



# SWEETLAND/SWETLAND LORE #47

## SEPTEMBER 2008

SWEETLAND/SWETLAND FAMILY ASSOCIATION

**Correction: Reunion 2009 will be held the 3rd week in **JULY**, not June as stated in the last newsletter.**

### From Your SFA President



**F**all is quickly approaching and soon children will be back in school. Our Association offers a small scholarship, awarded every two years, at our reunion. Scholarship application information may be found on page 3. Be sure to remind your children or other descendents about the importance of studying and achieving social skills. These will help them not only to qualify for the scholarship, but also to become better, well-rounded individuals. I grew up being told of the pride and respect that our name carries from past generations. It has been my goal to strive to continue that pride and respect and I hope that future generations will continue that striving as well.

Please remember that our 2009 reunion will be in New London, Connecticut on Friday, July 17th and Saturday, July 18th, with the main meeting taking place on Saturday. We plan to visit places of interest in the area on Friday. The New London and Mystic Seaport is a resort area, ideal for those who would like to combine their vacation with the reunion. Enjoy your fall and come join us at the reunion next summer. —Roger Swetland



### An Early Schoolhouse

#### Special points of interest

- **PRESIDENT EMPHASIZES EDUCATION, PRIDE IN OUR NAME, TELLS OF REUNION**
- **SCHOOLS IN THE OLD DAYS**
- **HOW TO APPLY FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP**
- **SWEETLAND.ORG WEBSITE**
- **A SWEETLAND WAR STORY**

### Our Puritan Ancestors' Education

As you watch children stream from the bright yellow school buses into the schools, have you ever wondered what kind of education your ancestors may have received? How about the Puritan forbearers? Do you even have Puritans in your background? Probably.



Puritan Girl with Hornbook

“Those who claim descent from Isaac Sweetland, born about 1560 in England, bear various spellings of the surname” (Doug Sweetland, *A Partial Genealogy of the Sweetland/Swetland Family in America*, xxvii).

So no matter which way your ancestors spelled their name, if your genealogy goes back to Isaac, your ancestor was likely one of Isaac's three sons, John, Thomas or James.

These brothers came to the New World during the Puritan era in the middle of the Seventeenth Century and settled in Massachusetts and Con-

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*“In all of us there is a hunger, marrow-deep, to know our heritage—to know who we are and where we have come from.”*  
—Alex Haley

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necticut. Not only does the time period and place indicate our Puritan ancestry, but also their names provide clues. Biblical virtues often provided first names, such as Silence, Patience and Temperance. Isaac's son John married a woman named Temperance.

The Puritans were a religious group who wanted to make the Church of England more "pure" and remove the ceremony and music from worship services. They wanted every child to read the Bible and passed a law requiring parents to teach their children to read. In 1635 they established the first "public school," called the "School of the Prophets." This divinity school grew into Harvard University. Its namesake, John Harvard, donated 400 books to start the school.



A Poorly Lit Dame School

Then in 1642, to support this first college in America, Puritan leaders passed a law requiring every village with fifty or more families to have a school, instructing each village to "appoint one within their towne to teach all such children as shall resort to him to write and reade, whose wages shall be paid either by the parents or master of such children" (Old Deluder Satan Act of 1647). These schools were often run by women in their homes and were called Dame Schools. Towns of 100 or more hired a schoolmaster to teach in a "grammar schoole." The schoolmasters were to prepare children to attend Harvard College. They taught Puritan children how to read, write and do arithmetic and the textbook was called a hornbook.

The Puritans did not construct the schools with comfort in mind. "One-room schools were dark and cramped, and students sat on plank benches. Those near the fire roasted, and pupils in the far corners endured blue noses, chattering jaws and aching toes" ([www.watertown.k12.ma.us/cunniff/americanhistorycentral](http://www.watertown.k12.ma.us/cunniff/americanhistorycentral)).

Children learned a trade, usually their father's, so they could continue the family business when their father retired. They often attended a school and learned a trade at the same time. If the Massachusetts court found "neglect of parents and masters in training up their children in learning" they were punished by fines or the children were sent to be apprentices to learn "implyment" [employment] such as keeping cattle, spinning, knitting and weaving (Massachusetts Education Law, 1642). Rebellious children could be put to death.

Because of the value placed on education by the Puritans, our ancestors likely were literate people who learned trades and were required to live by the strict rules of their society. They lacked the comfortable schools and yellow school buses of our day, but they did learn the skills they needed to survive, have families, and become our progenitors.

—Anne Kirby, editor

### Donation Form (Please make checks out to Swetland Family Association)

My name is \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my donation to the 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](mailto: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



## The Sw(e)e(a)tland Family Scholarship Award 2009

Are you or a family member or descendent a high school senior or currently enrolled in any post-high school educational program? The S/S Family Scholarship will be awarded at the next reunion in late July of 2009. Applicants and their families are encouraged to attend, although attendance is not required. Scholarship Committee Chairman David Kryder encourages applicants by stating, "The actual dollar amount of the award may be rather small but the prestige is large."

### How To Apply

- The Scholarship recipient must be a Sw(e)e(a)tland descendent.
- Preference will be given to high school seniors or to applicants who are currently enrolled in any post-high school educational program.
- Scholarship Award winners are ineligible to re-apply in subsequent years.
- Applications must include a letter of recommendation from a family member.
- Applications must be filed electronically to: David.Kryder@gmail.com with a hard copy to follow by the US Postal Service or by an express mail service to:  
R. David Kryder, Chairman, Sw(e)e(a)tland Family Scholarship Committee  
1036 North Paseo Iris  
Country Club Estates  
Green Valley, AZ 85614  
(520) 393-1783
- All application materials must be received by the Committee by 1 March 2009.
- Applicant reunion attendance is not required. However, applicants and their families are encouraged to attend.
- There is no specific application form. Rather each applicant is free to submit those materials that they believe will present their achievements and their potential in the best light.
- The Scholarship award decision will be based on the Committee's understanding of each Applicant's scholastic achievements, athletic and related endeavors, interest in family genealogy, and exhibited leadership qualities. Applicants are free to submit whatever indicators they believe will show them best.

### Reunion Input Requested

With attendance dropping off in recent years, we would like to see a revival in 2009 and learn what it is that would trigger your attendance. Please visit the SFA Website at [www.swetland.org](http://www.swetland.org) and voice your opinion on the message board or e-mail Jamie R. Swetland (Jamie.Swetland@LMCO.com) regarding hotel choices and event activities. For more details, click on the village crier on the SFA website home page, or reunion page, or jump to the message board page and look at the polls under the events section. You can even post notes

or opinions here as well. YOUR family reunion needs YOUR input to be what YOU want it to be. All input is valuable and desired as final arrangements will begin to be solidified. —Jamie Swetland

### Beijing 2008

Triathlete Kirsten Sweetland of Vancouver, B.C. just missed competing on the Canadian team because of a stress fracture. However, she made the trip to Beijing as a team alternate for an Olympic experience since she's considered to be a great hope for the 2012 London Games. (from [www.thestar.com](http://www.thestar.com), Randy Starkman)



View This Newsletter,  
Past Issues and More  
at SFA Website:  
[www.swetland.org](http://www.swetland.org)

A Reader Asked: "What Does 'Lore' Mean"?

1. Lore n. [Old English lar—learning, teaching] All the facts and traditions about a particular subject that have been accumulated over time through education or experience (Wikipedia.org).

2. Accumulated facts, traditions or beliefs about a particular subject (answers.com).

### Newsletter Articles, Photos?

Send to: Anne Kirby, editor  
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### S/S Family Organization

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Treasurer: Priscilla Swetland

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## Ted R. Sweetland, WW II Flying Ace

**Editor's Note:** Our former newsletter editor, Mark W. Sweetland, recently forwarded an article to me about Ted R. Sweetland which Ted S. Sweetland of Hopewell, VA had mailed to him with the note, "Let me know if you know of this Sweetland." While neither of those men knew who he was, I immediately recognized the subject of the article as my Uncle Ted who was killed in WWII. Theodore "Ted" Riley Sweetland, was born in 1919 to inventor Ernest John Sweetland and his wife Nellie Reilly, the fifth of their seven children. My father, Bill Sweetland, once wrote of his brother, "He was a marvelous combination of guts, determination and also sensitivity. If ever there was a man born to be a fighter pilot, it was Ted." Following are excerpts from the article "Sweetland and Muencheberg—The Deadly Encounter" by Robert C. Curtis. The full text of the article may be found with other WWII Ace Stories at [www.elknet.pl/cestory/sweetland/sweetland.htm](http://www.elknet.pl/cestory/sweetland/sweetland.htm).\*

There are several versions of the events leading to fighter pilot Ted Sweetland's death in Tunisia, Africa in WWII. Either the two planes collided after Ted's plane was hit or Ted intentionally brought down the German plane when he realized he was fatally shot. Three versions follow:

First, Ralph Keyes' combat report: "On 23 March 1943, thirteen Spitfires on a reconnaissance mission were jumped by four or five ME 109s coming from out of the sun. I was flying Yellow 5 when someone called "break," whereupon I immediately broke to the right. A moment later I saw an ME 109 open up on a Spitfire from about 250 yards. Smoke began streaming from the Spitfire which continued on for a second or two, then turned sharply upward and the left directly into the path of the oncoming ME109. A crash occurred and both planes went down in flames . . . Whether the crash of Capt. Sweetland's plane with the ME 109 was owing to a deliberate action or a reflex action resulting from being hit, I do not know, but, knowing Capt. Sweetland, I believe he deliberately crashed into the ME109 after having been, perhaps, fatally shot."

Next, *Fighters Over Tunisia* (1975) by Chris Shores, Hans Ring and William Hess: "Maj. Muencheberg of Stab/JB 77 took off with his wingman, Lt. Strasen, and . . . Strasen saw below some Spitfires of the 52nd Fighter Group near Sened, and both dived to attack, Muencheberg attacking Capt. Theodore Sweetland, whose aircraft began to pour smoke as it was hit in the engine. Muencheberg's speed was so great that he got too near to his 135th victim, and what happened next is not very clear. Strasen reported that Sweetland's Spitfire exploded and that debris fell on Muencheberg's wings, one of which snapped off; Capt. Hugh L. Williamson reported, however, that Sweetland deliberately rammed the Messerschmitt with his burning Spitfire. Both aircraft fell to the ground in flames."

Finally, Norman McDonald's recollections in *The American Beagle Squadron* (1987): "We were jumped by a flight of four 109s. They came in from above and slightly to our right, assuming, I'm sure, that if we saw them we would break to the left. Sweetie saw them at the last moment and yelled "break." I broke right and up and also saw Sweetie break right and hit the incoming 109 head on; perhaps he was trying to get a shot at it."

\*Does anyone know how I can find out where Ted was buried? If so, please contact Anne Kirby, editor, using contact information found in sidebar of page 3.