

Sweet Family Articles

Caught in a Blizzard

At the Sweet family reunion were two brothers and a sister whose experience in life is sad and pitiful, January 12th, 1888, they were living in Olivet, South Dakota, and with their father and mother, another brother and nephew, started at 11 o'clock that morning in a sleigh to attend the wedding of another brother four miles distant. It was a pleasant morning, but they had driven but half way, when a blizzard overtook them, and the blinding snow became so dense that they lost their way in the darkness, and wandered about until their horses were frozen to death, and they could nothing but remain in the sleigh until the following morning. When the storm abated, they were only 40 rods from a neighbor's house and the father went at once to get help. As soon as he went near the fire, his face which was badly frozen, commences to swell and in a few moments he was totally blind. He could not even see to get back to the sleigh.

A school teacher found them and soon they were all taken home. It was then found that they were so badly frozen that the sister, Berdena M. Sweet had to have both hands amputated near the elbow, and Orlo M. and Herbert J. had both legs amputated near the knees. They are now on their way – driving across the country in a covered wagon – to Painesville, Ohio. They reached here just in time to attend the reunion.

A Pleasant Sweet Reunion

The fourteenth annual reunion of the Sweet family occurred Wednesday, Aug. 21st, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Hezekiah Sweet, on north Clay street. The reunion lasted all day and well into the night and a number did not get away until Thursday. Tables were laid on the lawn and a bower of evergreens was erected over them and presented a very pleasant appearance. The day passed in feasting, social recreation and games. A business meeting was called and the following officers elected for the ensuing year:

President – Mahlon E. Sweet, Kirtland, O.
Vice Pres. – Hezekiah Sweet, Coldwater, Mich.
Secretary – Jennie Wakelee, Kirtland, O.
Treasurer – Carrie Heiges, Middlefield, O.
Marshall – Edmund Stearns, Auburn, O.

The following members were present.

M.E. Sweet, Kirtland, Ohio.
Mrs. Lovina Clark, Blissfield, Mich.,
Mr. and Mrs. Rowland Powell, Mr. and Mrs. Elsworth Powell and child, Mr. and Mrs. John Powell and child, Miss Mary Thomson, Miss Florence Thomson, Miss Belle Powell and Miss Stelle Powell, Hanover, Michigan.
Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Wilkins, Groveland, Mich.
Messrs J. B. and Eugene Sweet, Mr. and Mrs. Aldelbert Wixon and child, Union City, Mich.

Miss Mernie Bailey, Salmon City, Idaho.

Mrs. Henry Winslow and Mr. Lewis Winslow, Osage, Iowa.

Mrs. Lottie Sweet and child, Miss Berdena Sweet, Mr. Orlo M. Sweet, Mr. Herbert J. Sweet, Mr. R. E. Gilbert and two children, Painesville, Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Keyes and Mrs. Emma Noyos, Batavia, Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Holmes and three little daughters, Miss Louise Holmes, Mr. Nate Holmes and Master Allison Holmes, Burr Oak, Michigan.

Mrs. S. VanAlstine, Mrs. Grace V. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Hatmaker and two children and Mr. Benjamin Sweet, Bronson, Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. Aldelbert Short and little daughter and Mr. Charles Short, Mrs. Clarence Wixon and two children, Coldwater, Michigan.

Mrs. E. O. Smith, Detroit, Mich.

Mr. and Mrs. Hezekiah Sweet and two daughters, Mr. William Sweet and Master Ralph Sweet, Coldwater, Michigan.

Mrs. Jason Brooks, Goshen, Ind.

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Peterson, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Fegles and Mr. D. B. Purinton, Coldwater, Michigan.

Mrs. Peter Redman, Mr. Perry Redman and Mr. Charles Redman, Osseo, Michigan.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Sweet, Auburn, Ohio.

A Generous Act Dr. Dow Donates Land to the Sweet Family

Dr. Dow, of this city has shown that he is a philanthropist of the true type.

Wednesday he turned over to the severely afflicted Sweet family, whose unfortunate condition and great worthiness is well known to our citizens, the title to a lot on Jackson street, opposite Grant street.

Dr. Dow's act is one of great generosity and will receive the commendation of the public. He has take the lead in the movement for the benefit of this family and says it is in order for Painesville people to give them a house.

On the night of January 12, 1888, in Hutchinson county, South Dakota, the members of the Sweet family were caught in a western blizzard and before rescued were all but frozen to death. The mother and two sons, now residing here, are worthy people and manage to support themselves in spite of their crippled condition. It is a pleasure to do for people who help themselves, and the citizens of Painesville could do no more worthy act than to assist them to put a house on their lot.

MOVEMENT TO ERECT A HOUSE

Mrs. A. D. Sturgis and Mr. N. Stone have undertaken to raise funds to erect a house on a lot donated to the Sweet family by the philanthropic citizen of Painesville, Dr. Dow.

An appeal is made to the people of Painesville in behalf of this afflicted family for generous support in this charitable and christian movement.

Mrs. Sturgis is formulating plans for a grand musical concert, vocal and instrumental, to be announced later.

Lodges and orders, all churches and all dealers in lime, lumber, etc., will be asked to contribute to this worth cause. In the meantime, the committee will solicit from house to house.

All money raised will be deposited in the First National Bank subject to the call of the chairman of the committee.

The above articles were transcribed by Richard B. Romig from a JPEG image sent to him by Loren Michael. Loren believes the articles are from an 1895 edition of a newspaper in Coldwater, Michigan.

The third article could be from the same paper but could have been from the Painesville (Ohio) Telegraph.

Notes:

- The blizzard of Jan 12, 1888 is also known as the "Schoolchildren Blizzard."
- Aug 21, 1895 was a Wednesday.
- In the second article, "Mrs. Lottie Sweet and child," the child is probably Wesley, born in 1883.