



# Sweetland/Swetland Lore #79 Fall 2016

SWEETLAND/SWETLAND FAMILY ASSOCIATION



## Traveling in Ancestor's Footsteps Reveals Helpful People and Great Resources

By Anne Kirby

While my Sweetlands stayed near the town of Marblehead, Massachusetts for a century or more, my maternal Tagerts moved again and again in the 1800's in horse-drawn wagons. Despite wonderful resources on the Internet, nothing quite replaces actually visiting the towns where our ancestors lived. There, one often finds helpful people and fascinating information in courthouses, historical societies, cemeteries, and libraries.

I recently visited Colorado, where my Tagert great-grandparents lived in both Aspen and Leadville. At the Aspen Historical Society, pictured at right, a knowledgeable archivist escorted me to her computer and displayed many pictures of my grandmother's brother and his livery and feed store business. She found my grandmother, Olive Lisle Tagert, on the list of first graders attending the Aspen Grammar School and showed me a picture of the two story brick building she'd attended. City Directories revealed that my grandmother and her parents and siblings had lived in Aspen, Leadville, and other nearby towns from 1879-1900. Knowing those dates allows me to now begin searching newspaper articles about the family online.



In the museum I spotted a ticket to the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893 identical to one I had inherited. I learned that Leadville women had traveled from Colorado mining towns to the fair to stop, unsuccessfully, the repeal of the Sherman Silver Purchase Act because it would (and did) put many Colorado silver mines out of business. So Mary Amelda Tagert must have been a plucky lady to take on that cause.

The archivist directed us to the Red Butte cemetery. As my husband and I searched for the people we'd found in the Historical Society records, we had difficulty finding some of the headstones. The lady doing the gardening was eager to help, and even ran about two blocks to the garden shed and back to get a book. This book had handwritten data starting in the 1880's, with entries for everyone buried there. She helped me find the six grave sites I was seeking, one unmarked. She only worked at the cemetery once a week, and we were there on the right day!

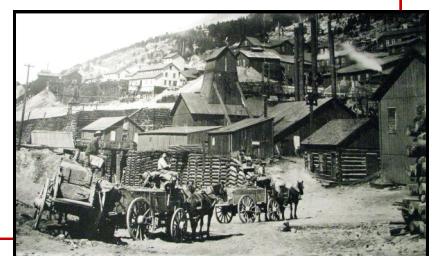


We continued on to Leadville, where my grandmother, Olive, was born in 1884. The highway took us to dizzying heights. Leadville is elevation 10,250 feet and surrounded by snowy mountains-- some 14,000 feet high. After a thunderstorm the pungent scent of sagebrush filled the air.



There at the Lake County Library, the librarian showed us the City Directories. We found the dates that my great-grandparent's family had lived in the county as well as the address of their log cabin where Olive was born in 1884. The librarian told us how to find the site. The cabin was gone, but I could see their view of the town and the mountains. Leadville has beautifully preserved many of the original brick buildings downtown, as shown at left.

The Heritage Museum answered one of my questions: The City Directory listed my grandfather as a "coal burner" in 1885. What was that? A poster in the Heritage Museum explained that by 1885, 2,500 men cut native trees and heated them in kilns until they were nearly pure carbon because no charcoal was available. This "homemade" charcoal was used as a fluxing agent in silver smelters. I could see that living in Colorado during the harsh winters in those days in a log cabin was certainly not easy for the men or the women. I left that state with a new appreciation for my hardy ancestors and all those I met who kindly helped me understand the Tagerts' lives.



## Thank you Letter from the 2016 Scholarship Winner, Alexander Kirby

August 4, 2016

Dear David Kryder and The Sweetland/Swetland Family Association,

I am very grateful to be the recipient of the Sweetland/Swetland scholarship this year.

I would like to thank the members of the committee for their time in reviewing my application, and rest assured, the money will be put to good use. I am planning to use this money to help pay for the cost of books as I attend BYU-Idaho this fall to begin my general studies.

I am grateful to be able to carry forward the Sweetland name in this way, as my great grandmother Virginia Sweetland, wife of William Sweetland, passed away earlier this year. Like the members of this committee and the Association, she was always a strong supporter of higher education. This scholarship and the Sweetland name remind me of her and of my family history. Thank you for this honor.

Sincerely,  
Alexander Kirby



### Would you like to make family history come alive on your wall?

**Diane Gould Hall showed how to do this on her blog and with her permission it is reproduced in part in this issue of Sweetland/Swetland Lore.**

"This was such an exciting project. I have wanted to create an ancestor wall in my "genie cave" for about 10 years.

I began by taking a look at all the frames I had purchased over the years and decided which picture to put in each frame, so I knew what size photos I would need.

Then I downloaded them to a flash drive and went to Walmart. You can crop or enhance the photos, to a limited ability, right there on their screen. They print immediately. Cost – 79 cents for a 4 x 6 and \$3.99 for an 8 x 10. I later found Costco was even cheaper.

Now I have what I need to begin my project."

To read the details of how Diane got all the photos placed on the wall, please visit her blog at:  
<http://www.michiganfamilytrails.com/2015/12/ancestor-wall-of-photos-its.html>.



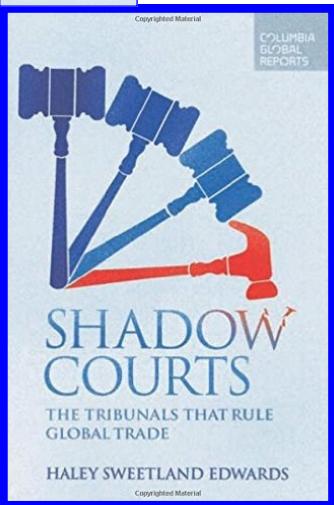
Picture on left shows Diane's office wall before her project.

At right, the same wall now displays her ancestors and inspires her continuing genealogical pursuits.





## New Book by Haley Sweetland Edwards, Great Granddaughter of Inventor Ernest J. Sweetland



Shadow Courts: The Tribunals That Rule Global Trade by Haley Sweetland Edwards will be published by Columbia Global Reports on Sept. 6.

The book is about a small provision in nearly every free trade agreement, including NAFTA and the Trans-Pacific Partnership, that allows foreign corporations to sue sovereign nations, like the U.S., through little-known arbitration tribunals—outside of national courts.

That provision, Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS), was first included in treaties in the 1950s to provide foreign corporations with property protections abroad (a good idea!). But in the last fifteen years, it has been used in all kinds of new, problematic, and unintended ways.

### Please Help Lore Publisher Mark Harrison to locate "Missing" SFA Members

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**Please contact Mark Harrison at [publisher@swetland.org](mailto:publisher@swetland.org) or his mailing address on p. 4, to provide a mailing or email address for these members or to notify him if you know that someone on the list is now deceased. Thank you !!!**

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**Sweet Memories of Sweetland/Swetland Family Association Members**

By

Priscilla Swetland, Treasurer

I would like to share a few notes about some people we have lost since the last reunion. Clara Dvorchak has helped inform me about some of them. In January of 2015 we lost Alfred Boudreau, the father of Joy Folsom, our present President. Her mother, Barbara, is still alive in a home with dementia. Both attended many of our reunions and Barbara was always sending checks to help out our Association. These are fine people whom I remember fondly.

Also in January of 2015, we lost Raymond Miller. He did attend some of our reunions, but mostly when we had reunions in Massachusetts. For those, Raymond insisted that we come to the Miller Park that he had created on part of his farm. He never charged us a penny for using his place. I seem to remember an early one where we had a bus take us up that narrow road and were told we could not turn around with a bus. We were all sure we were going over the mountain to below. That was in 1990 and he did turn that bus around. We were back in 2005, but drove our own cars. The road had been improved on by then.

Our past President, Carol Gregoire, lost her husband in September Of 2015. He never attended our reunions, but Carol did so much for us, that I wanted readers to know about him. Carol was our President from 2012 through 2014

In 1999 our reunion at the Chautauqua in NY led by Robin Leidhecker included a boat ride. Robin taught us how to find our history through court records and in 2001 she had us meet in Montoursville, PA where we covered the Civil War and making Memory Albums (which is why I started doing them.) I found out in talking to her that she lost her husband over 4 years ago. Her mother is Margaret Smith, who at one time was our President for many years, including 1998. She spent part of her time in Florida and part with Robin in the summer. She is now not far from Robin in Pennsylvania at an assisted living center as she is 91 and has brittle bones, for which she and is sometimes hospitalized. This is a small example of the people who have helped us through our lean years to get us where we are today—a family of some dear people.

**Do you have interesting Sweetland/Swetland family information to share and be included in the next Lore such as an interesting story, a photo of an ancestor's home, people, a family heirloom, tools, etc., or comments on a previous story? Please send these to our editor, Anne Kirby (see contact information at right). Thank you.**



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