THE SWAIM IN AMERICA

by Don Swaim

So Seldom Have So Many Made So Many Contributions to Humanity. Then, there were the Swaims...

Official Swaim mascot

An early Swaim being shown how to eat solid food.
This exhaustive monograph reveals information about the Swaim Family not heretofore recorded. The Swaims, with a historic and noble past in England, fell upon hard times as the Age of Chivalry came to an end. By the end of the seventeenth century, most of the Swaim clan was located in the West Perthdown area of Southeast Yorkshire, reduced to hard-scrabble farming.

Here, family patriarch Alcott Walfred Swaim is pictured watering his crops.

Above. Alcott Walfred Swaim’s daughters—Blodwen, Egberta, and Queenie—sowing their oats.

Woodcut of Queenie Swaim in repose. Queenie inspired the classic Salvador Dali painting now at the Louvre.

The Great Famine of 1700 drove the Swaims from the land into the cities, where some in the family turned to life of crime. In the following picture, the gangster Cedric Spaulding Swaim and two of his accomplices are being publicly hanged.
The only member of the Swaim clan able to read English, **Farnham Sanchez Swaim**, fortuitously saw a advertisement in the *London Bugle* for indentured servants at a plantation in Virginia. The actual notice is printed at right.
Farnham Sanchez Swaim’s application was accepted by a well-to-do cannabis farmer. Under the terms of the indenture, Farnham was to serve five years in exchange for his passage from England, as well as for his food, clothing, and shelter. Farnham Swaim proved to be unruly, and was flogged twice a day at his own request. Right.

Farnham Swaim—tied to pole
Upon the conclusion of his indenture, Farnham Swaim sent for his family in England. Unfortunately, the family had been reduced in size as several female members of the clan were hanged for witchcraft, to this date Christianity’s most masterful contribution to mankind.

Farnham Swaim spent much of his indenture in stocks. When not being punished, Farnham Swaim was required to transport members of the plantation on his back.

Above, hanging left to right: Hildegarde Swaim, Brunhilda Swaim, Prunella Swaim, Nedda Swaim. Those eagerly awaiting their turns are not identified.
The Swaims were deeply and heroically involved in the events leading up to the American Revolution. In 1770, Crispus Jethro Swaim was the first American killed by British rednecks in the Boston Massacre. Crispus lies on his back next to his cocker spaniel, which was unharmed.

Paul Revere Morton Swaim [below] and his midnight ride alerted the countryside that the British were coming to quell the crude, American accent. Note: Camels had been recently introduced to the colonies for transportation and sustenance. Contemporary photo.
Chauncey Swaim was the first signer of the Declaration of Independence. While he later recanted his decision to sign, he was hanged by the British anyway.

A youthful Oakleigh Potter Swaim (center playing drums) inspired the most iconic painting of the American Revolution.
After the Revolution, Daniel Gamaliel Boone Swaim helped to explore the American West as leader of the Louis & Clarke Expedition. Daniel Gamaliel is left. To his right is his sleeping and sparring partner, Sacajawea, Sr., a known lepidopterologist and philanthropist.

By the mid-1800s, Masie Rhoda Swaim led the American women’s suffrage movement, which she funded by robbing banks.

Horace Sweeney Swaim, founded an eat-healthy and exercise movement that took the nation by storm. Because of Horace’s healthy diet he lived to 106.
After the slave states rebelled to protect their investment in human cargo, General Gonzalo Atwater Swaim led victorious union forces at the Third Battle of Clapper Gap. General Swaim boasted a withered left hand. [note arrow]

Eustace Earl Swaim of the 7th Oklahoma Volunteers poses with his brass didgeridoo. After the war, Eustace played “Taps” professionally on the stage in Yonkers and Cleveland, and became a proponent of the Kansas City style of jazz.

IN FLIGHT

Rutherford Melchior Swaim was an early hot air balloonist. Here he is shown in 1842 in flight dropping relief supplies to the people of Louisiana, undergoing their fourth consecutive drought.

The aviatrix Amelia Twyla Swaim was the first woman to fly from Detroit to Cleveland without a bathroom break.
SPORTS

**Giles Karoom Swaim** led the New York Blueberries to victory in the 1880 World Series.

![Giles Karoom Swaim baseball trading card sold at auction for $512,000,000,000.]

Below, **Bruno Caleb Swaim** scored the final touchdown that won the Habbe City Hornets a national championship in 1910. The Habbe City Hornets defeated the Willacoochee Butte Titans 315-7 in overtime.

![Bruno Caleb Swaim is pictured in the white jersey.]
Five members of the Swaim Family’s Oklahoma Unwashed Baptist Prayer Circle. Clockwise from upper right: Chico, Shanahan, Truman, Ulric, and Bubba Swaim.

Melba Naomi Swaim (inset), condemning so-called “do-gooders,” vigorously fought members of the Temperance Movement (above). “It’s none of their fuckin’ business,” she was quoted as saying. Always smiling, Melba Naomi is credited with repealing the Eighteenth Amendment.
Caught up in the Teapot Dome scandal, Wilbur Hussein Swaim [left], founder of Standard Oil of Vermont, was convicted of lying to a federal grand jury. Sentenced to fifteen years behind bars, Wilbur Hussein Swaim repented and became a Baptist. In jail, he charged for pictures and autographs, the proceeds going to Jesus. After his release, Wilbur moved to Arizona and became a co-founder, along with Jesus (locally known as Jack), of the nascent Teapot Movement.

EXPLORER

Hector Peary Swaim was the first Methodist to reach North Dakota. Hector [inset, right] is also seen below [center] in this photo of his expedition’s three men, two women crew. Unfortunately, all but one of the members of the expedition perished, and their bodies were never recovered. Arrow points to Oklahoma flag.
Cecil B. Swaim was Hollywood’s most prominent film director, starting in the silent era, then the talkies. He’s shown here directing his Okie-award film *The Cat in the Hat*. Cecil B. Swaim is on the far left dressed as a woman, his usual attire.

Lloyd Valentino Swaim was Hollywood’s most famous dramatic actor in the 1950s. The Blacklist and a sex scandal involving an elderly, senile, Hispanic woman led him to renounce his citizenship and spend his final days in luxury in Switzerland.

Thedda Bera Swaim was a natural comedienne during the silent era. Refusing to capitalize on her beauty and sexuality, Thedda Bera Swaim renounced men, went into quantum physics, and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1939.
Except for Montgomery Flagg Swaim, the rest of the Swaim clan sat out World War I in sympathy with the Huns. Montgomery Flagg was the model for the famous U.S. Army anti-recruiting poster. The poster was aimed at artists, writers, intellectuals, academics, and those who spoke more than one language. Montgomery was sixteen at the time and had to use false whiskers.

George Patton Oswald Swaim was World War II’s most decorated general, next to Dwight Eisenhower and Charles Lindbergh. Unusual for U.S. fighting men at the time, George was not only a vegetarian but a pacifist. He wrote poetry and translated a new edition of the Iliad. George Patton Oswald Swaim was an early proponent of LSD.
Ernest Bernardo Swaim won the coveted Noble Prize for Literature in 1953. Pictured are some of his classic titles.

Wallace Leander Swaim, Competitive Eating Champion, 1974. To conserve weight Wallace had his private parts surgically removed.

Sedgewick Manley Swaim, Cricket Streaker Champion, 1924.