



The Family Tree

Newsletter of the Sauvage/Sowash/Soash Family Association

Vol. 9, No. 1

March 1995

1995 Berks County Reunion

The 1995 Sauvage/Sowash/Soash Family Reunion will be held on Jun 30, Jul 1 & 2 at the Holiday Inn, 2545 N. Fifth Street, Reading, PA. 19601 (215 929-4741). Room rates will be 65.72 per night (double occupancy) or \$72.08 per night (three or four people). Please make your own reservations. All motel reservations must be made **by May 30** (form enclosed).

Reading is the county seat of Berks County where Johannes Sauvage purchased land on 20 Mar 1743. He and his family lived in the county until his death in 1761. His son Henry and grandson Daniel (2) served in the Revolutionary War from Berks County. Both John Sowash, Sr. (1) and Daniel Sowash (2), progenitors of the Soash/Sowash families, were born in Rockland Twp., Berks Co., PA.

Most of the family migrated to Westmoreland County, PA. by the late 1770's. However, some of the family remained in Berks County and retained the original Savage name. Their exact connection to the family has yet to proven, but descendants are still in the area.

Current plans include a visit to the Christ Evangelical Lutheran (Mertz) Church in Dryville. Although the original church building is gone, Mertz Church is where John Heinrich Sawash married Anna Esther Schneider on 27 Nov 1749. John Heinrich was the son of Johannes, the original emigrant and the father of both John Sowash Sr (1) and Daniel Sowash (2). We will be able to see the original church records that record their marriage. The church does not normally allow the public to view these records, so we are indeed fortunate. We will then be able to visit the original land that Johannes Sowass purchased in 1743. Although nothing remains from that time, it is the first known plot of land owned by our family in America.

At 1:00 p.m., we will go to the courthouse where we will be able to see the original will of Johannes Sauvage that was made 16 Feb 1761 and signed with his mark. Also on display will be all of the estate papers that were connected with his estate. We are also planning on a speaker on the early history of Berks County.

On Saturday, Merwin is trying to arrange a tour in the area if there is enough interest. Please be sure to indicate your interest on the return sheet. There are many attractions close to the Reading area, including Lancaster County, center of the Pennsylvania Dutch settlements, Brandywine Revolutionary Battlefield, Valley Forge National Park, Hershey Chocolate World, and the outlet malls of Reading itself. On the 3rd and 4th of July, Gettysburg presents a reenactment of the original battles that is well worth a visit.

We hope many will be able to attend this exciting chance to return to our family roots. For more information, contact Merwin Soash, 2 Ridgway Drive, Chadds Ford, PA 19317-9398 (610 388-2461) or Richard Soash, 5723 N. Charles, Wichita, KS 67204 (316 832-0034).

The Reunion Planning Team is committed to making this family reunion a memorable one.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____

How many will be in your party: _____ Adults _____ Children under 18

Lodging Reservations at Holiday Inn, 2545 5th St., Reading, PA 19605 (610) 929-4741:

Confirmed on (date) _____ for _____ persons
 Will be confirmed on (date) _____ for _____ persons

Arrival Date _____ Time _____
 Departure Date _____ Time _____

The following attractions are possibilities for a group tour on Saturday. All are within 50 miles of Reading. Please indicate your interest in each.

	INTEREST LEVEL		
	High	Low	
1. Brandywine Valley, Chadds Ford, PA (610) 388-7376	___	___	___
●Brandywine River Museum (610) 388-2700	___	___	___
●Longwood Gardens (610) 388-6741	___	___	___
●Winterthur Museum (302) 888-4600	___	___	___
2. Chocolate Town USA, Hershey, PA (800) 995-0969	___	___	___
●Hershey Museum (717) 534-3439	___	___	___
●Hershey Park (800) HERSHEY	___	___	___
●Hershey's Chocolate World (717) 534-4900	___	___	___
3. Philadelphia, PA (800) 537-7676	___	___	___
●Christ Church (215) 922-1695	___	___	___
●Independence National Historical Park (215) 597-8974	___	___	___
●Philadelphia Museum of Art (215) 763-8100	___	___	___
●Franklin Institute (215) 448-1200	___	___	___
●Masonic Temple (215) 988-1917	___	___	___
4. Lancaster, PA (717) 299-8901	___	___	___
●Wheatland (717) 392-8721	___	___	___
●Landis Valley Museum (717) 569-0401	___	___	___
●Amish Farmlands (800) 441-3505	___	___	___
●The People's Place (717) 768-7171	___	___	___
5. Other requests, ideas, thoughts or concerns?			

Please return this questionnaire to Merwin Soash, 2 Ridgway Drive, Chadds Ford, PA 19317-9398 by April 24.

Thanks for Donations

- Rita Weaver
- Lorraine Soash in memory of Paul Soash
- Jocye & Leland Stevenson

A very special thanks to the estate of W. Russell Disney and to Noreen Mack for the donation for the cost of engraving the gravestone of Rachel Emma (Sowash) Brenner (1F2) in Greenwood Cemetery in Clay Center, KS.

Family Deaths

Hazel M. Sowash (1J2B1)

Gurn Skelley (2C1H4A) 10 Jan 1994

Visitors Bureau

Visitors information for Berks County is available from the Berks County Visitors Information Association at 800 443-6610. Numbers for other attractions in the area are on the enclosed survey. It is suggested that visits to Gettysburg and Valley Forge be made on weekdays only because of the crowds.

Directions to Holiday Inn, Reading

From the west: Take Penn. Turnpike 176 East to Reading Exit 21 and then US 222 North (Allentown) to the Fifth Street exit.

From the east: Take Penn. Turnpike 176 West to Morgantown Exit 22 and then

follow 176 North to US 422 West. Take US 222 North and then the Fifth Street exit.

From the northeast: Take 178 West/US 222 to SR 100 South at Trexlertown. Follow 100S 3 miles and then turn right onto US 222 South. Continue 35 miles to Fifth Street in Reading.

From the south: Use I 95 North to 1695 West around Baltimore and then 183 North. At York, PA, follow US 30 E to Lancaster, then US 222 North (Allentown) to the Fifth Street exit of Reading.

Cemetery Projects

The gravestone for Susanna (Weber) Sowash (2C/W/) is on order and will be set this spring. We retain enough money in the cemetery fund to pay the remaining \$466.10 on this stone.

The graves of George and Elizabeth (Bankert) Sowash (1J) at Union Cemetery in Irwin, PA., are unmarked. There is a large stone in the cemetery with just the name Sowash. It would cost about \$300 to have their names added to the stone. If we wish to buy two individual stones for their graves, the cost would be about \$1,500.00.

Buyer Beware

A group advertising itself as the Sowash Family News (250 Coolidge Street, Midvale, UT 84047) is not really a Sowash/Soash family group.

They extract phone numbers from national phone lists, and death records from the Social Security files. The book

contains no real family history.

They also advertise a family crest (we can't even find our roots in Europe, let alone claim to be nobility!) and other gimmicks.

Election of Officers

We will be electing new officers for the Family Association at the business meeting on July 1, 1995. We need your support. Please contact Richard Soash (316 832-0034) if you are interested in serving.

President:

Vice-President:

Secretary:

Treasurer/Historian: Richard Soash

Reunion Host:

A Volunteer?

We would like to videotape the events of this reunion. Would someone be willing to videotape?

Arts & Craft Sale

We will again be having a silent auction on Friday night. This is a major fund-raising event to benefit the cemetery and the research funds. We need donations for the auction and volunteers to help organize and run the sale at the reunion.

If you will not be able to attend but would like to donate items, they may be sent to Merwin Soash, 2 Ridgway Drive, Chadds Ford, PA 19317-9398.

Reprints, Updates, T-Shirts

Updates to both Books 1 and 2 will be available in time by the reunion for \$7.50 each.

People have requested reprints of Book 1 (descendants of John Sowash, Sr.) and Book 2 (descendants of Daniel Sowash). Cost will be \$42.00 which includes postage and handling. The books will include the updates.

We can have T-shirts made with a graphic and the lettering *Sauvage/Sowash/Soash Family Reunion 1995 -- Reading, PA* for \$15.00.

Please order updates, reprints or T-shirts below by May 12th.

Dues

Please check the mailing label on this newsletter. If it includes "M95", you have paid your dues for this year. If it lists "MP", you have not yet renewed. We would appreciate your support.

PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION AND CHECKS TO RICHARD SOASH, 5723 N. CHARLES, WICHITA, KS 67204-1857 BY MAY 10.

1. Friday, June 30 evening meal: _____ @ \$15.00 Total _____
Indicate Choice _____ Beef _____ Chicken

2. Saturday, July 1 evening meal: _____ @ \$20.00 (Adults) Total _____

_____ @ \$10.00 (Under 10) Total _____

3. T-shirt _____ @ \$15.00 Total _____

Size ___ Small ___ Medium ___ Large ___ X-Large

4. Family dues (\$8.00) _____

5. Donations to the research or cemetery fund _____

6. Book 1 _____ @ \$42.00 _____

Book 2 _____ @ \$42.00 _____

Updates Book 1 _____ @ \$ 7.50 _____

Updates Book 2 _____ @ \$ 7.50 _____

Enclose a check to the Sauvage/Sowash/Soash Family Association of items 1-6:

Holiday Inn Reading
2545 North Fifth Street
Reading, PA 19601
Sauvage/Sowash/Soash Family Reunion
June 30 - July 2, 1995

Room Rates

Single or Double - \$65.72 per night
Triple Or Quad - \$72.08 per night
Extra cots - \$10.00 + 6% tax

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Arrival: June ____, 1995 Check In: 3:00 p.m.

Departure: July ____, 1995 Check Out: 12:00 noon

Number of people in room: _____

Smoking _____ Non-smoking _____ (Upon availability)

Rooms to be guaranteed with credit card. Type: _____

Number: _____ Expiration date: _____

OR

Submit a check or money order for the first night's room, payable to the Holiday Inn.
You may also reserve your room by phone: 610 929-4741. Mention the Family
reunion.

All Reservations are due by May 30, 1995