



# Sweetland/Swetland Lore #70 Summer 2014

SWEETLAND/SWETLAND FAMILY ASSOCIATION

## Reunions Bring Sweet Memories

by  
Carol Gregoire, SFA President

Our upcoming SFA reunion causes me to think back about my Miller reunions. My grandparents, Robert and Amy (Swetland) Miller had a tradition of a family reunion on the Fourth of July, except during WWII. So in 1947 Grandma told Grampa, "We need to celebrate our five sons surviving the war. I want a reunion" and he agreed. She wrote letters to George in the Army and Ray in the Navy, and they were able to come. Then she started preparing. Having her family all together was extremely important and so was the food. She checked out her recipes even though most of them were memorized. She already had canned the mustard pickles and corn relish.

On the day of the reunion my parents, my sister Linda and I entered the house. I saw the dining table full of bread and desserts as Mom added her apple pie. I could see Grandma standing in the kitchen in front of the wood stove cooking. My aunts were bustling around preparing food. Grandma was like a conductor, orchestrating all the moves. "Tessie, slice the bread and cover it with a towel. Jake get the cans of cold water from the springhouse and tell Bob to ice my homemade root beer."

When Uncle George arrived with his family, Grandma was ecstatic as she ran out to greet them. They had three children including a baby, Anita. Grandma said, "Look at her beautiful blue eyes. Bring her in and put her on my bed." All my aunts gathered around admiring the baby as well as my cousins and I. Soon the kids were outside sitting on the stone wall watching the chickens. "Watch out for the ducks" I told Cynthia. "They're mean."

More and more relatives arrived with more and more food. Finally the picnic tables were filled with food. It looked like a feast. Grampa announced, "Let the elders go first." I couldn't wait to eat. When my cousins and I got our food we sat on blankets on the ground.

Awhile later Uncle George announced, "We're having a softball game in the field across the street." I grabbed Mom's hand and we watched from behind the stone wall. Each team chose old and young. First, Alice came up to bat and struck out. When Joanie came up to bat she struck the ball far out into the field and the family yelled, "Run, Joanie, run." She made a home run. "The other team couldn't catch up so her team won," George announced, "Let's have some root beer."

Grampa took the watermelon out of the ice cold tub and said, "Let me do the honors," as he cut it with a huge butcher knife. All the children took their pieces and sat on the hill in back of the house and spit the seeds to see whose went the farthest.

Later in the day as the sun was setting, Grampa set off some very mild firecrackers and the children twirled around with sparklers.

As they were getting ready for bed at the end of the day Grandma and Grampa reflected on the day. He told her, "You worked so hard preparing for this reunion." She said, "It was well worth it. It was so nice to see our family have so much fun." "Yes," he said, "and I expect we'll have many more reunions."

**Don't Forget!  
The 2014  
Reunion will  
be July 18-19  
in Cortland and  
Freetown  
Corners, N.Y.  
Register by  
June 18th.  
See Page 2 for  
Details.**

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**Newspaper Clipping from Times Herald (Olean, New York) on June 25, 1926 Documents a Much Earlier Swetland Reunion in New York.**

**Swetland Family Reunion Is Held At Eaglehurst'**

The fifth annual Swetland reunion was held Thursday at Eaglehurst and was largely attended by representatives of the Swetland family.

Dinner was served at one o'clock and a business meeting and entertainment followed. The officers for the year were elected as follows:

Mrs. James Lewis of Bradford, president; Mrs. L. C. Clark of Bradford, vice president; Mrs. Blanch Swetland of Olean, secretary; L. C. Clark of Bradford treasurer; William Swetland of Olean, Edmord Duke of Olean; Russell Clark and Mrs. James Lewis of Bradford, members of the entertaining committee; Mrs. George Pape of Limestone and Mrs. Milton Duke of Olean, members of the table committee.

The relatives from out-of-town in attendance were: Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Looker, Mrs. James Lewis and daughters, Mrs. Putman, Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Clark, Mrs. James Van Decton and daughter, Betty, of Bradford; Mrs. George Pape and family of Limestone; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Vaname and sons, L. Swetland of Fillmore.

**Remember July 18-19 for the Sweetland/Swetland Reunion**

Reunion Chairman Nancy Graczyk's ancestors once lived in the Freetown Corners area of Cortland, New York, where this year's reunion is scheduled. Come and learn their story, see the area, and meet your cousins!

**Lodging:**

July 18 and 19, 2014 Cortland Ramada, 2 River Street, Cortland NY 13045

Call 607-756-4431 to reserve a room at the Cortland Ramada under the Swetland Reunion Block. **Rates** are \$109 for one night double occupancy OR \$119 for one night double occupancy including a breakfast buffet for two. Rooms must be reserved by June 18, 2014. There are also several other motels in the area.

**Agenda:**

**Friday July 18, 2014**

**2:30 PM** meet at the Ramada lobby to carpool to Freetown Corners to find out from Nancy Graczyk (4th great granddaughter of Aaron Swetland) where Aaron Swetland lived, find his grave at the Freetown Corners Cemetery, and learn about his family.

**5:00PM** return to Ramada.

**6:00 PM** meet for evening gathering and meal at Perkin's Restaurant in Cortland.

**Saturday July 19, 2014**

The meeting room (off the Ramada lobby) will be open early. Displays can be set up at any time.

**9:00 AM** in the meeting room, Nancy Graczyk will talk about Aaron Swetland and his role in the American Revolution. We will also reenact how Aaron Swetland came to Freetown. There will be other speakers.

**Noon**, the buffet lunch will be ready in the meeting room. Following lunch, the Swetland Family Association meeting will be held.

**See registration form on page 3.**



**How to Preserve Your Ancestors' Photos in FamilySearch.org**

A new feature of the family history website FamilySearch.org is linking pictures to those on your family tree. By putting your photos here, you will know that they will be available for everyone to see for generations to come. This website of free family history and genealogy records will not disappear in a few years; it is here to stay. It's a great feeling to get those photos out of boxes and into view so everyone can enjoy them. Here's how, using the example of Edgar Harris Sweetland, (1877-1938), shown at left, son of W.H. Sweetland and L.M. Chubbuck.

1. Go to <https://familysearch.org/> and click "Sign In" or "Join for Free". Do a search to see if your relative is there on a family tree. If so, click on the person to whom you wish to add a photo. (Continued on p. 3)

2. Click on the word "person" to see his or her details. (Continued from p. 2)
3. Click on "Memories."
4. Click on "Photos."
5. Click "Add" and drag and drop photo onto page.
6. The photo will appear in a separate window.
7. Click in the box under the photo you wish to add to the person.
8. Click the box in the upper RH corner "Add Photos."
9. The photo will be reviewed for appropriateness and may take up to a day to appear on your ancestor's page under "memories."

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**Reunion Registration Form— Please return this  
by June 18th if staying at the Ramada or July 1st if staying at a different hotel**

My payment of \$27.00 per person for luncheon and meeting room rental 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 the 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Email 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 \$27 registration fee covers Saturday's lunch and conference room rental only. You are responsible for your Friday evening supper, for making your own room reservations, and for paying for your room.

**Please return form with appropriate payment (payable to Sweetland Family Association) to:**

Priscilla Sweetland

Phone: 570 – 934-2187 from

4819 State Route 367

May through November

Montrose, PA 18801-6916



## You Can Assist with Sweetland Research in England

By Anne Kirby

John Sweetland (b. 1652, England; d. 9 June 1711, Providence, R.I.) is my ancestor. It is unsubstantiated if he indeed had brothers who came with him. While there were a number of men of the surname Sweetland in Essex County, Massachusetts in the mid to late 1600's, there is no evidence in New England to confirm that they were his brothers other than the fact that they lived in the same county.

I have long sought primary source material to find John's parents and home town in England. Unable to solve the riddle myself, I am currently working with accredited genealogists specializing in English research who are pursuing the Sweetland/Swetland line for me in an effort to find our English link to the family. They have completed a number of projects for me over the years when I've become stuck on several ancestral lines. In addition to their own genealogists, Price and Associates Genealogical Service employs accredited agents in England. Their website is [www.pricegen.com/resources/english-genealogy/](http://www.pricegen.com/resources/english-genealogy/).



Accreditation plays an important role, not only because of their extensive training, but also because only accredited researchers are allowed access to certain original records in England. Researchers must often search original records because many parish and other types of records have neither been indexed nor shared online.

Recently they have found a promising prospect for the parents of our John and are currently doing another project in an attempt to verify or disprove this. I will share summaries of future research reports with other descendants of John Sweetland who contribute money toward this research. Each project costs \$1,600 and the researchers account for their hours of work and provide a log showing what they search and find. This effort would be independent of SFA and anyone may help as they wish. If you would like to participate, you may send your contributions for the project directly to Price and Associates, with Anne Sweetland Kirby in the subject line. Please send an email to me if you have any questions about these projects.

Anne Sweetland Kirby  
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 SFA Website:  
[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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