

# The Family Tree

The Newsletter of the Sauvage /Sowash /Soash Family

April 1998

Vol. 11, No. 2

## 1998 SAUVAGE / SOWASH / SOASH FAMILY REUNION

July 10,11, & 12, 1998  
Mackinaw City, Michigan

### HOTEL RESERVATIONS

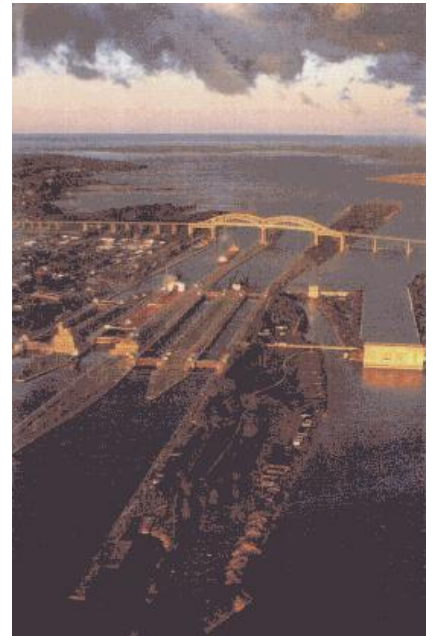
The 1998 Reunion will be held at the Ramada Inn Motel, 450 South Nicolet St., Mackinaw City, Michigan. Rooms are reserved at the rate of \$69.00 per night (Queen Double) for July 10, 11, &12. Make your reservations directly with the motel at (616) 436-8600. When calling, ask for the **Sowash Family Reunion** block rate.

Nicolet Street is also exit 337 on Interstate 75 (see "Getting There"). Exit 337 leads directly onto northbound Nicolet Street. Proceed one mile north to the Motel.

### TENTATIVE REUNION ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

#### Friday, July 10 -- Sault Ste Marie

- ◆ **9:00 AM** Leave Ramada inn for Sault Ste Marie (1 hour drive)
- ◆ **10:00 AM** Visit the 'Soo' Locks. Originally dug by hand in 1850 to allow the shipment of Iron and Copper from the newly-discovered mines in Upper Michigan, the Locks have grown into a major transit point for Great Lakes Commerce and mark the beginning of the St. Lawrence Seaway. The Observation Deck and Visitors' Center provide a first-hand look at ships passing the Locks and a detailed record of over a century of development and future plans for the "Superlock proposal" to allow passage by ships over 1500 feet long. Free Admission.
- ◆ **11:00 AM** Visit the historic homes on the waterfront, dating from the early 19th century, during the tense period of the War of 1812. Continue on to the Federal Heritage Museum. No Admission Charge.
- ◆ **12:00 PM** Lunch at the Ojibway Hotel. Cost approximately \$10.00.
- ◆ **1:00 PM** Visit the Museum Ship 'Valley Camp'. This 550-foot ore freighter saw service from 1917 until 1966. The entire ship is open, from pilothouse to cargo holds. Exhibits include lifeboats from the 'Edmund Fitzgerald', the 1000-ft freighter which sank near Sault Ste Marie in 1974. Admission. \$6.50.



- ◆ **2:00 PM** Leave for Mackinaw City.
- ◆ **3:00 - 5:00 PM** Visit Fort Michimillimackinac (Mackinaw City). Constructed in 1715 as an outpost of the fur trade, this was the site of the first battle of Pontiac's War (1769 to 1790) and eventually stretched to Western Pennsylvania (Brushy Run). The park also includes the Mackinac Point Lighthouse (1840). Ongoing archeological exhibits. Admission \$7.25.
- ◆ **7:00 PM** Dinner in Mackinaw City. A number of very nice restaurants are available near the motel. Evening activities can be planned based on the attached interest survey.

## Saturday, July 12--Mackinaw City and Mackinac Island

- ◆ **9:00 AM Ferry to Mackinac Island** (Ferry Roundtrip \$13.00)
- ◆ **9:30 AM Mackinac Island Town Tour** The immediate environs of the Mackinac Island docks include the headquarters of the American Fur Company (1790 - 1850), the John Jacob Astor, William Biddle, and Dr. William Beaumont houses. The Grand Hotel (1890) and the Victorian cottages of the West and East Bluffs are nearby. A walk to the Fort also takes us by the Indian Dormitory, built after the Treaty of 1855, which offered free education to the Ottawa and Ojibway.
- ◆ **10:30 Visit Fort Mackinac** Built in 1781, Fort Mackinac operated as both a British and later American military installation until 1890. The tour of the Fort, preserved intact, recounts its capture by both American and British forces during the War of 1812, gives details of 19th century military life and provides the best views of the Harbor, the Straits, and the Mackinac Bridge. Admission \$7.25.
- ◆ **12:00 PM** Lunch in Mackinac Village or at the Fort Tea Room.
- ◆ **1:00 PM to 3:00 PM** Touring Mackinac Island gives access to a number of dispersed sights. The Grand Hotel, Cottages on the bluffs, Fort Holmes, British Landing, Skull Cave and a host of other sights. While walking is always an option, carriage tours (cost approximately \$25.00) and bicycle rentals (cost approximately \$8.50/hr) are also very popular. The Island can be circled in about one hour by bicycle. Carriage tours last one to two hours.
- ◆ **3:00 PM Ferry return to Mackinaw City**
- ◆ **4:00 to 5:00 PM Visit to Mill Creek (optional).**
- ◆ **6:30 Dinner (Ramada Inn)** Private buffet catered by the hotel (\$10.00) followed by the Annual Meeting. Afterward we will view the newly released video on the construction of the Mackinac Bridge.



## Sunday, July 12 8:00 AM Breakfast at the motel.

- ◆ Church services, most in St. Ignace, before departing.

## Mackinaw City--Getting There

From **Toledo** (Ohio, Pennsylvania)  
Mackinaw City is 332 miles due north on US 23  
and I-75. Driving time about six hours.

From **Chicago** (Iowa, Kansas)  
Mackinaw City is reached via I-94, US 131  
and I-75. Total distance is 388 miles.  
Driving time seven hours.

From **Wisconsin** and **Minnesota**,  
Mackinaw City is 201 miles east of  
Menominee/Marinette via US 2.  
Driving time is 3.5 hours.

Airline connections are available from Detroit to Sault Ste Marie & from Chicago to Pellston. We can arrange transports for guests from either Airport. Contact Larry or Diane Sowash at (517) 349-5529.

**If the mailing label has M98, you have paid your 1998 DUES (\$8.00)  
If you have not yet joined, we would appreciate your support.  
Make checks payable to: SAUVAGE/SOWASH/SOASH FAMILY ASSOCIATION  
Mail to Richard Soash, 5723 N. Charles, Wichita, KS 67204**

●.....(Tear off here).....●

## 1998 Reunion Registration and Activities Survey

Despite the schedule presented here, a number of options exist if interest warrants. Please fill out your preferences below and return to **Larry Sowash, 1767 Sashabaw Drive, Okemos, MI 48864 by May 15<sup>th</sup>**.

### In Sault Ste Marie

Soo Locks Boat Tour (cost \$14.00/one hour) Tour through  
the Locks and the St. Mary's river area near the Locks                      Yes No

Visit Sault Ste Marie Ontario. We can visit Canada by  
driving over the International Bridge, a ten minute ride.                      Yes No

### In Mackinaw City Area

Evening boat tour through the Mackinac Straits. The  
Ferry Companies give tours most evenings (Cost \$35.00)                      Yes No

Trace the history of your family ancestors. A number of  
antique maps (1830 to 1900) document the spread of roads  
and settlement from Pennsylvania to Ohio, Indiana, and  
Iowa. A chance to trace your individual line.                      Yes No

**Number of people attending** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Donations**

James & Judith Brenner  
Helen Durbin  
Shirley Joersz  
Beverly & Randy Skipton  
Charles & Edith Soash  
Lorraine F. Soash in memory of Paul  
Soash  
Glenn & Jonelle Sowash  
Jack & Susan Sowash  
Joan Sowash  
John C & Dorris Sowash  
Elizabeth P. Walter

**Thanks for your support.**

## **Cemetery Updates**

**The markers for Daniel and Henry Sowash have been set in Brush Creek Cemetery in Irwin, PA. Both were Revolutionary War soldiers.**

**The marker for Abraham Sowash has been ordered and should be installed this spring in St Clair Cemetery in Greensburg, PA.**

**Check out the Web site at <http://www.feist.com/~rsoash/soash.html>**