

THE SWEET FAMILY OF LEEDS COUNTY

This history of the Sweet family was prepared from information gathered from a number of sources - census records, land records, church records, newspapers, unpublished family histories and family lore. The information is incomplete and I am aware that there may be errors. Any comments, corrections or suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

In 1902 a short history of the family of John and Alpha Sweet appeared in *The Owl*, a genealogical magazine published in Kewaunee, Wisconsin. The information which had been provided by Senator Edmund Sweet of Menno, South Dakota, great grandson of John and Alpha, does not always agree with information handed down by members of the Sweet family in Leeds County.

According to Senator Sweet's account, John Sweet lived in Oswego County, New York where all his children were born. Family lore gave the origin of the Sweet family as Wales; bone-setting was also said to be a tradition in the family. The article suggests that John Sweet served in the Revolutionary War, but provides no details.

Senator Sweet relates that John Sweet died in Oswego County and shortly thereafter his wife moved the family to Furnace Falls (Lyndhurst), Leeds County "in order to have some of the older sons who were there assist in supporting the family". It is possible to infer from this that the Sweet men were employed at the Iron Works. However, the 1807 census for the Rear of Leeds lists John Sweet's family as follows:

John Sweet
Alpheus do
Sintha
Allen
Jerod
Anna
Lydia
Eli
Frederic
William
Abigail [Abijah?]

One other son, **Hiram**, was born in 1809 and one census lists **Clarissa**, but she has not been traced; the names correspond with Senator Sweet's recollection. **John Sweet** died April 5, 1813, aged 46 year, 18 days. **Alpha Sweet** survived another forty years, dying May 4, 1853, aged 86 years, 7 months and 10 days. They are buried in the Baptist Cemetery in the Rear of Leeds.

Senator Sweet claimed that two of the sons, Allen and Jared remained in Oswego County, but this is definitely not true; both sons appear in the 1807 census of Leeds Rear. Allen Sweet (b.1790) was a farmer, speculator and entrepreneur. During the War of 1812 he was a sergeant in the 2nd Flank Company of the Leeds Militia and served at Gananoque; prominent in local politics, he represented the area at the Gourlay meeting in 1818. In later years he was appointed a justice of the peace; he was also an active Methodist and served as a lay preacher for many years.

Allen Sweet (1790 - 1864) married in 1810 to **Rachel Knapp** who subsequently died; information provided by Chris Kenney states that there was a daughter, Rachel. **Allen Sweet** remarried to **Desire Sly** (1793 - 1868) and they settled on lot 19, Concession X, Leeds now known as Sweet's Corners; there they raised a family of five:

Ira m **Sibel Merrill**
Amos Tibbet m **Phoebe Dewolf**
Electa m **Asa Wing**
Hester Ann m **Joseph Mainse**
Parthena m **Skyler (Schuyler) Lake**

Allen Sweet died January 3, 1864 and Desire died October 10, 1868; they are buried at the Baptist Cemetery in the Rear of Leeds. (See below for more on this family)

Jared Lewis Sweet (son of John and Alpha Sweet) lived in Haldimand Township, Northumberland County and may have been engaged in the timber trade; that was his place of residence on April 2, 1816, when he and Ziba Marcus Phillips leased Lot 5, Concession VIII, Leeds.

Jared Sweet is not listed in the Haldimand Township census for 1861, but the following are listed:

Sweet, Hiram	33 years	W. Methodist
Samantha	30	
George	12	
Gerard	11	
J. A.	9	
M. E.	5	
Johnathan	3	
William	1	
Sweet, John	45	
Ruth	43	
Polly	18	
Mary?	16	
Nathan	12	
Angeline	8	
Caroline	13	
Frederick	7	
Emma	5	
Sephronia	3	

In 1871 the census of Haldimand Township, Northumberland County lists:

Sweet, Hiram	36 years farmer	W. Methodist
George	21	
Jared	19	
Alvy	17	
Jonathan	12	
Albert	8	
Emmeline	14	
Levy	6	
Adda	4	
Sweet, Jared	80	minister E. Methodist
Martha	70	

The census reports that Samantha Sweet had died of dropsy in April 1870 at the age of 35 years.

Eli T. Sweet (son of John and Alpha Sweet) was born in Oswego County, New York May 10, 1796 and married **Emma Ann Sly** (born April 9, 1796) in 1817. They had seven children:

Lydia m **Robert Nuttle (Nuttall)**
Elijah m **Jane Chapman**
Arnold Lewis m **Eliza Pierson**
Hannah m **Myron Ripley**
Miron m **Kate Thorngate**
Permillia m **George Powers**
Hiram m **Aramantha Powers**

In 1844 Eli T. Sweet and all his family with the exception of his daughter, Lydia and her husband, Robert Nuttall, emigrated from Leeds County to Wisconsin. Emma Ann Sweet died at Portland, Wisconsin on November 11, 1861; no date is given for the death of Eli T. Sweet. (See below for more information on this family.)

Anna Sweet (1795 - 1856) married **Hiel Sliter** (1795 - 1890), son of Nicholas and Polly Sliter. The Sliter family had moved to Leeds County in 1803 where Nicholas was employed as a charcoal burner at the Iron Works at Furnace Falls (Lyndhurst). One of seven children, Hiel Sliter was a self educated man; he wrote a short memoir in 1858 which provides valuable insight into

early pioneer life in the area. Hiel and Anna were married in November 1815; they settled on Lot 21, Concession X, Leeds, where they raised a family of ten:

Washington Lee m **Charlotte Umphrey**
Alzina m **Christopher Allyn**
Spencer Percival m **Amelia ?**
Emily Minerva m **Archibald Imeson, M.D.**
Alonzo m **Amanda**
Ernestus Chester m a. **Evaline Merrill**
b. **Jemima Ripley**
Cynthia d. 1821 aged 10 mos
Joel d. 182? aged 2 mos
Pamelia d. 1825 aged 9 yrs
Estella Ophelia (1837 - 1858)

Hiel Sliter was born January 1, 1795 and died March 27, 1890; his wife **Anna** died April 4, 1856. They are buried in the Baptist Cemetery in the Rear of Leeds. (See below for more information on this family)

Little is known about **John Frederick Sweet**; he married and lived in South Crosby where he appeared on the 1841 census with his wife and five children. John Frederick Sweet and family migrated to Wisconsin in the 1840s.

William Sweet left home when he was young and was never heard from afterwards.

Abijah Sweet (1802-1809) married **Maria Rhodes** (1804-1888) and they lived in South Crosby until 1844 when they migrated to Wisconsin with other family members. They had at least seven children:

Nicholas (1833 - 1918) m **Mary Chaffee**
Mahitable (1835 - 1862) m **Nathan Hood**
Sylvester (1838 - 1917) m **Achsa Perry**
Alby (1840 - 1868)
John (1845 - 1918) m **Helen**
George (1850 - 1930)
Scott (1854 - 1917)

Hiram N. Sweet (1809-1903) married **Hannah ?** (1810-1888). The family appeared in the 1871 census of Bastard Twp.; Hiram was a carpenter and his daughter, **Luva** was a schoolteacher. Hiram and his wife are buried at the Baptist Burying Ground in the Rear of Leeds along with four of their children. Their known family were:

Marshall Norton (1834 - 1843)
Zebulon Jesse (1837 - 1839)
Luva J. (1841 - ?)
Malissa (1841 - 1843)
John Frederick (1844 - 1845)
Murat (1847 - ?) m **Clarissa Ophelia Wood**
Julia (1851 - ?)

Hiram Sweet, his wife Hannah and four of their children are buried at the Baptist Cemetery in Leeds Rear.

Senator Sweet's account states **Cynthia Sweet** married **Knapp McKittrick** and **Lydia Sweet** married a man named **Davis**. At present there is no information

regarding the McKittricks and Davises. **Abijah Sweet, John Frederick Sweet, Lydia Davis** and their families accompanied their brother, **Eli** to Wisconsin in 1844.

THE FAMILY OF ALLEN AND DESIRE SWEET

Allen Sweet and **Desire Sly** had five children who survived to adulthood:

Ira Sweet, the oldest child of Allen and Desire Sweet, was born May 20, 1820 and died January 16, 1893. He married **Sibel Merrill** who was born in the U.S.A. May 20, 1819 and died February 20, 1887. In 1851 the family was living on lot 20, Concession VIII, Leeds. Ira and Sibel were Episcopal Methodists and are buried in the Halladay Cemetery, Elgin. Their children were:

Allen Miner (1842 - ?) disappeared to U. S. A.

Molly Philomela (1843 - ?) m **Robert McCormack**

Merrill C. (1847 - 1930) m **Mary Editha (Lydydce) Hicock**

Edna S. (1848 - 1934) unmarried, buried Halladay Cemetery

Ira /Iremius (1850 - ?) moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan

Melvin S. (1854 - 1910) m **Selora Wing**

Electa (1857 - 1857) buried Halladay Cemetery

Ida S. (1858 - 1930) buried Halladay Cemetery

Eva Alpha (1861 - 1945) m **John Redmond Wiltse** (1859 - 1958)

(See below for more information on the family of Ira Sweet)

Amos Tibbits Sweet, second child of Allen and Desire Sweet, was born in 1822 and died October 20, 1894. He married **Phebe Dewolf** who was five or six years his senior. She died January 26, 1903 and they are both buried at the Baptist Burying Ground in the Rear of Leeds along with two of their children, **Clarissa** (1856 - 1927) and **William** (1858 - 1863). Their third child, **Allen Healy Sweet**, married **Alice Hicock** and raised a family of five.

Amos T. Sweet was living on Lot 13, Concession IX, Leeds Twp. in 1851; records for the District of Johnstown show that in 1848 he was paid 10s as a constable for his services to a coroner's jury in disinterring a body.

Allen and Desire's third child was **Electa** (1824 - 1851) who married **Asa Wing** (1822 - 1891); she died at the age of 27 years leaving him with two young daughters, **Rachel** and **Rosanna**, who were mentioned in the will of their grandfather, Allen Sweet. **Asa Wing** remarried to **Maria Botsford**; Wing and his family are buried at the Baptist Burying Ground.

Hester Ann, the fourth child of Allen and Desire Sweet, was born November 21, 1833. She was one of the earliest female school teachers in the area. On October 10, 1859 she married **Joseph Mainse** (born November 28, 1831) and they had three children:

Electa Jane m **Philip Robeson**
Allen Sweet m **Parthena Snider**
Edward Topping m **Susan Berry**

On April 23, 1869 **Joseph Mainse** was killed in a fall on their farm; Hester lived another thirty years until March 3, 1899. They are buried at the Halladay Cemetery in Elgin.

The youngest of Allen and Desire's children was **Parthena**, born in 1837 when her mother was 44 years old. She married **Schuyler** (Skyler) **Shibley Lake** (born 1841), a carpenter from Ernestown and they lived in the Lyndhurst area. They had no children, but adopted several Home children. The 1891 census lists three adopted children:

Emma age 21 years
Hiram Thompson age 15 years, born Scotland
Nellie McGeachy age 5 years, born Scotland

Parthena Lake died in 1921; **Schuyler** survived another six years. They are buried at the Olivet Cemetery with their daughter, **Nellie** (1885 - 1953).

THE FAMILY OF HIEL AND ANNA SLITER

Washington Lee Sliter, eldest son of Hiel and Anna was born in 1817; on December 28, 1848 he married **Charlotte**, daughter of **Henry and Charlotte Umphrey**. The marriage was performed by Peter Schofield of the Baptist Church of Christ and was witnessed by Arden Kilborn and Amos Tibbitt [Sweet]. Bride, groom and witnesses were all residing in Leeds Township at the time. In the census of 1861 the family was enumerated in the household of Henry Umphrey, but gave their residence as Escott:

NAME	AGE
Washington Sliter	44
Charlotte "	33
Henry H. "	12
Anna M. "	9
Henrietta W. "	8
Malcolm W. "	6
Edwin E. "	1

Hiel and Anna's second surviving child, **Alzina**, was born in 1822. She married **Christopher Allyn**, an American who settled in Beverley (Delta) and practiced the trade of stonecutter. Many of the early are the marble tombstones in area cemeteries were manufactured in his shop. Christopher and Alzina had at least five children:

Sherman
Pamela died February 6, 1848, aged 3 mos, 7 dys
Anna

Lester N. m Hannah Ripley
Clara L.

Christopher and Alzina Allyn are buried in the Baptist Cemetery at Philippsville.

Third in Hiel and Anna's family was **Spencer Percival Sliter** who married **Amelia ??**. They lived in in Leeds Township and later in Morton. The census of 1861 lists:

NAME	AGE
Percival Sliter	37
Amelia "	37
Norman H.	13
Emma Maria	11
Eugenia	9
Sarah Belle	1
Archibald E.	

Other children were born later including a son, **Robert Hiel**. **Emma Maria Sliter** married Henry H. Turner, a native of Scotland, who taught school in Lyndhurst; since 1987 their great grandson, Dr. Larry Christianson, has been researching the Sliter family.

Hiel and Anna's second daughter was **Emily Minerva** who married **Dr. Archibald Imeson** June 16, 1857. Emily was a schoolteacher but, little more is known of this family; Dr. Imeson is buried at Philippsville.

Alonzo Sliter was the fifth surviving child; he married **Amanda Phillips?** Alonzo taught school in the area, but he and his wife lived in Brockville in later years. It is not known whether they had any family. Alonzo died February 2, 1894 aged 64 years; Amanda died November 20, 1901 aged 70 years. Both are buried in Oakland Cemetery, Brockville.

The youngest of Hiel and Anna's children was **Ernestus Chester Sliter**, born in 1834. He married **Evaline Merrill** and settled in Athens where they had at least one child, **Mary Alzina**, born February 13, 1870. **Evaline** died in 1881 at the age of 50 years and Ernestus remarried to **Jemima Ripley** who died in 1905 in her 69th year; Ernestus survived until 1910; he and his two wives are buried in the Halladay Cemetery, Elgin.

THE FAMILY OF ELI AND EMMA SWEET

Senator Sweet's record of the family of Eli Taylor Sweet and Emma Ann Sly published in 1902 is presented here with additional information.

Lydia Sweet was born June 17, 1818; on July 29, 1839 she was married to **Robert Nuttall**, (born in 1817 in England) by Peter Schofield of the Baptist Church of Christ. Witnesses were Elijah

Sweet and W. L. Sliter. They lived on Lot 18, Concession IX where Robert farmed and ran a tavern. They had nine children:

Anna Matilda (b. 1840/1/23) m Robert Tye
Charlotte Melinda (b. 1842/1/13)
Eli John (b. 1843/12/23)
Emma I. (b. 1845?)
George Edwin (b. 1847?)
Allen E. (b. 1849?)
William L. (b. 1853?)
Robert E. (b. 1855?)
Hannah E. (b. 1857?) m Joseph N. Galway

Lydia died in 1901 and Robert in 1905; they are buried at Olivet Cemetery.

The remaining children of **Eli** and **Emma Sweet** moved with their parents to Wisconsin in 1844; they were:

Elijah, born April 7, 1820; married in 1841 to **Jane Chapman**. He died at Reedsburg, Wisconsin, in 1895; Eli and Jane had five children: Eli, Mary, Alice, William and Edward.

Arnold Lewis, born January 23, 1822; married July 16, 1848 to **Eliza Pearson**. He died at Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, August 3, 1900; Lewis and Eliza's children were Edmund Theodore, Anna and Charles Edwin. Edmund Theodore (b. 1849/4/30) married Julia Harris and eventually settled in Menno, S. D. where he was a stockman and state senator. He and his wife had four children: Oliver, Edmund, Julia, Jessie (died age 7 months). Anna Sweet (b. 1851/7/16) married Alfred Cobb; they lived in Sun Prairie, WI and had one son, Ollie. Charles E. Sweet (b. 1853/1/12) married Ella Hecker and remained on the homestead at Sun Prairie where they raised three children: Edmund, Julia, Josie.

Hannah, born November 6, 1823; married **Myron Ripley** in 1846; lived near Sun Prairie, Wisconsin where she died December 6, 1856. Their children were Esther, Permilta and Lydia.

Miron, born November 29, 1826; married **Kate Thorngate** in 1856. They had five children: Francis, George, Arthur, Nettie and Albert; Miron and Kate moved to Warner, S. D., where they were living in 1902.

Permilta, born January 14, 1833; married **George Powers** and in 1902 they were living in Devil's Lake, N. D. Their two children were Hannah and Lewis.

Hiram, born February 21, 1834; married **Aramantha Powers** in 1850. In 1902 they were living in Marshall, Wisconsin; their three children were Elmer, Alver and Mary.

THE FAMILY OF IRA SWEET AND SIBEL MERRILL

Ira Sweet and **Sibel Merrill** had eight children; of these, **Electa** died before her first birthday and **Edna** and **Ida** never married. The remaining children were:

Allen Miner (b. 1841?) disappeared to the United States never to be heard from again; the following household is enumerated in the 1880 census for Beaver, Newaygo County, Michigan:

Allen SWEET - Male Birth: <1838> CAN
Nansy SWEET - Wife Gender: Female Birth: <1838> CAN
Charles SWEET - Son Gender: Male Birth: <1872> MI
Sarah REDDING - MotherL Gender: Female Birth: <1791> CAN

Molly Philomela (b. 1842?), married **Robert McCormack**; no further information at this time;

Merrill C. Sweet (1847 - 1930), married **Mary Editha Hicock** (1846 - 1921); They had six children:

Miner (1872 - 1927)	<u>m</u>	Mary Smith (1872 -)
Bertha (1871 - 1938)	<u>m</u>	Edwin Putnam (1871 - 1941)
Hattie (1875 - 1970)	<u>m</u>	Pockrage Mustard (1871 - 1959)
Austin (1878 - 1934)	<u>m</u>	Estella Gertrude Brown (1880 - 1932)
Mary (1882 - 1886)		
Edith (1885 - 1886)		

Ira/ Iremius Sweet, born 1850; moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan; there has been no contact with this family since they left Leeds County.

Melvin S. Sweet (1854 - 1910) married **Selora Wing** (1856 - 1919); they lived at Sweet's Corner and had four children:

Celia (1879 - 1939) m **Frank Truman Wiltse**
Gordon (1882-1938) m **Geneva Bell** (1881-1939)
Raymond Wing (1893-1977) m **Zella Slack** (1891-1975)
Carl m **Iva Kenny** (
Zella (1902 - 1957) m **Clarence Kenny** (1900 - 1973)

Eva Alpha (1861 - 1945) married **John Redmond Wiltse** (1859 - 1958), a cheesemaker from Plum Hollow; they had three children:

Clifford Stanley (1887 - 1966)
Lena Rebecca (1893 - 1966)
Charles Artemus (1901 - 1984) m **Eva Laura Cowles**