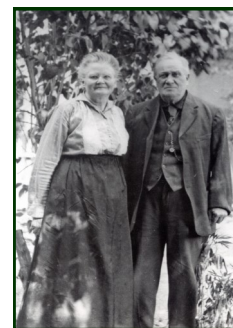




### The Twists and Turns of Life

By: Bill Garbo

My name is William Garbo Jr. and I was born and raised in the deep-south, actually the state of Mississippi to be exact. I am a four generations removed descendant of William Harris Sweetland and Louisa Marie Chubbuck Sweetland of Carson City, Nevada, by way of my mother's side of the family. The story of how she and my dad originally met is a great illustration of how each of our personal life trajectories is an accumulation of many forks-in-the-road decisions and seemingly random happenings that ultimately determine everything, from our very existence to just exactly who we turn out to be.



Louisa M. and  
Wm. H. Sweetland



William Garbo Sr.

My father, William Garbo Sr., was born in Laurel, Mississippi, and right after graduating High School in 1943 he joined the Army to do his part for the war effort. He was sent to Petersburg, Virginia for basic training, and while there in training, a seemingly innocuous, but life altering happenstance occurred one day. One particular day late in the training cycle a sergeant addressing the trainees asked if anyone enjoyed working with dogs. Having left a beloved pet dog back home, Dad raised his hand, as did two or three other trainees. They were soon afterward called in and told that they would be traveling by train to Camp San Carlos, California, located just south of San Francisco, for a new assignment.



Patricia Griffin, about  
the time she met  
William Garbo Sr.

Upon arrival in California they found that they were now a part of a "war dog" training platoon that was training messenger and scout dogs for use in jungle fighting in the South Pacific. One Sunday a fellow trainee asked my dad to accompany him to a local church. During the church service a strikingly pretty girl singing in the choir caught his eye. He and his friend were subsequently asked by a woman in the congregation to join her and her family for lunch at her nearby home. As it turned out, astonishingly, she was the mother of the girl in the choir. He and the choir girl had an immediate mutual attraction and when he later shipped out for combat, they started a letter-writing relationship that continued until he returned at the end of the war.

Dad fought in New Guinea and in the Philippines, and had several miraculous escapes from what would or should have been sure death. On one particular occasion, Dad was part of a patrol that was working its way along the shoreline of a wide jungle river. As he rounded a corner while unarmed and carrying a heavy machine gun receiver, a fully armed Japanese soldier stepped out of the jungle cover and raised his rifle. Fortunately, one of Dad's companions was trailing him by a few yards and reacted quicker than the Japanese soldier could and my dad's life was saved.



On another occasion, during an inky black jungle night along the same river, Dad was in his foxhole on watch, but it was so dark that he could not see anything. A Japanese soldier swam the river carrying a dynamite satchel and slowly crawled and slithered up the slope feeling his way along looking for an American bunker to blow up. Finding Dad's position he pulled the pin and tossed the satchel into the foxhole bunker. Almost immediately the dynamite cap fired with a thunderous BANG, but the dynamite had gotten wet while crossing the river and it had failed to explode. He was saved by the hand of Providence once again.

During the campaign to liberate the Philippines, Dad had dug a slit style foxhole, allowing him to lie down prone to sleep. On one particular night he suddenly had an urge to sleep with his head at the opposite end of the hole from where he normally settled in. Sometime during the night Japanese artillery began firing at their position and an overhead air-burst exploded directly above his foxhole, sending a chunk of hot shrapnel into the hole where Dad lay sleeping. The shrapnel struck my dad in the inner thigh area, which just happened to be where his chest and torso would have been had he not decided at the last minute to sleep in the opposite direction. Again, his life was saved.



Bill Garbo's parents, Patricia (Griffin) and William Garbo Sr., on their wedding day in 1947

Returning to the States after the war ended, he wound up marrying the choir girl, the granddaughter of Sarah "Sadie" Maude (Sweetland) Cottrell from California, resulting in my later birth in 1948. My whole reason for taking you on this hop-skippping journey through World War II was simply to illustrate how small random acts and forks-of-the-road decisions that we all make every day profoundly affect everything about the ultimate paths that our lives take. So, as a direct result, I sit here today a Sweetland descendant.



Sadie M. Sweetland Cottrell, great-grandmother of Bill Garbo, and her daughter, Dorothy Cottrell Griffin, Bill's grandmother

My interest in family genealogy really started as an intense interest in military history, especially the American Civil War. During my late 40s I began a quest to try and find my Civil War ancestors. I soon found that looking for soldier ancestors is an impossible task without first tracing out one's family genealogy. I am now almost seventy years old and after accumulating file drawers of family genealogical information over the past twenty plus years, my task seems to really just be starting.



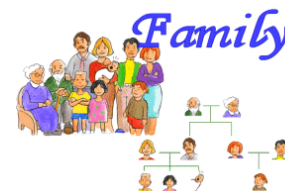
Carol and Bill Garbo, 2017



## A New Branch Shared on the Family Tree

By: Suzann Sweetland

(See Photos on Page Four)



## Suzann's Sweetland Genealogy

<b><u>Suzann Sweetland's father-</u></b> Roger Quin Sweetland Born- June 9, 1936 Peewaukee, WI. Died- Jan. 27, 1998 Houston, TX.  My mother- (Billie) Jean Jackson Born- Aug. 22, 1937 Birmingham, AL. Died- Feb. 11, 2000 Sugar Land, TX	<b><u>Harry's parents-</u></b> Alba Sweetland Born- 1826 Ohio Died- Dec. 30, 1899 Otsego, MI  Adeline Clark Born- March 1843 New York Died- Dec. 18, 1881 Otsego, MI	<b><u>Thomas Jr.s' parents-</u></b> Thomas Sweetland Sr. Born- May 17, 1737 Attleborough, MA Died- Jan. 4, 1763 Winchendon., MA  Abigail Pushee Born- 1740 Died- ?
<b><u>My fathers parents-</u></b> Olin Sweetland Born- Feb. 14, 1904 Kalamazoo, MI. Died- Dec. 28, 1975 Lee, FL.  Lillian Elizabeth Wegner Born- June 18, 1908 Whitewater, WI Died- April 1, 2000 Waukesha, WI	<b><u>Alba's parents-</u></b> David Sweetland Born- Nov. 9, 1799 Vernon, VT Died- Aug. 18, 1852  Sally Durham Born- 1801 New York Died- ?	<b><u>Thomas Sr.s' parents-</u></b> Samuel Sweetland Born- Sept. 11, 1711 Died- 1811 Providence, RI  Esther Robbins Born- May 28, 1715 Attleborough, MA Died- Feb. 22, 1771 Providence, RI
<b><u>Olin's parents-</u></b>  Harry (Henry) Sweetland Born- May 18, 1878 Otsego, MI Died- March 10, 1965 Plainwell, MI  Edith Meacham Born- June 4, 1878 Otsego, MI Died- April 25, 1931 Plainwell, MI	<p>*****From this point on I can only go by birth date &amp; place of David along with other researchers information online-</p> <b><u>David's parents-</u></b> Thomas Sweetland Jr. Born- Nov. 30, 1780 Attleborough, MA Died- April 12, 1861 Providence, RI  Hannah Streeter- Born- March 5, 1782 Cumberland, RI Died- Feb. 21, 1882 Cumberland, RI	<b><u>Samuel's parents-</u></b> John Oliver Sweetland* Born- June 9, 1651 Marblehead, MA or Abbott Run, Prov., RI Died- June 9, 1711 Abbott Run, Prov., RI  Rebekah ( or Rebecca) Clarke ( or Clerke) Born- 1651-1654 Boston Or Marblehead, MA Died- Sept. 22, 1748 Prov. RI

**\*John Oliver's parents -**

John Sweetland  
Born- 1603 Sussex, England  
Died- 1685 Prov., RI

Temperance  
Born- 1605 ?  
Died-?

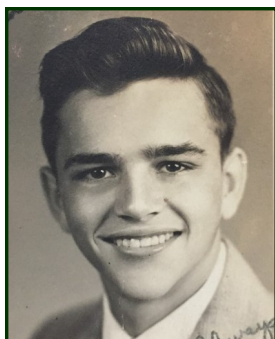
**John's parents-**

Isaac Sweetland  
Born -1560 Sussex, England  
Died- ?

Suzann wrote, "I have been working on my family's genealogy and I can give you my family's Sweetland connections. Maybe it will help someone else with theirs or get information from someone else who will help me with mine. The list on this page is all factual as per my parents, grandparents and other family members. There are more children, siblings and marriages for each, but this is the ancestral line I have figured out for me."

-- Suzann Sweetland  
Suzann.Sweetland@txcourts.gov

## Photos from Suzann Sweetland's Family



Left: Suzann's parents,  
Roger Q. Sweetland and  
(Billie) Jean Jackson



Suzann's Grandparents,  
Olin Sweetland and Lillian  
Elizabeth Wegner

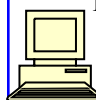
Right: Lillian with her brother  
Lorenz and her seven  
Children in 1938.

Left to right:  
Lorenz Wegner, Betty, Grand-  
ma Sweetland (Lillian), Bever-  
ly (Uncle Ollie), Sue, Joann,  
Roger, Dave and Larry



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.

View This Newsletter,  
Past Issues and More at  
SFA Website:  
[www.swetland.org](http://www.swetland.org)



## S/S Family Association

**President: Joy Folsom**

682 Ohio Street, #36  
Bangor, ME 04401  
[President@swetland.org](mailto:President@swetland.org)

**VP: Wendy L. Blanchard**

23 T. Peck Rd.  
Monson, MA 01057  
[VicePresident@swetland.org](mailto:VicePresident@swetland.org)

**Secretary/Reunion Chair-  
man: Jamie Sweetland**

4819 State Route 367  
Montrose, PA 18801-6916  
[jswetland@live.com](mailto:jswetland@live.com)

**Treas.: Priscilla Swetland**

Roger & Priscilla Swetland  
4819 State Route 367  
Montrose, PA 18801-6916  
[rpswetland@epix.net](mailto:rpswetland@epix.net)

**Historian: Roger Swetland**  
(address above)**Scholarship Chairman:**

R. David Kryder,  
1036 North Paseo Iris, Green  
Valley, AZ 85614  
(520) 393-1783  
[david.kryder@gmail.com](mailto:david.kryder@gmail.com)

**Newsletter Editor:**

Anne M. Kirby  
3482 Concomly Rd. S.  
Salem, OR 97306  
(503) 588-9548  
[anne.kirby9@gmail.com](mailto:anne.kirby9@gmail.com)

**Newsletter Publisher:**

Mark W. Harrison  
3326 Eagles Roost Ln  
Macedon, NY 14502  
[Publisher@swetland.org](mailto:Publisher@swetland.org)

**Donation Form**

My name is \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my donation for the scholarship fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
and the newsletter fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Please make checks payable to Sweetland Family Association)

**MAIL TO:**

Priscilla Swetland, Treasurer  
4819 State Route 367  
Montrose, PA 18801-6916

To begin free email delivery of the 4 times a year S/S Lore please send an email to: [Publisher@swetland.org](mailto:Publisher@swetland.org)