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**SHELDON FAMILY REUNION
AUGUST 2-4, 2013, OBERLIN, OHIO**



The dates and place for the 2013 Sheldon Family Reunion are Friday August 2 through Sunday Morning August 4th at the Oberlin Inn, 7 North Main Street, Oberlin, Ohio 44074.

The Phone number for reservations is 440-775-1111. The Room Rate (inclusive of taxes is) \$101.97 per night. When you call to make a reservation please mention that you are with the Sheldon Family Association. If you are planning on staying at the Oberlin Inn you should secure your room no later than June 21st. as SFA releases unreserved rooms at that time.

Since our official reunion program will begin after breakfast on Friday we are suggesting that cousins come into Oberlin and get settled on Thursday evening if possible. There will be an open board meeting Thursday afternoon from 4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. Following this event cousins Deb Mohler and Brian Wilbert will host an informal reception and picnic dinner (\$5.00 a head) at the Christ Church Chapel Grove 162 South Main Street, Oberlin, Ohio that will give cousins a chance to meet, greet, pick up programs and badges before the festivities begin on Friday Morning. Watch for more details in upcoming editions of the SFAQ!

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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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President's Report

Jeanne A Jeffries

The Calendar changes and Sheldon Family Association is experiencing transition. We have five areas of focus: DNA project, Genealogy Database, Quarterly, Reunion and Annual Meeting and Website. In each area there is something to share.

We have discovered that there is a public web site at FTDNA which should offer information about our Sheldon DNA project. There are now 38 participants. What do people want to learn about the project?

The activity about the Genealogy Database is progressing with the leadership of Marvin Parsons and Sue Sheldon. Their involvement is the result of an Annual Meeting and Reunion in Portland OR. Marvin has expertise in computers and programming and spent a year analyzing the award winning but out of date Sheldon genealogy program. It now is at the point where volunteers with experience in computers and genealogy could help with the inadvertent problems. All of this so that we can share information about the descendants of the five progenitors.

As explained by our editor, Jim Russell, the Quarterly is in transition. With this issue, it will be published in Casper WY and mailed from there. Jim and Barbara Gomez, our treasurer, are exploring ways to save money as we continue to provide members and prospective members with good genealogy information as well as Sheldon Family Association reports.

The Reunion Committee has new plans for the Oberlin 2013 meeting during which time we are considering a Long Term Strategy Planning Session for the Board. We need to consider what we want for Sheldon Family Association in 2023. Your comments will be welcome.

Wayne E Nelson, twice Past President, developed our web site which was upgraded by Laurie Kender. Wayne as acting web master has suggestions for revisions. We sought possible assistance and three members responded. Robert Halstead will work on the site with Wayne. It means some new thinking for the website. Again, what ideas and suggestions from the membership?

Finally, Facebook has been busy. We have many viewers, some who contact Genealogist Rose 'Sheldon Newton for information and some who become members. We offer a member at large pathway for those have yet to connect with a progenitor.

How can you help? Volunteer! Susan Owens of Oregon offered to help and will Coordinate Communication. Remember, many hands make light work.

DNA Report-January 2013

**Peter F Jeffries MD
Project Administrator**



There are now 38 participants in the project. They fall into 3 Y DNA sub groups.

At present there are few John 8 and no Richard descendants represented. Comparing them with the information from traditional research, we believe that the connection between Isaac and John of Kingston RI means that an ancestor from the Bakewell area of England is their common ancestor.

We hope to have more Sheldon men contribute their DNA to this project to further the research. Hopefully, some Sheldon men from England will also participate. Although women are welcome to join, males provide information about the Y chromosome which is passed from father to son and 28 males are part of the project. We recommend that participants choose the 37 or 25 test as a first effort, since that gives good opportunity for comparison.

Looking For Rufus-January 2013

Jeanne A Jeffries



There are two Rufus Sheldons born in 1831 in NY who are found in 1850 on the census. Rufus, son of Butler and Hannah Sheldon has been discussed. The other Rufus is found in the household of Amasa Sheldon 45, born in NH, in Kingston, DeKalb IL. He is 19 and noted to have been born NY. Also in the household is Nancy 41 born in NY, the wife of Amasa, and children Betsey 17 years old, George 13 and Columbia 9 all born in NY. (Reference: Kingston, De Kalb, IL. Line:7 Film No.:7677)

This Rufus is found in DeKalb in 1860 at age 29, born in NY, with a wife Priscilla 22 who was born in PA. There are two children, Mary J 2 born in IL and Elisha 4/12 or 3 months born in IL. (Page:101 M653) Amasa 55 and Nancy 51 with George W 23 are found on the same census in DeKalb. (785: line 126)

By 1870, R W Shelden is in Nebraska with a wife Percilla 32 born in PA and children: Jennett 12, Elisha 10, Clarence 5, Marion 2 m as well as Amasa Shelden 65 born in NH and Nancy Shelden 61 born in NY.

They appear to be the same family which originated in NH and NY, migrated to Illinois and on to Nebraska. Census takers often changed the spelling of names.

Also in the family is a child Ella Stafford, at age 5 and age 15 who was born in IL. On the 1850 census, Amasa is living in the house next to Moses Stofford, 65 of New Hampshire with a wife Sarah 61 also from NH. Could this be a clue to the lineage of Amasa? Moses was possibly in NY in 1830 and 1840 when Rufus was born. Since Nancy is born in NY, it is likely that Amasa met and married her in NY.

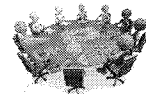
In 1880 R W 49 and the family is found in Nebraska City NE. Rufus is a grocer and listed as R W Sheldon. Elisha is 20 and a child Marion is 10, with mother Percilla 32 born in PA. Also in the family is an aunt, Euinew 76 who was born in NH with a father born in NH and a mother born in VT. () Parents information is given on the 1880 census. A search reveals an Experience Sheldon 60 born in NH living in DeKalb with the family of James Stewart of NY. Could this be the same woman? Could she be a sister of Amasa? (#1254753 page 312)

A Google search suggests that Rufus was named Rufus Wells Sheldon and married Priscilla Walker. There is mention of a daughter Anna M who married Charles A Hunt. Rufus apparently died on April 18 1892. He is found in Findagrave records in the Evergreen Cemetery in Nemaha Nebraska along a child Annie W 4 who died in 1877 and Amasa Sheldon who died in 1872 and Nancy A Sheldon who died in 1877.

Who is the ancestor of Amasa born in NH in 1805?

Meet The Board-Priscilla Neill

I have been a member of the Sheldon Family Association since 2009 and the Northampton conference will be my third annual meeting. I can't recall how I first heard about the Association, but was immediately intrigued by such a family organization. My first introduction to genealogy, beyond family stories, surrounded the work of an aunt, which had enabled me to be eligible for and receive a college scholarship from the Colonial Dames of America. Initially, I was fascinated with how absorbed people could be in such personalized history. But having been a history major in college, it did not take long to make the connection between one's family history and aspects of American history. I was hooked.



My career, prior to retirement, was as an academic librarian. I worked at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for 20 years and then moved to the University of Cincinnati Libraries as an assistant dean. I was not involved in genealogical research while I was employed, but now I am using those library skills in advancing my own knowledge of family history and genealogy. Being a member of the Association and participating in the annual meetings has been energizing and I have met wonderful people who have been so very helpful and generous with their knowledge.

Being a member of the Association and participating in the annual meetings has been energizing and I have met

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wonderful people who have been so very helpful and generous with their knowledge. It has been a lovely and supportive experience and I wish to help keep that tradition going.

Elizabeth Sheldon, Wife of Timothy Wheeler

By Leatrice Zina Bane S2680x{11}1261 (W)

Elizabeth Sheldon (S2680) was born 25 Dec. 1786 in Stephentown, Rensselaer, N.Y.(1), daughter of George Sheldon (S0891) and Lucy Niles Sheldon. Elizabeth married Timothy Wheeler about 1802 in Vermont.

Timothy Wheeler was born 14 Nov. 1782 in Grafton, Worcester, Mass.(2), died 15 May 1854 in St. Georges de Clarenceville, Quebec(3). They had 12 Wheeler children: Lucy, 1803(4); George J., about 1803; Rosetta, 1805(5); Timothy, 1806(6); Hulda, 1808(7); Mercy, 1810(8); Palmer, 1812(9); John Miller 1814(10); Maria, 1818(11); Rosila, 1820(12); Richard, 1822(13); and Horace, 1825(14).

Elizabeth died 15 December 1830 in St. Georges de Clarenceville, Mississquoi, Quebec, Canada (15). At her request, a family cemetery was selected on the farm on the side of a hill which was covered by a large orchard. She requested to be put to rest here amid flowers planted by her own hands. Thus it became the Wheeler family burial ground where Timothy, Elizabeth, his second wife, Nancy, and their infant children were buried.(16) The farm was located in the Seignory of Foucault in Clarenceville, Quebec, Canada.

In July of 2002 I visited Clarenceville to locate the Wheeler Burial Ground. I easily found where the farm was located on Lake Shore Drive, but found only flat acres of corn, no hill. I spoke to Eric Wheeler who lived at the old Wheeler Inn in Venice en Quebec. He said that the hill was bulldozed in the 1940's when he was a child and that the tombstones were thrown on the fence line. I also spoke to the Clarenceville Town Clerk and she confirmed the story by saying that even today the farmers plough up human bones! I went back to where the farm should have been and did not find a fence line with tombstones. One street over, on Beech Street, is the Old Hawley Family Cemetery which is now called Southridge Cemetery, Aird P.O., where I did find daughters Huldah Wheeler Aseltine, Lucy Wheeler Lake; and Olive Irish wife of Horace Wheeler. There is a pile of broken stones in this cemetery which could contain more Wheelers, but they are too heavy for me to lift to sort through. Is this where Elizabeth's stone is located? It appears that her remains are scattered forever in the corn fields.

I may be contacted at zina_1@msn.com.

Notes as Follows: (1) Wheeler, Philander, Reminiscences of the Wheelers, Columbia Ten., July 7, 1921. (2) Vital Records of Grafton Massachusetts to 1850, p. 140. (3) From the registers of the Anglican Church serving Noyan and Clarenceville, Quebec for the year 1854, folio 6, Quebec National Archives Microfilm #124.3 "On this seventeenth day of May Eighteen hundred and fifty four, the Body of Timothy Wheeler of Noyan farmer,

who deceased on the fifteenth instant, was interred in presence of Palmer Wheeler his son and David Nutt, by me Witnesses (signed) Palmer Wheeler David Nutt(signed) M. Townsend Recter" (4) 1851 Canada Personal Census, Enumeration District 10 of the county of Rouville consisting of the Parish of St. George de Clarenceville, page 55, lines 37-40: Lucy Lake age 48, husband Horace Lake, age 52. (5) 1870 Census Ingham, Ingham County, Michigan, M593, Roll 675, page 71, taken 27th day of July: Rosetta Aseltine age 65, wife of Harry (Henry) Aseltine, age 76. (6) 1850 U.S. Federal Census: 1850, District No. 21 Iriquois County, ILL., sheet 173/343, dwelling 446; National Archives micropublication M432, roll 928: Timothy Wheeler age 43 born in Canada, wife Asneath age 38. He married Nancy Asenath Fletcher. (7) www.findagrave.com, Memorial# 77267210, born Mar. 21, 1808, died Jan. 17, 1884, wife of Peter Aseltine. (8) 1860 Census, Riley, McHenry County, Illinois, taken 28th July, M653, Roll 202, page 434, Mary age 50, born Canada East, husband Moses Curtis, age 47, born Canada East. (9) Wheeler, Philander, Reminiscences of the Wheelers, Columbia Ten., July 7, 1921. Palmer Wheeler born May 4, 1812, married Sarah Chilton at Alburg, Vermont. (10) www.findagrave.com, Memorial# 25444935, born March 19, 1814, died 17 May 1894, husband of Elizabeth Corey. (11) www.findagrave.com Memorial# 71004244, born Feb. 27, 1818, died Nov. 7, 1899, wife of John Chilton. (12) 1851 Canada Personal Census Enumeration District 10 of the county of Rouville consisting of the Parish of St. George de Clarenceville, page 29 lines 43-48: She is called Rosannah in error in this census, age 31, wife of William Chilton. (13) The Register of the Methodist Church serving St. Armand, Quebec for the year 1840, folio 14, Quebec National Archives Microfilm #124.12: "Richard son of Timothy Wheeler of the Seignory of Foucault Yeoman and of Elizabeth his wife was born on the third day of September one thousand eight hundred and twenty two and baptized this tenth day of May one thousand eight hundred and forty in the presence of the subscribing witnesses by me. signed William Squire Minister" (14) 1851 Canada Personal Census, Enumeration District 10 of the county of Rouville consisting of the Parish of St. George de Clarenceville, page 37, line 12-16: Horace Wheeler is age 26, his wife Olive (Irish) is age 33. (15) Wheeler, Philander, Reminiscences of the Wheelers, Columbia Ten., July 7, 1921. (16) Ibid.

Dating Photos

Jack Laverne Sheldon II S6161x62236 W

This article was originally intended to discuss dating older photographs. But, what the author has found is that doing so can be pretty straight forward. Trying to date a photograph can also be frustrating. As this is in writing, the fortune of coming across photographs with connections of distant cousins keeps coming to mind. They came with a lot of work, research, and picking up the telephone and "making that call." About 90 percent of the time, the person on the other end is receptive, and in some cases they love to talk about their family and to share images.

Photography has been around since the early 1830's, and Daguerreotypes were some of the first photographs commercially available. We have seen some Ambrotypes that were positive images on glass usually kept in small leather and metal folding keepsake carriers. Tintypes soon followed but were replaced with the negative introduced by George Eastman in about 1884. CDV's soon followed and by 1890 photographers were popping up here and there, and it was at about this time we see the cabinet cards with ornate designs on the back advertising the photo studio. By the early 1900's a company known as Eastman Kodak

was placing cameras in the hands of the public in a large number.

In Charlotte, Michigan, two photographers were Fowler and Beardsley. I learned about them when I met a distant cousin by tracing our Johnson roots down to the current time. Our Michigan Sheldon family has been closely tied to the Crandall and Johnson families of LaGrange, Lorain County, Ohio.

Through Crandall sisters /mothers, my gg-grandparents *Frank Milford Sheldon (1857 – 1935) and his second spouse Addie Vera Johnson (1865 – 1917) were first cousins. When I first made a call to my distant Johnson cousin Wendy, and in explaining our relationship, she said she had some photographs of the Sheldon family and that, "...we often wondered who the Sheldon's were!" She started by sending me photo copies of some of our Johnson family. I was able to help her date them because I had their genealogy. *6161x62 (W)

Photograph No. 1 – Addie Vera Johnson Circa 1870 (about age 5).



She then sent me the original Sheldon photos, and she asked me who Vernon and Nina were. Vernon Burr Sheldon (1890 – 1927) was my grandfather, and Nina Mae (Sheldon) Raymond (1880 – 1911) was his elder half-sister. Having raised a couple of boys myself, I estimated that the following photograph was taken when my grandfather was a year old, still with baby hair and sporting a couple of new teeth.

Notice the "Fowler" inscription, (in the 1880 US Federal Census, George W. Fowler is listed as a "Portrait Painter").



Photograph No. 2 – Vernon Burr Sheldon* and his elder half-sister Nina Mae Sheldon Circa 1891. *6161x622

It is possible then that the following photograph of my gg-grandparents David F. (1829 – 1913) and Adaline (Crandall) Sheldon (1834 – 1924) was taken at about the same time. The cabinet card photograph has about the same ornate design on the back. This one was by Beardsley.

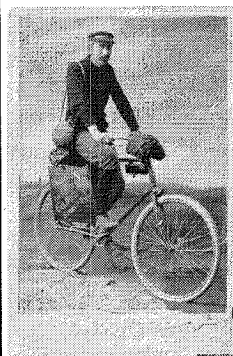
Photograph No. 3 – *David F. & Adaline (Crandall) Sheldon, seated, with children Frank x61 and Stella x62 (Sheldon) Sickels 1854–1941, standing, Ca 1890. *6161x6

I became intrigued with Fowler and Beardsley cabinet card



photographs, and I watch internet auctions regularly with the search "Charlotte, Michigan." Having researched Fowler for a bit, I found that he had a sense of humor and one of his photographs was a man pushing a wheel barrel with another man seated inside, and both men were the same person in a double exposure. I have to think the following card was also Fowler himself, but not certain. In any case, with my experience of having purchased a good number of his cabined cards, this one is dated about 1880.

Photograph No. 4 – Possibly a self-portrait by Fowler, about 1880. His engraving was pressed into the card rather than the gold lettering of the 1890's style.



Wendy also sent me a photo copy of Addie's sister, Inez (Johnson) Butterfield (1857 – 1930) of Eaton County, Michigan. This photograph appears to be Inez's memorial photograph. We did not know the approximate date, but she appears to be in her early 20's, so for now, we'll date this 1880.



Photograph No. 5 – Inez (Johnson) Butterfield, Circa 1880.

Out of sheer fortune, one day I was searching for things "Butterfield" in Michigan, and came across the following cabined card in an online auction. It was an amazing find! The "pressed" lettering similar to the Fowler photograph of the same time period supports the 1880 dating.



Photograph No. 6 – Inez (Johnson) Butterfield, Circa 1880.

Likewise, it supported my hunch that the previous photograph may have been used for her memorial or for some other like purpose. It is the identical image!

All of the above photographs came from other people. What I have found is that
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it takes almost as much research to find and date photographs as it does in researching genealogy. Both endeavors are very rewarding, and coming across these finds has been through tremendous fortune. It sometimes takes "making that phone call" to a living cousin, and doing so brought it all together for both of us.

Clarifying and Verifying Parentage of William W Hopkins: Louisa J Hopkins and Hannah R Hopkins.

Jeanne A Jeffries, SFA President

The history of the Sheldon Family Database includes collection by H O Sheldon in the 1850's of Sheldon names he encountered in his travels as a Methodist minister and fund raiser for Oberlin College and another. (Both are now Universities) As Sheldon gathered information in travels to New England, various states VT, RI, MA, IN, MI, to KS where he was an Indian Agent, and to Canada, they shared oral and Bible history, he researched in town halls, libraries and repositories. Rev. Sheldon was a member of NEGHS, two societies in OH and a popular speaker and author for them also. In the 1980's, retired engineer, Leland Sheldon discovered *The Sheldon Magazines* pub by Rev. Sheldon in the 1800's and developed a 3x5 card file and asked member to check phone books and invite Sheldons to submit their family information. The card files and family group sheet information was entered in the 1990's into software The Sheldon Genealogy System, created by E. Mark Sheldon and assisted by a team of volunteers resulting in the Sheldon Family Association Genealogy System, the Database as we know it in 2012. The software is in need of upgrading. This is estimated to be accomplished by a team over the next two years. The first major effort has been year long by a software expert, Marvin Parsons, the wonderful spouse of a Sheldon member, who volunteered his time and effort. Some data requires clarification. As we go into a new system, details must be checked. Example: A question arose about men who apparently fathered children in their later years. (*Mark Sheldon was given an award by *Federation of Genealogical Societies* for this premier Family Association program in 1988.)

One such question involved William W Hopkins, Louisa J Hopkins and Hannah R Hopkins, said to be children of William Hopkins of Scituate RI born in 1765, died in 1855 in Eaton NY and his wife Joanna Tanner. Since Louisa J has a birth date of 1843, William W 1845 and Hannah R is 1849, is this feasible for an older man? What can genealogy research reveal? In the Database the references are given as: *Vital Records of Rhode Island by James N. Arnold, pub. Providence, RI 1891-1911.*
Thomas Hopkins of Providence and Oyster Bay by

Frank Roy Kepler pub. Detroit, MI 1954.

John of Providence and Records of His Descendants, Keith M. Sheldon Library of Congress No. 84-051650

This Hopkins family connects to the Sheldon Family Association data base through Nicholas Hopkins and his wife Martha Mathewson of RI. See *Hopkins manuscript by Margaret Griffith. This book is available from the Genealogical Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints on film. The other main reference is the book "Thomas Hopkins of Providence and Oyster Bay and Many of His Descendants" Compiled by Frank Roy Kepler.* Martha Mathewson S0018x18 is the daughter of Martha Sheldon x1. Martha Sheldon, daughter of Timothy Sheldon and granddaughter of S0008 John Sheldon of Providence. William is S0018x188. Records of Nicholas Hopkins and his family are available at the RI Historical Society in Providence RI. William is the eighth child of Nicholas. The 1785 record of his marriage to Joanna, daughter of Benjamin Tanner is found in Volume 2 of the Vital Records. In addition, the will of Nicholas probated in Foster RI (divided from Scituate in 1807) in 1809 lists William. A listing of the sale of the property has not yet been found to determine the residence of William after 1809.

A search engine was used to find any reference to William W Sheldon or about the family of William Hopkins (1765-1855) and his families. A website *Hopkins Family - From R.I. to Upper N.Y. to Northern Calif.* in Family Tree maker by Keith A Hopkins alludes to William J of Scituate who removes to Eaton NY. This attributes a wife Joanna Tanner and a second wife Patience to William and lists:

Children of William J. Hopkins and Patience are:

- Julianna Hopkins, b. 1799, West Eaton, NY, d. 1880, Morrisville, NY.
- Anthony Hopkins, b. 1800.
- Betsey Hopkins, b. 1802, Eaton, NY.
- Isaac Hopkins, b. 1807, NY, d. Aft. 1880, West Eaton, NY.
- Waite Hopkins, b. 1805.
- Almira Hopkins, b. 1807, Eaton, NY.
- Palmer Hopkins, b. 1809, Eaton, NY.
- Urancy Hopkins, b. 1811, Eaton, NY.
- Harlow Hopkins, b. 1813, Eaton, NY.
- Amy Hopkins, b. 1815, Eaton, NY.

Children of William J. Hopkins and Joanna Tanner are:

- Arnold Hopkins, b. 1787.
- Parley Hopkins, b. 1789.
- Gardner Hopkins, b. 1791.
- Silas Hopkins, b. 1793.

Nothing was revealed about Louisa, William W or Hannah. The next step: search the 1850 census which lists all family members in a household. There in Eaton Madison NY is

William 85 years born in RI with Martha 29, Roxanna 9, Louisa J 7, William W 5 and Hannah R 1 year old, all born in NY. This looks like the right family. Who is Martha? Is she a wife of William or a daughter in law, widow of his son or grandson? William is not found on the 1860 census. A search of Find A Grave finds the gravestone for William died in 1855 in the West Eaton Cemetery. Nearby is "Patience wife of William died at 63 in 1839". There are other graves of these Hopkins in this cemetery. Information about Eaton NY pioneers can be found in *Names and Sketches of the Pioneer Settlers of Madison County, New York by William H. Tuttle*. William, who married Joanna Tanner in 1785, must have left RI for Eaton NY with several other Hopkins. Did Joanna die in NY or RI? Where and when did he marry Patience the mother of a number of children? Where and when did he marry Martha?

Next, follow the family of Martha age 29 in 1850 from Eaton to Truxton Cortland County NY on 1860 census where she is wife of Cyrus Hall with children Roxanna 19, Louisa J 17, William W 15, James D 9, Charles W 7, Hannah R 10, Sarah 6, as well as the Hall children Ellen M 13, George W 12, Emily E 3, and Thomas J 2 (all born in NY). A search for Martha Hall reveals a grave in Cheningo Cemetery in Cortland County.: "Martha Hall wife of Cyrus Hall Nov 15 1860". Cyrus died in 1865 and is buried in VT. Continuing in census, Louisa J William W and Hannah R Hopkins and Sarah Hopkins are all found in the Cortland County Poor House on the census in 1860 and in subsequent census. Louisa is described as cripple. William W is blind. Hannah R is listed as orphan. In 1880 William W and Sarah are noted to have a father born in RI and a mother born in NY. A search about County Poor House revealed an application for a William W Sheldon in 1857 which stated William W was blind from birth, son of a father from RI and a mother from NY. Reference: *New York Census of Inmates in Almshouses and Poorhouses, 1830-1920: Record for William W Hopkins*.

An entry in Ancestry (with no reference) says: William Hopkins who was Born in Scituate, Rhode Island, USA on 5 Jul 1765 to Nicholas Hopkins and Martha Mathewson. William married Patience. William married Joanna Turner. William married Joanna Tanner. He passed away on Jul 1837 in Eaton, Madison, New York. If he died in 1837, he cannot be the father of William W born in 1845.

William J. Hopkins is noted on the Deed records of Madison Co. as buying lots of land around the Eaton area and granting some to Anthony, Palmer and others. Perhaps review of the deeds will indicate when William arrived in NY and from where he came. As yet we have no proof that the William Hopkins born in RI 1765 relocated to NY.

Locating Lost or Missing Ancestors

By Bryan Mulcahy, <BMulcahy@leegov.com>

Contributed by Wendy Black

When it comes to tracing our ancestors, overcoming dead-ends or brick walls, is an occupational hazard with genealogists. These challenges are an inevitable part of the genealogical research process. Some would argue that if one does not encounter these issues, the facts may need to be double checked for accuracy. The good news is that many dead-ends can be overcome with patience and good detective work. Most genealogists often find methods or strategies to overcome these roadblocks. The process involves creativity, knowledge of history of the ethnic group, and having confidence in your gut feelings.

One of the most common issues involves dealing with your ancestor failing to appear in any records for the locality or county where he or she is supposed to be. Where do I go from here? While frustrating this is a fairly common challenge. County and state boundaries have changed over time. This applies in all 50 states. The best source for verifying if the county was in existence at the time your ancestor resided in the area is Everton's *Handybook for Genealogists*. The Fort Myers-Lee County Library has the 10th edition of this title. However, if your library has an earlier edition, that would be sufficient in terms of historical data pertaining to the formation of counties.

Another good strategy is the 25-50-75 mile radius study. If you are certain that your ancestor or their family resided in a given area and the records are not showing up in the county where you began the initial search, draw a circle with a 25 mile radius around your ancestor's home. Any county, even if it is in another state, that falls within this radius should be considered a potential candidate for research. If the 25 mile radius fails, expand outward 50 and finally 75 miles in all directions.

If the ancestor does not turn up within the 25-75 mile radius, check to see if a railroad or waterway passed through the area. If so, follow the route of migration that was most relevant during the time period. County histories can be good sources for determining this type of information. If neither option applies, this may necessitate going back and examining the facts for errors. It can certainly help if the source of the original information can be identified. That fact alone may help determine the accuracy of the facts.

In other cases, the problem may be caused by the type of record you are seeking. Kory Meyerink, AG, and senior partner of ProGenealogists.com, advises that researchers must take the time to fully understand the record. One example he often cites is the need to know some religious affiliation information. For instance, if your family is Catholic, you

probably will not find them in Lutheran cemetery records.

Sometimes the reason you're unable to locate them could be a simple matter of misspelling or a variation of the name was used for any number of possible reasons. An example would be when a patron recently mentioned the difficult time she had in tracing her grandmother's ship passenger records until naturalization papers revealed her name as Era instead of Eva. Another set of records recorded her name as Ava. A third spelling later turned up with the name spelled Avalon. BLM 12/5/2012

SFA Web Site

Have you found the Sheldon Family Association Website at www.sheldonfamily/v2.org? Expect some new information in the Spring.

Wayne E Nelson had established the web site about 1997 and Laurie Kender redesigned it. Wayne has managed the site for 2 years as Acting Web Master. President Jeanne A Jeffries asked for management help from members in October 2012. Three members offered assistance. Member Robert Halstead and Wayne E Nelson have agreed to co manage the Web Site. They have had discussions by e mail as well as comments from Jon Otto and Gary Butler, members Jeanne and Peter Jeffries met with a Walpole NH Web Site consultant who made suggestions for improvements. Jeanne has recorded the discussion in a document which is available to those who wish.

The group discussing the Sheldon Family Web Site will include: Bob Halstead, Wayne E Nelson, Jeanne A Jeffries, Peter F Jeffries, John Morris, Jon Otto, Gary Butler, Jim Russell and Barbara Gomez, Treasurer (who maintains the membership list.)

Ruth Sheldon Hall

By: Rose Sheldon Newton

Ruth Sheldon Hall (S7295x621(I)) San Mateo, CA, a long time active member of SFA died 28 Sep 2012. Members of SFA met Ruth and Bob Hall on the trip to England in 1993. To merely say we met them is an understatement, we came to love them both!



Ruth became the English Research chairman of SFA and organized the research for English Sheldon Progenitors before retirement taking a lively interest in SFA.

For many years she hosted Sheldon Reunions in California for descendants of her ancestor: S7295 (I) Rev. Charles Burt Sheldon, was a graduate of Williams College in August, 1847 and of Western Reserve Theological Seminary in Hudson, Ohio in 1850. He served as pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Repub-

lic, Seneca County, Ohio for five years. In 1855 he became pastor of the Congregational Church of Excelsior, Minnesota. In 1883 he moved to California and bought a 56 acre ranch north of Pomona. He was one of the original trustees of Pomona College at Claremont. His death occurred en route, by train.

Ruth's Husband Bob became the cameraman for the English tour. Bob Hall died 30 May 2011. Bob and Ruth were a lively and interesting couple. Ruth graduated University of California at Santa Barbara in 1949 and was a beauty queen, she taught first grade.. Bob was a graduate of Stanford University. Ruth was an accomplished Pianist, cook and artist and took a great interest in Sheldon genealogy.

Ruth is survived by her son, Robert Hall, Jr., and his wife, Gayle; her siblings, Joann Michel (Werner), Charles Sheldon (Florence), and Leon Sheldon, and her many nieces, and nephews. She was predeceased by her son, Stephen. Ruth and Bob were wonderful "cousins" to know and added much to Sheldon Family Association! They both are greatly missed.

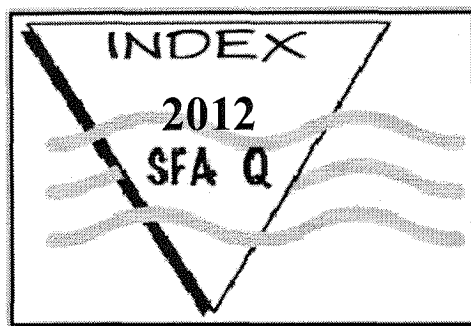
E Mail Addresses Requested

The Sheldon Family Association really needs your e mail address. We only use it for Sheldon purposes. Currently, 140 are on file, but we really need yours. Several messages important for members were sent to those with e mail addresses on file. You might have liked to read them. Please send the e-mail address to Barbara Gomez, Treasurer, at bgomez@umich.edu. She maintains the membership file. In the 2009 survey, 80% of respondents reported that they used e mail communication. A large number were willing to receive the Quarterly by e mail.

Message From SFA Q Editor-Jim Russell

The above article regarding email is a major issue. If SFA is to financially survive, the Quarterly needs to be delivered through the internet either by Option 1 of receiving SFAQ by Email, Option 2 of posting of the current SFAQ on the SFA Website, where it can be seen by nonmembers, or Option 3 of posting to a member access only site, accessible from SFA website, where SFA can post back issues of SFA Quarterly. The Board needs to decide. which they want. Options 2 and 3 probably would require sending an email to say it is there. Therefore filing your email address is important regardless of which decision is made by SFA.

SFA will not eliminate you receiving the Quarterly by mail without your approval. SFA hopes that once you are comfortable receive the on-line version in color a couple of weeks earlier, you will willingly cancel the mail version that is a major cost to SFA.



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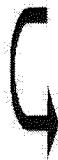
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