



Genealogy and Computers

By Mark Harrison
(Part 1 in a 3-part Series)

The personal computer, the Internet, email, digital pictures, scanned photos and documents, plus the ability of the user to search for information worldwide all help the genealogist. **Until there is a problem with the computer.**

Over the years, I have seen hearts broken, tears flowing, shock and disbelief when all the years of hard work, family pictures, email and address books, and documents all disappear in a heartbeat due to a computer problem. The hardest part is when I have to tell the user that there is nothing that can be done to recover it.

The computer is as complex as a car. A car needs regular maintenance, its paperwork always needs to be in order, insurance protects against disasters, and the car needs to be cared for and protected.

Likewise, the computer needs regular maintenance, its "paperwork" needs to be in order, there should be "insurance," and the computer needs to be cared for and protected. In exchange, the computer will work at peak performance and will do what you want and need it to do.

From my experience in computer work, I have determined the *minimum* that needs to be done to keep your computer working at top performance. I will briefly list some items the user should consider to protect their investment of time, money, blood, sweat and tears. However, because of the variety of computer hardware, software, operating systems, and personal configurations, this list will be very general. Therefore, I encourage you to sit down with a competent computer person who can teach you the finer details for your family genealogy, notes, pictures, and other personal information will not all be permanently lost.



- Paperwork

Paperwork includes the bill and sale and warranty information for your computer hardware, licenses for your software, and contact information for a reputable computer professional or shop.

Make sure you have ALL the original software installation discs and/or downloads. In a worst case scenario, your computer person will need all the original software installation packages so you or they can re-install the software you use.

Keep a list of all your passwords on a piece of paper. Keeping your passwords on a file in your computer will be useless if your computer has crashed and is not accessible. Keep this very important document locked in a safe.

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Happiness is a journey . . . not a destination.

—Ben Sweetland (1988-1963)

Special points of interest

- COMPUTER HEALTH
- PRO HELPS LORE
- REUNION 2009
- PURITAN PLANTING
- LIVES WELL LIVED
- TIGHTWAD GENEALOGY ONLINE

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"All the years of hard work, family pictures...and documents can disappear in a heartbeat due to a computer problem."

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- Regular Maintenance

All computers need to have their operating systems kept up to date. Updates are usually downloaded from the manufacturer (i.e. Microsoft, Apple, etc.). Many software programs' on-line updates can be downloaded as well.

Heat, dust, static electricity, and liquids, mortal enemies of computers, need to be kept away. Ensure plenty of air flow in and around the case. Keep your computer away from windows. If static electricity is a problem in your home, try a mixture of one part fabric softener to ten parts water and spray on your carpeting. General rule of thumb: if you are comfortable in the room, so is the computer.

Keep your hard drive contents lean and organized. Make sure to clean out temporary files, temporary internet files, memory dump files and other clutter regularly from your hard drive.

Keep your hard drive running efficiently. After removing "clutter," keep your hard drive defragmented.

Vacuum the inside of the computer at least once a year to remove dust from causing heat or static problems or blow outs.

(To be continued in June issue of S/S Lore, Part 2: How to Protect Your Computer)

Look Behind the Scenes: A Computer Pro

Mark Harrison sees that these newsletters are sent electronically to those who receive it by e-mail. He constantly updates the e-mail list and creates the Adobe PDF file from the final proof draft sent by the editor, archives it within his website, and emails the newsletter to our approximately eighty recipients. He helped the former editor, Mark Swetland, and continues to assist the current editor in resolving computer questions as the newsletter takes shape.

Mark and his wife Judy live in the Greater Rochester, New York area and most of their relatives live in nearby counties. Mark says, "we love to spend time with our families and spoil our nieces and nephews." Mark's paternal great-great grandfather's wife was Luella Swetland and many of his paternal ancestors were from Harrison Valley in the Mills, Pennsylvania area.

"I was born in West Germany and came to the USA with my American father and my German mother in the late 1960's. I have a B.S. in computers and math from Grove City College (Grove City, PA). I have been working at Genesistems, Inc. since 1990 and have been working with computers in general for over twenty-eight years," writes Mark.



Mark Harrison

This computer professional says that he and Judy love to relax at home, travel, go shopping, and collect things. He also likes to watch movies, read, work on his Z-scale trains, and work on computers.

Don't miss an issue!

If your e-mail address changes, remember to notify Mark Harrison (see below).

Donation Form

My name is _____

Enclosed is my donation for the general fund for _____

For scholarship fund for _____

_____ I will arrange to have the newsletter emailed by simply doing the following:

Send an e-mail to Mark Harrison at mark@genesistems.com and ask to be placed on the S/S Lore email list.

MAIL TO:

Priscilla Swetland, Treasurer
RR #4, Box 121 A
Montrose, PA 18801-9437

SFA President's Message —By Roger Swetland

As spring approaches, along with planning gardens and upcoming lawn work, I hope that all will keep the next reunion in the back of their minds. The reunion committee is already thinking about and setting up arrangements for the third weekend of July 2009 in the New London, CT area. Since Mystic Sea Port and their big aquarium and other attractions are within a reasonable distance, some may wish to take a vacation in the area while joining in the SFA Reunion.

2009 Reunion

Third weekend of July
2009, New London, CT
area.

Along with planning for the reunion, please plan to notify us of any changes in your email or postal addresses, especially if your area is going through any 911 address changes. For postal address changes, notify Anne Kirby (see her address in right sidebar) and for email notify Mark Harrison at mark@genesistems.com.

As the pace in our lives quicken, it is hard for people to maintain family units. Many of the new generation has not experienced the times when neighbors helped neighbors and family members helped each other. I find that in my retirement I enjoy helping others. Sometimes people feel awed when I tell them I don't expect anything in return because it doesn't fit with the customs of today. I have been blessed throughout the years with help and sharing from family, neighbors, friends, and even strangers. Giving back a little something can really feel rewarding. Sometimes when offered money for my help, I just ask that they help someone else in some way. I hope it catches on so life becomes more rewarding for more people and more families.



View This Newsletter,
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SFA Website:
www.swetland.org

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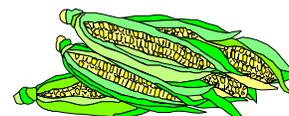
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Newsletter Articles, Photos?

Send to: Anne Kirby, editor

3482 Concomly Rd. SE Salem,

OR 97306 anne.kirby9@gmail.com**New England Settlers' Spring Planting**

Many relatives of our Sweetland/Swetlands came from England to the New World as early as about 1627. Puritans and others arrived to find the land already cleared. One settler noted the burning of the grass and leaves by the Native Americans as he wrote, "The savages burn over the country that it may not be overgrown with underwood. It scorches the older trees, and hinders their growth. The trees grow here and there, as in English parks, and makes the country very beautiful." Mr. Grus of Salem wrote in 1627, "Not much troublesome to clear for the plough. The grass and weeds grow up to a man's face."

Edmund Hersey wrote a chapter on agriculture in an 1893 book entitled *History of Hingham, Massachusetts*. In it he writes, "The first settlers, copying from the Indians, planted as their principal crop, Indian corn. Pumpkins were among the first of garden crops; these were followed by the parsnip, carrot, turnip, onion, beet and cabbage. Potatoes were not introduced into New England until 1719; so the early settlers had to eat their meat and make their clam chowders without potatoes. Wood says, 'The first planters, for want of oxen, were compelled to dig up the land with the hoe.'"

"Apples were introduced at a very early period; large orchards existed as early as 1675. This fruit was not grown for the table, but for cider, which for more than a century and a half appears to have been the favorite beverage of all classes—a single family often consuming a dozen barrels of cider in a year." Hersey writes that peaches, pears, and grapes came later. Tomatoes came in the 1840's as a curiosity, rather than as a food. Large quantities of hay and flax were also grown.

Hersey notes, "The Indians in preparing the soil for a crop of Indian corn dug it up a few inches deep, and fertilized it by placing in each hill three little fishes. This practice they taught the first settlers, who followed it until oxen were introduced, when the plough and ox labor were used instead of the hoe and hand labor, and the manure of the cattle was used instead of fish."

SFA Notes Passing of Three Members in 2007



Robert "Swet" Swetland, 84, of Dunkirk, NY, died November 8 unexpectedly in his residence. He was born January 27, 1923 in Fredonia, NY the son of Gay and Harriet (Morrison) Swetland.

He was married for 52 years to his loving wife, Genevieve (Bleck) Swetland who survives. His parents and a brother Ray Swetland predeceased him.

Mr. Swetland was an accomplished pilot who had built his own airplane in the basement of his home. He was a member of the Civil Air Patrol where he was a Lieutenant, and the Dunkirk Lakeside Club.

He enjoyed flying, scuba diving, boating and archery (*The Observer*, Dunkirk, NY).



Curt Roselle, of Kirkland, Washington died at home on February 26, 2007. He was born on July 26, 1928 in Forty Fort, PA the son of Robert and Clara (Coughlin) Roselle.

He joined the Navy in 1946 and volunteered for service in the submarine force. In 1947 he married Lucille Lloyd who died in 2005. They had five children. He continued in the Navy for 27 years, rising to Lieutenant Commander. He received the Gold Medallion from the CIA.

After moving to Washington he volunteered regularly at the Regional Branch of the National Archives and lectured on various genealogy subjects throughout the Northwest (*Internet source*).

He wrote, "Luke Swetland is my fourth great grandfather . . . I was born in Forty Fort, PA, about a mile and a half from the Swetland Homestead" (*Letter to Mark Swetland*, 1995).



Lyle Swetland was born to William Henry Swetland and mother Signe in Fargo, North Dakota on February 9, 1919. He died at home in Eugene, Oregon on November 26, 2007.

Shortly after his marriage to Katherine Halbakken in 1942, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps. He served in the South Pacific during WWII until Christmas, 1945. They had five children.

After the war the family moved to Eugene, Oregon for him to work as a printer for the local newspaper. He became active in local and state labor organizations and was known as "Mr. Labor" in the community. He obtained a federal grant to build an apartment building that provides affordable housing to seniors and further served the community by serving on many boards.

When asked what he was most proud of, he answered "my family" (*Register Guard*, Eugene, OR).

ALTERNATIVE ACCESS to ONLINE DATABASES

"Ancestry.com and other pay Web sites are great,' you say, "but I can't afford the subscriptions!" What's a budget-strapped genealogist to do? You might be surprised to learn that some of the data and records offered by subscription services are available elsewhere online for free. Here's a sampling to get you started (from *Family Tree Magazine*, November 2007).

<u>Database/Record Set</u>	<u>Subscription Access</u>	<u>Free Access</u>
1901, 1906 and 1911 Canadian Censuses California Death Index	Ancestry.com Ancestry.com	<automatedgenealogy.com> <vitals.rootsweb.com/ca/death/ search.cgi>
Irish immigrants to New York, 1846-51	Ancestry.com	<aad.archives.gov/aad/series- description.jsp?s=639>
Maine Death Index 1960-1997 and Maine Marriages, 1892-1996	Ancestry.com	<www.maine.gov/sos/arc>
New York passenger arrival lists, 1892-1924	Ancestry.com	<ellisland.org>
WWII enlistments	Ancestry.com	<aad.archives.gov/aad/series-description. .jps?s=3360>