



Sweetland/Swetland Lore #87 Fall 2018

SWEETLAND / SWETLAND FAMILY ASSOCIATION



No Reunion This Year; Updates Still Needed For Book by Roger and Priscilla Sweetland

We apologize to everyone that no SFA reunion will occur this year. We had planned to go check out a possible reunion place in NY when we got home. Unfortunately, just after we returned home from Florida, we got hit with a big hailstorm on May 15th. That storm did major damage to our house, barn, shed, car, and motor home. So we have had to stay close to home to take care of all the damage and oversee the repairs. The good news is that we were not hurt and that our house is almost fixed.

Roger is still working on updating the book *The Sweetland/Sweetland/Swetland Family in America, 1560-1997*, which had over 800 pages of family information. With our updates, the book now includes over 1,000 pages so far.

The original book was written by Doug Sweetland, who passed away on July 21, 2009. Copies of Doug's book are now scarce, although they sometimes appear on the Internet for sale. Roger plans to work on updates this winter. Last winter in Florida he had to put the book project aside because he was working all the time on places that needed repair work after the hurricane. We are hoping this winter will be slower so that he can devote his time to the family book. Remember to send all of your updates to us as soon as you can! Please send them to one of the email addresses below.

rpswetland@epix.net or papa-puttputt@live.com

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Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site Massachusetts

by
Anne Kirby



View of Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site in Massachusetts

My 7th Great Grandfather on the Sweetland side was Robert Dunbar, born about 1609 in Scotland. He was captured at the Battle of Dunbar in Scotland in 1650 was one of 900 men who were sold as indentured servants to the New World. Of those men, sixty-two were sent to live and work at Saugus Iron Works, the



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first iron works in the American colonies.

SFA member Carolyn Hartman, a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, sent an article to me from the DAR publication “American Spirit” (May/June 2017). The article explained that iron was a much-needed commodity in the Massachusetts Bay Colony in the 1600’s. Colonists needed iron for peaceful items, such as pans, saw blades and tools. They later needed iron for cannons, mortars, musket ball, guns and swords for the Continental Army. The DAR article states that “Raw iron was abundant in the colony, but with no way to process it, colonists were forced to import expensive cast and wrought iron products from Britain.” In 1646, an ironworks was built about twenty miles north of Braintree, Massachusetts.

The DAR article tells how “workers dammed the Saugus River in order to operate enormous waterwheels to power the 3,000-degree blast furnace, forge, and rolling and slitting mill, which allowed wrought iron to be processed into semi-finished products like flats and nail rods.” A blacksmith from England settled at the ironworks and used the iron to make saw blades, axes, hammers and nails.

Between 1948 and 1954, archaeologists uncovered many artifacts from Saugus, including a 500-pound hammer head! Reconstruction began in 1949 and in 1968 Saugus Iron Works became part of the National Park Service and is now known as Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site, which includes a reconstructed blast furnace, a forge, and the original Iron Works House to show what life was like there in the 1600’s.

This National Historic Site caters to all ages and is usually open from May 1st through October 31st with ranger-guided tours which are free to the public. The Iron Works is located about 20 miles north of Braintree and 9 miles north of Boston’s Logan Airport.

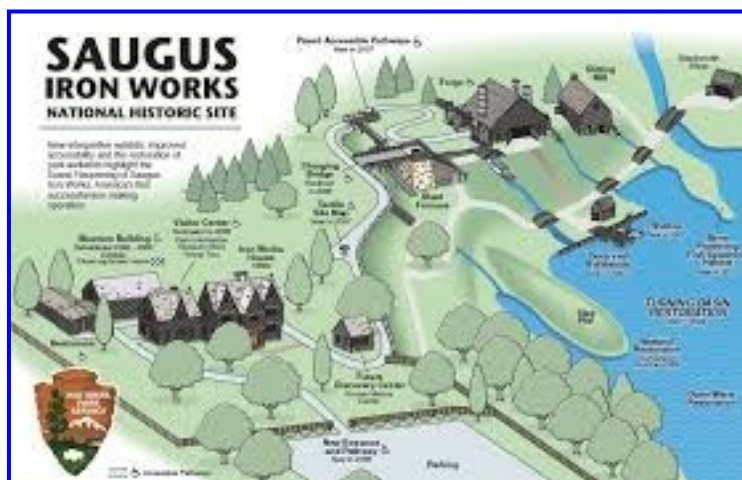
If you plan to go, be sure to first check the website (www.nps.gov/sair) for alerts about days when parts of the park are closed for historic preservation projects. No ranger-led tours will be available on September 19th, 2018. The website tells of activities for children and gives helpful information for those with disabilities who plan to visit.



Blast Furnaces at the Iron Works



Interior of the Ironmaster’s House



Map of the Iron Works by National Park Service

For a more readable and labeled aerial view of this Historic Site, visit www.nps.gov/sair. Click on learn, photos and multimedia, park map.

Brick Wall Solutions

Have you hit a brick wall in your research? Genealogy research is like detective work; you use clues to unlock the story. Sometimes you'll follow false leads and have to retrace your steps, or need to spend a while researching before new clues emerge. Here are some excellent suggestions from the genealogy website Ancestry.com. When you hit a wall in your research, it can be worthwhile to use the tips and strategies outlined below.

Take a DNA test

DNA testing has become the go-to solution for longstanding roadblocks in family history research. DNA testing companies search their network of members to find people who share DNA. This allows people to contact relatives in order to share research and ask questions.

Create a research log

Research logs document where you've searched, the sources you've found, and the information you have and still need. To accompany your research log, create a list of unsuccessful searches as well as a list of places you'd like to search and what you'd like to find, including ideas you have and questions you'd like to return to.

The more detailed your research log is, the easier it will be for you to stay organized and avoid duplicate searches.



Common brick walls

Names

- **Maiden names:** Most countries have national identification numbers, such as the Social Security Numbers in the United States. Most countries allow people to search application forms for those numbers after a certain amount of time has passed after a person's death. These applications usually list the mother's maiden name. Maiden names can also be found in court documents, divorce cases, property disputes, immigrant name changes, applications for guardianship of a child, and so forth; all require a woman's maiden name.
- **Middle names:** Try searching by both first and middle names; many people in history went by their middle names.
- **Common last names:** Focus your research on the person in the family with the most uncommon first name to increase your chances of finding the right family. (continued)

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- **Short Last Name:** Surnames often change over time, and many short surnames used to be longer. For example, names ending in double letters (like "Ball" often used to have an "e" at the end ("Balle"). Research the history of a short surname and search by any alternate spellings.
- **Aliases:** It wasn't uncommon for people to use aliases in historical records. Search for middle names as last names, maiden names as last names, and nicknames as first names.

Geography

- **Search by town:** Try searching using a fact other than a name. If your ancestors lived in a small town, search by the town name in the appropriate date range. Check records that appear for new relatives.
- **Street name changes:** When multiple towns combined to become a single city, there were often duplicate street names, resulting in street names that had to be changed. Don't assume the Church St. listed on your ancestor's record is the same Church Street in the same city today. To confirm street names, consult old maps from the region.
- **Local histories:** Local histories usually centered around major events in a region. When droughts, floods, conflicts, diseases, or social influences caused migration, local histories often recorded where the people went.
- **Changing jurisdictions:** Regional, county, state, provincial, and country lines change over time. When searching for old records, make sure you have the correct place name for the time period in question.
- **Towns and occupations:** Historically, certain towns have been associated with particular industries. If the trail of an ancestor has gone cold, consider doing a bit of research on the history of the person's town. If the town specializes in one industry, your ancestor may have been a part of that industry (and may have moved as the industry moved).
- **New information:** Keeping checking back for information you've already tried to find; new records are added to many sites daily.

(From: <https://support.ancestry.com/article/Brick-Wall-Solutions>)



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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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