

# The Family Tree

The Newsletter of the Sauvage /Sowash /Soash Family

Web site <http://www.feist.com/~rsoash/soash.html>

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## 1999 SAUVAGE / SOWASH / SOASH FAMILY REUNION Irwin, PA

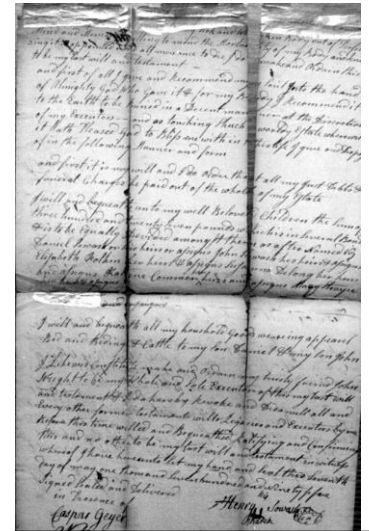
### Friday, July 9

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 paint 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 finished in 1820. The group then split and toured sites associated with their branches of the family. Larry Sowash ably led Daniel's descendants on a rather long trek to 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, the British defeated Native American forces, deciding 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, 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 large native boulder with a bronze plaque on the probable gravesite of Johannes and Susanna Sauvage in Berks County. Richard will also



Saturday Banquet Attendees

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

Twenty-seven people from four states attended the reunion: Merwin & Peggy Soash, Richard Soash, Pat & Carl Fritsche, Helen Recknor, Mary Ann McIlvaine, John O. & Dorothy Sowash, Mary & Duane Banks, Cara Sowash, Krista Sowash, Jonelle Sowash, Larry & Diane Sowash, W. Harold Sowash, Donald Sowash, Arthur Heming, Barbara Heming, Jack & Nancy Sowash, Betty & Theodore Kretcheck, Pat & Bob Vaughn, Paul Ruff.

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

## **2000 SAUVAGE / SOWASH / SOASH FAMILY REUNION**

### **San Diego, California                      July 21,22, 23**

Mark your calendars and start making plans. Judi Dunlap will host the 2000 Sauvage / Sowash / Soash Family Reunion in the San Diego, California area.

If you have suggestions for activities during the reunion, you can contact Judi Dunlap, 155 Las Flores Drive # 40, San Marcos, CA 92069-6007 (phone 760 727-2106).

#### **Thanks to These People for Their Donations**

David Delisi (2C4A1A1A)	Harvey & Betty Sowash (1E2G1B)
Sue Kelley (2B5D1B1)	John C. "Jack" & Dorris Sowash (2D4J4)
Bill & Betty McClurg (2A3F3B1) in memory of Conrad M. McClurg	John C. "Jack" & Dorothy Sowash (2D3C4A)
Lorraine Soash (1B7E2/W/) in memory of Paul Soash	Jonelle Sowash (1J7G1/W/)
Larry & Diane Sowash (2C12L3A2)	Pat & Bob Vaughn (Daniel)

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