



# Sweetland/Swetland Lore #80 Winter 2016



SWEETLAND/SWETLAND FAMILY ASSOCIATION



## Sue Chadwick Finds Newspaper Clippings from 1950's About Emma J. Swetland

"I just found two newspaper articles about my great grandmother, Emma J. Swetland," wrote Sue to Priscilla Swetland, "who made the quilt I sent you some time back. There are no dates on the articles but I guess we could figure that out by her birth year and the fact the articles were both celebrating her birthdays."

From the information in the article, it was easy to find the family in the 1900 Census in Chautauqua, N.Y. At that time J. Ormal Swetland, born in 1851, and his wife Emma J., born Sept. of 1858 had two sons, Earl F., born in June of 1881 and Gay B., born in March of 1885. A quick check of the California Death Index showed that Emma Jane (Munson) Swetland died in Los Angeles on 4 December 1957.

One slightly torn article with photo shown at right features Emma on her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday and the other on her 98<sup>th</sup>. The second article would have been written in 1956, the year before she died.

Newspapers often help us go beyond the names and dates of our relatives and show their personalities and the qualities that make them unique people. These two articles certainly brought Emma to life.

The 95<sup>th</sup> birthday photo shows her at a party with friends from the Grace Methodist Church in Long Beach, where she had lived since 1912, and mentions that her son Gay lives in Fredonia, N.Y.

Reading the two-column article on her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday seemed almost like visiting Emma Jane (Munson) Swetland in person. "She lives alone and LOVES it. 'I'm perfectly happy', she says. 'I wake up in the morning and think 'There's nobody out there in that kitchen and I'm tickled pink . . . I hope and pray that I won't have to have anyone live with me, ever, the rest of my life.' Mrs. Swetland, who is small and slight, with silver hair and merry blue eyes, rattles around alone in her seven-room home. She has lived there since 1912. She has lived alone for three years."



Emma J. (Munson) Swetland

The article mentions the a friend comes to clean and a niece does her shopping. "The milkman, the bread man, the egg man come to her door. Her niece, Mrs. Pearl Crandall, and friends take her to church and other places where she wants to go. Mrs. Swetland, who has defective vision, walks with a white cane and never crosses the street alone."

"Is she every lonely, living there in all those high-ceilinged rooms by herself? 'No, I have too much to do.' Born Sept. 14, 1858 in Corry, Pa., quite a while before the Civil War began, Mrs. Swetland came to Long Beach [CA] in 1912 from Portland, Chautauqua County, N.Y. She's been a widow for almost a half-century. She has a telephone in the kitchen, with an extension at the head of the big, brass bed in the front bedroom where she has slept for 44 years. She does her own cooking, dishwashing and laundry. 'Oh, once in a while I burn something but not often . . . Wonderful things come in cans these days.'"

"Beds are made up in the three unoccupied bedrooms. On one of the bedroom walls hangs a 1911 (see p. 2)

calendar.” Thank you, Sue, for sharing these newspaper articles. Perhaps the rest of us will find some old newspaper clippings which will help us get to know our own ancestors just as we did your great-grandmother!

—Anne Kirby, editor.

### Postcards Illuminate Family History

Along with newspaper clippings, as discussed in the previous article, postcards lend insights into our ancestors' lives and times. You may find a collection of postcards in an album, or just a few in a drawer, but your relative probably saved them for good reason. In his blog found at [www.MyGenShare.com](http://www.MyGenShare.com), Barry J. Ewell points out that these cards provide a “great snapshot into several aspects of . . . families lives.” He lists the value of postcards to family history as follows:

1. Post card images are great resources to relate to your ancestors' time period.

- See their hometown the way it looked back in the 20's or 30's.
- View the courthouse that your great-grandparents went to for their marriage license.
- Is it a memento of some special vacation?
- Is it a picture of Uncle Joe's hometown cafe?
- Is it a reflection of their personal tastes or longings?

2. Postcards were kept as keepsakes or mementos of the sender.

3. Postcards were an inexpensive reminder of a special journey.

4. Postcards preserved pictures of families, family homes, hometowns and more.

5. People often buy postcards just because they're pretty pictures when framed and hung on a wall or put on a shelf.

6. Learn tidbits of information about the family.

7. Gain handwriting samples.

8. Find addresses to help you track family movements.

Even if you cannot find family postcards, I have found pertinent postcards in antique and tourist stores in my relative's hometown. You may find historic photos showing period clothing or historic buildings.

For example, in Virginia City, Montana I found new postcards in a gift shop in the old Masonic Lodge featuring historical photos, including one showing the vigilantes who defended the town in 1865. I have an old letter my grandmother wrote telling about her father, Joseph R. Tagert, being a vigilante there, and how they had a meeting in the Masonic Lodge and decided upon a strategy to catch the robbers who stole the gold being transported from the local mines. To the vigilantes' surprise, they caught the local Sheriff as ringleader, “and he was hanged without dispatch.” The postcard of the vigilantes marching down the street and a local history not only verified the family story, but also showed me how the men and the downtown area looked back then.

—Anne Kirby, ed.



This is part of a collage of family postcards written by a father to his son when the father had to work away from home. We know they were made in Germany, as were most postcards before 1915 and WW I. Then they began to be printed in the United States with white borders to save ink.

### A Volunteer Indexing Project of Marriage Records Will Aid in Finding Women's Maiden Names

The U.S. Marriages Project, a joint initiative between [findmypast.com](http://findmypast.com) and [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org), is actively working to save the marriage records from every state in the United States. Through the indexing efforts of online volunteers across the U.S., this service project will create a high quality, searchable database of nearly every marriage recorded in the United States since the early 1800s.



**Ernest J. Sweetland and Nell Reilly**  
Married 24 September 1907

Marriage records, often recorded by county clerks in beautiful ledgers, have valuable data that many records do not have—they often include the wife's maiden name and the names of her parents. This information was not generally captured in earlier census records or other government documents. As people fill in the branches of their family tree, it is often the lines of the women that are harder to fill in. Marriage records in this project will help many people fill in their family tree. Fueled by the joy of discovering fascinating surprises from their own family history, volunteer indexers are excited to join the cause of indexing U.S. marriages.

When complete, the index and images will be available to [findmypast](http://findmypast.com) subscribers and those with [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org) accounts. Free access for everyone will be available at Latter-day Saint Family History Centers all over the world. The U.S. Marriages Project, a joint initiative between [findmypast.com](http://findmypast.com) and [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org), is actively working to save the marriage records from every state in the United States. Through the indexing efforts of online volunteers across the U.S., this service project will create a high quality, searchable database of nearly every marriage recorded in the United States since the early 1800s.

### Example of a Sweetland Marriage

Until now, the only source I've had for the marriage of my grandparents pictured above was a telegram. I decided to try again to find their marriage record. I discovered to my amazement that this record had been added to the database of [FamilySearch](http://FamilySearch.org) in 2015 and that it does include the names of the parents of the couple as well as other valuable information from New York City Marriage Records, 1829-1940.—Anne Kirby, ed.

Name	<b>E. J. Sweetland</b>
Event Type	Marriage
Event Date	24 Sep 1907
Event Place	Manhattan, New York, New York, United States
Event Place (Original)	New York (City), New York, United States
Gender	Male
Age	27
Birth Year (Estimated)	1880
Father's Name	W. H. Sweetland
Mother's Name	Louisa M. Chubbuck
Spouse's Name	Nellie Riley
Spouse's Gender	Female
Spouse's Age	24
Spouse's Birth Year (Estimated)	1883
Spouse's Father's Name	John Riley
Spouse's Mother's Name	Katherine Donohue

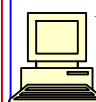


**Genealogical Symbols**

"Sooner or later your research may take you across an ocean, and when it does, be prepared—you may see information formatted differently, and it may contain unfamiliar symbols", stated Mary Harrell Sesniak in a Rootsweb article. She compiled a list of those symbols common in parts of Europe and South Africa, which are becoming more frequent in America.

Status	Symbol	Interpretation
Baptized	~ or ~~	Wave (water)
Born or Birth	*	Egg
Illegitimate	(*)	Egg not from union
Buried	[ ]	Box or coffin
Comes after	>	Greater than
Comes before	<	Less than
Communion	Y	Communion cup
Died	+	Cross or dagger
Died - no further issue/line extinct	++	Line died out after person died
Died—stillborn	+	Cross with an egg
Died in battle	X	Crossed swords
Died in battle from wounds	+X	Cross with crossed swords
Marital status—divorced	o/o, % or o l o	Rings divided
Marital status-married	oo	Two rings
Marital status-married (alternate)	&	And or together
Marital status-married (South Africa, first or second marriage)	X or XX	And or together
Marital status-married, but separated	o o	Two rings separated
Marital status-unmarried, common law or illegitimate	o-o	Rings separated

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**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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