



President's Message: Flossie's Venture

By Carol Gregoire

In December of 2012 our family lost a beloved aunt, sister and mother, Florence Amy Munroe, to pancreatic cancer. At our SFA reunion in 2012, when she told us about the disease, she said, "I've had a really wonderful life." I'd like to share one of the stories about her from our family book, *The Millers, Our Unending Story*.

She had a dream of visiting California someday. While working at an insurance company she shared her dream with her friends and they agreed to save for the trip and go with her. After working at the Clark School for the Deaf, she decided in 1957 to contact her friends about going to California. They didn't want to go, but she was determined and decided to go alone and leave her life and family in Monson, MA behind.

As she discussed her plans with her parents she told them, "Our neighbors, the Hermansons, are taking a bus trip to Washington State to visit relatives. I want to go on the same bus." At first her mother was reluctant when Flossie said, "I plan to move there." When her father said, "If that's what you want to do, I'm all for it," her mother agreed.

On the bus trip she enjoyed the Hermansons' company and it helped alleviate some of the fear of moving so far from home. [I thought she was very brave.] In Chicago they parted company while they took the northern route and she headed for Utah with a stopover in Salt Lake City. There she heard the famed Mormon Tabernacle Choir sing and saw the Great Salt Lake. From there she traveled through Nevada and on to California. When she finally arrived in Los Angeles, she was thrilled to find that there was a Y.W.C.A. right near the bus station where she could stay. She decided to check out the "Big City."

It didn't take her long to figure out that Los Angeles was not for her. So she got on a bus and headed for Santa Monica. She immediately checked the classified ads looking for a room to rent, found one, and settled in. She also had to find a job before her only funds, \$70, were depleted. Flossie found an opening at Douglas Aircraft Co. in the tax department, where she eventually worked her way up to Executive Secretary.

Flossie attended the Free Methodist Church and its youth activities. One day a friend told her, "I'd like you to meet my fiancé's roommate. He's a really special person." Flossie was curious so she quickly agreed. Her friend introduced her to Wallace Munroe. He immediately liked her happy demeanor and later commented, "Their meeting was meant to be." After dating about eight months, they decided to marry on March 13, 1958.

Wally was working at Douglas Aircraft Co. as a design engineer and attended

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Slips of paper easily get lost, never to be found again.

If you have notes, re-search ideas, or other genealogical material on "scraps" of paper, convert it to an easier size to file and organize or digitize it and store. —Michael J. Neill

U.C.L.A. part-time while working toward a degree in astrophysics. A son, Stephen Wallace, was born to the couple on February 19th, 1959. Wally decided to work full-time at Douglas Aircraft and gave up his college studies in order to support his growing family. He was so thorough in his inspections of the airplane engines that Flossie commented that she never had to fear flying on certain airplanes because she knew he did such a fine job.

The young couple lived in several apartments in the Los Angeles area before finally settling down in a home in Fountain Valley, CA. They had four more children in the ensuing years: Kenneth in 1960, Edward in 1962, Janice in 1965 and Diane in 1968.

We will miss Flossie and we'll never forget the brave young woman who left her family in Monson, Massachusetts for a new life in California. As her husband said, "It was meant to be."



Robert & Amy (Swetland) Miller and their 18 children. Flossie is in second row on left in pink polka dot dress.

**Dolores N. Swetland
Jan. 12, 1925-Nov. 10, 2012**

Dolores Swetland, the mother of a past SFA President, Roger Swetland, and grandmother of our previous president, Jamie Swetland, died last fall. She attended one of the reunions at the Swetland Pond in Lawton, PA, as it was her pond at the time.

Dolores, 87, of Endicott, NY, formerly of Lawton, PA passed November 10, 2012 in Endicott, NY. She was born in Dickson City, PA, the daughter of the late Chester and Sophia C. [Wawrzynski] Novak. Her husband Elmer "Gump" D. Swetland predeceased her. Dolores enjoyed her family and traveling. Her longtime companion, Walter Hayes, recently passed away on January 6th of 2013 at the age of 91. Dolores is survived by daughters & sons-in-law, Sandra & Charles Williams of Stevensville, MD, Sally & James Pepper of Bolton Landing, NY, sons & daughters-in-law, Roger & Priscilla Swetland of Montrose, PA, James & Norma Swetland of Mineral Point, PA, Eugene & Dawn Swetland of Montrose, PA, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Also surviving Dolores are her sisters & brother-in-law, Beverly & Jerry Morley, Patricia Noone, Phyllis Brink, and sister-in-law, Mary Swetland Bishop.

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Norris Swetland (lower ad) was a confectioner whose roots were hard to find. Read about a breakthrough on his line on page 3. Source: 1875 Rochester, NY City directory.

(Continued from p. 3)

For those who wish to see further evidence, I have a copy of Mary Elizabeth Moss Swetland's obituary from the Washington Times. This was the first reference of our Mary Swetland directly to Rochester, NY, where Norris was, along with all of his other confectioner siblings and their spouses—Edwin Payson and Laura Quimby, Truman Monroe and Caroline "Carrie" Raymond Hamilton, Elvira and Alfred Countryman, Ellen and Henry Crowell, George, and Warren. I also have details on Norris' advertisement in the 1875 Rochester City Directory. You may contact me by email at mikhail525@hotmail.com.

Editor's Note: Wayne Friedman lives in Knoxville, Tennessee with his wife Tara Swetland Friedman, who is the youngest great-grandchild of Norris and grandchild of Earl. Their children are Isaac Byron, Hannah Delora, and Naomi Taylor Friedman.

Florence Miller Munroe

September 29, 1929-December 20, 2012

Florence Munroe attended the 2012 SFA Reunion. Of her the SFA Treasurer Priscilla Swetland wrote, "I am so glad everyone got to meet her last July at the reunion, her second. She saw a lot of family members and a lot of the East coast and I know she had a good trip. We will miss her very much."

Florence wrote, "I was born September 29, 1929 (at home, in Monson, Massachusetts), the 15th of 19 children of Robert K. and Amy M.S. Miller." After working for an insurance company in Springfield and later at Clarke School for the Deaf in Northampton . . . I decided to go to California to look for work. In Santa Monica I met Wallace Munroe, and we hit it off right away. We were married [there] March 13, 1958."

In 1965 the family moved to Fountain Valley where Florence participated in many volunteer positions, including teacher's aide, Cub Scout Den Mother and Assistant Girl Scout Leader. Her husband died February 4, 2009. Survivors include children Stephen, Kenneth, Edward, Janice, and Diane.

(See President's Message for more on Florence.)

Vivian M. Sweetland

January 18, 1922-December 24, 2012

Longtime Lore reader Vivian M. Sweetland, passed away last Christmas Eve at the age of 90 in Youngsville, PA, where she had resided for many years.

Vivian was born at home at "Cobbs Corners" in Spring Creek Township, Pennsylvania, on January 18, 1922, a daughter of the late Alice (Garber) and Leon Mitchell. She married Robert E. Sweetland on June 10, 1943. He preceded her in death in 2008.

She was employed as a beautician at Marian's Beauty Salon in Youngsville for several years and also was a Library Aide at Youngsville High School for eight years.

Vivian was a member of the Youngsville First United Methodist Church as well as the Order of the Eastern Star, the American Field Service and the Girl Scout Council.

Surviving are a son, John (Myra) M. Sweetland, of Hudson, Ohio; 2 daughters, Janet S. Wilson, of Blairsville, Pa. and Penny (Gary) Lester, of Russell, Pa.; a sister Leah Pokosh, of Columbus, Pa.; as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



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