



The Family Tree

The Newsletter of the Sauvage /Sowash /Soash Family

October 1998

Vol. 11, No. 3

1998 SAUVAGE / SOWASH / SOASH FAMILY REUNION Mackinaw City, Michigan July 10, 11, 12

On **Friday, July 10** the attendees crossed over the Mackinac Bridge and traveled in the morning to Sault Ste Marie.

Our first stop was a visit to the Sault Locks. We were fortunate to observe the transit of both an upbound and downbound ship immediately after our arrival. We also enjoyed the film orientation to both canals and commerce at this important international border.

The group then toured the museum ship *Valley Camp*. Constructed in the early twentieth century and operated as a bulk cargo carrier for nearly half a century, the 750-foot ship has been developed as an extensive repository of Great Lakes maritime history, artifacts, and historical exhibits since it was retired from service in 1969. Our visit to Sault Ste Marie continued with lunch at the Ojibway Hotel overlooking the locks.

Returning to Mackinaw City in the afternoon we visited Fort Michilimackinac, the eighteenth-century French bastion on the Straits of Mackinac. Taken over by the British in 1763, Michilimackinac was abandoned at the start of the American Revolution when the British burned it to the ground and transferred to Mackinac Island where they developed the more defensible Fort Mackinac. Reconstruction of Fort Michilimackinac has been a fifty year project, and we were fortunate to find the archeological team at work during our visit. Although fully staffed and very extensive, the restoration of Fort Michilimackinac will require at least another 20 years of effort.

Friday evening the group met for dinner in Mackinaw City and then returned to our hotel to review historic maps of the area, continue our discussions of family history and relationships, and review photo albums of prior reunions.

Saturday, July 11 was spent on Mackinac Island. Arriving on an early ferry from Mackinac City, the group dispersed for a number of activities, including the Fort Mackinac Tour, visits to the Grand Hotel, the famous Mackinac Island Carriage Tours, visits to the historic American Fur Company buildings (1780 to 1840), bicycle tours along Lake Huron, and walks along the bluffs to see the Victorian summer cottages.

On Saturday evening the group met for dinner at the old Mackinac City railroad station and then met for the annual business meeting and viewing of the recently-produced video on the construction of the Mackinac Bridge.

Sunday, July 12, after breakfast, we said goodbyes and headed off to our separate homes.



Annual Business Meeting

1999 Reunion

Tentative dates for the 1999 Westmoreland Co, PA Reunion were selected as July 10 to 12, 1999. Merwin also requested all those who had attended the last Westmoreland County Reunion in 1988 to provide copies of any extant material for his use in planning for next year. Mail material to him at: Merwin Soash, 2 Ridgeway Drive, Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania 19317.

Be sure to make your calendar for July 10, 11, 12 in Greensburg, Westmoreland County, PA.

Current Reunion Schedule

1999 - Westmoreland Co., PA - Merwin Soash

2000 - San Diego, CA - Judi Dunlap

2001 - Berks County, PA _____

1999 Officers

President: Merwin Soash
Vice President: Larry Sowash
Secretary/Treasurer: - Richard Soash

Treasurer's report

Submitted in writing by Richard Soash, indicated that the assets of the Association totaled \$1,089.63.

Cemetery Report

- Revolutionary Soldier stones are now in place in Brush Creek Cemetery for Henry and Daniel Sowash.
- Stone for Abraham Sowash has been placed in St. Clair Cemetery in Greensburg next to his wife Susanna.
- Bronze marker for Catherine Sowash is in progress in Brush Creek Cemetery.
- The next project will be a marker for Johannes & Susannah Sauvage in Berks County, PA.



We have nearly depleted the cemetery fund. Contributions are always welcome and can be mailed to Richard Soash, 5723 N. Charles, Wichita, KS 67204.

Donations

Many thanks to the following people who have contributed to the Cemetery Fund:

Janice Brenner

Robert & Jean Chrestenson

John & Doris Hamilton

Sue Kelley

Beverly & Ronald McCoy

Joe McIlvaine

Max & Alice Miller

Judy Rocker

Patricia Scholer

Dean Soash

Albert & Christine Sowash

Harvey & Betty Sowash

Gladys Stoker

Leota Wilson

