



Sweetland/Swetland Lore #83 Fall 2017

SWEETLAND/SWETLAND FAMILY ASSOCIATION



New Discoveries in the Family History Library in Salt Lake City

By Anne M. Kirby

This summer I spent about a week in the Family History Library. Many of the same resources and many knowledgeable people are available in the smaller branch libraries, called Family History Centers, located throughout the world. (<https://familysearch.org/locations/centerlocator>) Still, going to the main library is a wonderful experience, since there is so much help available and thousands of books for various areas are available on the shelves to examine, as well as microfilms and other records.

To prepare for the trip, I brought along a thumb drive of all the information I had so far about my family and I printed out family records showing what I had found so far about those I planned to research. My backpack included those papers in a binder, as well as a stash of pencils, pens, highlighters, sticky notes, and a few dollars to pay for copies.

The library is located in downtown Salt Lake City, Utah, near the headquarters of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The largest genealogical library in the world, it is open to the general public at no charge. This library holds genealogical records for over 110 countries, territories, and possessions. Its collections include over 1.6 million rolls of microfilmed records onsite and access to the total collection of more than 2.4 million rolls of genealogical records; 727,000 microfiche; 356,000 books, serials, and other formats; 4,500 periodicals; 3,725 electronic resources including subscriptions to the major genealogical websites.



Discovery Center

Each time I research my ancestors there, I notice changes which make my time there more and more productive. The focus of the Family History Library is to help guests make personal family discoveries. The first new thing I noticed as I entered the large foyer was The Discovery Center. It is a family-friendly area where people can begin their journey of self and family discovery through fun and engaging activities. I could hear lots of excited voices as children, youth, and adults alike found their family history and other interesting details on very large interactive screens.





Discovery Center Visitors Locate Family on Map

After checking out the Discovery Center, I rode the elevator up to the U.S. book floor and copied the pages of Volume II about Marblehead, Massachusetts, where my Sweetland ancestors lived for centuries. Volume I of Vital Records of Marblehead is found online, but the more recent records found in Vol. II are not yet digitized. The library has plenty of copy machines and other office equipment for everyone to use. After copying what I needed to take home and study, I took the elevator to the second basement floor, which is dedicated to the British Isles.

After exiting the elevator, I noted a change: I was greeted at an information desk where I showed the volunteer my family record and explained what I would be looking for. She told me that the library offers free one-on-one consultations on difficult research problems. With a pager she summoned the accredited researcher for England. He soon arrived and at a quiet desk we discussed my current problem and objective and he recommended and listed for me the specific records that are available and where to find them. After that, I found a seat at one of the many computers and when I had a question, there were very skilled researchers there to help, sometimes working with me for hours at a time. Their goal was not only to help me solve a specific problems, but to educate me in the many online resources and how to search them so that I could continue my quest at home. (That could be likened to teaching library patrons how to fish instead of just giving us a fish!)

Each year when I go to the library, I discover that more and more records have become available. I have learned never to give up, because records are constantly being indexed by tireless volunteers and made available to the public.

Keeping a record of my research on a Research Log, each day seamlessly began where I had left off the day before without wasting time or duplicating research. It was well worth the trip for me to talk to the experts, get help on the computers, add 60 people to my family tree, bring home pages about Marblehead to examine, and to gain the knowledge I need to continue the research at home.

Family History Library

Location:

35 North West Temple

Salt Lake City, Utah 84105

Contact:

1 (801) 240-6996

Hours:

Mon. 8-5; Tu-Fri. 8am-9pm

Sat. 9-5; (Closed Sun. & holidays)

Monsignor Stuart Swetland



Monsignor Stuart Swetland in his Office

Perhaps some of our Swetland readers are acquainted with Monsignor Stuart Swetland, age 57, who is currently the president of Donnelly College in Kansas City, Kansas.

He was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and planned to be a science major.

He thought that he could achieve that goal by joining the Navy and going to the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis.

Partly because the Academy told his parents that he probably would not make it there, he set out to prove them wrong and became a Rhodes scholar at Oxford in 1981, where he studied politics, philosophy and economics.

While at Oxford, he enjoyed his friendship and philosophical, ethical and religious discussions with a group of fellow intellectuals and eventually,

after much deep thought and study, became a member of the Catholic Church.

An article in the *National Catholic Reporter* (October 7-20, 2016) and noted by reader Sandra Swetland, traces the journey of Msgr. Swetland as he pursued the priesthood. Now as a priest and educator, he writes extensively and has been the president of Donnelly College since 2014. The mission of this independent Catholic institution is "to provide education and community services with personal concern for the needs and abilities of each student, especially those who might not otherwise be served."

Lesson Learned from Natural Disaster



"When I was living in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, we experienced a horrific tornado in our city in 2011. I was able to personally view the devastation. Many, many emotions and thoughts entered my mind while traveling through the area that was hit. One thought

that came to mind is that I am the only one in my family that has our family history on my computer. I am the only one that has original documents for our family history. I will now be mailing a flash drive or CD of all my databases to other family members who live in different areas on a regular basis. I will be scanning all my documents and pictures and also send copies to other family members. This is just something I thought everyone might want to think about—we never know when natural disaster will occur and what we may lose in it."

Source: Kelly Wyatt, Ogden Family History Newsletter, October 2012.



A resident surveys her office rubble.

Editor's Note: Since that tornado, many online genealogy websites, such as Ancestry and FamilySearch, now include the option of attaching photos and documents to your family tree. So in addition to sharing with family members, scanning the documents you have at home and uploading them to a genealogy site is another way to preserve these precious records from natural disasters.

Thanksgiving Activity: Scrambled Words

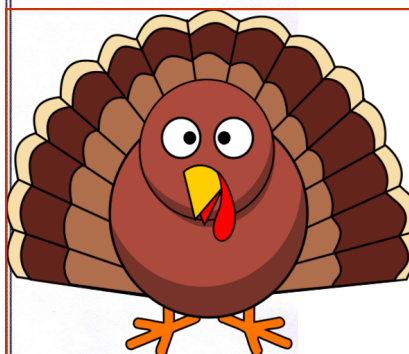
Relationships Word Scramble

FamilyTree
MAGAZINE

All these jumbled-up words relate to family history and relationships. How many can you solve?

Hint: Answers are upside-down on the bottom of the page.

1. nrdareagtpn = _____
2. scnoiu = _____
3. antu = _____
4. nuecl = _____
5. certnaso = _____
6. dnsnatecd = _____
7. imyfai eter = _____
8. aylggonee = _____
9. ohemrt = _____
10. feahrt = _____
11. tressi = _____
12. robhtre = _____
13. ceeni = _____
14. whnepe = _____
15. papretsnte = _____



answers

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. grandparent | 6. descendant | 11. sister |
| 2. cousin | 7. family tree | 12. brother |
| 3. aunt | 8. genealogy | 13. niece |
| 4. uncle | 9. mother | 14. nephew |
| 5. ancestor | 10. father | 15. steparent |

family tree kids!
making family history fun

get more puzzles and cool genealogy stuff at <kids.familytreemagazine.com>

Source: "[Scavenger Hunt at Grandma's House!](#)", Genealogy Insider Blog, posted by Beth (Nov 19, 2012).

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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).

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