



Sheldon Family Association Inc.

~ ~ Quarterly ~ ~



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President/Membership

Chair:

Jeanne Arnold Jeffries
PO Box 933, Main Street
Walpole, NH 03608-0933
amjeff@myfairpoint.net

Vice President:

Wendy Black,
PO Box 2151
Murphys, CA 95247
blackgld2@gmail.com

Secretary/ Treas.

Barbara Gomez
1735 Heather Ridge
Ypsilanti MI 48198
bgomez@umich.edu

**Recording Secretary/
Book Publishing, Chair:**

Margaret B. Jones
251 New Garden Rd,
Toughkenamon, PA 19374
marg251@gmail.com

SFA Quarterly Editor

James Russell
4529 Smokerise Road
Casper, WY 82604-9278
jprussellii@bresnan.net

Genealogist

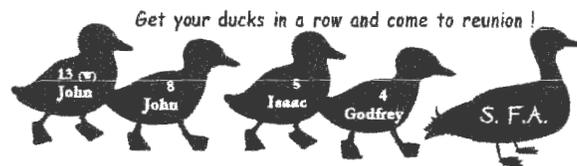
Rose Sheldon Newton
9609 Covington Road,
Fort Wayne, IN 46804-6037
roznewton@juno.com

DNA Project Administrator:

Dr. Peter Faulkner Jeffries
PO Box 933, Main Street
Walpole, NH 03608-0933
amjeff@myfairpoint.net

COME TO SHELDON FAMILY ASSOCIATION 73RD REUNION, AUGUST 5-8 IN NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS!!!

The Quality Inn in Northampton, Massachusetts is the site of the Sheldon Family Association's 73rd annual reunion and meeting, **August 5 to August 8, 2012**. The days are Sunday to Wednesday this year rather than the traditional Thursday to Sunday to take advantage of cheaper weekday hotel charges. Registration form and Reunion information are inside the back cover. Deadlines for special hotel rates and bus tours was July 5th, but please come anyway.



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As a general repository for Sheldon Family lineage in the U.S.A., SFA serves as a central source of information and study for Sheldon lineage researchers. By means of this publication, members are informed of discoveries in Sheldon lineage research, and dates and locale of the annual meeting.

Information in this publication is obtained by research in major libraries and repositories of public records; by correspondence with Sheldon descendants, and members and independent researchers submission of articles.

The editor reserves the right to edit or excerpt submitted articles to fit space requirements of each issue. Articles should be of general interest to members. Pieces too long for the quarterly may be serialized or considered by the publication sales department to make them available to members.

Since it is not possible for SFA to vouch for the accuracy of the content or opinion, the reader should understand that SFA in no way implies blanket verification and certification of these publications.

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To Submit Articles Contact:

S.F.A. Quarterly Editor
James Russell
4529 Smokerise Road
Casper WY 82604-9278
jprussellii@bresnan.net

Subscription & 1st Time Membership:

S.F.A. Genealogist
Rose Sheldon Newton
9609 Covington Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46804-6037
roznewton@juno.com
(Please include your Sheldon lineage.)

Renewals and Dues:

Secretary/Treasurer
Barbara Gomez
1735 Heather Ridge
Ypsilanti, MI 48198
bgomez@umich.edu

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

from Jeanne A Jeffries

E MAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED

Why does Sheldon Family Association ask for your E Mail address? It is only for the sole use of the Association. We promise not to bombard you with mail. However, when we want to contact you, it is easier with E Mail. Certain legal requirements could require SFA to contact members outside of SFAQ using the electronic distribution approved last year.

In addition, many of you have Life Memberships and we can not be sure of your address. For those who reotifgister for the Annual Meeting, we want to stay in touch to assure that you will have a positive experience.

So please send Barbara Gomez (bgomez@umich.edu) your E Mail address we can use when appropriate.

ELECTRONIC DISTRIBUTION-SFA QUARTERLY

We hope you enjoy the Quarterly. Our new Editor, Jim Russell of Casper WY will strive to make our Quarterly a superb publication. Your comments are welcome. Jim is very interested in Genealogy. He is married to Susan who is a Sheidon descendant and has been active looking for more family information.

There are many reasons to move from US Mail to electronic distribution of the Quarterly. The costs of paper publication and postage (even with a bulk mail permit) are expensive. We do not want to raise dues.

In addition, much of modern communication is electronic. We will not be the first genealogy society to move to technology. We include some libraries in our distribution and most now prefer to have the electronic version to save space. We shall discuss various possibilities at a meeting of the Computer Committee in the morning of August 5 2012 in Northampton at the Quality Inn. Jim Russell will join the Committee with a proposal.

COMPUTER COMMITTEE

Sheldon Family Association is fortunate to have talented and knowledgeable people serving on the Computer Committee. Rose Sheldon Newton, Genealogist, is the Chair and Wayne E Nelson, past president joins her. Both are experienced with computers and genealogy. Linda Williams and Barbara Gomez, descendants, work at the University of Michigan using computer systems. Jeanne and Peter Jeffries have years of home computer experience and thirty years of Genealogy research. Sue Sheldon of Sheldon WA and Marvin Parsons, spouse of Jeanne Sheldon of WA,

joined the Committee bringing a background of years working with computer software. John Morris edits graduate theses in a Computer based business and is a Sheldon descendant.

The Committee has worked on the project to update and expand the capabilities the Sheldon Family Association database. Our software was designed by past President Mark Sheldon in the early days of software. Mark did this during Rose Newton's President years. It transformed a card file into an award winning software. Later, Brett Sheldon provided needed modifications. In the meantime, a number of other Genealogy software have been created and become widely used.

A team of devoted Sheldon descendants entered into the software the information from the long maintained card file with its handwritten notations. Hours of tiring work were required creating a data base of the Progenitors and their descendants with vital record information. As new descendants joined the Association, their information was checked and added to the data base by Genealogist Keith Sheldon followed by Rose Sheldon Newton. Over 100 thousand names are included. It became apparent that some of the information should be made available in a publication. However, the software lacks the publication capabilities required today. The Board has considered several possible methods for converting the Database to a commercial genealogy program. There seemed to be many obstacles until the arrival of Sue Sheldon and Marvin Parsons who could analyze the current software. After months of dedicating waking hours to analysis and interpretation of the current system, Marvin has announced possible solutions which have been discussed via Team Viewer and will be further discussed at the Computer Committee meeting during Sheldon Family Association Annual Meeting in Northampton. Perhaps the Committee will make a recommendation for Board action. Stay tuned.

FACEBOOK

Have you discovered Sheldon Family Association on the Web? We are in the modern world and have a Website maintained by Wayne E Nelson. Sue Sheldon opened a Facebook account for us. Linda Williams, Alberta Dunn, Rose Sheldon Newton, Sue and Jeanne A Jeffries respond to the people who post comments. Many have noted that they like the page and we hope some will join the Association. Check us out. You may have a comment to add or an answer to a Question. There is also a Sheldon Family Tree on Ancestry.com.

89 people liked Sheldon on Facebook. Four people wrote on the Sheldon Facebook wall or are talking about Sheldons. This is from the last week in May 2012.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

On the Membership Committee, Kathleen Alevras, Marjorie Julian and Jeanne A Jeffries have given thought to the condition of membership in the Sheldon Family Association. Currently we have on 5/29/12:

- 244 active annual members
- 474 inactive/lapsed annual members
- 126 Life members

13 Library/Organization members (Our Treasurer Barbara Gomez bgomez@umich.edu reminds us that Dues are due on August 1 2012.) How can we attract new members? We have wondered what do members consider the value of belonging? Is it pride in the name Sheldon? Does the Quarterly bring interesting information? Are we supporting preservation of Sheldon history. Do we want to explore Sheldon ancestry? Do we value the opportunity to connect with distant cousins? Is the Annual Meeting and Reunion important in our plans? Are we hopeful that the DNA project will unravel the connections between Colonial progenitors? What if each of us recruited a new Sheldon descendant as a member?

2012 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

From Wayne E. Nelson

Sheldon Family Association Bylaws provide the President and Vice President are elected by the Members in even numbered years for a term of two years. The Recording Secretary and Treasurer are elected by the Members in odd numbered years for a term of two years. The Genealogist, Webmaster, SFAQ Editor and DNA Group Administrator are elected by the Directors for indefinite terms and serve at the pleasure of the Board. Directors at Large are elected by the Members for terms of three years.

Accordingly, the Nominating Committee proposes the following slate for election by the Members:

- President – Jeanne Arnold Jeffries;
- Vice President- Wendy Black;
- Director at Large – Ruth Watson;
- Director at Large – Priscilla Neill.

The Nominating Committee will propose the following slate for election by the Board:

Editor, SFAQ – James Russell.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Will the SFA member from Fort Wayne please call Rose Newton, I need him to remind me the name of the Print on Demand Genealogy Book Company he uses to report to SFA book committee? We will have it to compare with the company John has found.

Rose Newton e-mail: genealogist@sheldonfamily.org



DNA REPORT

From Peter F Jeffries MD, Administrator
Sheldon Family DNA project.

If you have watched Who Do You Think You Are or Finding Your Roots, you are aware that modern genealogy includes DNA analysis. Peter F. Jeffries MD ABFP continues to monitor the results available from the FTDNA Sheldon project. Men with the last name Sheldon are urged to submit a sample for analysis of their haplotype. Fathers pass their Y chromosome to their sons unchanged. Looking at haplotypes in conjunction with the paper genealogy allows clusters of men with the same haplotypes to be identified. If a cluster of identical haplotypes includes men from different progenitors, it suggests that they shared a common ancestor, perhaps the elusive one from England.

At the present time, a subcommittee is studying the suggestion that John 8 and Godfrey could share a common ancestor and Isaac and John 13 could have a different common ancestor.

Sheldon Family Association is involved in a DNA Genealogy Project with FTDNA hoping to clarify the common ancestors of the progenitors of the Colonial Sheldons. The project is most applicable to men who bear the last name Sheldon. FTDNA has a special price for the project until July 15 at midnight. Contact Family Tree DNA at www.familytreedna.com if you are interested.

Special Summer Prices NEW KITS Current Group Price
SALE PRICE Y-DNA 12 \$99 \$59 Y-DNA 37 \$149 \$129 Y-DNA 67 \$239 \$199 Family Finder \$289 \$199 mtFullSequence (FMS) \$299 \$219 FF+ Y-DNA 37 \$438 \$328 FF + mtDNAPIus \$438 \$328 Comprehensive (FF + FMS + Y-DNA 67) \$797 \$617 SuperDNA \$518 \$428 UPGRADES 12 to 37 \$109 \$70 25 to 37 \$59 \$35 25 to 67 \$159 \$114 37 to 67 \$109 \$79 37 to 111 \$220 \$188 67 to 111 \$129 \$109 mtHVR1 to Mega \$269 \$209 mtHVR2 to Mega \$239 \$199.

We find that a 37 marker Y DNA gives useful information suggesting common ancestors.



LOOKING FOR RUFUS SHELDON

by Jeanne A Jeffries April 2012

I received an note from an SFA member and this could be the Rufus article. Okay?
Priscilla Neill, Sheldon Family Association member, wrote " I came across an obituary that mentioned a Rufus Sheldon. I don't know if he is the guy you have been looking for..."

Obit for Joanne Sheldon Jenney. *Huron Reflector* (Norwalk,

OH) 2 March 1833: "Suddenly in Greenwich on Friday, the 22nd, Mrs. Joanna Jenney, wife of Mr. Benjamin Jenney, and daughter of Mr. Rufus Sheldon - in the 21st year of her age, leaving a bereaved husband and an infant about 1 week old."

Jeanne A Jeffries response:

What a neat find! That is a Rufus descendant of John 8 (1630-1708) of Providence. The Rufus (1809-1875) in Greenwich OH was the son of Rufus (1777-1833) from Cumberland RI who married Joanna Brown (1779-1861) of Cumberland RI. Rufus and Joanna were in Oneida County from 1800-1824 and had a child born there named Rufus. Rufus and Rufus traveled in 1824 to Greenwich OH in near New London where Isaac Sheldon (1784-1849) and Joanna Inman (1781-188) of RI had settled earlier. Isaac was the brother of the first Rufus. They were the sons of Roger Sheldon (1742-1816) and Huldah Streeter (1747 -1817) of Cumberland RI and grandson of William Sheldon (1710-1778) and Rebecca Rhodes (1718-1747) of Pawtuxet and Cumberland. William was a son of John (1663-1741) and grandson of John 8. (This is information gathered from census and the family history *An Elaborate History and Genealogy of the Ballous in America* edited by Adin Ballou in 1888.)

The Rufus (1809-1875) in Greenwich had married Mary Griffin (1816-1914) and his daughter Joanna married Benjamin Jenny. In view of the fact that there is a 1 week old infant, she probably died of puerperal fever, a common fate of many women in the 1800's. It could have been a pulmonary embolus of amniotic fluid since it was sudden.

This obituary shows the opportunity for Genealogy Research in newspaper obituaries. They are most available in the later 1800's and to find one this early is a Eureka moment. Using Find a Grave Joanna Sheldon Jenney is noted as born in New York Oct 13 1812 and died Feb 22 1833 in Huron County OH. The notes mention that the son of Benjamin and Joanna Jenney was named Rufus Jenny. (reference *Firelands Museum*.) He is found on the 1860 census in Greenwich OH and on the 1900 census in Greenwich OH. A death record is found in Toledo on January 14 1900.

MEET THE BOARD

Linda Williams

My mother asked me, when I was 20, to consider researching our family. I declined. One of my uncles gathered information on all our extensive "living" family and put it into a database. He gave each of my mother's siblings a copy of his research. It would become my genealogical cornerstone. I treasured knowing everyone's birthday and information on their progeny. That genealogy also kept prodding me to learn

more.

I devoted 20+ years to my immediate family and my working career before coming to genealogical research. At my mother's 75th birthday, one of my aunts talked about a family "black sheep" who was thrown out of the colonies and who had his own personal army. I just had to know who he was and his story. Her recounting turned out to be partly true and partly myth. One of my brothers and one of my sisters had, at my mother's instigation, done research on the Bellows family (our black sheep). I noted my interest to another brother who then quipped "The only people in our family worth researching are the Sheldons." So I started to find out how much I didn't know about my family

.On a whim while I was perusing the University of Michigan's on-line library catalog, I entered a search for "Sheldon." Much to my surprise, it turned up "Sheldon family papers" in the UM Bentley Historical Library holdings. I discovered that my mother, aunts and uncle decided to offer family papers from my grandmother's home to the Bentley. The Bentley accepted all the "Lincoln administration related" items: correspondence between family members, newspaper clippings, etc. I later found another trove of items and the remaining family correspondence donated to the Flint Sloan/Perry Archive to protect them for historical interest. I've been very fortunate they safeguarded that material for future generations and other researchers. Of course, finding this information and sharing it with my brothers and sisters produced more questions: Where did the family Bible go? and "Who has (various items) from the old farm home?" It also spurred me to contact far-flung cousins. I've re-connected with living relatives, met lots of newly discovered relatives (great-grandma was adopted but knew her birth family - one mystery solved!) and found some wonderful new friends through genealogical researching. Many people have been extremely generous with information and assistance. Because of their generosity I feel a great debt to other genealogical researchers. I've elected repay some of that debt by joining groups such as Sheldon Family Association (SFA - another keeper of my family history) and my local genealogical society where I can help other researchers advance their work.

Rose Newton was my first contact in the SFA. Her enthusiasm for the reunion encouraged me to attend my first-ever meeting in Geneseo, NY. Although I was unsure how I would fit in with those masterful researchers, it was like coming home. At the board meeting, Jeanne invited me to consider being a reunion host as the next one would be in my home state - Michigan. I agreed. I later told family members how exciting and welcoming it is to meet distantly-related "cousins." One niece, Barbara Gomez, and one nephew, Bruce Fuester, agreed to help the reunion committee host the Grand Rapids reunion. It was such fun that we all volunteer to help with successive reunions. It's a delight to keep expanding "our family."

MARY DOWNING SHELDON BARNES

Contributed by Linda Williams from University of Michigan Files



Mary Downing Sheldon was born in Oswego, New York, on September 15, 1850, the oldest of five children of Frances Stiles and Edward Austin Sheldon, founder and principal of Oswego State Normal and Training School. She was educated in the public schools of Oswego until age sixteen, finishing at the Normal School in 1869. She taught there for two years. In 1871 Sheldon enrolled at the University of Michigan in a classical course, graduating in 1874. She returned to Oswego Normal to teach history, Latin, Greek and botany. In late 1876 she was invited to teach history at Wellesley College where she remained for two and one half years. Her teaching methods, unorthodox for the time and later called the source method, included the use of primary sources, discussion, and problem solving. Because of internal conflicts at Wellesley and poor health she resigned in 1879 and spent a year resting and then two years traveling abroad. She returned to Oswego Normal in 1882 where she wrote her groundbreaking work *Studies in General History*. It was published in 1885.

On August 6, 1885, she married a former student, Earl Barnes, who was eleven years her junior. Barnes, a teacher of history and psychology, was appointed head of the department of education at Stanford University in 1891. Mary joined the Stanford history department in March 1892 as assistant professor. She taught nineteenth century European history and the history of the Pacific Slope. Together they wrote *Studies in American History* which was published in 1891 and 1896. Mary subsequently published *Studies in Historical Method*. It was directed toward teachers and non-historians who wanted to understand and apply the historical method.

Both Mary and Earl Barnes resigned their posts at Stanford in 1897 to travel and write in Europe. Mary Sheldon Barnes died of heart disease in London, August 27, 1898. According to the author of Barnes' biography in *Notable American Women*, "[her importance] in American educational history rests chiefly upon her often misunderstood source method. She intended that students should study the primary sources in an 'independent and solitary' way using her questions as guides to problem solving...in order to develop the student's abilities to observe, to weigh evidence, to generalize and to exercise creative historical imagination....This was a more progressive approach than many teachers of her time or (Continued Next Page)

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later could understand or apply....The source method hastened the improvement of more conventional history textbooks. Critical thinking came to characterize some of the better general education courses a half century later." (Robert E. Keohane in "Mary Sheldon Barnes," Notable American Women, 1607-1950, Cambridge, Belknap Press, 1971)

CLASS WARFARE

BY JAMES TOBIN, March 14,, 2012

Contributed by Linda Williams



As this photo from the early 1900s shows, the original "rush" was a far cry from the fraternity initiation rites of today. It was, instead, a battle royale between sophomores and freshmen involving real violence and the possibility of serious harm. (Photo courtesy WM Bentley Historical Library.)

At the end of an eventful day, September 29, 1872, **Mary Downing Sheldon**, a junior in LSA, took out paper and pen with images of mayhem fresh in her mind. "I must tell you about the rush," she wrote her best friend. "I never saw one until this semester."

She had been walking between classes on the Diag when she saw a crowd of young men packed around the entrance to a classroom building. All of them were sophomores, she soon realized. "The Sophs took off coats and vests and stood waiting. The Fresh came out of their recitation room door and found their way blockaded."

Mary stood back and watched, aghast, as one freshman after another tried to bull his way through the dense crowd. But "one after another was seized, by foot, head, or any convenient part, his hair pulled by anybody who could reach it, his limbs pulled in as many different directions as there were Sophs around, and he was finally thrown down heels over head in the sand to bite the dust. "Since seeing that," Mary wrote her friend, "I have a much more vivid idea of the horror of a mob and the fierce cruelty of mankind."

The old school "rush" was a mainstay of campus life at Michigan and many other schools long before it was domesticated beyond recognition into—

as today's dictionaries put it—"the process whereby college fraternities or sororities entertain new students in order to assess suitability for membership.

From its beginnings before the Civil War into the early 1900s, the rush was a rite of passage by physical ordeal and, quite literally, class warfare. Sometimes spontaneous, sometimes scheduled, the fracas typically pitted sophomores against freshmen, with the sophs out to show the freshmen their proper place as underlings. Juniors and seniors generally regarded themselves as above such childish frolics, though they approved of them, having weathered the ordeal themselves. Sometimes it was simply a matter of planned physical abuse, as in the incident Mary Sheldon witnessed. More often the rush entailed the capture of a piece of turf or the forcible ejection of the enemy over a fence or boundary. It was semi-good-natured and dangerous. Serious injuries were common, accidental deaths not unheard of.

At Michigan, the rush was often waged not only between the underclasses but between schools—Lits vs. Laws, Laws vs. Medics, Medics vs. Lits. Six weeks after seeing her first rush, Mary Sheldon reported one of these school-vs.-school rushes, now with a certain bloodthirsty fascination.

"Yesterday there was the greatest rush there has been for years," she told her friend. "The whole literary department against all the medical. The battle commenced early in the afternoon and lasted until it was too dark for the combatants to distinguish one another. The medics wore red bits of cloth tied around the arms and a great many of them had their cheeks painted red..." There are rumors ... that there were two or three badly hurt and not expected to live. This may not be true, but then again it may. Although we live a full half mile away, yet we heard the shouts and yells the whole afternoon.... The literaries finally conquered, throwing the Medics over the high picket fence." The next morning there was heated talk about the battle at her boarding house breakfast table, with one of her housemates, a Spaniard from Cuba named D'Aubique, recounting his own heroic role.

The landlady, Mrs. Foster, said someone should have put a stop to it. "Who can stop it?" D'Aubique demanded. "President Angell can't, for he came right out among the Freshmen and Sophomores!". "President Angell!" Mrs. Foster scoffed. "Would you expect him to be able to stop a herd of wild buffaloes on our Great Plains when the fire was behind them? No more can he stop these young hot heads!"

When, in a letter to the Chronicle, forerunner of the Daily, an indignant student protested the rush as

"entirely unbecoming to university men or the character of gentlemen," he was countered by an upper-classman who compared the tradition to the noble games of ancient Greece and Rome.

"If carried to excess it may do physical injury," the defender conceded. "But all athletic sports are liable to the same objection.... A rush is the incarnation of energy in its most playful mood.

"What is there to stamp rushing as a more ungentlemanly sport than foot-ball? Does not the latter partake of the nature of the rush? Is there not the same rudeness—the same boyishness—the same spirit throughout?"

By the early twentieth century, faculty and administrators had had about enough. The main event had been regularized into a single day in the fall, "Black Friday," when freshmen gathered to defend a flag-pole where their banner ficulturlew. But guerrilla strikes between the classes went on for weeks beforehand.

When a Daily reporter in 1908 asked Harry Burns Hutchins, dean of the Law School (and a U-M "Law" of 1871 himself) whether he approved of the rush, Hutchins stormed:

"Approve of it! Young man, the whole business is an abomination—a disgrace to an American university! ... How can we go to Lansing and ask the legislators to make us appropriations? The first thing they do is to throw the rush up in our faces."

Hutchins warned Law students to quit the rush or be expelled. A year later, in 1909, he was named president of the University, and before long the rush was seen less and less. Remnants of the original survived only in bloodless, sanctioned remnants called "Cap Day," "Class Day" and "Field Day"—and in fraternity hazing. The old rush has more in common with a fifth-grade game of Capture the Flag than with today's sedate "Rush Week."

Sources include the papers of Mary Sheldon Barnes in the Sophia Smith Collection at Smith College, Northhampton, Massachusetts; Elizabeth Gaspar Brown, "Student Conduct and Misconduct," Michigan Alumnus Quarterly Review, 66 (1960), 153-162; and The Chronicle

James Tobin is an author and historian. His most recent book is "To Conquer the Air: The Wright Brothers and the Great Race for Flight."

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A SPECIAL BOOK

The large white Fedex envelope came to our postal box. What could it be? We are so fortunate to receive a book about Sheldons from Clara S Guteruth of NY. Clara and her daughter in law Betty Guteruth assembled the writings of Marie Sheldon Hines into a very interesting document about the first 150 years of the Isaac Sheldon line. Starting in the 1600's, history and genealogy come alive as the Puritans come to Connecticut and up the river to Northampton. (Nonotuck) Marie relates the stories of the French and Indian wars, the Capture of the Deerfield residents and the life of Colonists. She carries us up to the beginnings of the American Revolution and the founding of Rupert VT and provides hand drawn maps as visuals. Clara plans to have copies available for a very reasonable cost at the Sheldon Family Reunion in loving memory of her sister Marie who many will remember. She writes: "You asked 'Have you anything to share' so I send this book by my sister Marie." Now, are you inspired to bring a memento to share at the Reunion?

OVERCOMING RESEARCH CHALLENGES AND BRICK WALLS

By Mulcahy, Bryan <Bryan@mulcahy.com>
Contributed by Wendy Black

Brick walls and research dead-ends are an inevitable part of genealogical research. Success may involve creativity, knowledge of historical events within a community, church, or ethnic group, or circumstances unique to a family and/or individual, and confidence in your gut feelings. Depending on the amount of information available, and reliability of witnesses or surviving documentation, researchers may be forced to make an educated guess which is perfectly legitimate depending on the situation.

Regardless of the level of your research, you should always be asking the question, "Does the information fit the circumstances?" Overcoming these problems is what makes genealogy interesting. Attending genealogical seminars and workshops and joining local genealogical societies often play a significant role in helping researchers overcome these challenges. Taking the time to attend such workshops may offer the following benefits:

1. Provide the opportunity to talk to fellow researchers.
2. Sometimes just to talk to someone who will listen and shares the same passion for genealogy.
3. Share research problems and, with any degree of luck, gain some new perspectives on how to solve them.

If your research has hit a continuous snag, here are some examples of possible sources that may help overcome your research challenge:

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AGE: Census, Cemetery Records, Family Bibles, Military Records, Obituaries, Pension Applications, Tax Records, and Vital Records

BIRTH DATES/PLACE: Cemetery Records, Census, Church Records, Family Bibles, Military Records, Newspaper Birth Announcements, Obituaries, and Vital Records.

CITY OR PARISH (FOREIGN BIRTH): Census, Church Records, Family Bibles, Family Histories, Immigration Records, Naturalization/ Citizenship Papers, Obituaries, and Vital Records

COUNTY ORIGINS, BOUNDARIES, & PLACE-FINDING AIDS: Atlases, City Directories, Criss-Cross Directories, County or Family Histories, Gazetteers, Land/Property Records, Taxation Maps and Records

DEATH: Cemeteries, Church Records, Court Records, Family Bibles, Land/Property Records, Military Records, Newspapers, Obituaries, Probate Records, and Vital Records

DIVORCE: Court Records, Divorce Records, Newspapers, and Vital Records

ETHNICITY: Census, Church Records, Family Bibles, Immigration Records, Membership in Minority Associations or Societies, Naturalization and Citizenship Papers

IMMIGRATION OR EMIGRATION DATE: Census, Church History or Records, Family Bibles, Family History Book or Periodical, Immigration Record, Naturalization and Citizenship Papers, Newspapers, and Obituaries

MARRIAGE/MAIDEN NAMES: Biography, Census, Cemeteries, Church Records, Family Bibles, Family Histories, Land/Property Records, Military Records, Newspapers, Nobility Listing, Personal Correspondence, Probate Records, School Records, and Vital Records

OCCUPATIONS: Business Directory Listing Company Officials & Employees, Census, City Directory or Criss-Cross, Civil Registration, Court Records, Immigration Records, Military Records, Newspapers, Obituaries, and Probate Records

PARENTS, CHILDREN, & OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS: Biographies, Census, Church Records, Family Bibles, Family History, Immigration Records, Land/Property Records, Naturalization & Citizenship Papers, Obituaries, Probate Records, School Census, and Vital Records

PLACE (TOWN) OF RESIDENCE WHEN YOU KNOW ONLY THE STATE" Census, City Directories or Criss-Cross Directories, Family Bibles, Family History, Land/Property Records, Military Records, Probate Records, School Census, Tax Records, and Vital Records

PLACES OF RESIDENCE: Census, Church Records, City Directories, Family Bibles, Land /Property Records, Military Records, Obituaries, and Taxation Records

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Biographies, Cemeteries, Church Records, Civil Registration, Family Bibles, Family Histories, and Obituaries.

THE 1940 CENSUS

By Wayne E. Nelson

On April 2, 2012, after the mandatory 72-year waiting period, the National Archives and Records Administration released digital images of the 1940 United States Federal Census. The official date of the census was April 1, 1940. The population increased 7.2% to 131,669,275 between the 1930 census and the 1940 census.

A group of 140,000 volunteers is in the process of indexing the 1940 census. As of this writing (early July 2012), the volunteers have finished about 75% of the task, well ahead of schedule. Twenty-nine states now have searchable indexes. If your state has not been indexed you need to know the enumeration district and search the pages of that ED to find your person. There are finding aids on the NARA official Web site <1940census.com> that assist in locating an enumeration district.

The 1940 census contains the usual information such as name, age, gender, race and place of birth. New questions included where people lived five years before, on April 1, 1935, highest educational grade achieved and detailed income and occupational information. Perhaps as a result of the Great Depression, the census asked 13 questions regarding employment and whether a person had worked under one of the New Deal employment programs such as the CCC and WPA. In addition, five percent of respondents, two names per page, were asked supplemental questions including the birth place of the person's parents and questions related to marriage for all women who were or had been married. The enumerator marked with a circled X the name of the person in the household who responded to the census questions.

NICKNAMES

By Mulcahy, Bryan <BMulcahy@lee.gov.com>

Contributed by Wendy Black

How often have you encountered an individual or family in a census which looks like yours, but the names aren't quite right? Have you found what appears to be your great-grandfather's marriage license, except that it says he's married to someone named who went by a different name instead of what you always heard?

Our ancestors' seemingly changing names often leave us puzzled and frustrated, when in fact such apparent name changes are often just a result of the recording of an individual's nickname or middle name in the official records. While some think this is a historical trait, in reality, many people today are known by different names to our family, friends, and business associates. My father's name was Lawrence yet his family always referred to him as Bob. His middle name was Robert.

Nicknames stand for the name of a person or thing other than its proper name. The nickname may either substitute or be added to the proper name. It may be a familiar or truncated form of the proper name, such as *Bob, Bobby, Rob, Robbie, Robin,* and *Bert* for *Robert*. It is common in many genealogical records, especially more informal records such as census records and obituaries, to find your ancestors listed under names you might not expect. In many cases these names may have been the nicknames as they were known to their family and friends.

Nicknames have always been popular, but until the modern era, people generally used whatever variation of their legal given name they felt like using at various times during their life. Legal requirements that govern the processing of how legal papers in modern times were non-existent. Once an ancestor was out on their own, they often adopted a nickname or a variation of their given name.

Nicknames can sometimes be difficult to catch, however. "Kim" as a nickname for "Kimberly" is fairly straightforward, but "Polly" as a nickname for "Mary" and "Peggy" as a nickname for "Margaret" have tripped up many genealogists. Sometimes nicknames were formed by adding a "y" or "ey" to the end of a name or part of a name - i.e. "Johnny" for "John" or "Penny" for "Penelope." Other times the name was shortened in some manner - i.e. "Kate" for "Katherine." But sometimes it is just a matter of knowing which nicknames were commonly used in a particular time and place. That's why it is important, as a genealogist, to familiarize yourself with commonly used nicknames and their corresponding given names. Do not forget, however, that what appears to be a nickname isn't always - many nicknames became so popular that they later were bestowed as given names.

WHY DO PEOPLE COME TO NORTHAMPTON?

Submitted By David Harris - *Northampton Reunion Host*

That was the question I posed to some of my friends. The unanimous number 1 answer was FOOD. Number 2 was ENTERTAINMENT. My number 3 is SHOPPING. That's what people look for now unless there is a more urgent other reason. Northampton has a collection of ethnic and gastronomically unique tastes that match the diversity of its population. Old Yankee roots can still be found, but those roots have produced today a variety that pales a metropolis. There is an assortment of clubs and old re-fashioned theaters that attract famous names for short gigs. If you want to find something unique to give to that special someone, Northampton is where you will probably find it. Not to mention the participation in the academic community of the Five College Area of UMass Amherst, Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, and North-

ampton's Smith College that raise the bar for any cafe or kitchen debate. I have checked travel books and Chamber of Commerce brochures, but they all fall short of Northampton's real charm that has to be found by being here.

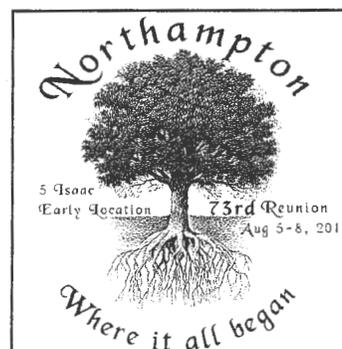
Now for the more urgent other reasons: History. Hartford, Windsor, and Springfield were settled before Northampton. What separated Northampton from the rest, but had to be the first, before Hadley, Deerfield, and other towns further north? Mountains! Visit one of the look-outs from above, and you can see that anyone up there can see for miles! The locals knew about the look-out locations and could watch the movements of the settlers as they moved in. What was the common connection that allowed settlers to travel from place to place? The Connecticut River. Eventually there were ferry boats along the river that allowed commerce and visitors access to both sides. Elise may talk about some of these on Sunday evening.

The Connecticut River is a wonder unto itself. It runs from a spring-fed-back-woods pond on top of a mountain on the US/Canadian border in Pittsburg, NH to Long Island Sound. It was used for travel and a source of food long before Europeans arrived. It floods the flat areas along it in the spring and provides fertile gardens for food and pasture. This was Mother Nature's gift that welcomed the settlers. Two years ago we had a flood in early fall that released a coating of pumpkins that covered the river down stream for days. Unfortunately Europeans used the river like they used rivers in Europe--for travel and to transport "good's" and "bad's." Communities opened the ends of their sewage systems at its shores to carry the debris to the ocean. It went on for a couple centuries, but that practice has been stopped; and the river is once again open to boating, fishing, and water sports from source to sea. I dipped my hand into that spring fed pond and drunk from it years before it was safe to put a toe in to bathe in Massachusetts. We now have dams that produce electrical power but they control the flow but obstruct free traffic. The islands in the river supported by the dams are delightful to pitch a tent for a weekend. Scouts and families have been enjoying this for decades. You do need a canoe though.

The Pioneer Valley, formed by the Connecticut River and the early settlements along it, has realized since the beginning that history was being made. The cities, towns, and individuals along the way have done a superb job of collecting and restoring that history so it can be available to us today. We are the adults of the day and we are the chosen ones to pass down this history to the children to know before more generations "interpret" it to their own tastes. Come to Northampton (Where it all began), and partake in as much history as I have been able to amass for you. The history will come from the oldest and original sources that are available today presented by the best available presenters I could find.

Come To Where It All Began: The 2012 Reunion

We will be gathering in Northampton MA Sunday, August 5th to Wednesday August 8th for the 73rd annual Sheldon Family Reunion.



Sunday, August 5th

Registration 12-4:30pm-Main lobby; then in conference room
Visit Displays Sheldon Publications, Books, & CD's, Data Base
Join Family Lineage Groups with Moderators

2:00-4:00 pm Forum: Sheldon Family History

Rose Sheldon Newton Sheldon: Genealogy and Isaac

Wayne E Nelson: Sheldon Family Association History

Jeanne A Jeffries: John 8 of Providence

Peggy Jones: John 13 of Kingstown RI

Peter F Jeffries MD DNA Project

4:00-5:30 pm Annual Board Meeting, We welcome visitors to our Board meeting

6:00 pm Dinner at the Bluebonnet, Speaker Elise Feely-Bernier "Life in Northampton for Isaac Sheldon"

Monday, Aug 6th

Registration 8-6pm Conference area

Displays Sheldon Posters, Publications, Books, & CD's, Computer Searches for Sheldons

9-10 am Short Talks-Conference Room

9:00 Wayne E Newton-Genealogy Research in Europe

9:15 John Morris-Self Publishing

9:30 Marjorie Julian-Rowing in a Regetta

9:45 David Harris-Today's Events

10-11 am Family Lineage Groups: exploring/sharing our Sheldon lines in Conference Room

11 am Bus Trip Discover the Sheldon family in early Deerfield (Home of S0035 John son of S0005 Isaac)

Lunch at Chandlers Restaurant, Visit Yankee Candle Company Christmas Displays

Bus to **Pocumtuck Memorial Valley Association Museum (Formerly Sheldon Hall for founder George Sheldon)**

Visit the Old Indian House S9935 John's Home, see original DOOR, special collections and library.

Enjoy a 1700's style dinner

Bus to Quality Inn Display Room open

Tuesday, August 7th

Registration 8-6pm-Conference Room

Display Room 8-6pm /Sheldon Publications, Posters, Books, & CD's, Computer Searches for Sheldons

9-10 am Short Talks-Conference Room

9:00 Jeanne A Jeffries-Searching Cemeteries

9:15 Alberta Dunn-American Pattern Glass

9:30 Margaret (Peggy) Jones-Searching for Sarah Sheldon of RI

9:45 David Harris-Today's Events

10-11 am Family Lineage Groups exploring/sharing our Sheldon lines

1:00pm Walking Tour of Historic Sites

OR visit cemetery to see Isaac's grave and to Isaac's land

OR work in libraries

OR visit Northampton and Pioneer Valley attractions

OR visit Connecticut or other New England sites

6:00 pm Annual Meeting, Banquet and Speaker David Harris "Those Captured and Came Back or Stayed in Canada"

Wednesday, August 8th

Informal breakfast with other Sheldon cousins

Forbes Library Special Genealogy Room Open for Sheldon Research

73rd Annual Sheldon Family Association Reunion - Registration Form

August 5-8, 2012 - Quality Inn Hotel, Northampton, Massachusetts

Please return this form as soon as possible with payment for all activities in which you would like to participate. If you have any questions, please contact Linda at LMHKW@umich.edu or 1.734.649.1246. If you reach my voicemail, please leave your name, number and a brief message.

**Please note deadlines for hotel registration at special reunion rates and sign up for bus tour is:
Thursday, July 5, 2012**

- A block of rooms has been reserved at the Quality Inn Hotel, Northampton, MA. The special reunion rate is **\$104.89** for single or double occupancy (*complimentary breakfast is included in the price*). Please make your own reservation by calling **1-413-586-1500**. Ask for "Sheldon Family Gathering."
- Complete the form below so that we can make your name badge. Complete a line for each individual who will be attending the reunion with you. If you are registering for more than 5 individuals, please attach an additional sheet with all information.
- Make checks out to "Sheldon Family Association." Mail the completed form and your check to:
Linda M. Williams, 3013 Lakehaven Ct, Ann Arbor, MI 48105-2501
- If you wish to register for the reunion and pay for it on-line, please go to the SFA reunion registration webpage at: sheldonfamily.org/v2/2012_reg_form.htm

NOTE: If someone in your party requires special accommodations, please note it as well as your preferred contact information (email and/or phone number) somewhere on this form

Name	Town	State	Sheldon number + ancestral line initial <small>= saac, G=Godfrey, J=John, W=William</small>
Example: Rose Sheldon Newton	Fort Wayne	IN	S 4479x851 (I)

If you don't know your number or ancestral line and you are a member, write "Unknown;" we will find it if you are a member. If you are not yet a member, we'll sign you up! Welcome cousin!

Sunday Dinner: \$30 per person (price includes tax & tip)			
	Indicate how many	Price per person	Totals
Yankee Pot Roast of Beef, Jardiniere	_____ =a	\$30.00=b	a x b=\$_____
Baked Stuffed Haddock w Lemon & Butter	_____ =a	\$30.00=b	a x b=\$_____
Roast Stuffed Breast of Capon w Mushroom Sauce	_____ =a	\$30.00=b	a x b=\$_____

Monday Special Event Day: Historic Deerfield Excursion \$85 per person (price includes tax & tip)			
We are chartering a bus to Historic Deerfield. The excursion price includes bus, stop at Yankee Candle, lunch at Chandlers, Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association Museum, speaker and 1700s style dinner. To charter a bus, we need a minimum of 40 participants. The deadline for sign-up is Thursday, July 5th.			
	Indicate how many	Price per person	Totals
Complete Monday Excursion: from 10 am to 9 pm Bus, lunch, PVMA museum + presentation, and 1700s dinner Price per person \$85(price include tax & tip)	_____ =a	\$85.00=b	a x b=\$_____
Excursion (less bus & lunch you drive & meet group at 2pm)	_____ =a	\$55.00=b	a x b=\$_____

	Indicate how many	Price per person	Totals
Tuesday Dinner Buffet: \$30 per person <small>(price includes tax & tip)</small>	_____ =a	\$30.00=b	a x b=\$_____

Any special dietary requests?

Registration Fee <small>Helps defray expenses for badges, programs, speakers.</small>	\$15 @ 1 per family	\$15.00
--	---------------------	---------

Grand Total (for your check - add all amounts in the total column)	\$ _____
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Please supply an e-mail address in the event we need to contact you:

Sheldon Family Association, Inc.

Editor: James Russell
4529 Smokerise Road
Casper WY 82604-9278

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**Sheldon Family Association
Dues Renewal/Membership Form**

Indicate Category:

- Annual Membership \$15.00
- New Member \$15.00 plus *\$15.00=\$30.00
(*A one time registration fee)
- Life Membership \$300.00 once

Sheldon No. S# _____ if known.

Email Address _____

Wish to receive SFA Newsletter by
email _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ Zip _____

Dues run: August --- July 31 annually

Send **Annual** Dues and Address Changes

To: Barbara Gomez, Secretary/Treasurer
1735 Heather Ridge
Ypsilanti MI 48198

New Member Genealogies Group Sheets to:

Northampton



5 Isaac

Early Location

73rd Reunion

Aug 5-8, 2012

Where it all began

**S.F.A. Reunion
Northampton, MA
August 5-8, 2012**



Sheldon Family Association Inc.

~ ~ Quarterly ~ ~



Founded 1939

OCTOBER 2012

Vol. 26 No. 4 Page 964

President/Membership Chair:

Jeanne Arnold Jeffries
PO Box 933, Main Street
Walpole, NH 03608-0933
arnjeff@myfairpoint.net

Vice President:

Wendy Black,
PO Box 2151
Murphys, CA 95247
blackgld2@gmail.com

Secretary/ Treas.

Barbara Gomez
1735 Heather Ridge
Ypsilanti MI 48198
bgomez@umich.edu

**Recording Secretary/
Book Publishing Chair:**

Margaret B. Jones
251 New Garden Rd.
Toughkenamon, PA 19374
marg251@gmail.com

SFA Quarterly Editor

James Russell
4529 Smokerise Road
Casper, WY 82604-9278
jrussellii@bresnan.net

Genealogist

Rose Sheldon Newton
2921 Shalimar Circle
Fort Wayne, IN
roznewton@juno.com

DNA Project Administrator:

Dr. Peter Faulkner Jeffries
PO Box 933, Main Street
Walpole, NH 03608-0933
arnjeff@myfairpoint.net

SFA Publication

Wayne E. Nelson
3628 N. Fremont
Chicago, IL 60613
WENelson@aol.com



Front Row, Kneeling L to R: Peggy Jones, Marjorie Julian, Rose Sheldon Newton, Lane Dolly, Jeanne Sheldon, Elaine Ryan, Priscilla Neill, Ethan Francisco.
Second Row, Seated: Jim Russell, Kathy Alevras, Debra Mohler, Ruth Watson, Jeanne Jeffries, Ruth Grace Fisher, Sally Fisher, Susan Russell, Wendy Black, Charlotte Smith Sheldon, Alberta Dunn.
Back Rows, Standing: Ann Sheldon Riedel, David Harris, Frank Sheldon, Donald Pickett, Ron Alevras, Mike Mohler, Unidentified, Clara Sheldon Gutermuth, Beverly Sheldon, Roger Newman, Georgia Newman, Unidentified, Marvin Parsons, Charlie Fisher, Barbara Gomez, Sandra Gianni, Carol Halstead, Alberta Turner, Linda Williams, Unidentified, Pownall Jones, Esther Defreitas, Dan Sheldon, Francis Defreitas, Unidentified.
Photo by Wayne E. Nelson

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Information in this publication is obtained by research in major libraries and repositories of public records; by correspondence with Sheldon descendants, and members and independent researchers submission of articles.

The editor reserves the right to edit or excerpt submitted articles to fit space requirements of each issue. Articles should be of general interest to members. Pieces too long for the quarterly may be serialized or considered by the publication sales department to make them available to members. Please use MSWord for text.

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To Submit Articles Contact:

S.F.A. Quarterly Editor
James Russell
4529 Smokerise Road
Casper WY 82604-9278
jprussellii@bresnan.net

Subscription & 1st Time Membership:

S.F.A. Genealogist
Rose Sheldon Newton
2921 Shalimar Circle
Fort Wayne, IN 46808
roznewton@juno.com

(Please include your Sheldon lineage.)

Renewals and Dues:

Secretary/Treasurer
Barbara Gomez
1735 Heather Ridge
Ypsilanti, MI 48198
bgomez@umich.edu

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jeanne A Jeffries, October 2012

Good weather, pleasant surroundings and a busy schedule awaited the 64 attendees at the Sheldon Family Association Annual Meeting and Reunion. The importance of the Sheldon History and the development of the Association introduced the program preparing participants for the Board meeting. Past President Wayne Nelson introduced new Board member Priscilla Neill. Genealogist and Computer Committee Chair, Rose Sheldon Newton presented the recommendation that work converting the data base of Sheldon Genealogy continue under the supervision of Marvin Parsons. Mr Parsons has dedicated the past year to analyzing the database construction and preparing the data for use in Roots Magic. Mr Parsons gave a presentation describing the progress he made with this task. The Board approved.

Reporting for the Quarterly, Jim Russell, Editor, introduced the information that printing and mailing costs have risen and publication of the Quarterly in electronic form would be advantageous. The Computer Committee recommended and the Board approved the concept. Paper copies will still be available to those for who electronic format is not feasible.

Deborah Mohler, member from MI, brought a proposal for the 2013 Annual Meeting and Reunion. Deb and Rev. Brian Wilbert will host the event in Oberlin OH, location of Rev. H. O. Sheldon, publisher of the original Sheldon Magazine in 1855, 1857 The Reunion Committee and Wendy Black will work with them.. More information next issue. Plan now to attend.

Host David Harris led the group to Deerfield with immersion in the history of the massacre and capture of colonists in 1704. Many Sheldons were taken to Canada, some were rescued by John Sheldon, emissary of the US President. Attendees enjoyed a fine meal and reenactment by Potomtuck Valley Museum Association. Speaker Elise Bernier gave a thorough introduction to Sheldon History in Colonial Northampton at the Board Dinner. Dave presented information about the Canadian Captives at the Banquet. Interesting Short Talks occurred each day.

A highlight of the final day was presentation by Clara Sheldon Gutermuth and her family. Her sister Anne Sheldon Adriance Reidel and Clara brought 15 copies the book researched by their late sister Marie Sheldon Hine, *Beginnings Along Ye Greate River*. These were donated to be sold by SFA Publications. (They went like hotcakes and will be available from Publications from Wayne Nelson.) Miagrations along the Connecticut River was described by Marie. In addition, Clara and Anne , joined by brother Frank Sheldon and his wife Beverly to presentethe Banner