



# Sweetland/Swetland Lore #88 Winter 2018



SWEETLAND/SWETLAND FAMILY ASSOCIATION

## ADDITIONS TO DOUG SWEETLAND'S INFORMATION By Roger and Priscilla Swetland

There are no more of Doug Sweetland's books available or CD's of the book. Roger has been doing digital updates of the book the last 2 years. We are in hopes of having them complete by summer. When they are made available they more than likely will be Thumb Drive/Flash Drive. The cost will not be known until complete.

If you have updates or corrections, please get them to us by the end of March so we can wrap this up. We need births and deaths, along with marriages. Be sure to state town and state.

Email: [rpswetland@epix.net](mailto:rpswetland@epix.net) or [papa-puttputt@live.com](mailto:papa-puttputt@live.com)



## The George Kryder Papers

A Series of 102 Letters Written by George Kryder to his wife  
Elizabeth Sweetland  
During George's Service with the 3rd Ohio Volunteer Cavalry  
June 19, 1862-December 2, 1865

The personal experiences that George Kryder disclosed to his wife Elizabeth Sweetland Kryder, are revealed in the over one hundred letters written by him while serving on military duty with the Third Ohio Volunteer Cavalry (3rd O.V.C.) in their many campaigns in the South during the American Civil War (1861-1865).

George is the great grandfather of David Kryder, who has written several articles for the *Lore* and also shared The George Kryder Papers with *Lore's* editor. Emilia Freytag (Mrs. Julian) Kryder typed copies from the originals and her son Stephen donated a copy of her work to the Center for Archival Collections at Bowling Green State University, where graduate student Peter Wilhelm prepared a register of the letters.

### Biographical Sketch:

On the 25th of April 1834, Michael and Elizabeth Leininger Kryder welcomed the birth of the fourth of their seven children, a boy, whom they named George. His birthplace was a cabin in Franklin Township, Summit County, Ohio. Michael's father, John, had migrated to Summit County from the Cumberland Valley (Union County, Reading), Pennsylvania.

George's mother died in 1849 when George was fifteen. The following year his father married an 18-year old woman, Sarah B. Hawkings. In 1853, Michael, Sarah, and some of their family migrated westward into the thickly forested region in Ohio's northwest corner, called the Black Swamp. They settled in Freedom Township, where Michael plied his trade, now a blacksmith and an innkeeper, at a stagecoach stop and inn between Ridgeville Corners and Napoleon in Freedom Township, Henry County, Ohio.

(Continued on next page)

Michael's grave, and that of other of his family members, is just a few hundred yards east, on US 6, from the Half-Way House where Michael and his family lived and worked.

George meanwhile, then nineteen years old, moved from Summit to Huron County, Ohio, to live near his sister Salome Kryder Coxley in Chicago Junction (now Willard). There on November 29, 1859, George Kryder married Elizabeth Sweetland. The couple were eventually parents to eight children, including two who were adopted. Of the eight, one died at infancy, another as a very small baby, and a third at only 5 years of age.

The call to arms of the American Civil War for the "preservation of the union," struck a responsive chord with George Kryder, who, along with his daring and bold brother-in-law, Henry Sweetland, joined the Third Ohio Volunteer Cavalry organized by Colonel Zahm in nearby Monroeville, Huron County, Ohio. By September of 1862, George and Henry experienced their first lessons of war at the hands of rebel Generals Morgan and Beauregard in the Kentucky and Tennessee theater of the War of the Rebellion. Both were attached to the Western Army.

The letters that George Kryder wrote to his wife during his four year enlistment and re-enlistment in the Union Army (1861-1865) provide first-hand accounts of the Civil War through the eyes of a soldier. The cavalry exposed George to most of the geography of the western and southern areas of the South. He endured many hardships and rigors of war, even a minor wound inflicted on him in January of 1863 near Murfreesboro, Tennessee, in a fight with Morgan's shotgun-armed cavalry.

Eventually, George brought his family to Damascus Township, Henry County Ohio (1869) where he had purchased 80 acres of the rich, deep swamp soil. They built a cabin and settled on land that is still in the family's possession at this writing. On July 4, 1876, George oversaw the planting of a burr oak tree, as a Centennial Oak, by his seven year old daughter Alice. Today, 142 years later, that Centennial Oak stands as a majestic giant, overlooking an antebellum brick house that George built in 1883 with the Civil War bonus that Union Veterans received. As he grew older, like a modern-day Sno-Bird, George split his time between his farm in Ohio and properties in Florida and Alabama. His final years were in a Veterans Hospital in Hampton Roads, Virginia, where he died on November 13, 1925 at the age of ninety-one years.

**Civil War Letters from George:** To read the letters, go to <http://lib.bgsu.ed/finding-aids/show/485>. Scroll down to "Inventory". At the bottom of Inventory is "Transcripts". Click on that to see the letters listed by dates. Click on dates to see complete letters.

**Excerpts from a letter written December 17, 1862 from camp near Nashville, Tennessee**

Dear Wife,

. . . I would like it if I could be at home a while to get up some winter wood and get some fodder for the cow and do some other work that you have to do but that is impossible. I am glad that Edwin is a good boy and I hope that he always will be. I suppose Lillie can do almost anything, can't she, and is little Mary as pleasant as she used to be? Keep the children in good humor as much as possible for if I ever come home which I expect to do some time, I would like to find pleasant and smiling children, and above all a smiling wife. I think I can see you smile now with that pleasant countenance. Do not get downcast or broken hearted for I do not think that our happy days are all spent yet. If I should ever have the good luck to get back, which time I hope is not far distant.

(Continued on next page)

They are now fighting in Virginia and I think before long the rebel Capital (Richmond) will be in our hands and that will make quite a difference and when the rivers raise so that our gun boats can run up certain towns, we will make them get up and skedaddle. But the report is that if the army of the Potomac goes into winter quarters, 30,000 of the rebels are coming here to help take Nashville, but they will have a good time, I think, for they will meet General Rosecrans all ready for fight and they will go away with less men than they came with for we have a few gun boats here. I would like to get my likeness taken to send to you if I could and perhaps I can get to town. I bought a pair of gloves for \$1.25 but they are not very good. But everything is so dear I would like to buy a rubber blanket but they cost too much. I could not get one for less than 4 dollars and that is all the money I have and I must have a pair of suspenders before long and I cannot get them for less than \$1.00. I think I will not answer fathers letter at present for I expect he will come and see you. I have given you most all the news that I can think of so I must bring this letter to a close in hopes of hearing from you soon. I most forgot. We got our pay a week ago Sunday and sent you \$75.00 by Lyman Benham who was here about a week. He came with Carly. I got them stamps you sent. No more at present but remain your true and devoted husband until death.

George Kryder

**Excerpts from a letter written to his wife, Elizabeth, on January 18, 1862 from Camp Denison:**

My Dear and Beloved Wife,

. . . I rode my horse along steady till some other horses came running up behind me and started my horse to run when he ran into a mud hole with his forefeet and fell, throwing me over his head on my left hand and left knee and sprained my left wrist and the horse coming up behind stepped on my arm at the elbow so that my left arm was quite lame and this morning my right side is quite sore . . .

Now I will give you some idea of our quarters[.] The building is about 120 or 130 feet long and 30 feet wide heated with two large stoves with drums on the pipe running from each stove to the center. Our bunks are on one side of the building about 18 inches from the floor, then there are two more above that about 3 feet 6 inches apart. The room is about 14 feet high. Charles Benham and I bunk together and we sleep very good[.] last we slept in the middle bunk[.] There was no snow here when we came but the ground was froze hard but last night it rained very hard with thundering[.] Our horses have good sheds with troughs to stand in. Each company has its own shed and quarters and each Company have their cook room and cook stove to cook in. We have fixed temporary tables in our hall to eat so that we do not have to eat outdoors[.] The railroad runs through this camp. They say there are 8000 soldiers encamped here[.] Our saddles and bridles we hang up on the opposite side from our bunks[.] We have good water here and have plenty to eat and drink. Our meat is pork. When we passed through Greenfield the people welcomed us with drums and fifes and when we got formed into line we were treated with every thing good to eat you could think of and when we got to New Haven it was the same. We ate and drank cider till we were quite refreshed and we filled our Haversacks with biscuit cakes pies roast chicken turkey apples and cheese and if you would have been there you could have got all you wanted (I should not have told you about the cheese but if you want some you must send to the grocery) When we got to Shelby we had a free supper which I never seen beat[.] Everything on the table you could imagine and the boys had a free dance and they enjoyed themselves first rate.

I think I have given you a pretty good sketch of affairs so I must close in order to send to the post office no more at present but hope this may find you in good health and spirits.

Good bye,  
George Kryder

Co.I 3rd Reg. O.V.C. in care of  
Capt. Gaylord



### Seeing our Ancestors' Homes Online

Have you wished you knew if some of your ancestor's houses still exist and what they look like without traveling long distances to find out? Google maps may be able to help. When you find an ancestor in a city directory or a U.S. census record, the address is sometimes given.

With the address, go to maps at Google.com and its Street View function where you can enter in the address and see if there is a photo showing the home. I searched for Ernest John Sweetland's homes from the early 1900's in both Montclair, New Jersey and Hazelton, Pennsylvania. I entered the address for one and then the other and was able to see what both of those homes look like today. I was able to see the side a house as well as the front. By matching the architecture of the rooflines, front doors and windows, I confirmed that these were the correct houses, from old photos I have, and found that I could see them in more detail than in my small photos. In one case I was able to match the windows with a Christmas photo taken inside the house. It's fun to know just where the living room was on that Christmas morning! Now I have confidence in this method of finding the old family homes.

Of course, some homes have not yet been photographed by Google, or were remodeled, replaced, or appear significantly different than they were "back in the day". But still, it is surprising how many of the old homes do still exist for us to virtually see them.

—Anne Kirby, ed.



### DON'T MISS OUT ON LORE!

If your address or email changes, be sure to notify the publisher of this newsletter, Mark Harrison, whose contact information is in sidebar at right. We want to use every donated penny to its fullest, so providing your new USPS address will eliminate wasted postage and keep your newsletters coming! Thank you.

### Submissions

Do you have interesting Sweetland/Swetland family information to share and be included in *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, rather than to the publisher. See the Editor's contact information in the sidebar at right. Thank you. —Anne Kirby, editor

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### S/S Family Association

#### President: Joy Folsom

682 Ohio Street, #36  
Bangor, ME 04401  
President@swetland.org

#### VP: Wendy L. Blanchard

23 T. Peck Rd.  
Monson, MA 01057  
VicePresident@swetland.org

#### Secretary/Reunion Chairman: Jamie Swetland

84 Marshland Rd. Ext.,  
Apalachin, N.Y. 13732  
jswetland@live.com

#### Treas.: Priscilla Swetland

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

#### Newsletter Editor:

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

#### Newsletter Publisher:

Mark W. Harrison  
3326 Eagles Roost Ln  
Macedon, NY 14502  
Publisher@swetland.org

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### MAIL TO:

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

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