



Reunion attendees gather for a photo. L to R front: Alice Elderkin, Virginia Miller, Gerrie Lee, Judy Young-Thayer, Joan Pierce, Judy Nourse, Maureen O’Conner. Middle: Priscilla Swetland, Raymond Miller, Mike O’Conner. Back: Florence Munroe, Clara Dvorchak, Mary Bishop, Paul Swetland, Warren Lee, Randy Bishop, Roger Swetland, Gail Davis, Jerry Thayer. Not pictured: Bud Davis.

### The 2009 Reunion in New London, Connecticut

By Roger Swetland, SFA President

The SFA Family Reunion was a great success. Attendees came from nine states and we had five members come for the first time. They had an enjoyable time as did everyone else. The facilities at the Radisson Inn were very good and the employees were helpful and accommodating.

The New London Library helped by providing us with a private room containing historical reference books and computers for research. The librarian helped us by making copies and guiding us to various books and sites on the computer. We found that Connecticut reference material is usually free, well-organized, and open to the public.

We toured the colonial homes of Nathaniel Hempstead and then Joshua Hempstead, the next door neighbor of our ancestor, Benjamin Swetland. Our tour guides thought it very likely that Benjamin spent much time at this house. Also our relatives William Swetland and possibly James Swetland, the sea captains of the ships James I and James II, may have visited the Hempstead house since Joshua Hempstead was very much involved with shipping goods to Barbados and other ports in the Caribbean ports.

Following the time at the library and the tour of the house, we enjoyed an outdoor meal at Captain Scott’s Lobster Deck in the harbor area. (continued on p. 2)



Above, Florence Munroe, left, and Alice Elderkin, right, peruse historical books with fellow reunion attendees.

Below, Roger Swetland inspects the reference books in the New London Library.



Above, librarian Tara Samul shows Jerry Thayer a genealogical website.

*“Everyone had an enjoyable time at the reunion held in July.”*

Special points of interest

#### ALL ABOUT THE REUNION

#### DOUG SWEETLAND

#### SUCCUMBS TO CANCER

#### TICKLING THE FUNNYBONE

#### HOW ABOUT OLIVER?

#### SHARING GENEALOGY

#### Inside this issue:

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*“I would sure welcome being placed on your email list . . . I was searching for Swetland and not able to come up with any good hits until this morning when I found your web site.”  
J.W., Minnesota 8/5/09*

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We enjoyed the wonderful weather with no rain and pleasant temperatures.

The formal meeting and all the various talks were very informative. The food was plentiful and very tasty. We elected the new officers as follows: President Jamie Swetland (who will take over from current president Roger Swetland in 2010), Vice President Paul Swetland, Secretary Mary Swetland Bishop, Treasurer Priscilla Swetland, and Historian Roger Swetland. Randy Bishop will be the Reunion Chair for the next reunion to be held in the Harrisburg, PA area the third weekend of July in 2011.

Special thanks for the reunion go to Jamie Swetland, Paul Swetland and Priscilla Swetland.

Please start thinking about the 2011 reunion now and plan to attend. Two years will go by quickly. Your input now on what you would like to see and do at the next reunion will help the committee in their planning. For those attending with children there is Hershey Park nearby or make it an extended vacation and travel to Gettysburg or to Lancaster where the Amish live.



Left foreground, Maureen O'Conner looks on as the tour guide points out features of Nathaniel Hempstead's home.



Below, the historic house of Joshua Hempstead, a neighbor of Benjamin Swetland.



Above, Roger Swetland views house with guide.



Douglas "Doug" Sweetland

**Doug Sweetland**

**Age 70 of Lynd, formerly of Marshall, Minnesota**

Doug died July 21, 2009, at his residence surrounded by his family after a two-year battle with cancer. Roger Swetland wrote, "upon coming home from our reunion we learned of the passing of Doug Sweetland, compiler of *A Partial Genealogy of the Swetland/Sweetland/Swetland Family in America 1560-1997*. Doug will be very much missed by all that knew him. The work of Doug and his wife Karen on genealogy of our ancestors is dear to many. Their deeds will be greatly appreciated for many future generations."

Doug's wife, Karen, wrote, "I thought you might like to know that on Aug. 19th Southwest Minnesota State U. is dedicating a residence hall to Doug. There will now be a Sweetland Hall on campus so maybe some relatives will have a chance to live there." Doug was an economics professor and president of that university.

The obituary states that this SFA member was "very passionate about family history and genealogy" and his advice he wanted to leave to his posterity was, "Be good to people. That's all that matters."

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

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 markh3326@gmail.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

**TREASURER'S REPORT AFTER 2009 REUNION**

By Priscilla Swetland, Treasurer

Balance on May 01, 2009  
\$1465.66

**Donations:**

\$110 for Lore  
\$20 for Scholarship  
\$168 General Fund: (Newly created at the reunion to help defray miscellaneous reunion expenses)

Received for Reunion:  
\$520

Hempsted House Tour:  
\$75 (members reimbursed this amount)

Expenses:  
\$483.36 Rental of Meeting Room and Meal

Lore Newsletters:  
\$37.55

Balance  
\$1762.75

Scholarship Fund is now: \$740  
Lore Fund is now: \$854.75  
General Fund is now: \$168  
(Money collected for reunion from those who couldn't attend was donated to Lore Fund.)



Scholarship amount increased by vote to \$300.



Thanks to all who have signed up to receive Lore by email, saving us money in expenses!



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

**S/S Family Organization****President: Jamie R. Swetland**403 Krise Drive  
Gillett, PA 16925**VP: Paul Swetland****Secretary: Mary Bishop**  
PO Box 55, Tunkhannock, PA**Treasurer: Priscilla Swetland**Roger & Priscilla Swetland  
RR #4, Box 121A,  
Montrose, PA 18801-9437E-mail: [rpswetland@epix.net](mailto:rpswetland@epix.net)**Historian: Roger Swetland****Reunion Chair:****Randy Bishop****Scholarship Chair: R. David****Kryder**, 1036 North Paseo Iris,  
Green Valley, AZ 85614E-mail: [rdk11@cornell.edu](mailto:rdk11@cornell.edu)**Newsletter Editor: Anne****Kirby** [anne.kirby9@gmail.com](mailto:anne.kirby9@gmail.com)

3482 Concomly Rd. S.

Salem, OR 97306

[anne.kirby9@gmail.com](mailto:anne.kirby9@gmail.com)**Funny Genealogy**

The writer on the website stated that her cousin sent her these excerpts of actual correspondence received by the Family History Library.

- Our 2nd great-grandfather was found dead crossing the plains in the library.
- For running down the Wheelers, I will send \$3.00 more.
- He and his daughter are listed as not being born.
- I would like to find out if I have any living relatives or dead relatives or ancestors in my family.
- Will you send me a list of all the Dripps in your library?
- My grandfather died at the age of 3.
- We are sending you 5 children in a separate envelope.
- Documentation: Family Bible in possession of Aunt Merle until the tornado hit Topeka, Kansas, now only the Good Lord knows where it is . . .
- The wife of #22 could not be found. Somebody suggested that she might have been stillborn. What do you think?
- I am mailing you my aunt and uncle and 3 of their children.
- Enclosed please find my Grandmother. I have worked on her for 30 years without success. Now see what you can do.

(Continued on p. 4)

(Funny Genealogy, continued from p. 3)

- I have a hard time finding myself in London. If I were there I was very small and cannot be found..
- Will you please send me the name of my first wife? I have forgotten her name.
- We lost our Grandmother, will you please send us a copy?
- A 15-year-old boy wrote: "I do not want you to do my research for me. Will you please send me all of the material on the Welch line, in the US, England and Scotland countries? I will do the research."

From <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~parrottreilly/poems.html>

### The Name "Oliver" in Sweetland/Swetland Genealogy By Anne Kirby, Editor

Like many of you, I descended from John Oliver Sweetland/Swetland, born about 1651, who was the grandson of our probable common ancestor, Isaac, born about 1560. While Sweetland/Swetland spelling was interchangeable over the years, for ease in this discussion, I will use "Sweetland."

Some of us have questioned whether John Oliver Sweetland, born 1651, was really our ancestor. One cause for caution was that it was unusual in that place and time period for people to have a middle name. Another concern was that Oliver may have been someone else's last name and that two people wrongly became confused by genealogists.

However, I recently found evidence which could point toward our original information being correct about John Oliver Sweetland. (See Descendancy List at right.)

While I am descended from John Oliver's son William, another of John Oliver Sweetland's sons, also named John, married Mehitable Fuller and they also named a son John Jr., born 1719, who apparently married first Elizabeth Fuller and then after she died in 1752, married secondly Lydia (Day) Bowen.

John Jr. and his wives gave many of their children family names. For example, John Jr.'s first child, a daughter was named Rebeckah, presumably after John Junior's grandmother, Rebecca Clark. John Jr. named his youngest son Oliver, possibly after John's grandfather, John Oliver Sweetland.

This youngest child's name, parents, birthplace and date came from Attleboro, Bristol, Massachusetts records dated from 1694-1849. He was born 19 February 1770 in Attleboro. His mother would have been about 47 and his father about 51.

The use of the name Oliver does not prove that his grandfather was John Oliver Sweetland, but it does provide the first clue I have come upon in 43 years.

### Descendancy of John Oliver Sweetland to Oliver Sweetland

John Oliver Sweetland, b. 1651/1653  
And Rebecca Clark, b. 1669

Child:

John Sweetland, b. 1687 in Marblehead, MA  
And Mehitable Fuller, b. 1696 in Attleboro, MA

Child:

John Sweetland Jr., b. 1719 in Attleboro, MA  
And Lydia (Day) Bowen, b. 1723

Child:

Oliver Sweetland, b. 1770 in Attleboro, MA  
(spouse, if any, is unknown)

### Five Ways to Get People to Share By Kimberly Powell in "Your Guide to Genealogy"



We've all been there. Tracked down a family Bible only to learn that the distant cousin who possesses it won't let anyone else take a look. Or discovered a possible genealogical connection on the Internet only to find that your new "cousin" won't divulge their sources. Like any good story, however, there is more than one point of view.

As selfish as it may seem to you, there are any number of good reasons why an individual may be a bit wary of sharing their treasured family heirlooms or hard-earned genealogy research. The trick to encouraging these people to share is understanding their possible reservations and treating them in a polite and respectful manner.

1. Offer something in return.
2. Give credit where credit is due
3. Do your homework before asking for help.
4. Make it personal.
5. Respect the privacy of living relatives