



## Sweetland Descendant Shares Story from the 1920's

### "The Fire"

By SFA President, Carol Gregoire

In Springfield, Massachusetts in January of 1920 my grandmother, Amy Miller, was preparing oatmeal for the younger children and Ruth, Marvin and Frank were at school. Suddenly, George came running up out of the cellar and yelled, "Fire!" Amy told him, "George, stop fooling." But when she smelled the smoke she looked down the cellar and saw flames shooting up the stairs. She threw a tub of water down the stairs which only made the flames shoot higher. Then she grabbed baby Bob and yelled, "George, Ted, Herbie and Evelyn get out of the house! Follow me!" Outside Amy started yelling, "Help, help, please help!" Finally a neighbor heard her cries, "Call the fire department!"

A Scottish lady, Mrs. Mead, came across the street. "Amy, bring the children to my house." It was freezing cold. After the children were safe Amy suddenly realized she left the oatmeal on the stove. She ran into the smoky kitchen and grabbed it and ran outside. Then she remembered the bananas which were expensive so she ran back in for them too. In the meantime the fire trucks had a hard time running because it was so cold.

When the firemen arrived the house was engulfed in smoke and flames. Amy yelled to them, "Get my sewing machine out." They managed to push it outside as she sighed with relief. As son Georgie was watching from across the street, he saw his mother try to get into the house to rescue their belongings. The firemen grabbed Amy and stopped her. She yelled, "Please try to get the piano." The firemen tried, but the piano got stuck in the door and it couldn't be saved.

Amy's husband Robert was working at the Springfield Armory and no one had notified him about the fire. So when he arrived home he was shocked to see his home burned to the ground. He ran to Mr. Mead's house. "Where are Amy and the kids?" She told him "They are all safe. They're at Aunt Ellen's."

Robert sped down the road, ran into the house and grabbed Amy and hugged her. "Where are the kids?" "They're all upstairs in bed." He ran upstairs he hugged each one and started counting, Ruth, Red, Frank, George, Herbie, Ted, Evelyn and Bob. Then he hugged them all again. "I can't believe you are all right."

The fire consumed all their belongings so the neighbors donated clothing and food. Robert had worked for Frank Gibbs Ice Co. so Mr. Gibbs told all his customers about the fire. Every day the kids watched for Mr. Gibbs' horse drawn sleigh coming up the road with cartons of clothes. Also at the Springfield Armory they took a collection and presented Bob and Amy with \$350. They were so grateful. Amy thanked the Lord for everything they had received. —from *The Millers Our Unending Story*

## REUNION 2014

JULY 18-19

CORTLAND, N.Y.

\***LODGING: CORTLAND**  
**RAMADA (607) 756-4431 (REUNION RATE)**

\***SEE FALL 2013 ISSUE FOR DETAILS.**

\***REGISTER: FORM ON P. 3**

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## Do NOT Read This!

(Unless you have interest in the Sweetland/Swetland Family Association Scholarship)

At our July 18 – 19, 2014 Family Reunion the Association will announce the **2014 SW(E)E(A)TLAND Family Scholarship Award** Recipient. That person, a high school senior or someone currently enrolled in a post-high school educational program, will be honored.

Our scholarship began at the 1993 Family Reunion. Although the cash award is small (\$300), the best wishes, prayers, and support of our entire Family goes with it. Former scholarship recipients will review applications and help select the 2014 recipient. These include:

Katy (Bradley) Ford, 1998 Recipient  
Jessica Anne Anderson, 2007 Recipient  
Karen Swetland, 2010 Recipient

The Committee requests your help in identifying qualified applicants for the 2014 Award.

### APPLICATION PROCESS:

The Scholarship is awarded to a Sw(e)e(a)tland descendant. No one knows qualified applicants as well as you. Perhaps your child, a sibling, grandchild, or other relative is a potential Recipient. Please encourage them to apply.

No specific application form is required. Each applicant can submit materials to show themselves in the best light. The Committee is looking for evidence of outstanding scholastic achievement, athletic and other non-academic activities, genuine interest in our Family, and overall leadership traits. These characteristics can be shown by participation or leadership in home, church, community, and school activities. Each application requires a letter of recommendation from a Family member.

Applications (file electronically; hard copy following) will be received until March 1, 2014. Send to: Chairman, Sw(e)e(a)tland Family Association Scholarship Committee, 1036 N. Paseo Iris, Green Valley, AZ 85614. R David Kryder is the Committee Chairman and can be reached at (520) 393-1783 and [david.kryder@gmail.com](mailto:david.kryder@gmail.com), if more information is required. The Committee decision will be made by April 1, 2014.

Applicants are encouraged to attend the 2014 Reunion in Cortland, NY, but are not required to do so.



**No one knows qualified applicants as well as you!**

**All scholarship applications are due by March 1, 2014**

**Sweetland/Swetland Family Association Reunion Attendance Form**  
**Please Clip and Mail Form to Register**

My payment of \$27.00 per person for luncheon and renting the meeting room is included, made payable to Sweetland Family Association.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Total people attending X \$27.00 = total money sending in \$ \_\_\_\_\_

My name and the names of the other people attending with me are listed below. Please print clearly the name(s) as you would like them to appear on name tag.

Additional information to help us size our reunion needs:

1. I/We will be joining the carpool from the Cortland Ramada to Freetown Corners Friday afternoon.

yes/no \_\_\_\_\_ number attending \_\_\_\_\_

I will drive my car as part of the car pool. yes/no \_\_\_\_\_

E mail address or phone number \_\_\_\_\_

2. I/We will be attending the Friday evening meal and gathering. yes/no \_\_\_\_\_

number attending \_\_\_\_\_

3. I/We would like to be on the agenda to speak on Sweetland/Swetland ancestors or topics.

yes/no \_\_\_\_\_ person(s) of topic you will be speaking about \_\_\_\_\_ audio visual equipment needed \_\_\_\_\_

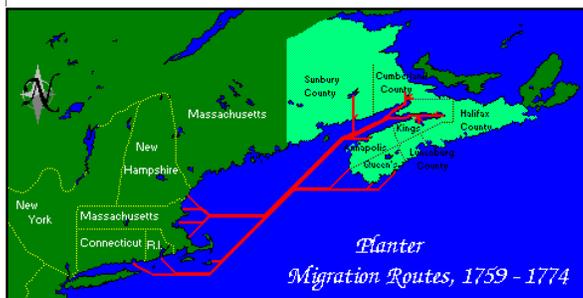
Please note that the money you are sending in covers Saturday's lunch and conference room rental only. You will be responsible for your supper on Friday evening as well as for making your room reservations.

**Please return form with appropriate payment (Payable to Swetland Family Association) to :**

Priscilla Swetland  
 4819 State Route 367  
 Montrose PA 18801

Phone: 570 – 934-2187 from May through November  
 Phone: 570 – 498 – 9943 from December through April

**Sweetlands Found among Nova Scotia, Canada Immigrants**  
**By Anne Kirby**



As I researched Sweetlands, Swetlands and Sweedlands recently in the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, I came upon a reference to the book, *Nova Scotia Immigrants to 1867* by Leonard and Norma Smith.

In this book I discovered that two daughters of my 4th great-grandparents, John Sweetland (born 1718), and Elizabeth Grant (born 1715), had emigrated from Marblehead, Massachusetts to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia in 1766. The Yarmouth fishing port is

located on the Gulf of Maine in rural southwestern Nova Scotia, Canada. In the *Immigrant* book, the sisters' maiden surnames are spelled "Sweedland" even though Marblehead records spell it "Sweetland."

The oldest daughter, Mary Sweedland Trefry (b. 1737), came with her husband, John Trefry, and their two daughters Sarah and Mary. Her younger sister, Sarah Sweetland (b. 1745), arrived with her husband, Moses Hooper the same year they were married and the same year as their other Marblehead relatives came, on or before 1766. All in this group were in their early twenties to early thirties. John Trefry's younger brother, Joshua Pitman Trefry, also came to Nova Scotia in 1766 along with his wife Mary Allen.

At first I wondered if they were Loyalists, those who were loyal to Great Britain and forced to leave after the Revolutionary War. However, all in this Marblehead group arrived ten years prior to the War. So why did Sweetlands come?

I found that they were among immigrants called "New England Planters". Massachusetts had a "population glut" in those days. The Sweetland group had responded to invitations by the lieutenant governor of Nova Scotia, Charles Lawrence, to settle the more attractive lands and farms left vacant from the Bay of Fundy Campaign (1755) of the French Acadian expulsion. About 8,000 people in about 2,000 families, largely farmers and fishermen, arrived from 1759 to 1768 to take up the offer. Most of the fishermen went to the South Shore of Nova Scotia, where they got the same amount of land as the farmers did—a maximum of 1,000 acres of land with no rent for the first ten years. Many fishermen especially wanted to move there because they were already fishing off the Nova Scotia coast.

Even though our Sweetlands were from the fishing town of Marblehead and settled the small fishing town of Yarmouth, they were still termed New England Planters. The Planters laid the foundations of a large number of the present day communities of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. They were called "Bluenosers" to distinguish them from the Loyalists who came after the American Revolution.

These Sweetland relatives came to Yarmouth, population 100, most likely by boat, just five years after Yarmouth was founded. The population swelled with the 8,000 Massachusetts immigrants. They affected the culture and language of the area since they were the first major group of English-speaking immigrants in Canada who did not come directly from Great Britain. Most of the New England Planters were Protestant Congregationalists. Today the town of over 6,000 residents is located in the heart of the largest lobster fishing grounds in the world.

Migration Route Map courtesy of Bruce Harvey, <http://www.cyberus.ca/~bharvey/planters.shtml>



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



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

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

Enclosed is my donation for the scholarship fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
and the newsletter fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .

To begin email delivery of Lore, please email: [anne.kirby9@gmail.com](mailto:anne.kirby9@gmail.com)

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