



Sweetland/Swetland Lore #78 Summer 2016

SWEETLAND/SWETLAND FAMILY ASSOCIATION



Some Swetland Reunions Began Nearly 100 Years Ago

SFA member and Lore reader Milly Swetland Allen of Sayre, Pennsylvania recently shared with us the pictures and summaries of her Swetland relatives' reunions in 1917, 1918 and 1923. These were given to her by Pam Scott Mihelcic whose mother, Marjorie Swetland Scott, had assembled the information.

Decision to Hold Reunions

At a Swetland-Williams gathering on 14 June 1917, the account states, "A number of relatives and friends of J.L. Swetland and daughter were tendered a reception at their home on Grist-Flats, Mehoopany, PA. The occasion being the 78th anniversary of Mr. Swetland's birth. After partaking of a bountiful refast, and renewing old acquaintances, the company decided on having an annual gathering of the relatives.

First Reunion

They met on August 9th, 1917 with Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Young in Tunkhannock, Pa. at whose residence the first annual reunion of the Swetland-William families was held. As the noontime hour approached the company sat down to tables laden with all of the good things imaginable. The afternoon was pleasantly spent in conversation. An invitation to meet in August 1918 with Mr. and Mrs. B.W. Swetland at Eatonville, Pa. was accepted."

Second Reunion

As planned, the Swetland-Williams families, consisting of 35 people, met in Eatonville on 8 August, 1918. After a morning of visiting, the local Reverend gave thanks and "the company partook of the bountiful refast" at tables decorated with flowers and arranged on the lawn, which were laden with the good things of the season." After electing officers, including President E. L. Swetland and Vice President B. W. Swetland, a collection of \$1.55 was taken. "We were then favored with piano selections by Miss Brown of Tunkhannock, followed by the close of the meeting."

Notes on 1918 picture shown at right:

John Lander Swetland is in the middle with the western tie. Born 1830, died 1925. His 2nd great grandfather was Luke Swetland who was captured by Indians in Wyoming in the 1780's.

Next to John is his sister with the tie and beads, Marilla Swetland Walter.

In the back row 3rd from left is John's son Fred Manley Swetland. Next row down is Fred's wife, Lydia Sterling Swetland.

Next to Lydia is John's son, Fred's brother, Elmer Swetland, with the bow tie.

The two young boys on 2nd row are Fred's sons, Leslie and Manley Swetland. (continued p. 2)



"The guests were arranged on the porch and a picture taken of the group." (1918)

Sixth Reunion in 1923

This reunion was held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Kelly at Lemon, Pa., 13 September 1923. After meeting and getting acquainted with new members, the group gathered at tables in the dining room and on the lawn for a meal "with all the good things imaginable." Before eating, "E.M. Swetland of Mehoopany returned thanks, also expressing the hope that we might enjoy many reunions." The business meeting was conducted by the president, E.L. Swetland, followed by historical sketches of the families by the historian. Expenses for the reunion totaled \$7.95, leaving \$5.50 in the treasury. "An invitation to meet in 1924 with Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Stethers at Lime Hill, Bradford Co. was accepted. The company sang the familiar hymn Sweet By-and-By and the meeting closed, after which ice-cream and cake were served."

Notes by Marjorie Scott on reunion picture below:*

Front row: Left-two ladies could be Marilla's daughters. Right side front, sitting, Alice Swetland Crawford, Blanche Swetland, Marilla Swetland Walter. Man standing is Theodore Crawford. Man with beard is John Lander Swetland.

Second row: Left side-Bessie, wife of Dana, and Elmer Swetland (baby)-other lady-Lydia Sterling Swetland. Man to right of post with black bowtie is Elmer Swetland.

Third row: from left-Minnie Swetland Kelly, on right side past post and a lady is B. Wayne Swetland and Fred M. Swetland.

Back row: First man-Dana Swetland, 3rd man- Jim Kelly, 4th from left-Fred M. Swetland, 5th from left-Florence Swetland. Right side of post next to a lady is Mr. Leslie A. Swetland.

*Identification of people is not completely clear from notes, especially since they are not in distinct in rows. If readers have any questions about the information in this article, please contact Milly Allen by email: millyallen60@yahoo.com.

Swetland Reunion Picture (1923)
Lemon, Pennsylvania
Home of J.W. Kelly



SFA Publisher Mark Harrison's Career Story

Mark, whose great grandmother was a Swetland, has freely been giving his time to maintain a current email and regular mail list of Lore recipients as publisher of Lore since 2003. In January, an editor from the Spiceworks Community a professional network for the information technology industry (IT), invited Mark to share his Life Story.

My Career Story: Mighty IT Careers from little Apple IIs Grow

by MarkH3326 on Jan 7, 2016 at 10:49 AM



While I might not have set out to be an IT pro, it's not that surprising, considering how early I got involved with computers. Back in the early '80s, before personal computers were common, I started off at my junior high school writing some BASIC programs on an Apple II. My friend and I taught ourselves how to deal with Apple DOS and program in BASIC.

Later, I'd visit the local public library to run a few of my own programs on their Apple II+ and later their Apple IIe computers. I was good enough that the librarian asked me to "support" the Apples when the staff had questions or problems. I began reading Apple magazines at the library to learn even more.

In 1983 my mother bought me an Apple IIe of my own. I became good at disassembling and reassembling my Apple and its peripherals. I did more programming, and got familiar with AppleWorks, which was an early office suite – so I can say I've been using those kinds of programs for more than 30 years.

Our high school math department had an HP mainframe. While the rest of the class was struggling with BASIC coding and logic puzzles, I was writing and debugging programs on those "fill in the squares with a pencil" punch cards.

I started college intending to become an engineer, but after my freshman year I switched to a computer systems major with a minor in math. The college had a pair of DEC VAX mainframes as well as a dozen Apple IIe computers for the education majors. I was quickly asked to be the troubleshooter for the Apple suite.

I graduated in 1989 with a BS in Computer Systems and went to work as a programmer for a small value-added reseller (VAR) in my hometown. They had been in business since 1977, programming first on Wang computers and then on PCs. We wrote programs in WANG BASIC, which is one of the most powerful languages I have ever used.

In 1997 the boss's son, who was our IT person, decided to go to college. The owner selected me to be the new IT person. I was responsible for website hosting and maintenance, infrastructure, server maintenance, backups and disaster recovery, programming (still), Microsoft Exchange, invoicing, customer relations, and lots of other little things.

I worked in that small company from 1990 to 2011. Late in 2011 I moved to a telecommunications company as a voice repair tech in the network operations center, using my programming troubleshooting skills at the SIP level. After three and a half years I switched to the IT department of the company where I currently work, where I handle laptop support for more than 130 users as well as some server work.

In addition to my day job, I moonlight as a computer consultant, and I'm the sole IT person for the small insurance company my wife works for.

(Continued on p. 4)

Over the years I've learned many things besides how to manage hardware and software. I've developed skills in customer service, teaching, translating technobabble to something an average user can understand, planning, documentation, and the importance of good disaster recovery (that's another story). But I've also learned patience, how to relax and enjoy long vacations and long weekends, and how to appreciate family and friends without interference from work.



<https://community.spiceworks.com/topic/1379331-my-career-story-mighty-it-careers-from-little-apple-lls-grow>

Sweetland/Swetland Family Association Scholarship Recipient for 2016 is Alexander D. Kirby

Alexander Kirby recently a letter from the scholarship committee informing him that there are many talented and accomplished Sw(e)etland Family members whose circumstances qualify them to submit applications. The letter further stated that the committee considered all of the applications and announced that Alexander had been selected to receive the scholarship. Alex graduates from Stayton (Oregon) High School this spring and will attend Brigham Young University-Idaho in the fall. His thank-you letter to the committee and other information about him will appear in the fall issue of Lore. Congratulations, Alex!

Remember to Label and Preserve your Photos and Stories!

Strangers in the Box

Come, look with me inside this drawer, in this box I've often seen.
At the pictures, black and white, faces proud, still, and serene.

I wish I knew the people, these strangers in the box.
Their names and all their memories are lost among my socks.

I wonder what their lives were like, how did they spend their days?
What about their special times? I'll never know their ways.

If only someone had taken time to tell who, what, where, and when.
These faces of my heritage would come to life again.

Could this become the fate of the pictures we take today?
The faces and the memories someday to be passed away?

Take time to save your stories. Seize the opportunity when it knocks.
Or someday you and yours could be strangers in the box.

—By Pamela A. Harizim, Teach Me Genealogy, tmgenealogy.com. (Format, punctuation and capitalization altered by Lore editor.)

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