

Congratulations to our Historian and Treasurer!

Roger and Priscilla Swetland were honored at their church in April, 2016. The event took place at the Fairdale Community UM Church where they now attend. Their previous church, Rush UM Church, Rush, Pennsylvania, was recently sold.



Priscilla and Roger Swetland
Receiving Community Citizenship
Award

Priscilla explained the surprise award. "We were working at a pancake supper when Roger and I were asked to sit down to eat. Once seated, we were asked to remain seated and not go back to work. Then it was announced that we were to receive the **Community Citizenship Award**. We were presented with a plaque containing our names and a smaller plaque which is to be placed in the church. Along with the plaque, we received a small planter and I was given a corsage. Roger received a boutonniere. During the presentation ceremony there was a recitation of the many services which Roger and I had performed at our former church."

The citation noted that Roger Swetland, who is also the Sweetland/Swetland Family Association (SFA) Historian, had offered exemplary service to the church. This service included, but was not limited to, having mowed the church lawn for 20 years, entirely at his own expense. Further, Roger has served by making many repairs to the church and parsonage. At one point, he solely painted the church's exterior and repaired and replaced pieces of wood that had weathered or had softened with age. Not limited to performing maintenance tasks, at various times he had been the Cubmaster and the

Scoutmaster. He had been selected as President of the Board, Historian, Pastor-Parish Committee, and the Parsonage Committee.

Priscilla Swetland, Roger's wife and SFA Treasurer, was similarly recognized for her many and varied types of work for the church. The list of her services is virtually endless. One example is working with the UM Woman's group and serving a term as its President. Often on Election Day or when dinners, such as those for funerals, were being served, she would be found either leading or assisting in the activity. For 30 years Priscilla served as Secretary of the Board, and at other times she was the Secretary and the Treasurer of the Parsonage. She was often engaged in the many aspects of the church's outreach into their community. When in 2012 Hurricane Sandy damaged the church, Priscilla managed the insurance settlement that the church received. More recently she managed the sale of the church as well as the sale and distribution of many church-owned items. Perhaps most interesting were those items found in a time capsule in the church's cornerstone. Many of those items were eventually donated to the Historical Society.

As in other aspects of their lives, Roger and Priscilla Swetland have given much to their church. It is for these services that they were recipients of the Community Citizenship Award in 2016.



There may be a History of Your Sweetland and Swetland Ancestors' Hometowns Out There

by Anne M. [Sweetland] Kirby

I opened the package from Carolyn and found two books, one telling Marblehead's colonial history with new insight and the other with 200 vintage images and captions illustrating the town.

My Sweetland ancestors lived for many generations in Marblehead, Massachusetts before my great-grandfather, William Harris Sweetland, left for Carson City, Nevada. I have appreciated the carefully kept records of Marblehead as I have found the vital records of my ancestors. My 2nd cousin, Carolyn Hartman is a careful record keeper too, in a different way.

When Marblehead's local folk artist William T. Bartoll (1812-1859) saw the huge 1819 painting of Thomas Sully at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, he painted this smaller version in his own style. (See Marblehead's Abbot Hall.)

She is very interested in knowing about our ancestors' daily lives, their stories, their towns, their houses, the tools they used, the families they had, and how they made their living. She has generously shared many pages of her meticulous scrapbooks with me. Her approach turns vital records into real people. Because of her collection, I've learned from our ancestors' struggles and successes and enjoy seeing them in their own environment.

Studies show that children who hear their parents' and ancestors' stories are better able to cope with life. Their ancestors provide an anchor in their lives as they see how some people pushed their way through difficult or heartbreaking circumstances, worked hard to provide for their families, and got along with very few of the luxuries we have today.

It was hard to put down the two paperback books from Carolyn. I had not realized quite how turbulent life was in colonial times. The first book, "Colonial Marblehead, Rogues to Revolutionaries", published by The History Press, was written by Lauren Fogle, who was raised in Marblehead. She drew from 47 sources as she wrote this highly interesting history. The second, "Images of America, Marblehead Vol. I", by John Hardy Wright is published by Arcadia Publishing which lives up to their mission of providing "a curbside view of hometown history."

From Mrs. Fogle's book, I learned to my surprise that smallpox inoculations were available in colonial times. Beginning in 1730, everyone lived in fear of this highly contagious disease, since its mortality rate was 30 percent. It likely came to Marblehead by ship. The Marbleheaders "built a fence at the entrance of the town and patrolled it . . . the sick were isolated . . . all roaming or homeless dogs were shot; and the ferry to Salem was discontinued." A controversy about inoculation against smallpox began out of fear because those who were inoculated were contagious for awhile and had to be quarantined. Anyone who left the hospital early could cause a major outbreak of the disease. Also the poor could not afford to be inoculated. This resulted in riots and opponents eventually burning down the hospital.

In later years, tensions arose as the Loyalists, who supported British rule, and the Whigs, who did not. One Loyalist "feared he would starve to death during the Revolutionary War because none of his fellow townspeople would sell food or drink to him. He was forced to give up his rigging trade and sell hay from his father's barn to survive."

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When the Revolutionary War began, John Glover became commander of the Marblehead regiment which played key roles in three major successes in the war with a Sweetland among his men. William Harris Sweetland is Carolyn Hartman's and my great-grandfather. His great-great-grandfather, John Sweetland (born 1750 in Marblehead), served in the Revolutionary War in Glover's Marblehead Regiment, 21st Regiment of Foot, under Col. John Glover.

Glover's first success occurred in August of 1776 when these fishermen soldiers evacuated nine thousand troops and their equipment across the East River at night. Lauren Fogle quotes David McCullough who wrote in his book, 1776: "In a feat of extraordinary seamanship, at the helm and manning oars hour after hour, they negotiated the river's swift, contrary currents in boats so loaded with troops and supplies, horses and cannon, that the water was often but inches below the gunnels—and all in pitch dark, with no running lights. Few men ever had so much riding on their skill, were under such pressure, or performed so superbly."

Of the second outstanding outcome, Fogle writes that "Glover and his men also ferried the sick and wounded across the Hudson River to the Jersey shore" and later fought the British near Pelham Bay, allowing Washington's regiment to avoid capture.

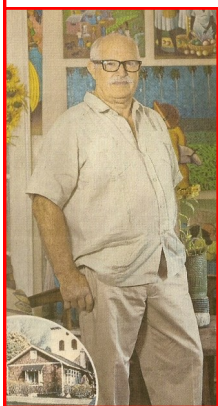
The author relates that the third and most well-known success of this regiment was on Christmas night when Glover's men "again ferried the army across a treacherous river, this time the Delaware, which led to the successful attack on the Hessian encampment at Trenton . . . Numerous depictions of this crossing have been painted." Fogle explains that Colonel Henry Knox later wrote of how the Marbleheaders had "almost infinite difficulty" getting the eighteen field cannon and fifty horses across the fast, partially frozen river." "The fishermen of Marblehead," he later said, "alike at home upon land or water, alike ardent, patriotic, and unflinching, whenever they unfurled the flag of the country.'



Emanuel Leutze's Symbolic Scene of Washington's Crossing the Delaware, Displayed at The Met 5th Ave.

I am grateful that my cousin Carolyn shared her books with me, for they helped me to better understand my patriotic heritage and brought me closer to my ancestors. I was surprised to find the variety of books written not only about Marblehead, but also about many other towns and communities throughout America.

Fred Swetland's Cuban Roots



Across the country, thousands of Americans are storing fading documents that represent a piece of Cuba taken from them by Fidel Castro in the 1960s. They could be worth billions.

Fred Swetland III is one of these Americans. In a video interview found online Mr. Swetland said that when he was a boy, his father was a developer in Cleveland, Ohio, and then Miami Florida. When his father heard of land for sale on the Isle of Pines in Cuba, he bought the last tract of land available there, nearly 10,000 acres of beautiful property. The family built a house and created a successful cattle ranch. However on January 1, 1959, the revolution in Cuba began and the family was stranded there. Castro's government seized the 9,510-acre ranch and its 800 head of cattle, forcing the Swetland family to return to the USA.

According to a USA Today article by Alan Gomez on 30 July 2015, hopes rose after President Obama's surprise announcement in December 2014 that the United States would re-establish diplomatic relations with its longtime foe. Now that both countries have reopened embassies in Washington and Havana, the chance of reclaiming their property or getting some kind of compensation (cont. p. 4)

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is finally possible . . . However, as in most negotiations with the Cubans this one faces many obstacles.

Fred Swetland III spent so much of his childhood on the family's ranch on Cuba's Isle of Pines that he calls himself "half-Cuban."

Swetland, who runs a furniture store with his wife in Bradenton, Fla., says he misses his adopted home but has no desire to take it back. He's looked over Google Earth satellite images of the property and can't recognize anything. The house is gone. The river running through the property has run dry. Instead, he simply wants some kind of compensation and an acknowledgement from the Cuban government of what it did. "In some way or another, I want revenge," Swetland said. "I'm always talking about the Isle of Pines. I'm always talking about my memories there. I think this might give me closure."

—Thanks to Jamie & Priscilla Swetland for sending along the USA Today article.

SFA Family Association Treasurer's Report for 2016

BALANCE END OF 2015
\$1653.21

DONATIONS:
\$30.00

\$9.80 (ONE BOOK OF STAMPS)

EXPENSES

\$118.72 – LORES 77, 78, 79, 80

\$300.00 Alexander Kirby Scholarship for 2016

\$774.05 SCHOLARSHIP

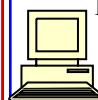
\$427.24 LORE FUND

\$73.00 REUNION FUND

BALANCE END OF 2016
\$1274.29

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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