

# The Family Tree

The Newsletter of the Sauvage /Sowash /Soash Family

May 1999

Vol. 12, No. 2

## 1999 SAUVAGE / SOWASH / SOASH FAMILY REUNION

July 9, 10, 11  
Irwin, PA

**"I am giving this book to be kept by this church forever that the children whom I have baptized and their children's children and all their children might know who they are."**

So were recorded the words of Reverend John William Weber, who baptized many of the early family members in Westmoreland County. The 9<sup>th</sup> Sauvage / Sowash / Soash Family reunion will give all of us a chance to find out a little bit more about our early family and to see many original documents related to early family history in Westmoreland County.

The reunion will be held in Irwin, Pennsylvania on July 9, 10, & 11. A block of 20 rooms has been reserved at the Best Western Conley Inn (US30, Conley Lane, Irwin PA 15642) for July 8-10. Rates are \$60.25 for 2 people and \$8.00 for each additional person. To reserve a room, call 800 766-7824 (724 863-0700) and mention the Sowash/Soash reunion **by June 15**.

### Friday, July 9

**9:00 a.m.** Depart Conley Inn for Historic Hanna's Town (3 miles north of Greensburg via US119 phone 724 836-1800). Hanna's Town is a reconstruction of the settlement that was the first county seat west of the Alleghenies. On their original sites are Robert Hanna's house, which served as a residence, tavern, and courthouse, a one-room jail and a storage house. Greensburg, founded in 1787, later became the county seat. The Westmoreland County Historical Society members will be providing guided group tours of the buildings and ongoing archeological digs from 10 a.m.-noon at \$1.50 per person group rate.

**Noon** Lunch in the downtown Greensburg area

**1:00 p.m.** We will meet outside the Office of Wills in the Westmoreland County Courthouse in Greensburg. **Please wait in the hall outside the office.** We will be able to view the original will of Henry Sowash (1799), estate papers of Daniel Sowash (1802) and of his wife Margaret (1822). We will also be able to view the will and estate papers of John Sowash, Sr. (1827) and his wife Catherine (1851). In addition we will be able to view the tax early tax records of Westmoreland County which paints an interesting picture of the family.

**3:00 p.m.** Westmoreland Museum of American Art (221 N. Main, Greensburg phone 724 837-1500) Free entry. This museum features American and southwestern Pennsylvania paintings, sculpture, drawings, prints, and decorative arts. The fine art collection includes works by Mary Cassat, Thomas Eakins, Benjamin West and Andrew Wyeth. The museum closes at 5 p.m. on Friday.

**5:00 p.m.** We will meet at the Strawpump Fire Station, 130 N. Thompson Lane, North Huntingdon, PA. At 5:30 p.m., Reverend Paul Ruff will give brief remarks about the early history of Westmoreland County. He will also be bringing many of the original church records which list the births, deaths, and marriage of the early Sowash family in the county. Included will be the church book of Reverend John William Weber. Dinner will be catered at 6:30.

## **Saturday, July 10**

**8:30 a.m.** We will meet at the Brush Creek Cemetery where John Sowash, Sr. and his wife Catherine are buried. Henry Sowash and Daniel were also probably buried in the cemetery, but no original stones remain. We will also visit the Brush Creek United Church of Christ. The cornerstone for this church was laid 17 August 1816 and was finished in 1820. The group will then split, depending on whether they are descended from John Sowash, Sr. or Daniel Sowash. The groups will tour sites associated with their lineage.

**Noon** Lunch on your own in the Irwin area.

**1:00 p.m.** Depart from Conley Inn for Bushy Run Battlefield State Historical Site, Jeannette PA. (phone 724 527-5584 - from Irwin, 8 miles east on SR993) At Bushy Run Battlefield, a 1763 British encounter with Native American forces decided the territorial fate of the Pennsylvania frontier and the Old Northwest to present-day Michigan. The British victory at Bushy Run marked the turning point in Pontiac's War. A visitor's center displays artifacts and reproductions from the period. An exhibit describes the battle. Group rate \$1.50 per person.

**4:00 p.m.** Fullerton House (11029 Old Trail Road, North Huntingdon, PA) This house, built in 1798, served as the first General Store and the second Inn on the "King's Highway". Humphrey Fullerton was the neighbor of the John Sowash, Sr. family. Many of the early members of the Sowash family probably traded at this General Store.

**5:00 p.m.** We will meet at the Strawpump Fire Station, 130 N. Thompson Lane, North Huntingdon, PA. Dinner will be catered at 6:30. Following dinner, we will have the business meeting.

### **Business Meeting Agenda**

2000 Reunion - Judi Dunlap

2001 Berks County - Host ??

Financial Report

Election of officers

Cemetery Projects - Stone for Johannes Sauvage in Berks County, PA

## **Sunday, July 11**

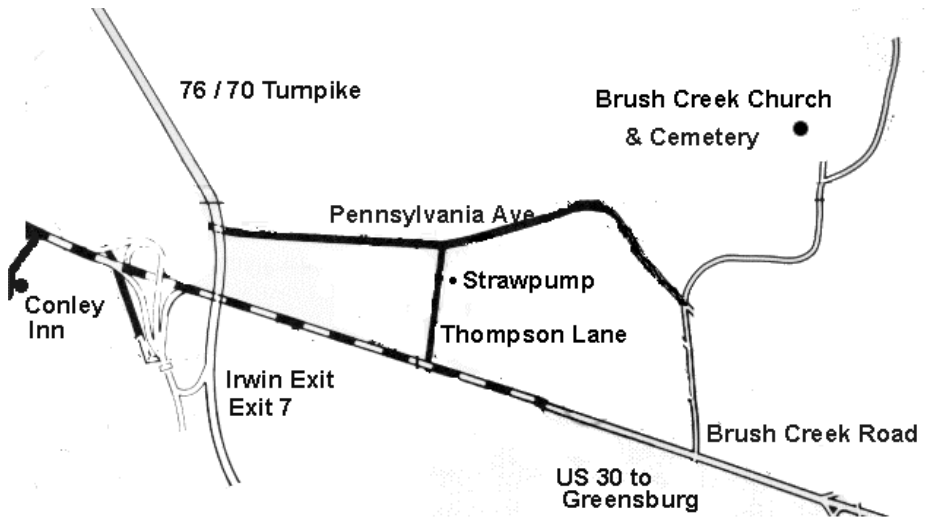
**9:45 a.m.** For those who wish to attend, church services at the Brush Creek United Church of Christ.

# Directions

**Conley Inn** - Take the Irwin Exit (Exit 7) off the Pennsylvania Turnpike (76/70). Take US 30 West (Pittsburgh) about one mile west.

**Strawpump Fire Station** is east of Irwin on Highway 30. Turn north at the Sheetz Store on Thompson Lane. It's about 300 feet north on the east side of the road.

**Brush Creek Cemetery** is east of Irwin on Highway 30. Turn north at Kenny Roth Ford on Brush Creek Road and follow it to the cemetery.



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 Please return this section and checks made to the **Sauvage/Sowash/Soash Family Assn.** to Richard Soash, 5723 N. Charles, Wichita, KS 67204-1857 **by JUNE 11**. We cannot guarantee reservations after this date.

- **Friday, July 9 Hanna's Town** \_\_\_\_\_ at \$1.50 \_\_\_\_\_
- **Friday, July 9 Evening Buffet**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Adults at \$10.50 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Children 8 or under at \$5.25 \_\_\_\_\_
- **Saturday, July 20 Bushy Run Battlefield** \_\_\_\_\_ at \$1.50 \_\_\_\_\_
- **Saturday, July 20 Evening Buffet:**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Adults at \$14.50 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Children 8 or under at \$7.25 \_\_\_\_\_
- **Family dues** (if not previously paid) (\$10.00) \_\_\_\_\_
- **Donations to the Research or Cemetery Funds** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Family News

- ◆ Glenn V. Sowash (1J7G1) passed away 14 Oct 1998. He was buried in Union Cemetery in Irwin, PA. He is survived by his wife Jonelle and his sister Gladys Stoker. He was a long-time supporter of the family association.
- ◆ Gene Hansen (2E4C1D/H/) passed away 08 Aug 1998.
- ◆ George Soash (1F6C2B) is recovering from surgery. His address is 13817 Scott, Burnsville, MN 55337
- ◆ Ruth Thomas (1B4B1A) celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 25, 1999.

### Thanks to Family Members for Their Donations

Jane & Jack Brown (1F6E2B)  
Joanne Dixon (1J2A7C)  
Dorothy Hansen (2E4C1D) in memory of Gene Hansen  
Marijean Hawthorne (5C7B1C1)  
Arthur Heming (2C6E4D)  
Noreen Mack (1F2G4B1)  
Beverly & Randy Skipton (1F6C2C)  
Lorraine Soash (1B7E2/W/) in memory of Paul Soash  
Jonelle Sowash (1J7G1/W/) in memory of Glenn Sowash  
Ian Sowash (1I7F4A/W/)