



The Family Tree

The Newsletter of the Sauvage/Sowash/Soash

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1997 Sauvage/Sowash/Soash Family Reunion July 18, 19, 20, 1997 Bowling Green, Ohio

Friday, July 18- Historical Day

- Visit the homesteads and cemeteries of the Soash families who settled in the area
- Visit to Grand Rapids, a restored historical town along the Maumee River, incorporated in 1803. Attractions include the local shops, Ludwig Mill powered by a water wheel, a mule powered canal trip, and the *Bluebird*, the train that follows the river for a scenic trip.
- Dinner at the American Legion near Grand Rapids.

Saturday, July 19- See the Sites

- Visits to some of these area attractions:
 - Fort Meigs, a reconstructed fort for the defense of the Maumee Valley
 - Science and Technology Center of Toledo
 - Toledo International Festival along the river
 - Willis B. Boyer, a large lake freighter converted into a museum
 - Toledo Museum of Art
 - Rutherford B. Hayes home and library
 - Wood County Historical Museum
- Saturday evening banquet and business meeting

Sunday, July 20- Church Services

The Maumee Valley

The Maumee is the largest river emptying into the Great Lakes. Settlements along the river were established by the late 1700's. The area that now comprises much of Wood, Ottawa and Sandusky Counties comprised the **Black Swamp**, one of lowest, most unpleasant places that early settlers encountered. German and Dutch farmers developed a system of drainage ditches and established the use of clay field tile to drain the excess water and convert the land to farming.

Final reunion details will be included in the April newsletter. Plan on attending this year's reunion.

Family News

David Gillrup Soash passed away October 17, 1996. He served on the cemetery committee for several years and was a strong supporter of the association.

Renew Your Membership

It's time to add or renew your membership to the **Sauvage/ Sowash/ Soash Family Association** for 1997. Your dues help support the newsletter, research projects, and cemetery projects of the association. Dues are \$8 and may be sent to Richard Soash, 5723 N. Charles, Wichita, KS 67204. Additional donations for cemetery projects are always welcome.

Current Cemetery Projects

1997 Reunion - Wood County, OH

- Replacement stone for John & Elizabeth Soash (1B) - Otsego Cemetery, Wood Co., OH.

1999 Reunion - Westmoreland County, PA

- Engrave family stone for George & Elizabeth Sowash (1J) - Union Cemetery, Irwin, PA.
- Revolutionary War stone for Daniel Sowash (2) - Brush Creek Cemetery, Westmoreland Co., PA.
- Revolutionary War stone for Henry Sowash - Brush Creek Cemetery, Westmoreland Co., PA.
- Stone for Abraham Sowash (2C) - St. Clair Cemetery, Westmoreland Co., PA.
- Re-engrave marble stones in Brush Creek Cemetery, Westmoreland Co., PA.

Richard L. Soash
5723 N. Charles
Wichita, KS 67204

2001 Reunion - Berks County, PA

- Marker for Johannes & Susannah Sauvage on their original land purchased 1743.

Donations to Cemetery Projects

George & Elizabeth Sowash Project:

- Gladys Stoker (1J7G3)
- Nancy Stevens (1J7A2A)
- Joan Sowash (1J7E4A/W/)
- Patricia Scholer (1J2A7B)

Future Reunions

1998 - Tentatively scheduled for Michigan
1999 Westmoreland County, PA. We will again be able to visit the sites of the Sowash family, including the land and graves of Daniel and John Sowash, progenitors of the Sowash families in America.

2000 - Northwest U.S. ??

2001 Berks County, PA. Johannes Sauvage arrived in Philadelphia in 1738 and soon settled in Berks Co., PA., purchasing land in 1743. The current tract of land retains nearly the same shape as the original plot. We hope to erect a marker on this land. Mertz Church has the original book recording the marriage of Henry Sowash to Anna Schneider in 1749. The original 1761 will of Johannes Sauvage can also still be seen.