

Sweetland/Swetland Lore #40

Formerly Sweetland Lore

December 2006

Special points of interest:

- 2007 SFA Reunion July 20th and 21st
- New website for researching genealogy
- Plans for the 2007 reunion
- Tremendous Sweetland and Sweetland data on the Internet
- Internet data comes alive

Inside this issue:

<i>The President's Message</i> <i>Stephen N. Sweetland</i>	1
<i>E-mail for S/S Lore</i>	1
<i>Linkpendium.com/</i> <i>genealogy/USA/</i>	2
<i>2007 Sweetland Family</i> <i>Reunion</i>	3
<i>Internet Data</i>	3
<i>Help! Help! Help!</i>	4
<i>More Internet Data</i>	4

The President's Message from Roger E. Sweetland

Happy Holidays from your SFA President.

Summer is gone, fall is here and winter is fast approaching. Holiday time is a very busy time for all. Along with it also comes the need to communicate for next year's planning. In these plans do not forget that we are having another SFA reunion. It will be held on **July 20-21, 2007**. It will be held in the Brocton, NY area where the first documented reunion for gathering our family genealogy was held, September 15, 1886. Priscilla and I visited the area to gather information on the area for the reunion. Priscilla has put it together to be distributed to family members. The meeting area will be at

the Dunkirk, NY, Days Inn as no viable accommodations exist in Brocton as there was back at the time of the first reunion.

An outline has been sent to Mark Sweetland to be included with the newsletter. The people we met in the Brocton area are extremely helpful in assisting in gathering the information for the reunion. The area is near Lake Erie and is very relaxing. We saw the home of Dr. B. S. Sweetland which is still there and were able to see some of the records of Sweetland births, deaths and marriages in the area. Only records that are at least 60 years or more old could be viewed. Anything later than 60 years

old had to have a form submitted and a charge is made.

We look forward to seeing old and new acquaintances at the reunion. So, plan now to attend and let's have fun and enjoy a good time.

Stephen N. Sweetland

Stephen was born in England in 1855, son of Richard and Maria Furnace Sweetland. His parents brought him to the USA in 1856. He was a true pioneer having lived in Nebraska as a "sody" for five years while a bachelor on his homestead and two years more after his marriage to Lucinda Goodwin, a native of Bremer, Iowa. They had six children.

E-mail for Sweetland/Swetland Lore

You can reduce mailing costs for the newsletter by choosing to receive this newsletter by e-mail. Just send a message to Mark Harrison at mark@genesistems.com giving him your full name and e-mail address.

Mark Harrison has a list of more than 60 names who have agreed to receive the newsletter by e-mail. Another 108 receive the newsletter by USPS mail. Mark's help saves both time and cost.

Not all members will have ever have an e-mail address but those who do make it easier for your editor. As said before, mailing the newsletter takes some 4 hours. It is a labor of love but one I am happy to reduce.

www.linkpendium.com/genealogy/USA/

The 2006 November-December issue of Everton's Genealogical Helper tells of a site new to me which can be of major help in researching for genealogical data on the Internet. If you add sur/ to the end of the heading above, this takes you directly to a surname finder. Enter the surname you are looking for in the space noted and immediately see a list of links which give useful data.

First suggestion is that you enter the word as shown above. This brings you to the opening screen of linkpendium from which you will see how much the site has for genealogists. Of most interest may be tracking surnames. To do this add sur/ at the end of the word in the title of this page. Now you see a site on which you can enter a county and state or a surname. I first chose Potter County, PA where my great-grandfather, his parents, his sister and his two brothers moved from Freetown Corners, NY in the 1850s and 1860s. My grandfather and father were also born in Potter County.

Birth records for my grandfather and father no longer exist. Those records were stored in the Harrison Valley Baptist Church which burned in the 1920s. None of the records were saved. When my father wanted to go to Europe in 1930, he had to find six people who wrote letters saying that they had known him from birth and that he was indeed Mark W. Sweetland, Sr. born in Harrison Valley on August 7, 1886. Since he made the trip, he was successful.

I then entered first Sweetland and next Sweetland. The data look similar but you quickly see that they differ as you should expect. Time visiting the site was at least two hours before I concluded

that I needed much more time to fully explore each site.

The surname Sweetland brought up "Worldwide Information for This Surname." The listing then gives sites for Cemeteries, Family Crest, Family trees and family histories, Introduction and Guides, Libraries, Museums, Archives, Mailing Lists and Message Boards, Maps and Gazetteers, and at last Miscellaneous Data.

Under Maps and Gazetteers, a map shows the distribution of Sweetland families in various states in 1920. Color of the states shows 0, 1-4, 5-12 and 13-23. New York and Pennsylvania both show 13-23. About 11 states show no Sweetlands living there. Seven states indicate 5-12. The map indicates that Sweetlands lived in many of the states.

On the RootsWeb.com site one sees that seven people are researching the Sweetland surname. This shows how to contact each of these seven people and also their time of interest and where they are tracing Sweetlands. I had contacted two of them several years ago but the remainder are new.

Going to the Sweetland Message Board then shows messages back as far as 1999, 94 of them. Some of the messages were mine.

On the RootsWeb Site Search, one learns that 259 documents list Sweetland. Twenty-five documents show at a time on the screen. I then looked at the next 25, documents 26 to 50 and found that the number of documents had increased to 306 with no explanation. Time did not allow learning why the number had increased.

Repeating these searches with the Sweetland surname gave similar data. Twelve researchers

were looking for Sweetlands. Two were making two searches. Two were looking from 1500 or 1700 from England to states in this country. Three of them were searching only in England. Again one can learn who these searchers are.

Several conclusions come to mind. We have possible relatives who are tracing the surnames, Sweetland and Sweetland. I should repeat this work with the surname Sweetland as I feel sure that someone is tracing this spelling.

Another conclusion is that this work takes a fair number of hours to follow up all the leads. Yes, I am certain that one can carry out the work in small bits of time. How much time does one want to spend learning about Sweetlands, Sweetlands and Sweetlands? To do everything possible will require many hours at the computer. Doing this without printing out what is found seems that the time would have no value. Written records seem to be essential. A ream or more of paper may be printed out before one has finished the work.

If one of our readers decides to undertake the work, let me describe to them the work already done so one can avoid repeating the identical scope of work. Let's hope that whoever does this reports to us later so that a future newsletter will carry the results for the benefit of all of us.

Learning about others doing similar searching is rewarding. It is nice to know that others are looking for our possible ancestors. I say possible ancestors because one of the contacts made is about Stephen N. Sweetland who came to the USA in the 1856. He can not be descended from William Sweetland (Sweetland) of Salem, MA that some of us claim as our ancestor.

2007 Sweetland/Swetland Family Association Reunion

Plans are under way for our next reunion. Please let me know if you are willing to speak at our reunion or if you will take photos. We want to have everyone's picture taken or family group photo along with the names of all of you. This is to preserve history for the next generation to come.

The 2007 reunion will meet on July 20th and 21st in Brocton, NY. Actually you will be staying in the Days Inn at Dunkirk, NY. Their phone number is (716) 673-1351. The rates are \$80.75 per night with an 11% tax. They are saving a block of 10 non-smoking rooms for us (rooms are standard double) and be sure to tell them you are part of the Swetland Family. They have a fantastic continental breakfast there. You can make your own waffles with all the great toppings to go with it, along with an assortment of cereals, fruits, pastries, etc.

On Friday we plan to visit the cemetery in Portland where several Swetlands are buried. Both an old part and a newer part exist. We will also drive by the house that Dr. B. S. Swetland built. I have permission from the present owner to take pictures of

the house. From there we will go to the American Legion for our supper. This will all happen within a few miles of each destination. The motel is about 8 miles away.

Our Saturday meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. and we do have a speaker coming to talk to us about Brocton, Dr. B. S. Swetland and other history of the area. We will hold election of new officers for the next two years, so if you wish to serve as an officer, please speak up. We also need volunteers to plan the 2009 reunion. We can always use help. I know we have some new people coming and they are anxious to meet all of you. Please be prepared to share all the information you have brought with them.

If time permits and everyone is interested, we will arrange for a boat ride on Saturday night on Lake Erie.

This is brief summary of what we have planned but subject to change. As plans progress we will keep everyone informed. Roger E. Swetland, President
Phone (570) 934-2287 until Jan. (Will be in FL until late April.)
E-mail: rpswetland@epix.net

Name Origin

Ancestry.com has a page which shows the name history and origin for a surname.

Swetland:

Probably a variant of English Sweetland.

Sweetland:

English (Devon): habitational name from Sweetlands in Upton, Devon, so named from Old English *swete*, 'sweet', 'pleasant', 'fertile' + *land* 'cultivated land', 'estate' or possibly a topographical name with the same meaning.

Would a Swetland please go to the same source and report on what he or she finds there? If interested, let me know and I will tell you how I found these on the Internet.

Future issues of S/S Lore

Both my mailing address and e-mail address are on page 4. You can send me all information for the newsletter to one of these addresses.

Page 4 also tells what may happen to the newsletter. Will you be one of those who do nothing? I hope not! But as I say, the future is up to you. I need your material.

Internet Data

As yet I have not looked for a specific ancestor using www.linkpendium/genealogy/USA/. Already I have a printout of nearly a half inch thick. I found Surname Web under Swetland genealogy and from that went to AccessGenealogy. This showed six free genealogy records containing Swetlands.

Going to each of these six I learned that a Tennessee casualty list names Frank Swetland, USMCR whose wife lived in Nashville. A 1914 book titled "The Book of Clevelanders" gives data on Truman Monroe Swetland. Short stories on James J. Imbrie and William H Dillon show that both men

married Swetland girls. The roster of Ohio soldiers in the War of 1812 indicate that a Swetland was on the roll of the company of Capt. Henry Slack.

Last reference was to John Denton (Genealogy and Biography of Ontario County, New York) which has another Swetland listed. Go there to see the data for yourself.

SWETLAND FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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Assistant Editor Needed:
We need a volunteer to learn everything to take over as editor. Since I did, everyone can. Your present editor will help you learn if you don't wait too long.



Organization

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Help! Help! Help!

It seems terrible to begin this last page with an appeal for help but it is important. This issue has help from only Roger and Priscilla Swetland. S/S Lore #39 had help from the same two plus Jamie Swetland. Has interest in S/S Lore reached such a low point that no one else wants to contribute family stories or family data?

Since plans for a reunion next summer are underway, you can count on a newsletter coming to you in March and June 2007. At that time I will consult with the officers and decide the future of Sweetland/Swetland Lore. I want input from all readers who look forward to having the newsletter come to them every three months.

Today I can rely on two or three people to send information for each issue. Contributions from other members of SFA are important, if for no other reason than to make sure that more than two or three people speak on matters of importance to them.

This newsletter began in 1986 as an irregular newsletter but the past twelve years the newsletter has come on a regular basis, four times a year. Many have written or spoken to me saying that they enjoy the newsletter. One nice comment reached me today as part of a 2006 Christmas letter. I will regret disappointing those who want to have this come on a regular basis but as the heading says I need **HELP!** Send your responses to this message before the end of January 2008.. Doing so will show that you want this newsletter to reach you more than for the two issues planned next year. Your actions will show how you feel more than any words can possibly show. The future of S/S Lore is in your hands.

More Internet Data

RootsWeb.com will do an US-Genweb Archives Search. This lists documents. Swetland references total 192. When the site comes up, it lists the first 25 documents. Some of these are cemetery records, some census data, some land records some history records, some marriage records. And this comes from only the first 25. Had no time to research the remaining documents.

RootsWeb also has a Family History 101 under which it lists Search Results: Swetland Matches Found in 18 of 45 Databases.

Ancestry.com lists Histories. It does not show a total for Swetland references but I printed out the first 60, 10 per printout. Each records gives Match Quality, Record Type and Information found in record.

Match Quality shows a number

of stars. The first 60 are all five star records. Records 1-10 come from DAR Lineage Books. Later records come from Pennsylvania Women in the Revolutionary War, American Biographical Library, Sons of the America Revolution, Biographical Cyclopedia of U. S. Women, Colonial Families in the US, Connecticut Historical Society Collections, and many more. Some are county or town records. Each reference given is to a Swetland.

One record intrigued me. This was the book whose title is "A history and genealogy of the Conant family in England and America: thirteen generations, 1520-1887.

Next refining the search for histories gave an exact number of 157. Each screen shows ten references. Both American and English

references appear. For each item the list shows Title, Author if there is one, Date of Publication, and Subjects. This list told me that the author of the reference that intrigued me was Frederick Odell Conant and he published this in 1887.

Going next to Ancestry World Family Tree tells one that Family Tress has 3,084 matches for Swetland, showing 20 for each screen. This means that to see all 3,084 names, one must go to over 154 screens. I may never see them all. Even on the first list of 20, I saw two names I do not recall seeing before. The two are Laura Hotchkiss Swetland and Feriam Stella Martin Swetland.

An All Resources Search gave me 11 pages of printout listing matches of 178 and there are more.