

1999 SAUVAGE / SOWASH / SOASH FAMILY REUNION

Irwin, PA

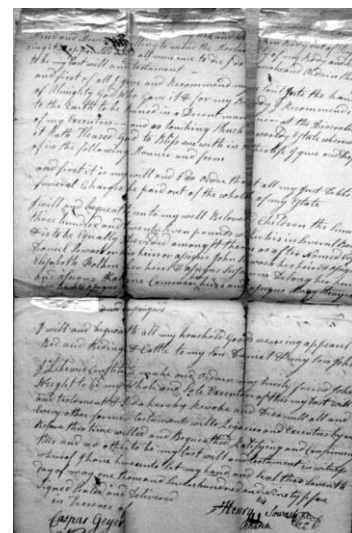
Friday, July 9

The group met and headed for Historic Hanna's Town, 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.

After lunch on their own, family members gathered at the Office of Wills in the Westmoreland County Courthouse and viewed the original will of Henry Sowash (1799), estate papers of Daniel Sowash (1802) and of his wife Margaret (1822). They also saw the will and estate papers of John Sowash, Sr. (1827) and his wife Catherine (1851) and the early tax records of Westmoreland County, which paints an interesting picture of the family.

The group then visited the excellent collection of the Westmoreland Museum of American Art. At 5:00 p.m., family members met at the home of Pat & Bob Vaughn, who generously opened their home to the family.

Reverend Paul Ruff gave brief remarks about the early history of Westmoreland County, followed by a catered dinner.



1799 Will of Henry Sowash

Saturday, July 10



Brush Creek Church Interior

The group met at Brush Creek Cemetery where John Sowash, Sr. and his wife Catherine are buried. Henry and Daniel Sowash were also probably buried in the cemetery, but no original stones remain. The family erected Revolutionary War gravestones for both Henry and Daniel in 1998. The group visited the Brush Creek United Church of Christ, started on 17 August 1816 and was finished in 1820. The group then split and toured sites associated with their branch of the family. Larry Sowash ably led Daniel's descendants on a rather long trek in Rostraver Township to visit the original land and cemetery sites. Richard Soash took John's descendants to visit the original homestead near Jacktown and to cemeteries in the area.

After lunch on their own, the group headed for Bushy Run Battlefield Historical Site, where in 1763, a British defeated Native American forces which decided the territorial fate of the Pennsylvania frontier and the Old Northwest to present-day Michigan.

At 5:00 p.m. family members met at the Strawpump Fire Station for a catered at 6:30, followed by the annual business meeting.

Officers elected were: President and 2000 reunion host - Judi Dunlap, Vice-President - Stella Winkler, and Secretary / Treasurer - Richard Soash. Merwin and Peggy Soash agreed to host the 2001 reunion in Berks County, PA. area, with a possible visit to Valley Forge. After the financial report, the group voted to proceed with placing a



Saturday Banquet Attendees

large native boulder with a bronze plaque on the probable gravesite of Johannes and Susanna

Sauvage in Berks County. Richard will also investigate placing a bronze marker on the current gravestones of Catherine and Elizabeth Sowash in Brush Creek Cemetery. The marble stones are deteriorating rapidly.

On Sunday family members who wished to attended church services at the Brush Creek United Church of Christ.

27 people 4 states (KS, MI, OH, PA)

Merwin Soash	1B4A3A
Peggy Soash	1B4A3A/W/
Richard Soash	1B7E6B
Pat Fritsche	1F6C1B1
Carl Fritsche	1F6C1B1/H/
Helen Recknor	1J7D7
Mary Ann McIlvaine	1J7D8B
John O. Sowash	1J7E7D
Dorothy Sowash	1J7E7D/W/
Mary Banks	1J7E7D5
Duane Banks	1J7E7D5/H/
Cara Sowash	1J7E7D6
Krista Sowash	1J7E7D7
Jonelle Sowash	1J7G1/W/
Larry Sowash	2C12L3A2
Diane Sowash	2C12L3A2/W/
W. Harold Sowash	2C1B1A2
Donald Sowash	2C1B1A2A
Arthur Heming	2C6E4D
Barbara Heming	2C6E4D2
Jack Sowash	2D3C4A
Nancy Sowash	2D3C4A/W/
Betty Kretchek	Daniel
Theodore Kretchek	Daniel
Pat Vaughn	Daniel
Bob Vaughn	Daniel
Paul Ruff	Guest