

\$71.92 Lore 62 & 63
\$510.00 Gettysburg Battlefield Bus Tours
\$428.06 Eisenhower Hotel & Conference Center

(balance for meal and room)

\$ 65.00 Reimbursed to Diane McCann for Bus Trip
\$50.00 Reimbursed to Florence Monroe for Lunch and Bus Trip

Balance as of November 15, 2012

\$833.76 Scholarship Fund
\$687.27 Lore Fund
\$173.00 Reunion Fund
\$1694.03 Total —Priscilla Swetland

Do You Know These People?

If you have updated contact information for these SFA Lore subscribers, contact Mark Harrison, Publisher@swetland.org.

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Mrs. Joyce Ballard
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Boudreau
Mr. and Mrs. James Brewer
Mrs. Sandra Harris
Mrs. Charles Hutchinson
Mr. Henry C. Johnson
Mr. Wayne L. Johnson
Mrs. Fran Nohling
Miss Susan J. Swetland
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Timlin
Mrs. David F. Williams
Mr. Lloyd Williams

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Carolyn and Bob Butler
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InvaJennifer Knox
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PLEASE SEND YOUR ARTICLES, PHOTOS, AND IDEAS TO OUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

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Please Help Identify this Baby

Found in Carson City Burial Record, Book 1, p. 90:
April 13, 1902, Age 40 months, Chubbuck, Lilly Baby.
Does anyone know who the parents were? Please contact Anne Kirby (see right).

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 \$ _____ .

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