

Sweetland/Swetland Lore #39

September 2006

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President's Message from Roger E. Swetland

From Your SFA President

Priscilla and I took a trip to the Brocton, N. Y. area on July 17th and 18th to check out things for our 2007 SFA reunion. Brocton is the location of the first documented reunion for gathering genealogy in 1896 with Dr. B.S. Swetland as President. Brocton, N. Y., is in western New York about 5 to 10 miles inland from Lake Erie. Brocton was a very prosperous area at that time. Brocton is about 8 miles southwest of Dunkirk and Portland is adjoining Brocton. The people there were very friendly and helpful as they were when we had been in the area several years ago.

We went to the Portland town hall which has

the records for Brocton and met Roxanne, the new town clerk that started in January. Roxanne's brother owns a local restaurant and does catering for the VFW. The VFW has a fish dinner Friday evenings. If we have dinner there, they will hold a space for us to be together. One thought is for us to visit the Portland cemetery Friday afternoon and have dinner at the VFW that evening. After dinner we could meet back at the Days Inn.

The Days Inn has the best rates in the area. It has the best deal for our formal talks and meeting on Saturday. They will give us discounts for the meeting room based on the number of people

taking rooms.

Activities include a lake tour boat ride, golf courses, a State Park right on Lake Erie, shopping, opera house and eateries including a Bob Evans a few blocks from the Days Inn.

During lunch at Roxanne's brother's restaurant, we learned that Mr. Charles Burton, who knows much about the history of the area, lived next door. He spent about 2 hours talking with us.

We found where Dr. B. S. Swetland's home is. It still exists today. It was just around the corner. We took pictures of the house after telling the owner why we wanted to take the pictures.

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E-mail for S/S Lore

To help reduce mailing costs for the newsletter, you can chose to receive this newsletter by e-mail. Please send a message to Mark Harrison at mark@genesistems.com giving him your full name and email address.

Mark Harrison has e-mail addresses for some 61 people. In addition we have another 110 people who receive the newsletter by USPS mail. Mark's help with e-mail makes a difference in the time for me to send out the news-

letter. Not all of our members will ever have e-mail addresses but the more who do, the easier it is for the editor. Mailing the newsletter takes about four hours of tedious work. As often said, it is a labor of love.

What You May Not Have Known Data From The Internet

www.peoplefinders.com

You will be amazed at how much information about you is on the Internet. I was! Not sure now which website suggested that I contact peoplefinders.com for information but I tried it entering the name Mark Swetland. 24 matches came back, more than expected. I repeated it with the name Mark W Swetland and had two people reported. Don't use periods after the middle name and print in landscape mode.

To my surprise another Mark W Swetland lives in Bay City, OR. Have never contacted him.

Printing out the results gives columns for Name/AKAs, Age, Birth Date, Phone, City/State and Possible Relatives. Age and birth date show as available. It listed the last three places I have lived in and the sequence in which I lived there. It also listed as possible relatives my wife Jean and our two youngest children. Where does this information come from? Some of it is from telephone directories but where do they get the names of possible relatives?

This is not all one can obtain. For \$9.95 you can obtain a One-Time People Finder Report. Most likely this report adds the data shown as available in the first listing. A 24 Hour People Finder Report for \$19.95 gives unlimited People Finder Reports from the following databases: People, Real Property, Death, Divorce, and Marriage. You can also view a sample.

For \$39.95 you obtain a Comprehensive Background Report which includes: age, possible current address, up to 20 year address history, phone numbers, bankruptcies, tax liens, & judgments, property ownership, possible relatives, possible roommates, aliases / maiden names, neighbors, marriages and divorces, dea registrants and website ownership. For an additional \$20.00 one adds a Nationwide

Criminal records to the report. Costs too much for me so I may never know.

Missing Names

Three envelopes have come back with no forwarding information. USPS always attempts to give the data if it is available and is still within six months of moving to a new address. These people are: Mr. & Mrs. John Goodenough, Ms Judy Boudreau and Mr. Greg Kryder. If anyone wishes to make certain that they continue to receive S/S Lore, please send me their current mailing address or better yet, their e-mail address.

Ancestry.com

Last year and this I have subscribed to Ancestry.com so I could use it to search for possible ancestors. One can spend hours going through names and their relatives. Austin Watrous was my 3rd great—grandfather on my 2nd great-grandmother's line. His daughter Rosamond married Harmon Swetland. Harmon and Rosamond named my great-grandfather Austin Aaron after his two grandfathers, Austin Watrous and Aaron Swetland.

Austin Watrous married Sally Backus so I began tracing her line into the past. When finished, I was back to the year 970. Be careful when you find these records. They have been input by people who may not have been as accurate as one needs.

A good rule is to believe only what you can corroborate from at least two other sources.

Does this search have meaning? Perhaps. Some of the names in the listing may be real ancestors whom you can claim as your own. Others may be impossible to trace well enough to believe they are your ancestors. Studying the records that came up suggested that back to about 1600 may be accurate but make sure you can confirm it before accepting it as true. Much genealogy is based on errors. Be careful.

Luke Swetland

Many stories tell about the Luke Swetland who was captured by the Indians and lived about 14 months with them. A later Luke Swetland is the seventh child of Margaret and Lee Swetland of Lincoln, Nebraska. This man appears on the internet as at one time working for The Getty. The heading of the article I read begins Newsletter 18.3 Fall 2003 (Conservation at the Getty). The page that came up shows a picture of a man all would like to know.

I found this through a link from another site I was looking at and do not have the link at hand now. However, enter his name in Google and you may be lucky. As said elsewhere in this issue, the information on the Internet is amazing.

Family Bible

Lower Luzerne County records carry the names recorded in the Gregg, Harding & Swetland Family Bible. The first Swetland is in the Harding Bible Matilda Swetland who married James B. Harding on November 24, 1842 Wyoming County, Pa.

In the Swetland Bible are the births of Uriah, Elizabeth, and Matilda Swetland, Miles Halsdal, plus seven Hardings who are the children of Matilda and James B. Harding.

Many times what you find is totally different from what you want.

Gina Swetland

Gina's attractive picture is near the top of this site. The article describes her as a Senior Product Trainer. This shows that she is with ISO Strategic Solutions, Inc. She works with ISO-ITS clients. I found that ITS stands for Insurance Technology Solutions. Gina has 15 years experience in the property/casualty business according to the article. In the brief information no where did I learn where her company is located.

Swetland Family Association Message Board

Last year or was it two years ago Jamie Swetland, Vice President of SFA, set up our own website in his spare(?) time, www.swetland.org. In between travel for work, raising their children and caring for his family he taught himself to write using the necessary code. If you have not gone to the website recently, you will find a new development.

Jamie found a free host for a forum board for the SFA. On the first page he created a link to the new forum so all you need do is click on the site which is in the first paragraph.

Since learning about this I have been to the site several times and even entered a message for everyone to see. The site has four different boards, General Board, Swetland/Sweetland/Sweatland Ancestry, SFA Events and Questions and SFA Website. The moderator for all of these is Jamie.

At the end is an Info Center which gives Forum Statistics. This lists the Total Topics, and total Posts. Since most of you have no idea it exists, the number of people who have been there is tiny. With more people knowing about the site the number who go there will increase. Why not try it as soon as you read this and add to the information there.

Jamie has written, "What can a message board do for us? Well for starters, it can become a web-based community for people, a place where people come to visit and share with one another. On other message boards I visited (for my interest in cars), I have made friends across the country. We share stories, experiences, knowledge, concern for one another and sometimes even visit one another.

Stories: People can share stories about their family members or ancestors; little anecdotes or full historical documentation of person(s). Sometimes we find out how much we have

in common by sharing these stories and identifying with similarities within our own lives or even with people within the stories.

Experience: This is a great benefit of a message board. People can share their experiences in genealogical research, historical research and more. Someone could offer where they found mountains of information and what places may have not been worth the effort. Visits can be where good places to visit for genealogical or historical benefit are, or just where was a place that was comforting to be.

Knowledge: We all know that there is someone out there that may know more about a particular subject or person than we do, either through their own experience or research, and more. A message board is a perfect opportunity to share that knowledge or pose the question(s) that you have been longing to have answered. This is probably the #1 reason that most people join message boards in the first place, to ask questions they have been longing to have answered.

Concern: When someone has been ill, others are there for moral support for them. Sometimes, if the person is close, they stop by and make a visit. It makes you feel more family or familiar, as is the basis of the word family, with one another.

Visiting each other: Sometimes you feel compelled by the friendships you have made, the experiences you shared or the drive to know more about certain things you have learned on a message board to actually visit that person or persons. Sometimes, your summer vacation or other trips bring you close to someone you have connected with on a message board. It is sometimes more rewarding than ever to meet that person or persons in the flesh and acquaint yourselves with that

person more formally. I have, on occasion, visited a friend or two from a message board and we have shared stories or experiences in person; have gotten to see what the other person was really talking about; swapped items of interest, such as magazine articles or even car parts."

Now that Jamie has shared with us his thoughts on our message board, perhaps you will follow him and send me your thoughts for the next newsletter to be issued about December 1st. Your information should be in my hands in mid-November.

Your New Editor!

.What a headline this makes! You may have to read such news sooner than you think. Your editor happily celebrated his 85th birthday August 15th. In early August three of our family were on Hilton Head so we celebrated early. It was nice to hear one of the boys who wasn't here say, "85 is pretty old, isn't it!" I am glad to accept admiration for reaching the age of 85, an age I never thought to enjoy.

You who read S/S Lore saw the request for the help of an assistant editor. The need still exists. The two members who expressed some interest earlier both work full time and have families. It is unfair to ask them to take on the job today. So again I tell you that I need help!!! Who are you?

The editor's job is to collect all the stories that come in, solicit for more, make up the newsletter and publish it. A copy goes to Mark Harrison who distributes e-mail copies. The editor gets the remaining number of copies from the UPS Store who give you the desired number of copies, back-to-back, collated and stapled. Then comes mailing, address labels, envelopes and stamps.

SWETLAND FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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Assistant Editor Needed

A volunteer to learn everything necessary to take over as editor. Since I did, everyone can. You will have the support of the present editor if you don't wait too long.

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Who are those needed to fill the space here? All members receiving S/S Lore who have never sent in family data or stories to share with others. Those who have sent material for previous issues have sincere thanks from me and all who have read past issues. How can we persuade you who have not sent information before to respond now? We need you!!!



Organization

President—Roger E. Swetland,
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President's Message from Roger E. Swetland (continued from p. 1)

The Brocton house and Powell Opera House no longer exist according to people there we spoke with. We went to the Portland cemetery and took pictures of all the Swetland tombstones there. Ray Swetland whom we met and visited with before is buried there now.

Our reunion dates for next year are July 20th and 21st 2007. Now you can start planning to attend the reunion. You can include a vacation in the area while you are there. The people there are quite friendly. Several wineries in the area give tours and, of course, Lake Erie is there to enjoy.

Our hope is that we will see you at the reunion in Brocton next summer. We want to increase the attendance of younger members. We want to meet you and get your input for future reunions. Only if we get your ideas can we make use of your input.

To those of you who have our e-mail address, we will be changing providers. We can receive current e-mail but can not send as of June 1. We have tried relentlessly to contact our current provider and have not been able to contact them by e-mail or by phone. Therefore, the change.

With the flooding in the Montrose area, we made some of the national news. As a result Mike O'Connor of Georgia

phoned to find out the status of the Luke Swetland Homestead at Forty Fort, PA. Priscilla contacted Mr. Jesse Teitelbaum, Executive Director of the Luzerne County Historical Society. He informed her that there was only a trickle of water in the basement due to the heavy rains.

As you will recall from the earlier part of this message, plans for the reunion are not firm. Any ideas you have can be mailed to me now and we will consider them. We feel it important to have all plans for the reunion essentially fixed by mid-November so that the information is in the December newsletter. For example, will you talk on your Swetland ancestors or another ancestor at the reunion? Will you take photos of all who come?

We, your officers and editor, are committed to keeping SFA going for many years. Unless you contribute regularly, new ideas and thoughts may not come in the newsletter. Reading this issue shows how few are contributing to the newsletter. We want your help. One family association, found on the Internet, has met for over 147 years. We have existed for only 20 years, a long way to go.